

AAI'26

By the Stroke of the Gavel.

ALTRAIN

1915 LONDON CONFERENCE

AGENDA ITEM:

OPEN AGENDA

UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL:
ERALP ÖZSARI

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT:
GÜNEL CERİTOĞLU

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I. Letter from the Secretary General

Firstly, it is with immense pride and enthusiasm that I extend my warmest welcomes to all participants of the Antalya Anatolian High School Train Model United Nations Conference 2026, taking place on April 11th-12th in Antalya.

I am Güney Deniz Ala, Secretary-General of this distinguished conference. It is both an honor and a privilege to lead this organization in this position. Model United Nations has always been far more than a simulation, it is a journey. Whether you're a more experienced delegate or a first-timer, with AALTRAIN'26 I promise unparalleled growth and inspiration.

Our Academic Team: Under-Secretary Generals, Academic Assistants, and Board Members, represent the finest minds in Antalya, each meticulously selected to deliver your committees of exceptional caliber. From beginner to advanced committees, every session has been crafted for the maximum impact.

My deepest gratitude goes to our Principal Mr. Kılıç and our dedicated advisor Mrs. Bilici, whose unwavering support made this vision reality. I extend special thanks to the AALTRAIN'26 participants, whose passion set the standard we strive to exceed, and a personal note of appreciation to my Executive Team whose brilliance knows no bounds.

As we gather, let us draw inspiration from the eternal words of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of modern Turkey:

"Ey Türk gençliği! Birinci vazifen, Türk istiklâlini, Türk Cumhuriyeti'ni, ilelebet muhafaza ve müdafaa etmektir. Mevcudiyetinin ve istikbalinin yegâne temeli budur. Bu temel, senin en kıymetli hazinendir."

To delegates: embrace the challenge, defend your interests, and leave AALTRAIN'26 having elevated your voice on the world stage. I am eager to witness your brilliance.

Sincerely,

Güney Deniz Ala

Secretary-General, AALTRAIN'26

Antalya Anatolian High School

II. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General and the Academic Assistant

Esteemed Delegates,

It is our utmost pleasure to welcome you all to AALTRAIN'26. We are overjoyed at this opportunity to be working with each and every one of you.

The topic on our hands today is very delicate and requires maximum effort and caution while weaving every fabric of this masterpiece of a treaty. Each and every step taken is to be thoroughly weighed and thought about and even the slightest of mistakes may take you upon the whirlpool of destruction. The joy and excitement of these committees comes from times like this where you are on the verge of destruction.

We deeply believe in the negotiative and diplomatic capabilities of our delegates and would like to say that they were handpicked from an assortment of delegates and have their own little quirks to add to the committee and treaty.

May my gratitude be upon my splendid Academic Assistant for her contributions toward the inditement of this manuscript and her remarkable amounts of contribution toward the vital functions of this committee.

Warrant the Commencement of the Parley!

Eralp Özşarı
Under-Secretary-General

Distinguished Participants,

First and foremost, I wholeheartedly welcome you all to Aaltrain'26. I am Günel Ceritođlu and I am delighted to announce that I will be serving as your Academic Assistant throughout this conference in 1915 Treaty of London committee.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Executive, Academic, and Organisational Team for their excellent work. Without their dedication, this conference wouldn't be the same and while extending my thanks, I would also like to mention Güney Deniz Âlâ and Ata Yankı Kılınç for including me as a member of their Academic Team and their hard work dedicated to this conference.

Another special appreciation is extended to my esteemed Under-Secretary-General, Eralp Özsarı for his invaluable contributions to this committee and the support he has provided during this journey.

Last but not least, to our delegates. While preparing this Study Guide, we have included numerous "Notes" and it is your responsibility to read the Study Guide while keeping these in mind. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via the e-mail address or phone number given below.

The floor is now yours..

E-mail: gunelceritoglu@gmail.com

Phone Number: +90 546 919 20 10

Günel Ceritođlu
Academic Assistant

III. Retrospective Study

The Treaty of London is a multilateral secret treaty between the Kingdom of Italy and the Entente Powers (France, Russian Empire, and the United Kingdom). The objective of this treaty was to convince Italy to join the Great War on the Entente side by promising lands and privileges that we will look into further into the Study Guide. The ultimate goal of the Entente was to charm Italian nationalists/irredentists into collaborating with them under the Treaty of London. Since most of the Italian population supported neutrality over war, stirring up the country, they were likely to accept the proposals that will be later presented by the Entente Powers.

The historical path that goes to this treaty can be examined under two titles: the issue of Italian Irredentism and the Alliances of World War I (WWI).

