

Ad Hoc Committee of the
Secretary-General

AD HOC



MUNUC 35

Model United Nations of the University of Chicago

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CHAIR LETTER

!Buenos Dias! Welcome to the secret society of the Argentine Independence movement, where you will find yourself a seat at the table amongst a collection of unseemly allies: Buenos Aires elite, businessmen, soldiers and anti-monarchists alike.

My name is Olivia, and I am so excited to be your chair. I am a rising fourth-year majoring in Global Studies and minoring in Human Rights. Outside of academics, I am an Under Secretary General for ChoMUN, our Model UN conference for college students, Vice President of DEI for the Panhellenic community on campus, and I work for a political consulting firm that works specifically with refugee and immigrant candidates.

At MUNUC, I will be your chair, sharing in our goal of an independent Argentina. Buenos Aires is embroiled in instability and chaos, the fight against the Spanish crown looms large and I need the help of you, delegates, to see the secessionist movement through. We must be careful however, and avoid the suspicions of the government as we navigate invasions, territorial disputes, mutiny, and war in the hope of a free Argentina. Independence waits for no one.

You as delegates represent all aspects and interests of this city and therefore you must work together and use your multitude of backgrounds to accomplish the goals of the committee. We hope that given the nature of this committee that it will become a collaborative effort on your part and so, to this end, please be respectful of the other delegates in the room. Crisis arcs, directives, and comments that disrespect fellow delegates, that are inflammatory, derogatory or otherwise unacceptable will not be tolerated. If you ever are unsure if something is acceptable please do not hesitate to ask Mateo or myself to clarify; we are here to help you get the most out of conference. As Chair, I will look for spirited, high-level, and ultimately respectful debate.

Mateo and I will reward delegates that have clear visions for Buenos Aires and Argentina, and who can make these visions a compelling reality. We expect all of you to bring your best to each and every session. Model UN is a long game, and the delegate whose actions shape the committee, is the delegate who has been present and engaged for the entire weekend. The trajectory of this

committee is heavily reliant on delegate action, so we are looking forward to seeing where you decide to take us!

I am so excited to be chairing this committee and I look forward to welcoming you in person at the conference. Please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions!

Sincerely,

Olivia Cohen

oliviacohen@uchicago.edu

CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

Bienvenidos a Buenos Aires. My name is Mateo Arrizabalaga and I will be your Crisis Director this year. I am really excited to be running this committee and hope you all get as much enjoyment out of it as we have.

I am a fourth year student at the University of Chicago majoring in History and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Last year I had the honor of serving as the Under Secretary General (USG) for Continuous Crisis, and the year before I was a Crisis Director (CD) for the Kingdom of Hejaz, and had a great time running both of them. In the olden days before Covid I served as an Assistant Chair (AC) on MUNUC's very first Ad Hoc, so it's a lot of fun to come full circle and finish my MUNUC career this way. This year along with CDing this committee I am also lucky to be CD of a committee about the National Autonomous University of Mexico for UChicago's college conference, ChoMUN.

Latin America is my area of historical expertise so I am very excited to finally be able to run a committee where I can put my knowledge to use. Although not my primary research interest, Argentina has a special place in my heart as a proud Argentino. Olivia and I are both very excited to have the opportunity to share the culture and history of this great region with all of you. I'm also looking forward to getting in the mindset for this committee by reading some great Argentine literature (my picks would be Domingo Sarmiento's [Facundo: Civilization and Barbarism](#), Esteban Echeverría's [The Slaughter Yard](#), and Jorge Luis Borges' [Funes the Memorious](#) and [The Circular Ruins](#)), eating lots of steak and Argentine food ([this](#) is my favorite Argentine grilling Instagram), and watching my beloved Boca Juniors.

These last years have been hectic and it seems like that will not end anytime soon and we want to do all we can to make your lives easier. Feel free to reach out to either me or Olivia if you have any questions or anything you need.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Mateo Arrizabalaga

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SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

Although this committee is set in the 19th century, we still expect you to behave to 21st century standards. For that reason, we ask that while participating in committee you do not use 'historical realism' as justification for racism, sexism, homophobia etc. Our committee will be a place for creative solutions and collaboration, not to disrespect others in any way. Any actions or words that would be unacceptable in 2023 will not be tolerated in the context of this committee.

It is inevitable that committee will have some focus on conflict and combat and while we will not prevent you as delegates from adopting this crisis arc, we only ask that your actions do not negate anyone's identity or involve the subjugation of entire groups of people on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or nationality. Failing to act with the expected level of decorum as laid out in this background guide will result in you being pulled from committee by an executive and, if necessary, will involve the Secretariat.

