



DIMUN

Dr. İlhami Tankut Anatolian High School Model United Nations
Conference

USSR: War Cabinet

Agenda Item:

**Second World War Soviet
Western Front - The Winter War**

Under Secretary General: Timur Sipahi

Under Secretary General: Can Özdağ

With the help of Yılmaz Egemen Oflu

Letter From Secretary General

Greetings Esteemed Attendees,

As the secretary general of the conference. It is with great pleasure that I extend gracious hospitality and welcome you all, participants of DiMUN'25, which will be held in Antalya from June 27th to 29th.

As we gather for this Model United Nations conference, we look forward to thought-provoking debates, insightful dialogues, and meaningful opportunities for collaboration. The delegates of this conference may have enlightening discussions and foster their diplomatic skills. With committees exploring a wide array of historical topics, delegates are sure to be both challenged and inspired, cultivating their critical thinking and diplomacy throughout the experience.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the organizing team and academic team for their dedication and hard work in order to raise DiMUN'25 to the pinnacle!

Furthermore, it is important not to place undue pressure on yourself before or during the conference. All participants are here to enhance their personal and academic growth while engaging with new peers in that kind of conference, so please be reminded of that. Therefore, remember to enjoy the experience and make the most of your time. Stay tuned for an enriching and memorable event.

Sincerely,

Erdem Demirci

Secretary-General

DiMUN'25

Letter from Under Secretaries General

Dear Delegates,

First of all, we want to welcome you all to the CC of DIMUN25. It is a joy to call ourselves the under-secretaries-general of this committee. We are sure beyond any doubt that no participant will encounter any trouble with anything. We thank Egemen's kind soul for his contribution and generosity to the committee.

The Winter War, as both we already have and you shall find out when starting your research, is an act of history shrouded behind many paywalls for academic writings. We struggled to attain resources sufficient for our standards, and the difficult Finnish language wasn't of much help either. Nonetheless, we expect you all to conduct your research thoroughly. Though our guide will be your main source of information, always seek more.

Lastly, we wish to thank the executive board of our prestigious conference. Our Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Director General and Deputy Director General as well as the advisory team.

Come prepared, because you shall be tested. Enjoy!

USGs Can & Timur

Introduction

1. Timeline to be followed

Our committee will begin on the 20th of November 1939, exactly 10 days before the Soviet Invasion on the 30th. This gap is given to you to arrange plans and logistics, place troops and prepare for the war in general. The end and outcome of the war, and thus the committee, depend entirely on you. Keep in mind the rest of Europe is

at war as well and you will receive updates about important matters of the Second World War. Anything coinciding with your war will be coincidental.

2. Directives

An extensive directive workshop will be given to you inside the committee. If you aren't all that experienced about writing directives we highly advise you to thoroughly read this section.

Directives in a crisis committee are typically proposed during a crisis update, where delegates are informed of the latest developments in the crisis and have an opportunity to propose and debate directives. Directives in a crisis committee can take various forms, such as operational directives, strategic directives, or tactical directives.

Operational directives are usually short-term directives that focus on specific actions that you should take to address immediate issues or threats. For example, an operational directive could call for the deployment of medical teams to treat injured civilians or for the establishment of a humanitarian aid centre to distribute food and supplies to displaced persons.

Strategic directives, on the other hand, are usually longer-term directives that focus on overall goals or objectives that you should strive to achieve. For example, a strategic directive could call for the establishment of a no-fly zone to prevent further aerial attacks or for the deployment of peacekeeping forces to stabilise the region and prevent further conflict.

Tactical directives are directives that aim to achieve a specific objective or goal through a particular approach or tactic. For example, a tactical directive could call for a surprise attack on a key enemy position or for the evacuation of a specific group of civilians from a dangerous area.

To clear any confusion that might occur you don't need to name your directives as listed above those are just examples

It is necessary to write the time on your directive so there isn't any confusion on the order of the directives that we receive .

3. Further Reading

Kimmo Rentola- *The Finnish Communists and the Winter War*

Eloise Engle, Lauri Paananen- *The Winter War: The Russo-Finnish Conflict, 1939-1940*

Pasi Tuunainen- *Finnish Military Effectiveness in the Winter War, 1939-1940*

4. Matrix of the War Cabinet

Mikhail Kalinin (chair)

Chairman of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet Union, member of the Soviet Politburo

Vsevolod Yakovlev

Veteran of the First World War and Russian Civil War,
Commander of the 7th Army

Grigory Shtern

Veteran of the First World War and Russian Civil War,
Commander of the 8th Army

Mikhail Pavlovich Dukhanov

Veteran of the First World War and Russian Civil War,
Commander of the 9th Army

Valerian Frolov

Veteran of the First World War and Russian Civil War,
Commander of the 14th Army

Semyon Timoshenko

Marshal of the Soviet Union, one of the most prominent Red Army commanders.