A. Italian Irredentism

Map: Primary goals of Italian Irredentism



Starting from the unification of Italy (1870), the Italian public had a fair share of ideas, but one stood out amongst the crowd: “*Irredentism*”. The word irredentism refers to a political policy or a nationalist movement aimed at reclaiming or even annexing a territory

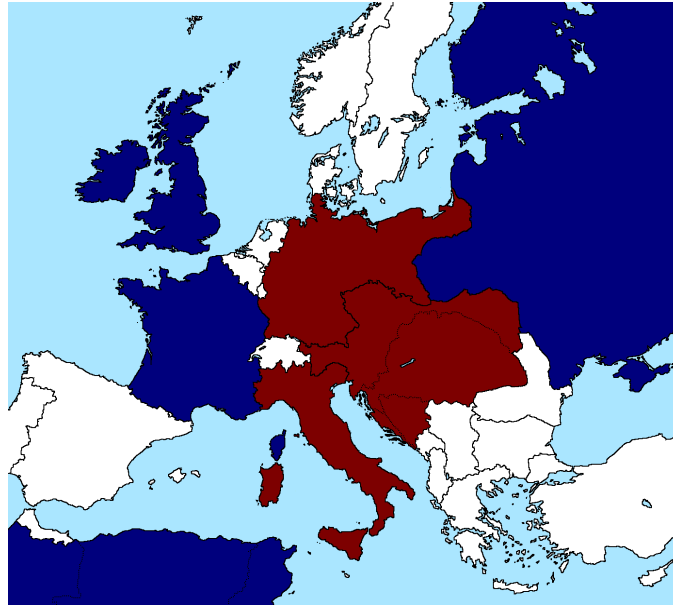
that the state considers "*unredeemed*" (irredenta). It is based on claims that the land is historically or ethnically tied to the nation but is currently under the control of another country. Under this definition, Italian irredentism can be seen as a proto-fascist ideology that aims to expand Italian borders by including historically Italian-ruled or Italian-populated lands that were left outside its borders. To give an example to this situation, if a land, which is not a part of Italy but has largely Italian populated areas or was previously ruled by Italy, according to this ideology, that land is considered Italian and is expected to be a part of the country someday. If not approached carefully, this ideology might evolve into something that aligns more with fascism.

Some of these territories which the Italian have claimed as theirs under the ideology of irredentism, remained as a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918. These lands and territories were: the Italian-speaking areas of Tyrol (Welschtirol including Trento), Istria, Gorizia, Trieste and the Dalmatian coastline.

As a matter of fact, these lands are highly important to Italy which creates a need to be discussed clearly. We will be mentioning these territories in detail later in the Study Guide. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that you study these parts carefully.

B. Alliances of WWI

Map: The Triple Entente (Blue) and The Triple Alliance (Red)



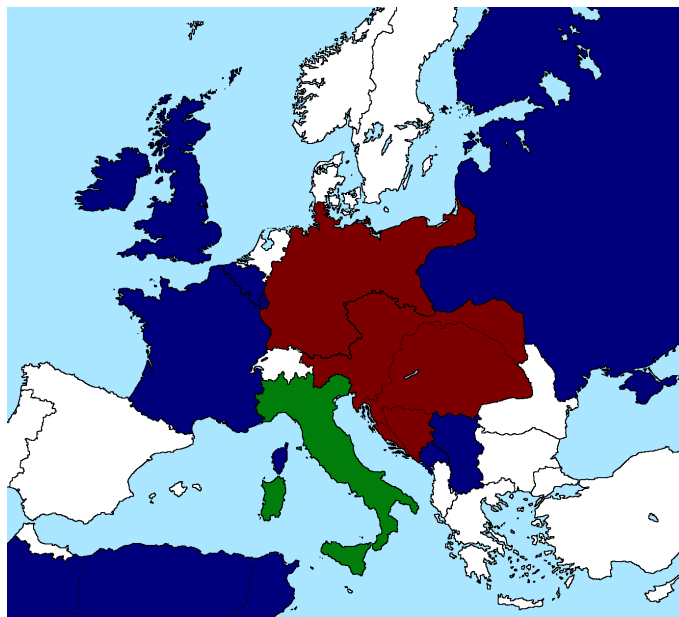
The Central Powers started forming when the unification of Germany was completed (1871) under Chancellor of the German Empire Otto von Bismarck. Bismarck knew if the German Empire wanted to remain strong throughout the years it needed allies to strengthen its hold on Europe. He believed a stable Europe would come by making alliances with its neighboring states which were Austria-Hungary and France. These states were also the most likely threats to the young German Empire. However, there were still French ambitions towards Alsace-Lorraine, which at the time was still a part of the German Empire. Therefore, a stable alliance with the French was probably not possible. Britain was staying away from Europe, so an English alliance wasn't possible as well. Later in history, the "*Three Emperors League*" was formed between the states of Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Russian Empire. After some time, Russia withdrew from the alliance that was formed, leaving only Germany and Austria-Hungary. This alliance evolved into the "*Dual Alliance*". The launch of the Dual Alliance was to defend in case of a possible Russian campaign to any of these two states. A few years later Italy joined too which renamed the pact as the "*Triple Alliance*". With the neutrality of Italy in the first year of the Great War, this alliance transformed into the "*Central Powers*".