We ask that you cooperate with us in trying to maintain a respectful, dignified, and productive committee atmosphere and that you be sensitive to others. If you have any concerns regarding this policy, please feel free to send the executives an email or speak to us at the conference.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MECHANICS

Frontroom

This committee will be simulating a secret society operating in the La Plata region of the Spanish Empire at the beginning of the 19th century. You, the members of this society, have a variety of backgrounds, motives, long term plans for the region, and personal ambitions that will spur your individual goals. However, you are united by the singular cause of independence from Spain. How you will use your collective resources and influence to shape society from behind the scenes to achieve this is up to you, but **be careful**. The bigger and more drastic the action you take, the more likely your cabal will be exposed; once you have emerged from the shadows there is no going back, and there may be dire consequences if you are caught before you can make your move.

As you are not initially in charge of any territory or responsible for any people, do not expect the first couple breaks to look like those from a standard crisis committee. The first couple breaks our committee will face will center around exploiting weaknesses of the empirical system and building up your resources and power. Our goal for the weekend is that you will achieve independence at some point within the first three sessions. After that, it will be up to the committee to decide what role the secret society will have in the future of the region. Will you step forward to claim victory and the reins of power or would you rather hang back and continue to pull the strings and let others assume the risk that comes with being the head honcho?

Backroom

The backroom is your place to build resources and execute goals not necessarily in line with those of the committee. In other words, this is your chance to create your own arc throughout the ad hoc. What you decide to do is entirely up to you. However, there are rules to doing it so make sure to read this section.

Starting Resources

Because of the nature of the committee, there are no positions that entail any specific starting powers or resources, as you might find in a more traditional cabinet. Instead, we want you to focus on your character backgrounds. All of them have been given a lot of time and attention in order to make them balanced and varied, with enough connections and resources to make your wildest dreams come true.

In order to gain resources, you must use your background connections through notes to build up your portfolio. You can assume that all monetary resources start near zero. Although some characters may have business backgrounds, think of these in terms of connections and skills as opposed to any tangible assets.

Parameters of building resources

The primary method of building resources is through connections. When doing this keep in mind your situation. The committee is situated in a fairly remote part of the world, and you only have access to early 19th century communications technology (writing letters). When relying on connections, remember to take this into account. If you can find a creative way around these implied limitations, you are more likely to get what you want.

Influencing committee

The end goal of resource building is executing a plan that has the ability to affect the committee while primarily benefiting you. Well-devised plans that are sufficiently creative will be turned into crisis breaks that will have to be addressed in the front room. How well thought out the backroom dais thinks your plan is will determine the degree to which it will affect the committee, whether it will merely be a footnote to a more important break or a priority requiring an immediate timed crisis. Although we have a number of breaks planned, we want large chunks of the committee to be fueled by these delegate-led crisis breaks; they make everything more unpredictable and help keep things from getting repetitive. That being said, if notes are not to the standard we expect we have contingency plans to fall back on as the committee improves their crisis arcs each session.

TOPIC: SOCIETY FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF RIO DE LA PLATA, 1808

Statement of the Problem

The year is 1808, and the Spanish still rule the Río de la Plata region. Although unrest is growing, the majority of people don't feel strongly enough, at least not openly, for a popular uprising against the colonial government. Still, the failed British invasions have shown the weakness of the colonial government, and how unnecessary it is. It will now be up to you to break from Spain's colonial yoke and gain independence for your beloved homeland.

This will be no easy task, as even among those in favor of independence there are deep rifts. Just the question of whether to remain under the Spanish monarchy is polemic and up to now has been a key sticking point in preventing the coalescing of pro-independence individuals into a larger movement.

If independence is achieved there are even bigger questions about what the future of the region would be. Although Spain has created the artificial division of the Viceroyalty of Río de la Plata, this is a large region separated by geographic boundaries and full of strong local sentiments. Many different areas have at one point, or another been the focal point of the region and would certainly like to return to that pinnacle but holding them together in any meaningful coalition will be difficult.

There are also external factors to contend with. The British continue to look to gain a foothold in the region and there is a chance that any independent state would have to fend off invasion from them. There is also the threat of the Portuguese empire to the north, as Brazil continues to creep slowly southward towards the Spanish colonies. Can conflict be avoided? These are the complicated conditions under which you begin your journey towards liberation, whether that liberation is from the British or Spanish, or from the dangerous ideals of "freedom" itself. Bienvenidos y buena suerte para ustedes, delegados!