Andrei Zhdanov

Soviet Politician, ideologue and “propagandist-in-chief”. Minister of Defence

Nikolai Kuznetsov

People’s Commissar of the Navy, Vice Admiral

Ivan Benediktov

People’s Commissar of Agriculture, a Long-term Communist Party member

Ivan Peresypkin

People’s Commissar of Communications, wartime General

Arseny Zverev

People’s Commissar of Finance, Economist

Vyacheslav Molotov

People’s Commissar of Foreign Affairs, Diplomat and Revolutionary

Lavrentiy Beria

People’s Commissar of Internal Affairs, Politician and Secret Police Chief

Nikolai Rychkov

Minister of Justice

Vladimir Kirpichnikov

General

About the Winter War

1. Reasons for the War

Following the fall of Poland in September 1939, Russia sought to expand its sway over the Baltic, and between September and October 1939, treaties "of mutual assistance" allowing Russia to set up military bases in each of the three Baltic states were forced upon Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia. Finland was widely believed to be Russia's next target. On October 5th, 1939, Russia invited Finnish representatives to Moscow to discuss "political questions".

During this meeting, Stalin wanted more Finnish land on the Russian border to be given over to Russia, as well as the Finnish islands in the Gulf of Finland, including Suursaari Island. He also wanted to lease Hanko as a military base and set up a garrison of 5,000 men there. Stalin gave Finland the option to fortify the Aaland Islands in exchange for territory in Soviet Karelia. Stalin framed all of his land demands in terms of preserving Russia's constituent cities, such as Leningrad or

Murmansk, from invasion. Finland remained distrustful of anything Stalin demanded. Since Finland and Russia had had tense relations for many years, practically everyone in Finland interpreted Stalin's demands as an attempt by Russia to reassert its dominance over Finland. Stalin himself, on the other hand, was just as suspicious of the Finns. He thought Finland would welcome a defeat of communist Russia, and that if given the opportunity, they would join or help any attack on it.

After discussions in Helsinki, Stalin's demands were ultimately rejected. Marshall Mannerheim, surprisingly, thought that some islands should be ceded to appease Russia as he feared in case of war, Finland would stand alone against the Mighty Red Army.

Finland's Geography

Finland is one of the northernmost, most isolated, and harshest-climated nations in the world. Most of Finland is covered in lush forests, making it the continent's most heavily forested nation. With Russia and Russia's vast wildness to the east, and Sweden and the Gulf of Bothnia to the west, Finland serves as a metaphorical northern boundary between western and eastern Europe.

Also known as the “Country of Lakes”, Finland is home to a staggering 188.000 lakes. Water, in general, is really not a problem in Finland, as even today it is one of the countries with the most water per capita in Europe. These lakes of course freeze over at certain times of the year under harsh climate conditions.

When constructing your directives, keep in mind the logistics of warfare, and how much terrain can affect any given action. The climate in Finland is harsh, and though both sides are readily equipped for skirmishes in the cold, it shall take a toll on them nonetheless. The lakes, rivers, forests and elevations of Finland will matter and as mentioned, please keep all these geographical factors in mind when taking any action whatsoever that includes movement of troops or goods.



The Gulf of Bothnia

The Gulf is the northernmost arm of the baltic sea and is situated between Finland's west coast and Sweden's east coast.

The Gulf of Finland

Easternmost in the Baltic Sea is the Gulf of Finland. The river Neva empties into

it at Saint Petersburg, Russia, and it stretches from Finland in the north and Estonia in the south to that city. Helsinki and Tallinn are two other large cities close to the Gulf. As the seaway to St. Petersburg the Gulf is of considerable strategic importance to Russia. Some of Russia's most important Oil Harbours are also situated in the Gulf increasing its logistical significance.