After Bismarck was deposed, Kaiser Wilhelm II focused on militarization of the German State; alarming France, Britain and Russia. These countries soon began to strengthen ties between themselves. While Bismarck's successors failed to maintain his foreign policies, the German Empire found itself surrounded by hostile powers. France and Russia established

a military pact, which was named as “*The Franco-Russian Alliance*”. Britain was concerned about the security of its colonies, which drove them into signing the “*Entente Cordiale*” with France, which was also a member of another military pact, as previously mentioned above. In the following years, these two alliances merged, creating the “*Triple Entente*”.

With the outbreak of WWI, these two factions, the Entente and the Central Powers, declared war against each other. WWI or the Great War was surely the greatest war that humans had ever seen. For that reason, belligerents started to look for new allies. Italy's neutrality made Entente to take a move, and they began to negotiate for the Italian participation in their side. Which concluded with the 1915 Treaty of London...

Map: Factions at the beginning of the Great War



IV. Major Subjects of Discussion

A. Italian Claims over Adriatic Littoral (Austrian Littoral, Dalmatia, Albania)

Map: Ethnic composition of East Adriatic Littoral.

Red: Croats, Turquoise: Bosniaks, Yellow: Serbs, Purple: Slovenes

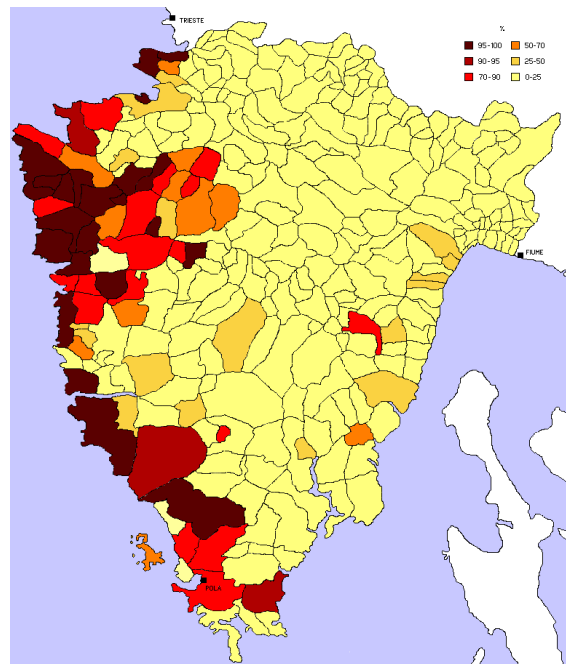


The major subject of the diplomatic correspondence between the Entente and Italy was the eastern Adriatic littoral. Italian intentions to be a regional power in the Mediterranean Sea conflicted with Russian intentions on the Balkans due to their Pan-Slavism policy. Pan-Slavism is a Russian ideology which aims to protect Slavic populations in the Balkans, especially South Slavs such as Croats, Serbs, Slovenes, and to expand Russia's political influence in the region. Most of the Italian claims were laid upon the territories either populated or claimed by South Slavs. As South Slavs were under so-called Russian protection, like it was previously mentioned, Russia naturally opposed Italian claims over that territory. The main friction points based on Italian claims over the territory and Russia's opposition to it, can be examined under these three titles:

- Austrian Littoral
- Dalmatia
- Albania.