History of the Problem

Colonization of the Region

Prior to European arrival the area was occupied by a number of indigenous groups, chief among them the Guarani people. Unlike the groups in Mesoamerica and the Andes the indigenous peoples of the southeastern part of South America were not organized into centrally organized polities but rather networks of smaller groups organized by ethnicity and linguistic ties. Because of the geography and weather patterns many of the groups in this area were at least semi-nomadic and they did not establish any large-scale population centers or engage significantly in agriculture.¹

The first Europeans to extensively explore the Rio de la Plata came in 1512. In the following years multiple attempts were made to settle the area, including multiple versions of the city of Buenos Aires, but all were unsuccessful, largely due to conflict with the native residents of the region. The first permanent Spanish settlement was founded in 1541 at Asunción in what is today Paraguay.² The creation of the Viceroyalty of Peru in 1543 meant that the area was subordinate to colonial government in Lima, which sat on the opposite side of the Andes mountains. As a result, most early colonization was in the area of northern Argentina and Paraguay and was focused on supplying the silver mines of Upper Peru (Bolivia) with food and other supplies.

Although Asunción remained an important settlement it was overtaken in political and economic importance in the late 16th century by San Miguel de Tucumán. Founded in 1565, Tucumán benefitted from its proximity to the silver mines of Upper Peru and became an important transport hub and religious center.³ The other important settlement of this time, Córdoba, was founded in 1573. Situated conveniently in the middle of the region, Córdoba rose in importance throughout the 17th century eventually becoming the wealthiest city in the area. Adding to its importance, the first university in the area was established in Córdoba in 1613 by Jesuit missionaries.⁴

¹ Rivera, "Prehistory of the Southern Cone."

² "Argentina."

³ The Editors of of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "San Miguel de Tucumán."

⁴ The Editors of of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Córdoba."

For most of the 18th century Córdoba continued to be the most important city in the region, but due to colonial reorganization it was overtaken in importance by Buenos Aires by the end of the century.⁵ Initially founded in 1536, and then again in 1580, Buenos Aires was a backwater for much of its early existence due to colonial rules that restricted the use of its port.⁶ During these years it was largely an agricultural region supplemented by smuggling but continued to grow in population and importance. Buenos Aires took a huge leap forward with the creation of the Viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata which made it the most important city in the region both economically and politically, as the capital of the new Viceroyalty.⁷ A number of towns sprouted around Buenos Aires the population spread across the fertile pampas. Of these one of the most significant was Montevideo. Although founded late in the colonial period, 1726, its strategic importance as a bulwark against the spread of Brazil and convenient location led to fairly quick growth and by the turn of the century was an important town.⁸

Rio de la Plata's Place in the Spanish Empire

Politically, Argentina was a territorially divided and a subordinate part of the Viceroyalty of Peru until 1776.⁹ The Viceroyalty of Peru was the second of four viceroyalties that Spain created to control its territories in South America.¹⁰ The territories would eventually shift control, but it initially included all of South America under Spanish control except for the coast of modern-day Venezuela, with the prize possession being control of Peru. Peru was considered the most valuable colonial territory at the time given the abundance of silver in the region that was shipped back to Europe. The fast influx of wealth into the region with the arrival of the Spanish however, along with the location of Peru on the continent led to political instability in the region and limited effective communication with the Spanish crown. Rio de la Plata was not considered a priority until the late 18th century due to its lack of economic resources that would be useful to Europe compared to other areas in the viceroyalty. The main population in the area was concentrated in the northern region, around Tucumán, as well as in Buenos Aires and was made up of mostly overflow from neighboring Spanish colonies but there

⁵ "Argentina."

⁶ Bonilla et al., "Buenos Aires."

⁷ The Editors of of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Viceroyalty of the Río de La Plata."

⁸ The Editors of of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Montevideo."

⁹ "Rioplatense Spanish."

¹⁰ The Editors of of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Viceroyalty of Peru."

was little direct migration from Spain to the region compared to other regions in the Viceroyalty of Peru.¹¹

Through the first half of the 18th century, the Rio de la Plata region continued to be built primarily upon an agricultural economy. The agricultural and livestock economies were primarily fueled by the producers themselves and by the small local market given that the time was still characterized by the existence of self-sufficient regional economies separated by considerable distances, and a lack of road, maritime or river communications.

