



*United Nations  
Charter Conference*  
**GWCI A XIV**  
**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Chair:** Alison Dieringer

**Vice Chair:** Amanda Ussak  
**Vice Chair:** Tiffany Lewis

**UNITED NATIONS CHARTER CONFERENCE  
GWCIA XIV**

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Hello Delegates!

Welcome to the George Washington University Conference on International Affairs XIV. My name is Alison Dieringer and I am looking forward to acting as chair of what I ascertain will be the best committee of GWCIA. I grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania and I am currently a senior in the Elliot School of International Affairs double majoring in Economics and International Affairs with a concentration in Asia. I spent last fall studying in Kunming, China and two months during the summer of 2007 teaching English in Beijing. I love Post-it notes and have an addiction to chocolate.

I will be assisted by Amanda Ussak, a senior originally from Edison, NJ, majoring in International Affairs. Previously, she has served as a Vice Chair, Faculty Liaison, and USG for WAMUNC and GWCIA and is very excited to be returning as a vice chair this year. Outside of the Model UN world, Amanda serves as President of Delta Phi Epsilon Professional Foreign Service Sorority, Eta Chapter, and loves to travel. This past spring she studied abroad in Marseille, France and Fes, Morocco. After graduation she hopes to join the Foreign Service.

Historical committees, especially ours, offer a unique opportunity for us to rise to the many challenges that are sure to present themselves. As a result, your task may be more challenging than some other committees you may have participated in, and hopefully more rewarding.

I would like to emphasize the need to understand your country's historical position and role on this committee. Attached is a brief background on the path towards chartering a new international organization - The United Nations. Today we take the UN Charter for granted, however, you should not. The background guide is just that - a guide. Be creative. My other and final recommendation is to do some research into the other countries positions, as you will all have a say in creating the UN Charter.

Best of luck in your preparations! I look forward to meeting you all on November 7th.

Sincerely,

Alison Dieringer  
Chair, UN Charter Conference



United Nations Charter Conference

### Current Situation

World War II is ending. The final battles on the European front are taking place and it looks like the Germans will soon surrender. Many of your countries are in shambles, economically and politically. The League of Nations has proven ineffective.

You and the representatives from forty-nine other countries have been invited to the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, California, USA to take place in April of 1945. This is a unique point in history. Fortunately, peace is in sight, though the costs in human life have been great. Now, nations are looking to the recovery process and want assurances that war will not occur again are needed.

At the time of the Treaty of Versailles, World War I was considered, "the war to end all wars." The League of Nations was established to ensure this. Unfortunately, the League failed for a number of reasons, notably, because the League was powerless to convince Hitler that all minorities (i.e. Jews) were fully human and held equal rights among all men. Hitler had claimed these clauses violated Germany's sovereignty and withdrew from the League of Nations.<sup>i</sup>

Now, the League of Nations is essentially defunct. Changes must be made. After meetings in Dumbarton Oaks and Yalta representatives from China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States have been drafting proposals, but there is still much work that needs to be done.

### Philosophy

According to historians Skirbekk and Gilje, the concept of creating a peaceful community of nations dates back to the Enlightenment when Immanuel Kant outlined the concept of a

league of nations that would control conflict and promote peace between states. The 19th century saw the contributions of collective security (as a result of the Concert of Europe) and the first Geneva Conventions (established laws for humanitarian relief during war).