1. Austrian Littoral (Istria, Gorizia, Trieste)

Map: Percentage of Italians in Istria, southern Austrian Littoral

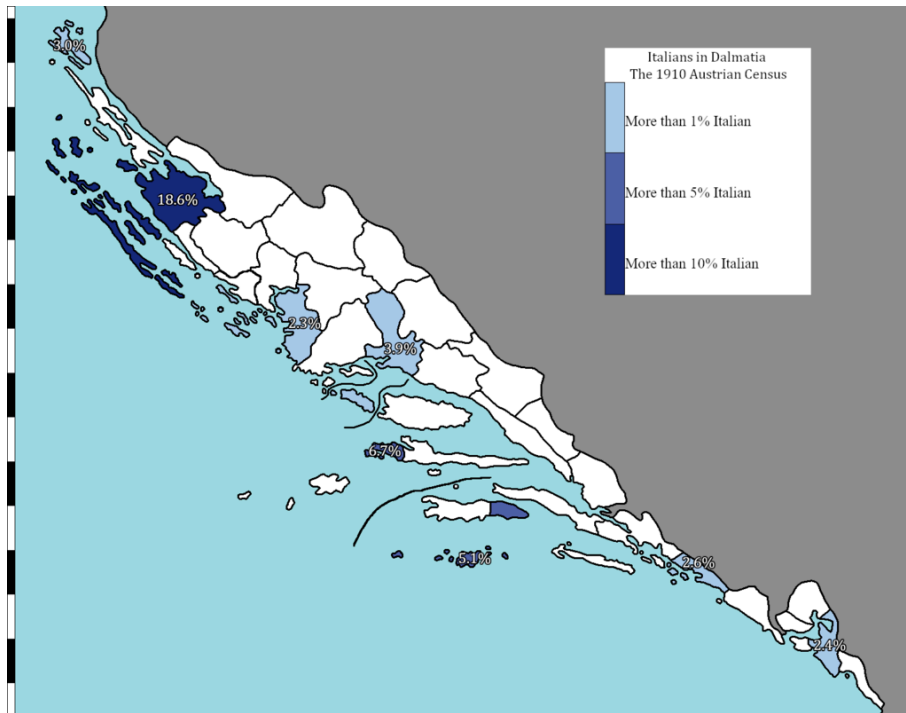


Austrian Littoral is a land historically ruled by Italians and Germans. This territory was left out from the lands of the Italian Kingdom after the seizure of Venetia from the Austrian Empire. As in the idea of Italian irredentism, Italy was seeking promises for the Austrian Littoral. However, Italians were a significant minority in the region because of the undeniable fact that since the early Middle Ages, Slavic groups migrated to the inland areas of the region. To be more precise, mostly two Slavic nations, Croats and Slovenes were the predominant ethnic group in Austrian Littoral. Nevertheless, this region was the first region to be deprioritized by Russians to come to a middle ground with Italy.

There were two main reasons behind the Russian sacrifice of Austrian Littoral. Firstly, Russians were defeated by Austrians in the Lodomeria region, which was located in the modern-day borders of Ukraine and Poland, meaning that they had to rush to make a deal with Italy in order to detain Austrians. Secondly, the Slavic populations in the Austrian Littoral were followers of the Catholic branch of Christianity. Since the Russians were maintaining a title which was the “*Protector of Orthodox Christians*”, the Austrian Littoral was the first land to be disregarded by the Russian Empire to facilitate diplomatic compromise with Italy.

2. Dalmatia

Map: Percentage of Dalmatian Italians in Dalmatia



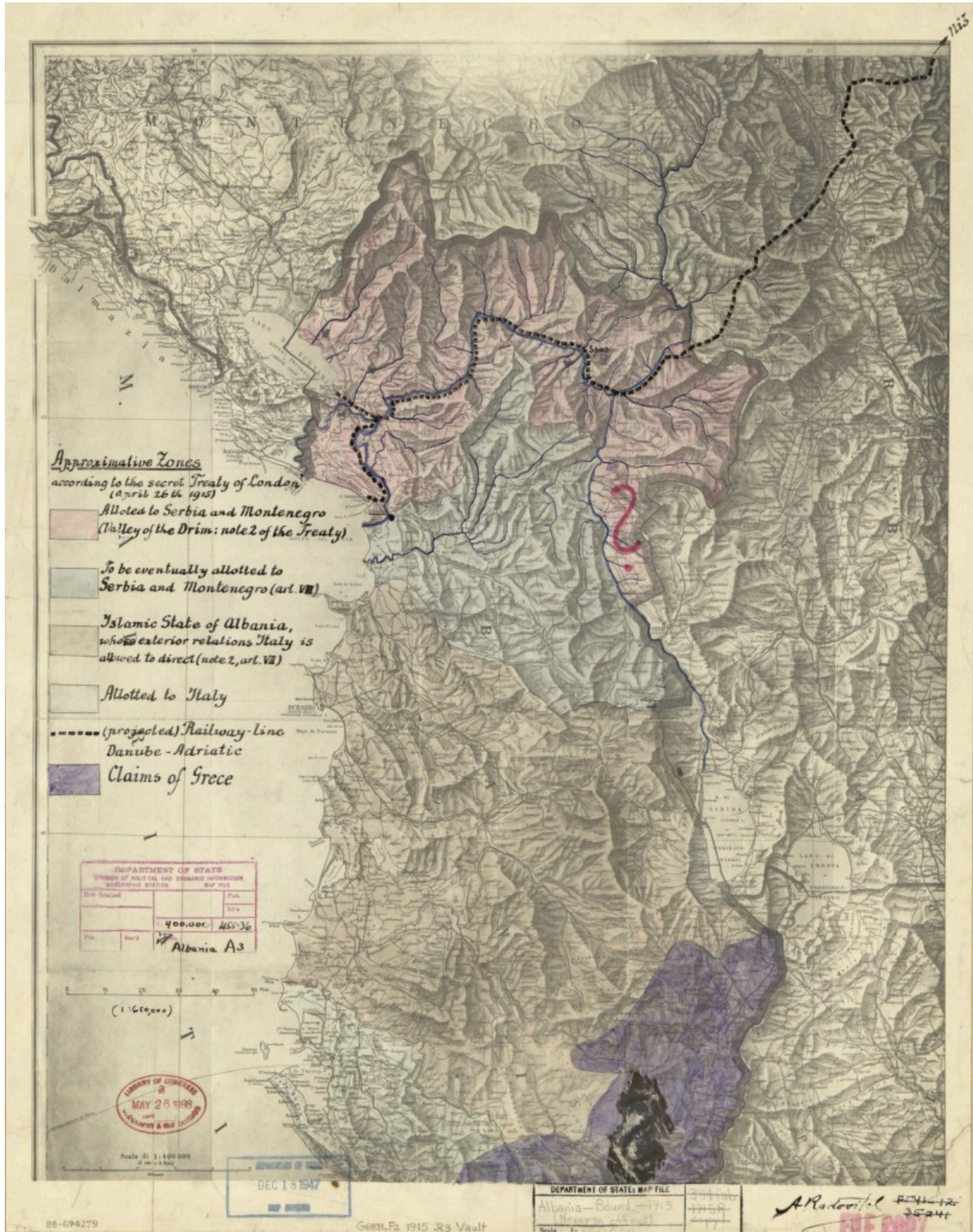
Between the 15th and 18th centuries, Dalmatia was ruled by the Italian state of Venice. Venice left unignorable amounts of people behind in the region. However, the Italians had remained as a minority in the region where the majority of the population was Croatian.