The area only became associated with foreign trade towards the end of the 18th century and even this was mostly between different national regions within Rio de la Plata rather than international. During this period, the area was subjected, like the rest of the Spanish territories in South America, to legal restrictions on how and with whom trade could be conducted, and for the most part limited to trade with the Spanish Crown. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries trans-Atlantic trade was only allowed through the port of Callao in modern-day Peru. It was only by special permission of the Spanish crown that trade was allowed directly through the port of Buenos Aires, contributing to Rio de la Plata's insular and closed off regional economies during this time.

In addition to the official Spanish trade routes, there existed 'navios de registro'. These were ships that had permission to sail outside of official trade routes and began to sail directly to Buenos Aires by the 18th century as the importance of trade shifted even more towards South America. Eventually this led to the emergence of new merchant groups established in the port of Buenos Aires and trade into the region became more regular as the Spanish crown established the region as a supplier of raw materials and consumer of Spanish goods.¹² Even as trade directly to Buenos Aires grew, it was still inhibited as the region could only trade with Spain and Spanish merchants. However, trade was still heavily regulated by the Spanish crown, and this led to the development of an illicit trade economy, predominantly with the British who took a particular interest in the region.¹³

¹¹ "Argentina."

¹² Chocano et al., "Los Navios de Registro."

¹³ "History in Argentina."

It wasn't until the Free Trade Treaty of 1778 that the contraband economy was absorbed, and Buenos Aires began to become more prominent as a trade port on the global stage.

In the 18th century the growth of three cities, San Miguel de Tucumán, Córdoba, and Buenos Aires and instability in the Viceroyalty of Peru resulted in the creation of the Viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata. The political subdivision, established in 1776, was comprised of modern Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia. Its creation was a part of King Charles III's larger efforts to decentralize the empire as well as an attempt to shore up the border with Southern Brazil against Portuguese encroachment along the Río de la Plata.¹⁴ Buenos Aires became the seat of government of the new viceroyalty where it became a flourishing outpost of the Spanish Empire as well as a symbol of Argentina's economic, intellectual, and political life. The city became associated with growing transatlantic trade and a shift away from the mines of Peru and intellectually with an influx of European Enlightenment ideas.

As part of the attempt to decentralize the Spanish-Empire, and given the fact that the Viceroyalty had no entrenched aristocracy, the Spanish government vested conventional executive authority in the viceroy giving him sweeping powers over taxation through the Real Hacienda (Treasury Department), the customhouse, tobacco monopoly, and communications, and made him the supreme military commander over the district.¹⁵ In 1783, judicial power was vested in the audiencia as a concession to local demands for more responsive administration, but this dual power system generated more tension and conflict than it balanced the administration.

Despite its growing influence within the region, Buenos Aires was still a marginal outpost of the empire, and never a favored position for officials sent from Spain. From 1776 to 1810, eleven viceroys and three intendants served the crown.¹⁶ During this time much of the day-to-day work fell to middle ranked bureaucrats who were underpaid and underappreciated, and the bureaucracy soon became a breeding ground for resentment of the crown.

¹⁴ "Río de La Plata, Viceroyalty Of."

¹⁵ "Río de La Plata, Viceroyalty Of."

¹⁶ Ibid.

British Attacks

By the beginning of the 1800s, it was clear that the Spanish Empire, and its foothold in Argentina was declining. Sensing a political power play, the British took the opportunity to attack Buenos Aires in both 1806 and 1807. Many argue that it was these attacks, where the Argentinian native population fought back and ousted the British without any help from the Spanish crown, are what sparked the idea of an independent Buenos Aires and Argentina, and laid the path for the Independence movement that would come.¹⁷

As political dynamics became more contested across Europe by 1805, it became increasingly difficult for Spain to maintain control of its territories in South America to the same degree. Britain had long had an interest in Buenos Aires, seeing it as a key location for trade routes within the British Empire. With Buenos Aires relatively undefended by Spanish ships by 1805, the British saw this as a strategic opportunity to make their claim on the region. The British landed in the Río de la Plata with 6000 men in June 1806, and occupied Buenos Aires for 46 days. The British were met with little resistance given the lack of Spanish troops, and at first were met with a not entirely antagonistic reception from Argentine locals given the tensions with the Spanish crown. Eventually however, British occupation began to accumulate anger and resentment as the Argentinian population swapped one form of colonial rule for another. They formed a militia and successfully defended Buenos Aires from continuing attacks by the British throughout 1807. With little support from the Spanish army, the citizens of Buenos Aires realized that they were capable of defending themselves and this incident first sparked the seeds of the independence movement to come.

