Sample Position Paper

Committee: Paris Peace Conference

Country: The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Topic: War Guilt

Over the past 4 years, a terrible war has been raging over Europe. New weapons and technology have been introduced to this war and have caused great damage to cities, architecture, agriculture and, most importantly, to European citizens. More than 17 million people have died, 7 million of which were completely innocent. 20 million were left wounded, mentally and physically. Everyone who has experienced this war will be traumatized for life. This war has cost 230 billion dollars. The face of Europe has never seen such a terrible war, and hopefully it never will again.

We as Luxembourgers have suffered because of this from the beginning. Our nation has been conquered just as this war broke out, violating our desired neutrality. Luxembourg and its infrastructure has been misused for war purposes to supply the German troops on the western front. To our greatest grieve; our brethren in France saw themselves unwilling to free us, contradictory to what had been promised in the Luxembourgian Declaration of Independence in 1867. However, we as proud Europeans always supported the Entente's attempts to overthrow the German Empire. Therefore we sent our largest army division to help our French brethren in the battle of the Somme, resulting in a great loss of lives. Furthermore, we attempted to overthrow our German oppressors by revolting in 1916/1917. We were not liberated until the Germans withdrew their troops from our soil in 1918.

Many factors did indeed play into the outbreak of the Great War. However, it was not the Serbian terrorist who caused this turmoil of nations, and neither were his Serbian compatriots. Russia stepped in to defend their Slavic brethren from the Austro-Hungarian attack, while Germany blindly attacked France, violating Luxembourgian and Belgian neutrality. As a consequence we, the delegation of Luxemburg demand that the guilt for this war shall be equally divided upon the Austro-Hungarian Empire for starting the Domino Effect and the German Empire for fully supporting their war effort.

Sources:

 $\underline{http://www.inesglobal.com/picture/upload/file/Der\%20erste\%20Weltkrieg\%20begann.pdf}$

http://www.wort.lu/de/lokales/wie-luxemburg-den-beginn-des-ersten-weltkriegs-erlebte-5310a21be4b01171e9aa42a2

 $\underline{\text{http://exhibitions.europeana.eu/exhibits/show/europeana-1914-1918-de/menschen-in-dokumenten/soldaten-aufdem-land-in-luxem}$

http://www.cnl.public.lu/fr/agenda/expositions/2015/09/Luxemburg-und-der-Erste-Weltkrieg/index.html