Rather than its demographics, geographical location gives Dalmatia its real value. Since the Slavic states to be established here after the war would be under Russia, Russia wanted to keep more land for these countries. This long coastline could enable Russia to border warm seas. Unlike in the Austrian Littoral topic, they did not pay attention to religion for Dalmatia.

Justifications behind Italian claims were also based on the strategic importance of the area hence they were not based on demographics entirely. They used the existence of Dalmatian Italians for leverage against Slavic claims for the area.

3. Albania

Map: Albania according to the 1915 Treaty of London. Italian annexed city of Vlore is located on southwestern corner of Albania



Italy demanded Albania as well. They wanted to rule the Adriatic Sea entirely, so to fulfill their interests, they would have to take Albania. Moreover, they had already invaded the port city of Vlore when WW1 started. Albania is not a Slavic or Orthodox state, and neither are the Albanian people; however, Russia opposed Italy on this issue too. Prior to the Second Balkan war, Northern Albania would have been partitioned between Serbia and Montenegro. Yet, with the British-sponsored 1913 Treaty of London, Northern Albania was taken from Serbia and Montenegro which caused Serbia to become a landlocked country. Since that day Russian-backed Serbia had been seeking to reclaim Northern Albania which clearly clashes with the demands of Italy.

This question was solved under these conditions in the treaty:

- Italy will annex Vlore and its surroundings.
- Italy will not oppose partitions of northern and southern Albania between Greece, Montenegro and Serbia.
- The rest of the Albanian lands will be an Italian protectorate.

B. Italian Claims over Tyrol

Map: Location of Tyrol



Map: Subdivisions of Tyrol



Italy laid claim over South Tyrol which has a predominant Italian population. Italian claims over Tyrol were not a big deal for the Entente. There were not any conflicting claims or objections against Italian claims. Italy was awarded with the lands that are south to the Brenner Pass, Provinces of South Tyrol and Trentino.

V. Terms of the Treaty

There are 16 articles in the original treaty which specifies the promised lands and privileges to Italy while elaborating what Entente will receive in exchange for them. Although here is a synopsis of the treaty we highly recommend any diplomat to research and read the original treaty as well.

Article I: Calls for a new agreement between the commanders-in-chief of the participant countries to rearrange the numbers of regiments fighting against Austria-Hungary.

Article II: Commits Italy to use all of her resources for the purpose of waging war jointly with Entente, against all of their enemies.

Article III: Makes French and British navies obligatory to give naval support until the Austro-Hungarian fleet is destroyed or peace is achieved.

Article IV: States that in case of an Entente victory, Cisalpine (Southern) Tyrol and Istria will be rewarded to the Kingdom of Italy.

Article V: Defines the boundary of Dalmatia, which was also promised to Italy.

Articles VI and VII: Promises full sovereignty for Italy over the city of Valona, Albania. Also, according to these articles, Albania was going to be an Italian protectorate/vassal.

Article VIII: Gives full sovereignty over Dodecanese Islands which Italy had already occupied prior to the treaty.

Articles IX and X: Assures Italian goals on the Ottoman province of Antalya and its surroundings. Additionally, the article states that in case of a partition regarding the Turkish Empire, Italy will have the right to occupy southwestern Anatolia. Moreover, Italy promised to seize all rights belonging to the Ottoman Sultan over Tripolitania.

Article XI: Promises a share from war indemnity to Italy at the end of the war.

Article XII: Declares that signatories of this treaty have agreed for an independent Muslim state that rules the Muslim Holy Places.

Article XIII: Makes sacrifices on behalf of France and Britain for lands in Africa in favor of Italy.