The relationship that Argentina held with Britain would only intensify throughout the 19th century. Despite not being a colony, and the lack of British military presence, Argentinian trade and financial structure depended on a relationship with Britain. When the port of Buenos Aires became open to foreign trade in the late 18th century, 90% of goods were imported with 50% of those coming from Britain.¹⁸ The influx of foreign trade in 1778 alongside the creation of the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata consolidated Buenos Aires as the new capital, centralizing power in the city and creating a new

¹⁷ "History in Argentina."

¹⁸ Schávelzon, "Argentina and Great Britain: Studying an Asymmetrical Relationship Throughh Domestic Material Culture."

abundance of wealth in the region. This, in turn, led Buenos Aires to see itself as part of a world that is more cosmopolitan in outlook, independent, and modern.

In 1804, the Spanish crown aligned itself with Napoleonic France and against the British during the Napoleonic Wars. The Battle of Trafalgar proved devastating for the Spanish crown when their naval fleet was decimated, and the British led a decisive victory over the French and Spanish fleets. This overwhelming victory proved the supremacy of the British navy and instilled a confidence in Britain that would be carried forward.

Established trade between Britain and Argentina in recent years saw Argentina as a flourishing and enticing territory in the eyes of the British. Fueled by good relations in Argentina that suggested a sympathetic outlook towards British relations in the face of colonial control by Spain, alongside the non-existence of the Spanish navy considering the battle of Trafalgar, Britain decided to launch an invasion of the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata in 1806.

In January 1806, the British invaded and captured Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. After this invasion, there were rumors that European forces were looking to retake the territory using South American fleets, particularly from Argentina and Uruguay given the state of military forces already present on the European continent. The British sent Sir Home Riggs Popham to patrol the coast of South America, looking for any sign of these forces sailing to South Africa. It was during this patrol that Sir Popham learned of the discontent among the Río de la Plata region against Spanish control and he convinced Britain to give him troops for a possible invasion.

Sir Popham was given around 2600 men alongside some artillery and Colonel William Beresford was also sent to lead the invasion. When the British fleet arrived, the leader of the region, the viceroy Sobremonte believed that the city of Montevideo was more vulnerable so sent the few Argentinian troops there leaving Buenos Aires virtually undefended.¹⁹ The British troops seized this opportunity and occupied Buenos Aires on June 27, 1806, and Sobremonte fled to Córdoba.

¹⁹ "British Invasions, Río de La Plata."

At first, the British were welcomed but soon the tight control that Britain intended to employ over the region made the Argentinians realize that they had simply traded one European colonial power for another. Colonel Beresford overestimated the original positive sentiments towards the British and let the city of Buenos Aires have little British military presence. This allowed the Argentinians to regroup and retake control of the city by mid-August of that year, led by a coalition of Argentinian merchants.²⁰

Argentina however, now seen as an important economic investment by the British, was not to be let go so easily. Sir Popham ordered General John Whitelocke to retake Buenos Aires in 1807 with 7000 soldiers. Whitelocke held on for a month-long campaign to retake the region, but the Argentinian resistance was strong, spurred on by their growing belief that they deserved independence. Whitelocke surrendered on July 7, 1807, and marked a total British retreat not just from Buenos Aires but the entire region.

The British invasion had shattered the legitimacy of both the Viceroy and Spanish control as the Argentinian citizens had practically been left alone to defend themselves with no support. This had ample consequences as the citizens realized that they could defend themselves and live without colonial rule. The British invasion instigated a sequence of events that created a divided Argentina: Pro-Spain versus patriotic factions. This would ultimately lead to the independence of the Río de la Plata and to the militarization of local politics that would see Argentina engaged in a civil war in the years to come.

²⁰ Ibid.

Character Biographies

Estefania Palomar

Estefania grew up in a middle-class family in Buenos Aires, the daughter of two Spanish immigrants. As a child her parents fostered an independent spirit in her which led to her choosing to support herself by selling the textiles she wove to support herself rather than get married. Over time her business has grown to become one of the largest manufacturers of textiles in the region through which she provides jobs to other single women like her. During her life she has seen many of the injustices faced by women and the lower classes, turning her against the colonial system which she has concluded is incapable of making the liberal reforms she believes are necessary. In fact, she now believes that the only way to achieve independence from Spain is through a concerted armed struggle against the colonial government. Upon independence Estefania hopes the region can remain united, growing together to prevent dependence on outside powers, like Britain who might threaten local businesses by flooding the markets with cheap imports.