The Karelian Isthmus

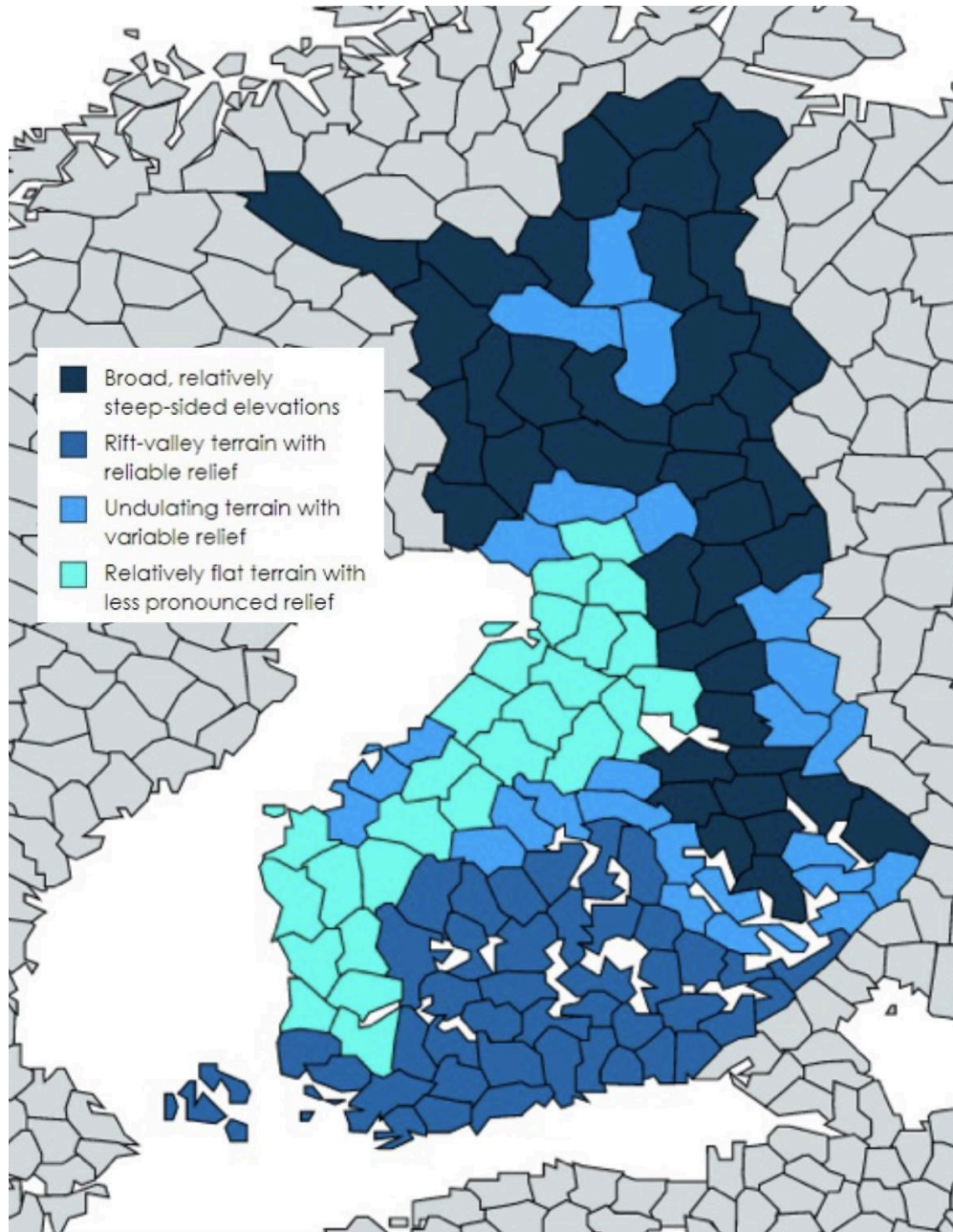
The Karelian Isthmus is a region of land that spans 45 to 110 kilometres. It is located in northwest Russia, north of the River Neva, between the Gulf of Finland and Lake Ladoga. Most of the Historically Finnish isthmus was conquered by Russia in the Great Northern War in 1712.