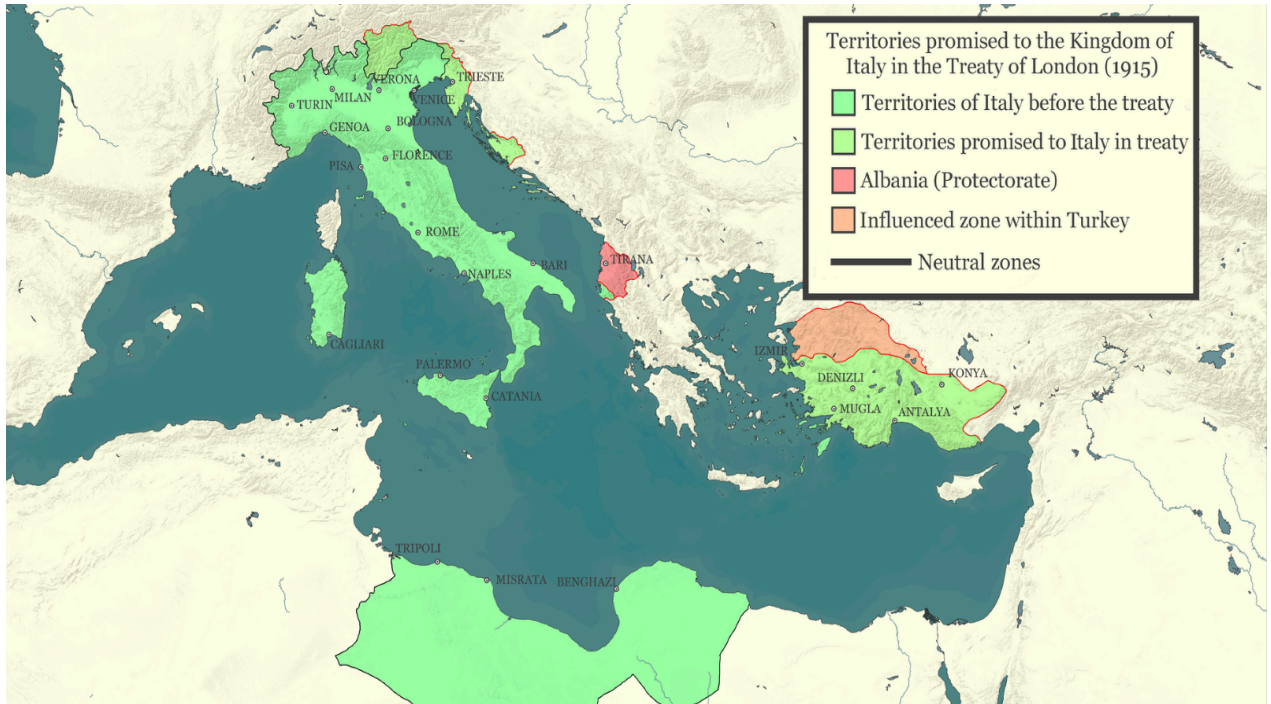
Article XIV: Obligates Britain to loan *50.000.000 Italian Lire* to the London market.

Article XV: Stipulates that Entente will support Italian opposition to potential participation of the Holy See (Vatican) to any peace negotiations regarding this war.

Article XVI: Conceals this treaty from the public until the Italian declaration of war against the Central Powers.

Disclaimer: In our committee we will not intervene into the topics involving Ottoman territories as in the articles IX and X due to their relation with the recent Turkish history.

Map: Lands promised to Italy according to the 1915 Treaty of London



VI. Policies of the Participant States

A. Russian Empire

Map: Southern Slavs in 1913

NOTE: Russia intended to be a supervisor for these nations. However, especially the yellow-colored Serbo-Croatian zone conflicts with the Italian claims.



As they had taken the role of “*Protector of Slavs and Orthodox Christians*”, Russia focused on minimizing the number of Slavic-populated lands that were promised to Italy.

From the beginning of the 19th century to the disestablishment of monarchy, Russian foreign policy in Europe can, to a large extent, be defined by Pan-Slavism. If we examine the Balkans in the 19th century, it can be observed that this policy was partially successful. At first, the Russian Empire supported the Serbian Revolution against the Ottoman Empire by providing military assistance. Following this, Russia primarily engaged in ideological and diplomatic efforts, including the promotion of Orthodox Christian and Pan-Slavic ideas within Ottoman territories until 1875. These promotions of Orthodox Christian and Pan-Slavic ideas can be defined as propagandas as well.

Russian influence and the trend of nationalism, which was quite popular at that time, contributed to uprisings among Bulgarians and Serbs against the Ottoman Empire. To solve this issue, as well as with the pressure of the “*Great Powers*”, the *Tersane Conference* was convened. Another name for this conference is the Constantinople Conference and it was aimed to rearrange Ottoman sovereignty over Balkans by proposing autonomous regions for

Bosnia and Bulgaria. The Ottomans rejected this proposal which gave the Russian Empire an excuse to declare war. Eventually, the “1877 Russo-Turkish War” or the “War of ‘93” began. The Russian Empire and Russian-backed rebels have won the war resulting in a great tragedy that is still remembered till this day for the Ottomans. The outcomes of this war have changed the Balkans entirely. In terms of Slavic populations, the principalities of Serbia and Montenegro gained independence, while Bulgaria achieved autonomy. Bosnia and the province of Novi Pazar were also removed from Ottoman control. While acting as a mediator during the Balkan Wars, Russia further reinforced its influence among Slavic populations in former Ottoman territories.