Bianca Recanati

Bianca was born into a rich family in A Coruña, Galicia. When she was a child, her father moved to Montevideo where he purchased a large amount of land to use for ranching. She kept in touch with her father up until his death. At that time, she was newly married, but rather than sell the ranch the newlyweds decided to run the ranch themselves. Bianca immediately took to life on the ranch and now sees herself as a local. Along with riding a horse like a pro she has also adopted the local tradition of being fiercely pro-independence and against the monarchy. In fact, she opposes most forms of centralized government, preferring local autonomy, which she sees as the best way to protect a more traditional way of life. Although Bianca is very passionate about independence, she believes it can be achieved through mostly peaceful means, or at least without widespread fighting, which might destabilize the region and harm her business.

Fanny Rodriguez

Born in Buenos Aires, Fanny Rodriguez moved to Santa Fe at a young age with her family. In Santa Fe her father started one of the first independent printing businesses in the colonies. She learned at his side, how to set the type, how to organize the leaves, how to maintain the press, and now the business is all hers. Although her business has brought her into conflict with the censorship of the colonial government, she bears no ill will towards the monarchy. Instead, her desire for independence is driven by her disdain towards the reactionary, conservative politics of the colonial structure. Fanny feels it is time to do away with the centralization inherent to the current system and bring in one that protects and empowers local government. Fanny is also wary of calls for an increased British presence in the region as she is concerned this would just be trading one colonial power for another.

Constanza Vazquez

The sixth of eight children, Constanza Vazquez always wanted to escape her hometown of Segovia, so when the opportunity arose to move to the colonies to marry a wealthy trader, she jumped at it. Unfortunately for her, shortly after her arrival in Asuncion her groom passed away from tuberculosis and she was forced to take over his business to survive. 40 years later she has flourished, growing the business and making a reputation as always looking for the best bargains. All this time she has maintained connection with her birthplace, and although she wants independence, she is still a big fan of the monarchy and all that they stand for. What she has picked up in her adopted home is a fierce sense of local pride, and with it a resentment of anybody in some far away city telling her what she can or can't do, especially the colonial government. One of her biggest complaints against the colonial government is the restriction of trade with European nations, and in particular the British, who consistently offer better deals than the Spanish.

Gabriela Chavez

Born on the frontiers of Tucuman, Gabriela Chavez was orphaned at a young age and raised by nuns in a local convent. Inspired by the nuns' compassion for the community, Gabriela joined the order when she grew up and has lived a life devoted to helping the poor and standing up for those who

have no voice. Through her work she has come to see the damage wreaked by the Spanish colonial government, which has upset her greatly and seeded in her a deep hatred against the Spanish monarchy, who she views as ultimately responsible for the injustices she has witnessed. Even though she is a nun, Gabriela feels passionately enough about independence and the struggle of the people that she herself is prepared to take up arms to fight for the people of the Rio Plata area. In her time as a woman of the people Gabriela has connected with many like-minded individuals, and even organized secret meetings of her own in Tucuman.

Florencia Quiñones

Florencia Quiñones migrated with her family from the colonies when she was a child, settling down and growing up in Montevideo. There, she went to a religious school with all the other children in the area; as she grew up, Florencia became known for her kindness. Her religious principles continue to guide her as she joined the sisterhood, delivering food and basic medical treatment to the needy in her neighborhood. In her daily interactions, Florencia learns what her community needs and reflects on how it compared to her life back in Spain. Even though she calls Montevideo home now, she is a fan of the conservative movement in favor of the British monarchy and hopes a strengthened relationship would bring better resources to the people that need it most. But Florencia is torn, as her worst fear is for violence to break out, further endangering the place she's grown to love. When she's not at the missionary, Florencia can be found at the river with her trusty net, as she also considers herself a fisher of women.

Carolina Troncoso

Carolina Troncoso can often be found at the Buenos Aires library, but she's anything but silent. Carolina grew up hearing stories about what life was like back in Europe, and took to studying the histories of the territories and Spain. She was eventually accepted into the University of Buenos Aires into their history program, where she and her unpaid research assistants conduct scholarly work. While at UBA, Troncoso developed her conservative perspectives on international security studies, vocalizing her support for the British military through her writings. Troncoso is a frequent

writer in the local opinion column, titled *The Criolla Thinker*. In her spare time, she can be found sipping on an overpriced afternoon coffee.