The League of Nations represented the next step in peacemaking and collective security. It was an intergovernmental organization responsible for upholding the Rights of Man, including rights of non-whites, women, and soldiers, disarmament, preventing war through collective security and settling inter-country disputes through negotiations and improving global quality of life.<sup>ii</sup> However, the League had no military of its own and depended on the Great powers to enforce its resolutions, economic sanctions, or to provide an army for the League to use. Another critical weakness of the League was that the most powerful countries in the world were not members. Despite Woodrow Wilson's enthusiasm, he never gained enough support in Congress for the US to join. As an aggressor of World War I, Germany was not allowed to join and the communist Russians refused to join because they hated Britain and France. Without American, German and Russian power the League was left weakened.<sup>iii</sup>

However, there were many aspects to the League of Nations, including other bodies and affiliated agencies. The League oversaw the Permanent Court of International Justice and several other agencies and commissions created to deal with pressing international problems (The Disarmament Commission, the Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Mandates Commission, the International



Commission on Intellectual Cooperation and more.) The fate of these bodies is unknown. Will they be included in a new international organization?

*Things to consider: What are the strengths and weaknesses of the League of Nations?*

*Recognizing the League as a forerunner to the "United Nations" organization you will be chartering, what aspects does your country want to incorporate and which do they want to be rid of?*

### The "United Nations"

United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt first used the name "United Nations" in the "Declaration by United Nations" in January 1942. In this declaration 26 nations pledged their governments to continue fighting against the Axis Powers.

The preliminary proposals for our upcoming conference began at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference in Washington from August 21 to October 7, 1944 and included representatives from the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the Republic of China. The conference marks the beginning of the concrete discussion on the make-up of the UN.<sup>iv</sup>

The four participant nations agreed upon the following stated purpose of the proposed international organization:

*"To maintain international peace and security; and to that end to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means adjustment or settlement of international disputes which*

*may lead to a breach of the peace;*

*To develop friendly relations among nations and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;*

*To achieve international co-operation in the solution of international economic, social and other humanitarian problems; and*

*To afford a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the achievement of these common ends."*<sup>v</sup>

**(IMPORTANT HISTORICAL NOTE: The Dumbarton Oaks Conference was a significant step in creating the United Nations. However, for the purpose of GW CIA, many of the issues that were historically "resolved" at Dumbarton Oaks are still up for discussion, including but not limited to: member states, the role of the Security Council, permanent members, etc.. As is historically accurate, veto powers have not yet been established nor is the text of the UN Charter finalized.)**

### Issues

In creating a charter many elements must be considered, from logistics of the bureaucracy (Security Council, Secretariat, headquarters) to shared ideology (sovereignty, human rights). All of these areas must be properly addressed, as your country deems necessary. International organizations for health, international law, social and economic cooperation and maintenance of peace and security should be included. What are going to be the principle organs? What is the role of a General Assembly? What will the



official languages be? Will this new organization have a flag or other symbols?

Preparation

As you prepare, please do not forget the following:

What was the state of the world in 1945?  
What are the potential problems of the existing proposals?

-Agreements coming out of  
Dumbarton Oaks

-Agreements coming out of Yalta  
What did each bloc hope to gain with the founding of the UN?

What did each of the big power players want in the UN?

WE WILL NOT BE RE-WRITING  
VERBATIM THE UN CHARTER.

Think critically about what your country wants and try to anticipate any potential consequences of the new organizational structure that you are creating.

**Best of Luck Delegates! The fate of global peace is in your hands.**

Dumbarton Oaks Proposal Example:

Pamphlet No. 4, PILLARS OF PEACE

<http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/policy/1944/441007a.html>

UN Charter (Use sparingly)

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

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<sup>i</sup> Wikipedia, "The League of Nations"

<sup>ii</sup> Wikipedia, "League of Nations"

<sup>iii</sup> wikianswers.com

[http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What\\_were\\_the\\_league\\_of\\_nation's\\_powers-\\_strengths\\_and\\_weaknesses](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_were_the_league_of_nation's_powers-_strengths_and_weaknesses)

<sup>iv</sup> "About the United Nations/History" <http://www.un.org/aboutun/history.htm>

<sup>v</sup> "The Dumbarton Oaks Conversations, 1944"

[http://www.doaks.org/about/the\\_dumbarton\\_oaks\\_conversations.html](http://www.doaks.org/about/the_dumbarton_oaks_conversations.html)