During the negotiations of the Treaty of London, Russia shaped its policy around two main concepts: Pan-Slavism and the protection of Orthodox peoples like it was previously mentioned above. They sought to limit Italy’s territorial claims on Dalmatia and Istria due to the ethnic demographics. Dalmatia was predominantly Serbo-Croatian and most of Istria was populated by Slovenians. Certainly, Russia’s actions were not purely altruistic while defending Slavic people’s rights. Throughout the Russian-backed independence journey of Balkan states, the Russian Empire had been a key influencing power in the region. Subsequently, these states often fell within the Russian sphere of influence when they gained their independence. In every single diplomatic issue, they had been expecting Russian supervision. Russian intervention into the Greco-Turkish War or the 1913 Protocol of St. Petersburg can be given as an instance. To be exact, if a country has gained its freedom by Russian support, that country would eventually be dependent on the Russian Empire in order to survive. Basically, if Croatia or Slovenia gain their independence, they would also be a party in the Russian sphere of influence. For this reason, Russia tried to lower Italian claims. The less Italy takes, the bigger Croatia would be. So, they are striving to expand their future/potential satellite states' borders.

B. Kingdom of Italy

Map: Primary goals of Italian irredentism. Claimed territories are shown in green and purple



During the negotiations Italy chased the objectives of Italian irredentism. Italian irredentism aimed to unite all Italians and lands that were historically ruled by Italian states.

If we take a quick look at the history of Italian nationalist movements, we will be faced with the Italian Wars of Unification at the beginning. This period of unification endured for 23 years with a series of wars, battles, and bureaucratic plots. Before these revolutionary decades, Italy was fragmented with 6 regional realms. One of them, the Kingdom of Sardinia, gathered Italy under a single roof and established the Kingdom of Italy. Most of the wars of the unification period were done against the Austrian Empire (subsequently, Austro-Hungarian Empire). They had taken Lombardy, Venetia, and Friuli from Austria. Yet still a considerable number of Italians were left out from Italy. The majority of those left were living in Tyrol, Istria, and Dalmatia.

Entente's quest for new alliances was a great opportunity for Italy to fulfill their interests over Austrian Lands. They were allied with Austria prior to the war; however, they did not refuse Entente's offers, especially in those times that proto-fascism was on the rise.

During the diplomatic correspondences with Entente, Italy focused on getting promises for said lands.

Their rationalization behind claiming Austrian territories was simple: Demographics and history. Southern parts of Tyrol and western parts of Istria were predominantly Italian. Even though; they were a significant group, they still were a minority in Dalmatia. To excuse it they came up with historical facts. Dalmatia is a land which was administered by an Italian merchant state for centuries, The Most Serene Republic of Venice.

C. The United Kingdom

The policy of the United Kingdom was more complicated. They want Italy to join their faction, yet they also want to balance Russian/Slavic demands and Italian claims. According to British policy, neither Italy nor Russia should take power on the Mediterranean Sea.

Throughout the post-Napoleonic history of the British Empire, they had been trying to eliminate any potential rival. Russia is famous for being one of the victims of this policy. For a century, at every opportunity, the British had blocked Russia to be a “*greater*” power. Fate of the Treaty of San Stefano is a perfect instance for this. At the end of the Russo-Turkish War of 1878, victorious Russians forced the Ottomans to sign the Treaty of San Stefano which empowered Russia in the Balkans, in the Mediterranean Sea, and over the Ottoman Empire. According to the British Empire, this treaty empowers Russia immoderately. Soon after the signing of this treaty Britain got involved and abolished the first treaty. They replaced it with the Treaty of Berlin which decreased the Russian gains after the war. Numerous events, as well as this one, could be given as an example to show the British policy of “*quelling potential rivals*”.

This was the exact policy that the British carried out during the negotiations of the Treaty of London. They knew that the less Italians gained, the more territory would fall under Russian influence which is clearly against British policy. However, The United Kingdom also was unwilling to let Italy be a regional power on the Mediterranean Sea. So, they endeavored to provide a balance between Italy and Russia. Their role was similar to French policy. Yet, distinct from the French, they were mediating to ensure “*equilibrium*” over the region, not to get a new ally.

Map: Comparison between the Treaty of San Stefano and British-supported Treaty of Berlin. An example for the British “quelling” policy



D. French Republic

France was the mediating side. They knew that most of the war burden was going to be attached to France as their country being the main focus point. To prevent this, they had to distract the Central Powers from the western front which lays from Switzerland to the North Sea. To achieve their goal, distraction, they had to make new alliances or open new fronts.

There wouldn't be any better options besides Italy. If they take them as an ally, in their plan they were going to hit two targets with one arrow. They would both have a new ally and a new front to fight with the Central Powers. Therefore, they made every effort to induce Italy to join their faction. In our committee, so in the real timeline, the main role of French is mediating between Russia and Italy in order to bring them onto a common point about the question of Italian claims.