Fabiana Vallejos

Before arriving in Santa Fe, Fabiana Vallejos was born to a family of merchants in Málaga, Spain. Although the Vallejos had always centered their family business there, they migrated to the colonies to explore new trade routes. After the long voyage, Fabiana did not feel too kindly about a life at sea, and took to studying everything else about sea trading. Fabiana learned from all the stories she heard from merchants, traders, and travelers, forming her progressive views on international trade. She formalized her nautical scholarship by pursuing higher education in economics at the National University of Córdoba. In Santa Fe and neighboring cities, she surveys port economies, coming to her personal conclusion that people would dislike British interference in their trade. Fabiana's unreleased manuscript develops her thesis on a possible federal monarchy solution, in which each province retains sovereignty over their own trade policies. But trade economics can get boring, even for Fabiana, so she breaks up the monotony by attending tango lessons.

Americo Tesoriere

Originally a trapper from Asuncion, Americo Tesoriere started a small mining operation in the outskirts of the La Plata region, mining common metals to sell in town. He grew his outpost, successfully buying out the other local operations. Americo has lived in the area for as long as he could remember and is familiar with all the best ore veins and contours of the valley. When local townsfolk need navigation help or a difficult-to-find resource, Americo's their guy. While out in the wilderness, Americo grew more self-reliant, forming his own beliefs on the colonies' right to self-determination and a federalist structure. He believes the monarch of a faraway country would only ever want to exploit the minerals and extracts of his homeland. Instead, the surrounding areas must combine their strength to protect natural resources for their own use.

Delfin Benitez Caceres

Delfin Benitez Caceres is the eldest of his many siblings, having taken care of them most of his life growing up in the mountainous province of Tucuman. When his father passed, Delfin took over the family farm and put his siblings to work, making nice returns on their soybean production. Delfin's farm became locally known for all the different soybean products they produce. Although his family farm has been fairly successful under colonial governance, Delfin wishes for a government that would allow him to compete with British imports.

Juan Alberto Estrada

Juan Alberto Estrada is the youngest of all of his siblings. He's also, as everyone around him can attest, the life of the party. This charisma and social wit has allowed Juan Alberto to slip into the inner circle of Argentine society, giving him a glimpse into the goings-on of the military especially. He simply loves to be the center of attention, making sure that he (and all 3 of his older siblings) know that he's here to stay. So deep is this desire, in fact, that he resents the monarchy and hopes to create a system that's fairer, more equitable, and poised to place him at the very top. With his friends in high places within the military, as well as his reputation for livening up the room, he has big dreams for the future of this nation.

Severino Varela

Severino Varela is, by all accounts, a meticulously organized man. He gets up at the same time every morning (before the rooster's crow, mind you), prepares his meals for the day the night before, and just generally does all he can to have some order in his life. The British threaten that order and, most importantly, threaten his burgeoning life coaching business that he runs on the side of his already-successful egg farm. Severino believes all things should proceed like they did in the idealized, rigid schedule of his life, and is willing to push the British out with all the might of the Argentine militia to keep that sense of order. There must be a limit to all things, however, as Severino believes Argentina should be kept under monarchical rule – why change a routine if it isn't broken?

Norberto Madurga

Norberto is a man of God. Born in Madrid, he attended seminary in his native country of Spain. As such, he is fiercely loyal to the Spanish monarchy. As a part of the Jesuit sect, he was sent as a missionary to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Being a Jesuit also means that Norberto places a large emphasis on education and has taught many classes and run numerous literacy programs in Buenos Aires. He is popular amongst the working class of the city. Nevertheless, as a Jesuit, Norberto is strongly opposed to violence of all sorts. In his free time, Norberto likes to crochet and build model ships.

Ernesto Grillo

Ernesto is a Criollo man born in Asuncion. Even as a child, he had a strong dislike of foreigners—both the Spanish monarchy and the British. This resentment only intensified as he grew up, and his dream for Argentina, a country only for the natives, motivated him to enter politics. He sees it imperative that Argentinians should be able to decide their lives rather than being at the whim of some foreign power. In fact, he does not even want too much power in the Argentinian government whom he fears will interfere too much with private life. Instead, freedom and self-determination should be given back to the people. He is not militaristic or violent, and he does see the merits of peaceful negotiations. However, he is also aware that, sometimes, violence is necessary and the only way to achieve his goal.

