

SSICsim 2017

1984

BACKGROUND GUIDE

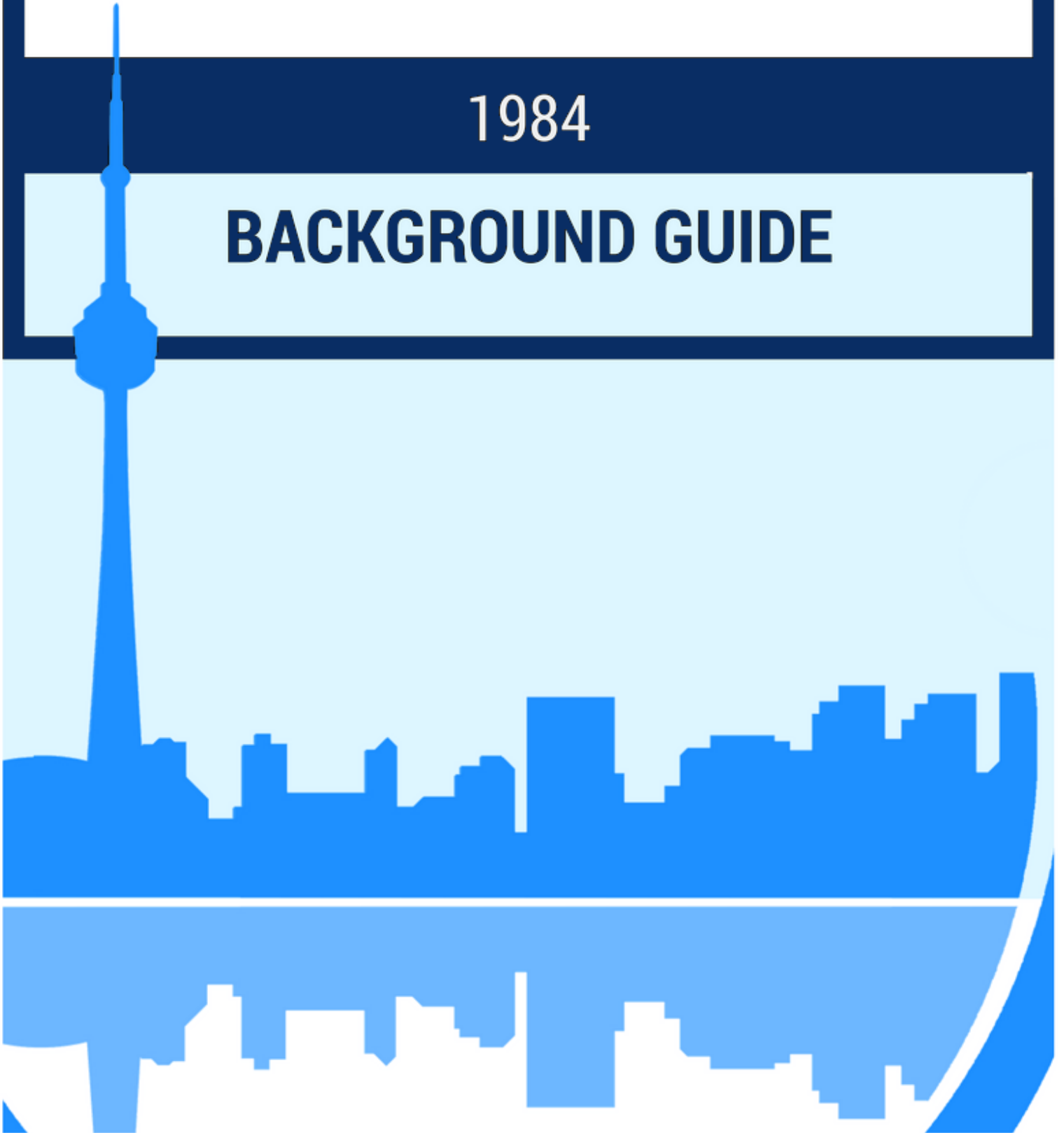


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Welcome from the Dias

Hello, my dear delegate, and welcome to the Secret Council of Rebels of the 1984 Oceania. My name is Mary Zelenova, and I will be your director throughout the conference.

First things first: the main rule of the Council of Rebels is that nobody finds out about the Council of Rebels. And I truly mean nobody. Your meetings will take place in an underground bunker, hidden from the ever-seeing eye of the Big Brother. In your hands is the future of Oceania. Break this rule, and you will be sentenced to a lifetime of excruciating physical work in the labor camps – a punishment that is arguably worse than death. This will be your only warning.

Now, you might be wondering who I am. I am a third year Political Science and History student, with an emphasis on Foreign Affairs. I hold vested interest in state building, global security, diplomacy, and international law. My research interests are particularly geared towards the Cold War, nuclear peace theory, and internationally-coordinated methods of health security. I've been involved in Model UN since my high school days, and served as a member of the Secretariat of SSICsim 2016. Aside from that, I am quite fond of caffeine, cats, and visual art. And, as you have probably already guessed, George Orwell's *1984* is my favourite novel.

But enough about me. You see, this committee will require more than just orchestrating a rebellion. Overthrowing the corrupt Big Brother is only a quarter of your task. Your true challenge will come in building a new nation from the ground-up. Should you succeed with your rebellion, you will be required to build a liberal democracy from the ashes of a totalitarian state. And that, my friend, is no easy task. Apart from establishing the rule of law, free and fair elections, and forming diplomatic relations with the neighbouring states, you will be required to introduce millions of citizens to democracy – an entirely new and alien concept.

Or, you know, you could build another authoritarian state and cater it to your desires. You could fail entirely, and your botched revolution will bring catastrophic punishment from the Big Brother. You have the power to the decide the fate of millions of civilians. What future are you going to give them? The choice is ultimately yours.