Map: Western front of World War I, 1914. In this map, German troops are a few hundred kilometers away from the French capital, Paris.



VII. Notes from the Under-Secretary-General & Further Reading

As a person who has been doing these treaty-agreement committees for half of my MUN journey, I believe that I have some valuable tips to facilitate this experience for you. There are two main things that you should use in this committee: Solution based creativity and analytical argumentation.

The working principle of our committee is quite simple: If you have strong arguments to support your claims, you win. These arguments should be historically accurate. You may use any resource to get them. The deeper that you research, the number of potential arguments will increase. Certainly, the raw information would not be convenient. You should

analyze and turn them into a reasonable argument which will help you to impose your demands on the opposing side.

Another significant feature that we are looking for is creativity. During the discussions some questions may remain unsolved due to the conflicting ideas. At that point, as the committee administration, we expect innovative solutions from you. Remember, you rewrite and rewrite the history in historical committees, which means you can change history. The role of creativity starts there. You can offer your outlandish plans; invent some new diplomatic terms; and even propose a thing that has never been told before in human history. In addition, you shall memorize the geographical features in order to be capable of negotiating your plans.

However, being a diplomat you also require the ability to make sacrifices for the progress of the bigger picture and thus the committee. I highly recommend a quick skim at how diplomats behave and how they present their ideas and arguments toward one another. The committee will not be as easy as just dividing parts amongst a cake. It will require one to be tricky, quick thinking and knowledgeable hence you should do your research carefully and thoroughly and I recommend a deep dive into the opposing sides arguments as well.

Have a great one, lads and remember the course of history is in your hands.

External Links:

- <https://archive.org/details/agreementbetween00franrich/page/n3/mode/2up>
- <https://st-annes-mcr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/STAAR-6-2015.pdf#page=5>
- https://digital.maag.yosu.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1989/16321/887_Boggs.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

VIII. Committee Matrix & Maps

Matrix

Kingdom of Italy:

Antonio Salandra

Guglielmo Imperiali

Sidney Sonnino

Antonino Paternò Castello

Riccardo Bollati

United Kingdom:

Herbert Henry Asquith

Edward Grey

Rennell Rodd

Arthur Nicolson

Maurice de Bunsen

Mark Sykes

French Republic:

Théophile Delcassé

Pierre Paul Cambon

René Viviani

Camille Barrère

Maurice Paléologue

Philippe Berthelot

Russian Empire:

Ivan Goremykin

Sergey Sazonov

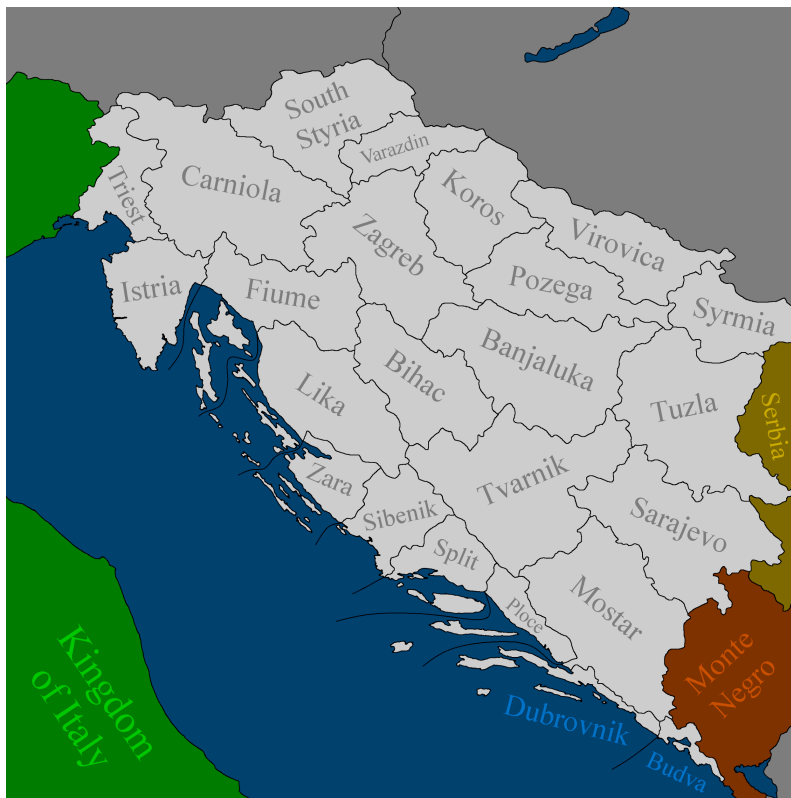
Alexander von Benckendorff

Anatoly Krupensky

Alexander Izvolsky

Nikolay Pokrovsky

Map: Southern Provinces of the Austria-Hungary



Map: De jure situation in Africa, 1914