Hugo Gatti

Hugo Gatti, the second born of three children in Santa Fe, Argentina, is used to hard work. Whether it be on the sugarcane fields, the candlelit study sessions led by one of his neighbors for the local children, or now, as he enters the foray of politics. Whatever challenges get thrown his way, Hugo knows that with a little charm, a few bribes here and there, and a dedication to working with, not against, those he wants to represent, he can come out ahead. Like any politician at this time, Hugo sees this as his big opportunity to make a name for himself. Funded by the Spanish Crown through a series of closed-door deals over the last few months, Hugo is campaigning under a simple set of ideals: force the British out entirely, ally with Spain peacefully, and let the Spanish decide who will be

appointed in the Argentine government moving forward. He's nothing if not ready for the challenge of convincing this committee that these are the best next steps for Argentina as a whole (or, well, at least for one Argentinian named Hugo Gatti).

Julio Melendez

Julio Melendez, born in the Montevideo region of Argentina, has always loved history. The subject is absolutely fascinating to him, so much so in fact that he scraped together money in order to buy as many history-related books as he could get his hands on. To share his love of history with those around him, Melendez was integral in setting up Montevideo's first library, open to the public any time of day. He's a local legend, and was officially made so when his town elected him via write-ins to be their governor, disregarding the four candidates on the ballot entirely. Spurred on by his undying love for the field of history, Julio understands that he is currently living through a historical event himself. To mirror the great politicians he's only read about up to this point, Julio knows he must take a stand; Argentina should be able to govern itself, and should do so in an egalitarian fashion, but the British should continue to supply the region with trade goods and (most importantly for Julio), books. With his town rallied around him and his desire to be in one of the books he holds so dear, Julio is prepared to set Argentina on the path to true freedom.

Jose Borello

Jose Borello is what some may call a Type B personality; of his five siblings, Jose got the lowest marks in school, received the most detentions for doodling in class instead of paying attention, and could spend hours building his own worlds in his head. Now, fifty years later standing in front of his troops for the first time as a general in the Argentine Militia, Jose Borello truly does get to build his own world out of the nation's recent struggles for freedom. With his skills on the battlefield, and his friends "across the pond" in Great Britain's military, Jose is fond of the idea of a reunion between the British and Argentinians. More accurately, Jose is fond of the idea of keeping Spain (and its monarchy) out and will do so via armed conflict if needed. SO, while he may still occasionally doodle on the margins of his paper, Jose now has many maps of the region for military purposes, and is excited to use them to finally see a daydream come to life.

Alcides Silveira

Born to a single mother in Montevideo, Alcides Silveira is a man who was not fed from a silver platter growing up. Rather, he was one of many in his class who went hungry during lunch, got hand-me-downs from their cousins, and started working at the young age of 12 to help make ends meet. This proximity to the edge has left Alcides with a strong work ethic, a dislike of the British and how they did not aid the Argentinians like him during intense struggles, and a mission to never fall into a period of scarcity again. Spain, with their new rule, could prove to be the deciding factor in that goal, as their promises of liberation do seem to hold a lot of weight. Alcides, a member of the Argentine Militia, is in favor of moving forward with Spanish Monarchical rule, especially if he's able to use his skills on the battlefield to assist. He does, however, want certainty that his now-retired mother, as well as himself, will be taken care of along the way, and does not want to return to the way things were under any circumstances.

Juan Carlos Colman

Juan Carlos Colman, a man who just turned forty-one three months ago, has been plunged into what some may call a mid-life crisis. He got a new haircut, bought a snazzy new outfit, and is looking to hit the town to find himself a new direction. This mindset is what got him all the way to Argentina with one change of clothes, his life savings, and a desire to make something of himself. With one month as a general in the Spanish Militia under his belt, Juan Carlos is sure of three things: 1). The people of Argentina need a new direction as well, away from the British and indeed monarchical systems of government in general. 2). He misses his hometown of Cordoba, Spain, and wants to get into the wood carving and bird watching scenes in Argentina (his favorite hobbies). 3). His new outfit is still pretty darn snazzy.

Alfredo Rojas

Alfredo Rojas, born and raised in the Cordoba region of Spain, is a man who likes background noise – the louder the better! That's why, after leaving for university at the age of 18, it just didn't quite feel right. The stiflingly quiet classrooms, libraries, and individual dorm rooms were, well, stifling for Alfredo. After sticking it out to make some connections for two whole years majoring in chemistry

(for the prospect of making explosions, of course), Alfredo knew he had to do more with his life. He enlisted in the Spanish Militia at 19 and has loved his twenty-two years of service thus far. He believes now more so than ever that a monarchy is the way to move forward in Argentina – just not under the British system. Indeed, Spain (and its military) has given him everything, and it is his current mission to give Argentina to Spain in thanks. Surely, this chaos will create enough noise for Alfredo!

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