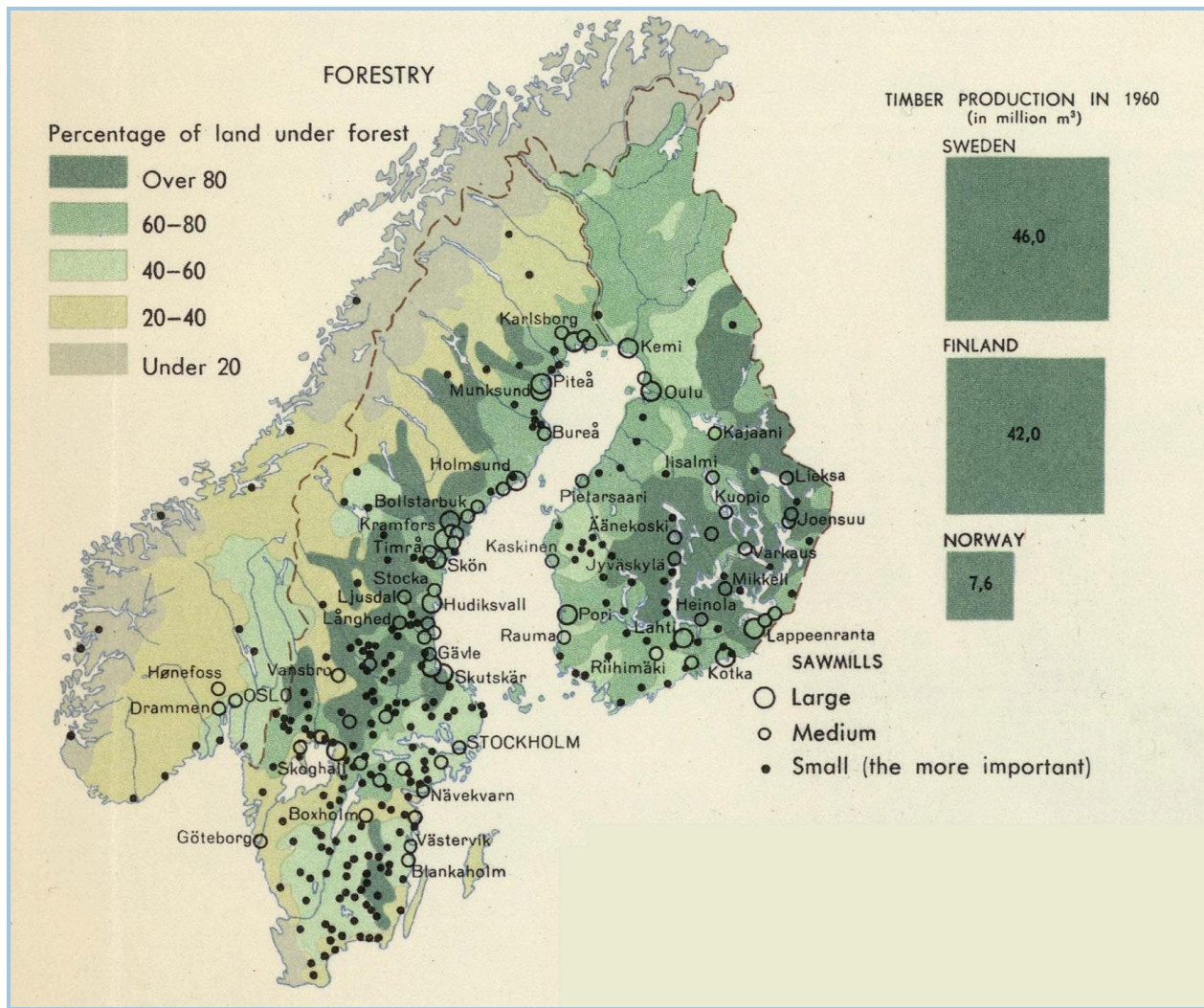
The Weichselian glacial had a significant impact on the geography of the isthmus. On the Lembolovo Heights moraine, where it rises to a height of roughly 205 m. On the isthmus, there are no mountains, however, there are a few locations with steep hills.

Terrain

Finland is very heavily forested, and with its many lakes, rivers and marshland has many elements of a rich hydrogeography. The elevation is as on the map below.



Forestation



Logistics of the War

As will be further detailed in the ‘What we expect of You’ section at the very end of the guide, historically accurate and elaborate logistical planning will be one of the main focuses of this committee. This involves creating supply lines for fuel, provisions and if needed, ammunition. Take into consideration the terrain and climate of the respective region and plan accordingly. Your soldiers will either starve

or freeze to death if you fail to fulfil these properly. For example, just take a look at what happened to the Germans in Russia.

Supply Routes

The Soviet campaign during the Winter War was deeply dependent on the effective movement of fuel, food, equipment, and manpower across a region defined by frozen landscapes, dense forests, and underdeveloped infrastructure. The following sub-sections provide a detailed account of how each component of the supply system functioned, where it originated, how it was transported, and what limitations it faced.

Fuel

Fuel for tanks, trucks, aircraft, and heating purposes was a vital part of Soviet logistics. The primary sources of fuel were the oil fields of Baku, Grozny, and the Volga basin, where it was refined and loaded into rail tankers. From these southern centers, fuel moved northward via the October Railway through Moscow and into Leningrad, and westward along secondary lines into the Karelian Isthmus. In the

north, deliveries passed through Arkhangelsk and into Murmansk, using the Murmansk Railway to reach front-line units in the Arctic region.

Upon arrival at forward depots—typically in cities like Petrozavodsk, Sortavala, or Kandalaksha—fuel was stored in insulated drums or underground tanks to limit freezing. From there, it was distributed via ZIS-5 trucks, sled convoys, or manual labor to individual units. Cold temperatures often caused fuel to thicken or freeze in containers, requiring heating or additives such as alcohol. The lack of antifreeze and proper storage facilities in some sectors created operational delays. Finnish ambushes and terrain blockages frequently disrupted fuel convoys, and in some cases, fuel had to be rationed or locally supplemented with firewood and coal.

Provisions

Soviet provisioning systems were extensive but faced logistical obstacles in the Finnish theater. Military rations included canned meats, black bread, porridge, dried fish, and condensed milk, intended to meet the increased caloric demand of cold-weather operations. Supplies originated from large-scale storage facilities in

Leningrad, Moscow, and Arkhangelsk, and were shipped by rail to distribution centers in Petrozavodsk, Medvezhyegorsk, and Hiitola.

Once in proximity to the front, provisions were moved by truck or sled to field depots, company kitchens, or mobile units. Field kitchens operated with coal or wood-fired stoves and supplied hot meals to forward troops when possible. In areas with limited road access, especially central Karelia and the north, provisions were packed onto horses, sleds, or skis. Water was primarily acquired by melting snow, as lakes and rivers were frozen and often contested. Supply lines in forested areas were targeted by Finnish ski troops, making consistent delivery difficult. Inadequate food distribution, particularly in more isolated divisions, contributed to low morale and fatigue among Soviet troops.

Miscellaneous Supplies

Essential non-combat equipment—ranging from winter uniforms to tools and communications gear—formed a critical part of Soviet logistical efforts. Supplies

were sourced from factories in Moscow, Tula, and Leningrad, and distributed via the October and Murmansk Railways. From rail depots, items were dispersed to rear supply points and then transported forward using trucks, sleds, or handcarts.

Winter clothing included fur-lined coats, quilted uniforms (telogreika), felt boots (valenki), and mittens. Shortages of proper winter gear were widespread, especially in hastily mobilized reserve units. Inadequate cold-weather preparation led to increased cases of frostbite and non-combat attrition.

Communications equipment included field telephones, signal flags, radios, and telegraph units. Field engineers also carried axes, saws, shovels, and explosives for clearing forests, digging trenches, and building bridges or shelters. Camouflage nets and white snow gear were issued sporadically and were often insufficient. The uneven distribution of these supplies across various army groups resulted in inconsistent readiness on the front.

Troop and Vehicle movement

Soviet troop movements beyond railway nodes were determined by a combination of geography, vehicle capabilities, and weather conditions. On the Karelian Isthmus, infantry units disembarked from trains in or near Viipuri and advanced toward the Mannerheim Line along a small number of roads and forest trails. These roads were often unpaved and became congested or impassable in heavy snow. Troops in Karelia and northern sectors often marched on foot or used skis, particularly where vehicles could not operate.

Vehicles were essential for moving artillery, ammunition, and supply convoys. The Red Army employed several types of military transport:

- T-26: The most numerous tank used by the Soviets. Struggled in deep snow due to narrow tracks.
- BT-5 / BT-7: Fast tanks with thin armor and high breakdown rates in cold conditions.
- T-28: Multi-turreted medium tanks. Effective in firepower but cumbersome and hard to maneuver in forest terrain.
- ZIS-5 trucks: Used extensively for general transport. Experienced traction issues in snow and ice.

- Aerosans: Propeller-driven sleds for reconnaissance and messenger work in open snowfields.
- Horse-drawn sleds: Used in regions with no vehicle access, particularly in central and northern Karelia.

In northern theaters such as Petsamo and Salla, infrastructure was even more limited, and movement relied on manual portage, reindeer sleds, and temporary ice roads across frozen rivers and lakes. Movement through forests required trail-cutting by engineering units, and bottlenecks frequently occurred. Vehicle performance was hampered by a lack of winterized engines, and many vehicles were immobilized due to frozen oil or failed starters.

Railways

Rail transport was the backbone of Soviet operational logistics during the Winter War. Long-distance movement of troops, equipment, and supplies from the Soviet interior relied on a series of major and secondary lines. The October Railway connected Moscow to Leningrad, then extended toward Viipuri through Hiitola and

Kouvola, providing direct access to the southern front. In the north, the Murmansk Railway linked Murmansk and Kandalaksha with interior hubs like Petrozavodsk, enabling the supply of the 14th Army and other formations.

Additional branch lines in Karelia supported operations by the 8th and 9th Armies, but many were single-track, unprotected, and subject to congestion. Field depots, fuel storage tanks, switchyards, and repair stations were established at key junctions. Soviet rail engineers had to contend with frozen switches, snow-blocked tunnels, and partisan sabotage, especially near the front. Troop reinforcements were delivered in heated rail cars to prevent cold injuries, and flatbed trains were used for transporting tanks and artillery.

Waterways

Although most waterways in Finland froze during the winter months, they remained useful in specific logistical contexts. Before freezing, Lake Ladoga was used to move supplies from Leningrad to Soviet positions in eastern Karelia. After the lake froze,

its surface was used as a temporary transport route for sleds and trucks, though weight restrictions and thaw risks had to be considered.

In the south, the Gulf of Finland allowed the Baltic Fleet to ferry supplies to ports near Kronstadt and Leningrad, but this route became unusable as winter progressed.

In the far north, the White Sea and the Northern Dvina River served as supply channels to Arkhangelsk, particularly early in the war. From there, goods were transferred to the Murmansk Railway for final delivery to the Arctic front.

Frozen rivers such as the Svir, Vuoksi, and Kem were sometimes adapted into makeshift roads, but their safety depended on ice thickness, which varied by region and season. Finnish sabotage and natural instability occasionally led to the collapse of ice bridges, resulting in lost vehicles and casualties.

The Soviet Union

1. Goals of the USSR

The USSR held many goals in attacking Finland. Historically, Finland was under the Russian Sphere for the last 2 centuries, and even before that being a battleground between Sweden and Russia. Officially being a Duchy underneath the Russian

Empire before their independence, it was not hard to see why the USSR would hold imperial claims in the area. Furthermore Finland had almost become a Soviet Republic within the USSR itself, with Finland having gone through a civil war like the Russians, between the Reds and the Whites. Of course, the Whites (many of whom were trained in Germany and formed the famed Jeager battalions) came out victorious at the end, but this did not lead the USSR to disregard the former support for reds within the country as a justification.

Second and the more practical reasons were for the safety of the USSR. The Finnish government was regarded as hostile to the USSR by Moscow and not without reason. In the past, troubles in East Karelia and the Finnish support for the rebels had led the Soviet High Command to deem the Finnish government as a constant threat, able and willing to support rebellions that would split the lifeline to the northern ports of Murmansk. This was added with the close proximity of the border of Finland to the major cities of Leningrad and Murmansk.

For this reason, the main Soviet goal was to secure their border regions, not allowing future Finnish incursions to compromise the security of critically important areas.

The end goal was the establishment of a Soviet Satellite state within the region and for the future annexation of the state.

2. Statistics of the USSR

The Soviet Union, as one of the most populous countries, housed roughly 170 million people. The Soviet economy and population was booming, as the recovery from the Great War and Civil War was in full swing. Stalin's 5 year plan introduced rapid industrialization and pushed the country to increased self reliance. Expansion of the industry brought about increased medical services also, which increased labor productivity. Campaigns were started to fight typhus, cholera, and malaria; the number of doctors was increased as swiftly as available funding and education would permit; and the newborn and adult mortality rates steadily decreased.

The Soviet Army was one of the greatest in the region, housing modern tanks, a vast standing army with motorized forces and an air-force as well as near endless reserves. The Soviet Army was however suffering from a lack of officers following the Great Purge, competency being replaced by political loyalty. Furthermore, the remaining officers remained unable to catch up to the times, as their modernized army was misused at every turn.

3. Military of the USSR

24th Rifle Division:

**3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Guards Artillery Regiment, 1 Reconnaissance Battalion, 1
Separate Armor Battalion**

43rd Rifle Division:

**4 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Heavy Artillery Regiment, 1 Anti
Tank Battalion, 1 reconnaissance battalion, 2 Sapper/Engineer Battalions**

70th Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Heavy Artillery Regiment

123rd Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Guards Artillery Regiment, 2 Reconnaissance Battalion

49th Rifle Division:

**3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Guards Artillery Regiment, 1 Reconnaissance Battalion, 2
Separate Armor Battalions**

90th Rifle Division:

4 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Heavy Artillery Regiment

142nd Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Anti Tank Battalion, 1

Sapper/Engineer Battalion, 1 Reconnaissance Company

10th Tank Corps:

3 Light Tank Brigades, 1 Motor Rifle and Machine Gun Brigade

138th Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Separate Armor Battalion, 1 Anti

Tank Battalion, 1 reconnaissance battalion, 1 Sapper/Engineer Battalion

1 Separate Heavy Tank Brigade

Air Force of the 7th Army:

2 Light Bomber Aviation Brigades, 1 Fighter Aviation Brigade, 1 High-Speed Bomber Aviation Brigade

18th Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Heavy Artillery Regiment, 1 Anti Tank Battalion, 1 reconnaissance battalion, 1 Sapper/Engineer Battalion

56th Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Red Banner Rifle Regiment, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Heavy Artillery Regiment, 1 Anti Tank Battalion, 1 reconnaissance battalion, 1 Sapper/Engineer Battalion

75th Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Cavalry Regiment, 1 Sapper/Engineer Battalion

139th Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Heavy Artillery Regiment, 1 Anti Tank Battalion, 1 reconnaissance battalion, 1 Sapper/Engineer Battalion

155th Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 2 Separate Armor Battalions

168th Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 2 Heavy Artillery Regiment, 2

Sapper/Engineer Battalion

34th Light Tank Brigade

Air Force of the 8th Army:

1 Fighter Aviation Brigade, 1 High-Speed Bomber Aviation Brigade

163rd Rifle Division:

4 Rifle Regiments, 1 Mountain Rifle Regiment, 2 Light Artillery Brigades, 1

Reconnaissance Regiment, 1 Separate Armored Battalion

44th Red Banner Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Heavy Artillery Regiment, 1 Anti Tank Battalion, 1 reconnaissance battalion, 1 Sapper/Engineer Battalion, 2 Separate Rifle Battalion, 1 Separate Artillery Battalion, 1 Separate Armor Battalion

79th Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Divisional Light Artillery Brigade, 1 Heavy Artillery Regiment, 1 Anti Tank Battalion, 1 reconnaissance battalion, 1 Sapper/Engineer Battalion, 1 Separate Armor Battalion

101st Mountain Rifle Division:

3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Guards Artillery Regiment, 1 Reconnaissance Battalion, 1 Anti Tank Battalion, 1 Sapper/Engineer Battalion

2 Sakhalin Rifle Brigades

104th Rifle Division:

2 Mountain rifle Regiments and 1 artillery Regiment,

2 Separate Sapper/Engineer Battalions

14th Rifle Division:

4 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Heavy Artillery Regiment, 1 Anti Tank Battalion, 1 reconnaissance battalion, 1 Sapper/Engineer Battalion

52nd Rifle Division:

4 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Anti Tank Battalion, 1 reconnaissance battalion, 2 Sapper/Engineer Battalion

1st Mixed Air Division:

3 Fighter Aviation Regiments

RESERVE:

150th Motor Rifle Division: 3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Heavy Artillery Regiment

137th Rifle Division: 3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment

88th Rifle Division: 3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Anti

Tank Battalion, 1 reconnaissance battalion, 1 Sapper/Engineer Battalion

122nd Rifle Division: 3 Rifle Regiments, 1 Light Artillery Regiment, 1 Anti

Tank Battalion, 1 reconnaissance battalion, 1 Sapper/Engineer Battalion, 1

Separate Armor Battalions

4. Allies of the USSR

The Soviet Union received no international support, only receiving support from some foreign communist parties loyal to the Comintern as well as its own satellite states.

Finland

1. Goals of Finland

As the defender against aggression by the USSR, the goal of Finland was simple:

Survival. Faced against greater odds, the main goal was the defending of the

Karelian Isthmus, which was regarded as the main obstacle that would defend

Helsinki. For that reason, the famed Mannerheim line held vital importance.

Another method to ensure the survival of Finland was to look to the West for aid.

The anti-Communist British and French, the guarantors of peace in Europe, were the most obvious candidates, although some hope laid in the Americans and the Germans as well, no matter how little the chance for support.

However, Finnish ambitions laid beyond this. After their own civil war, the White Finns had attempted incursions into East Karelia, under the nominal control of the Bolsheviks at the time. Although they were repulsed, they had supported rebels in the area historically. To bring about the true border of Finland, with East Karelia under control, would be the ideal goal of the Finnish, if total victory is secured.

2. Statistics of Finland

Finland was a relatively small country, with a population of three and a half million people. The country was mostly agricultural, with more than half of the country's population and forty percent of its output overall in the agricultural sector. Although some efforts were launched for industrialization, it had not yet taken full effect. For that reason, the country did not possess the means to mass produce and arm, however they had strong civil institutions that allowed for the hasty mobilization of reserves and the arming of the civil militia. Furthermore their military staff was one

of the most experienced and notable, veterans from the Great War and the Civil War, trained as Jeagers and being adaptable and patriotic. The Finnish Army, no matter how underarmed, possessed a great spirit that the Finns labeled as Sisu.

3. Allies of Finland

The most notable allies of Finland came in the form of France and Britain who provided monetary and arms support, as well as volunteers who went to fight for Finland. The Danish and Swedish also were a source of support in arms, trade and resources. The League of Nations proclaimed the invasion illegal and kicked out the USSR from the organization. Germany, although having sold out the Finnish in the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, still held interest in the prolonged existence of Finland for a future assault on the Soviet Union.

Real-World Timeline of the War

- 7 November 1917: Bolshevik revolution breaks out in Russia.
- 6 December 1917: Finland declares independence from Russia.
- 27 January 1918: Finnish Civil War between German-supported White Guards and Soviet-supported Red Guards.

- 21 March 1918: Finnish nationalist volunteers launch the military Viena expedition, attempting to annex Karelia to Finland; the expedition ultimately failed.
- 15 May 1918: Finnish Civil War ends with a victory by the White Guards under C.G.E. Mannerheim.
- 23 January 1919: The Finnish population in Ingria rebels from Soviet Russia, creating the Republic of North Ingria, which seeks to join Finland. The short-lived state is later reincorporated into Russia.
- 17 July 1919: Finland adopts a democratic constitution.
- 14 October 1920: Soviet Russia and Finland sign the Treaty of Tartu, which provides for mutual de jure recognition and a settlement of the border. The harbour of Petsamo is ceded to Finland in exchange for the parishes of Repola and Porajärvi, which had briefly seceded from Russia to Finland previously.
- October 1921: The East Karelian Uprising begins against Soviet Russia. Armed Finnish volunteers soon join to take part in the fighting. The uprising is ultimately defeated; the rebels cross the border to refuge in Finland.

- 21 January 1932: The Soviet Union and Finland negotiate a non-aggression pact.
- 24 August 1939: Russo-German non-aggression pact signed. Secret protocol places the Baltic region and Finland within the Soviet Union's sphere of interest.
- 17 September 1939: The Soviet Union invades Poland.
- 22 September 1939: Estonian foreign minister invited to Moscow.
- 29 September 1939: Soviet–Estonian mutual assistance pact signed.
- 1 October 1939: Latvian foreign minister invited to Moscow.
- 3 October 1939: Lithuanian foreign minister invited to Moscow.
- 5 October 1939: Soviet–Latvian mutual assistance pact signed. The Soviet Union invites Finns to negotiate territorial adjustments.
- 9 October 1939: Finland orders a gradual military mobilization under the guise of additional refresher training.
- 10 October 1939: Soviet–Lithuanian Mutual Assistance Treaty signed.
- 11–12 October 1939: Finnish delegation meets V.M. Molotov and J.V. Stalin in Moscow, and receives demands of concessions. The Soviet demands include the secession of territory in the Karelian Isthmus, islands in the Gulf of Finland, and the Rybachy Peninsula, as well as the lease of a naval

base at Hanko. In return, they offer to secede the municipalities of Repola and Porajärvi, making up twice as much territory as their demands of Finland. The offer divides the Finnish government, which ultimately rejects it.

- 23 October 1939: The Finnish make a counteroffer, offering the town of Terijoki, much smaller than Soviet demands.
- 31 October 1939: Molotov makes a speech before the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, publicly announcing the Soviet demands and offers.
- 13 November 1939: The Finnish delegation returns home, ending negotiations.
- 26 November 1939: The Soviets stage the Shelling of Mainila, bombarding a Soviet village in order to obtain a pretext for war against Finland.
- 28 November 1939: The Soviets withdraw from the non-aggression pact, using their staged incident as a pretext.
- 30 November 1939: Helsinki bombed, and Soviet troops cross the Finnish border.
- 1 December 1939: The puppet government "Finnish Democratic Republic" is founded.

- 3 December 1939: Finland makes an appeal for intervention by the League of Nations.
- 7 December 1939: Soviets reach the main line of Finnish resistance on the Karelian Isthmus.
- 12 December 1939: Finns win the Battle of Tolvajärvi.
- 14 December 1939: The Soviet Union expelled from League of Nations.
- 23 December 1939: Finns organized unsuccessful counterattack.
- 7 January 1940: Finns win the Battle of Raate road.
- 8 January 1940: Finns win the Battle of Suomussalmi.
- 29 January 1940: The Soviets abandon their puppet Terijoki government and recognize the Finnish government as the legitimate government of Finland. The Soviets inquire what land Finland would be willing to cede as part of a peace deal.
- 1 February 1940: Soviets start all-out offensive on the Karelian Isthmus.
- 5 February 1940: Britain and France agree to intervene in Scandinavia.
- 11 February 1940: Soviets score decisive breakthrough of Mannerheim Line.
- 12 February 1940: Finns seek peace terms.
- 1–5 March 1940: Fighting in and around city of Viipuri (Vyborg).

- 9 March 1940: Finns retreat from last toeholds in Gulf of Viipuri.
- 12 March 1940: Moscow Peace Treaty signed in Moscow.
- 13 March 1940: Cease-fire goes into effect.
- 9 April 1940: Germany invades Denmark and Norway.
- 15 April 1940: Allies send troops to Norway; the nation is ultimately conquered by Germany.
- June–August 1940: The Soviet Union occupies and annexes the Baltic states.
- 18 August 1940: After the Germans obtain troop transit rights through Finland, the first German troops arrive in the port of Vaasa. Ultimately, five German army divisions deploy in Northern Finland for the planned invasion of Soviet Russia.
- January 1941: The Soviets make demands regarding the mining district and port of Petsamo, rejected by Finland with the support of Germany.
- January 1941: The Germans inform Finland of their plans for their invasion of the Soviet Union; military leaders of the two countries begin planning together for the invasion.
- 15 June 1941: The Finnish army begins mobilization in preparation for an attack on the Soviet Union in conjunction with Germany.

- 21 June 1941: Finnish troops concentrate defensively at the Finnish–Soviet border
- 22 June 1941: Germany launches an invasion of the Soviet Union, breaking its non-aggression treaty without warning. The Finnish immediately occupy the demilitarized Aland islands. German troops advance into Petsamo.
- 25 June 1941: The Continuation War officially begins after a Soviet aerial attack.

What we expect of you

As has been elaborated, accurate logistics are a vital part of this committee. This will essentially be a JCC of you against the crisis team, us. We will reply to your actions and you to ours, all while keeping a firm grip on organisational factors. You must prepare well-thought-out and detailed battle/assault/defence plans. A simple “ I attack with one billion troops” directive will be rejected immediately. We want you to make as much use of terrain, weather, maps, separate battalions and soldier types, vehicles and other tools as possible. Keep in mind you are a cabinet and not just a group of generals. Every now and then, you will need to start propaganda campaigns to conscribe more soldiers, speak to glorious leader Stalin for financial support, contact foreign emissaries for outside aid and many other such similar

non-war-related scenarios. You will report directly to Stalin, even if he is not part of the committee. This is the Soviet Union; fail to do your job, and you may be... lost.

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