Alright, let's get down to business. I suggest that you study this background guide thoroughly, as it will provide you with the necessary information to successfully participate in the conference. You don't want to fall behind so early in the game. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by email.

See you in November.

Mary Zelenova
Committee Director – 1984
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Introduction

Power is in tearing human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing.

- George Orwell, 1984.

Overview and History

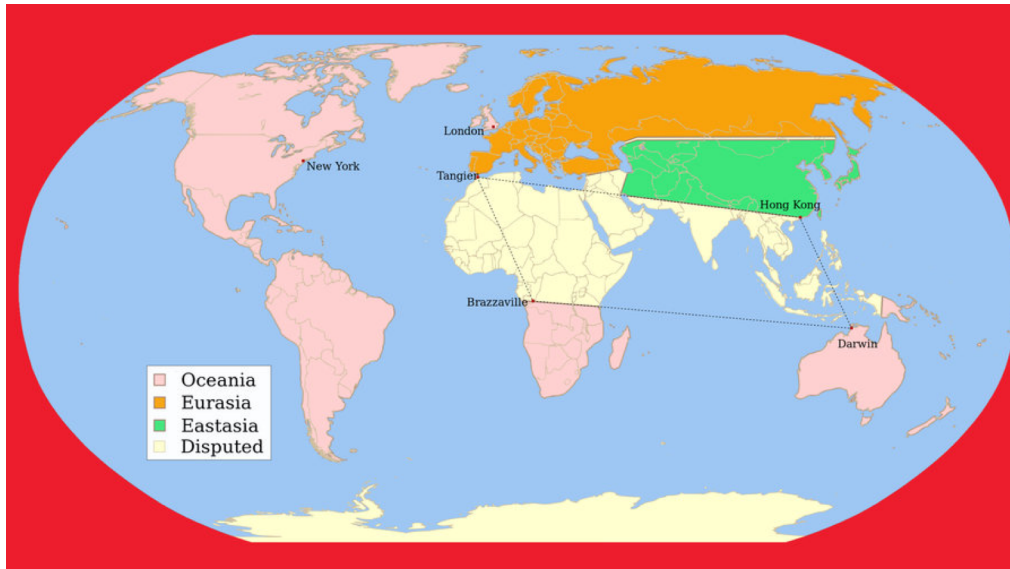


Figure 1. A political map of the world in 1984.

Several generations ago, The Global War divided the world into three inter-continental states: Oceania, Eurasia, Eastasia. Oceania covers the entire continents of America, Oceania, and the British Isles. The British Isles are the main location, and are where your meetings are taking place. Oceania considers Eurasia and Eastasia dire enemies, and is in a perpetual state of war with them.

Eurasia was formed after the annexation of continental Europe by the Soviet Union. It is a single political body, stretching from Portugal to the Bering Strait. The ruling body of the nation adopted the ideology of Neo-Bolshevism. Its main defense is vast territory, as the leaders are able to scatter facilities throughout the country, making territorial annexation very difficult.

Eastasia encompasses Korea, China, Japan, and Taiwan. It is the newest and the smallest of the three super states, and thus feels very vulnerable to military aggression. For all its shortcomings, Eastasia has a very robust military. Their troops are equipped with newly developed machinery, and their navy is small enough in size that it can easily outmaneuver the enemy. Their industries, therefore, allow them to measure up to Oceania and Eastasia in terms

of power. Note that in this timeline, the Korean war has not yet occurred, and Korea is governed by one single ruling body. Note also that Mao's Communist Victory in the Civil War of China is not yet universally accepted.

Oceania contains sufficient natural resources, and a significant chunk of its population is composed of peasant farmers. During the war, Oceania was able to sustain itself through its rich agricultural sector. After the war, the Party set out to establish a state with centralized control in the hands of the ruling elite, and staged a rigged referendum which endorsed the nationalization of farmland and heavy industries. The peasants had lost their farmland, staged a botched rebellion which ended up claiming the lives of hundreds of people in a bloody massacre, and subsequently had to settle for surviving on the daily rations appointed by the Party. In the first decade after the war, Oceania underwent a great famine, which claimed millions of lives. In the meantime, the Party locked the nation in a death grip, and that's the way it has been ever since. In the eyes of the ruling elite, the deaths of millions of people were a necessary sacrifice upon which a bright future could be built.

The disputed territory, as shown on the map, is fought over by the three superpowers in the perpetual war. It is thought to contain invaluable natural resources, though its annexation is also heavily based on an imperialistic sense of pride from each side. The states also wish to harness the large population of the region. The ruling of this region is constantly shifting, as neither state has so far managed to maintain a strong hold on the territory. The people living in this territory are in constant state of slavery, governed by whichever nation assumes control. At the time of the committee, the territory is controlled by Oceania.

Nowadays, individual liberty is not just a foreign concept – Oceanian citizens do not even know that these words exist. Every city is dominated by big, bright posters, bearing the Party's slogan – "THE BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU". Each citizen's day is planned out by the minute, and each home is constantly monitored through an ominous telescreen. Public executions and military parades are a weekly, if not daily, occurrence.

Class Hierarchy

At its core, Oceania is divided into three different social classes: The Inner Party, The Outer Party, and The Proletariat (Proles).

The Inner Party makes up 2% of the population. They are the wealthy and influential Party members who work in the inner circle of the government and comprise the decision-making body of the country. They are rich, ruthless, self-vested, and fearsome. These people operate under the brand of the Big Brother – one toe of line on their watch, and you are done for. Working your way up to become an Inner Party member is unheard of – almost all of them are family members or very close friends of their predecessors. The Inner Party also has its hands on absolutely all government resources, the economic system, the fate of the population, the army, the navy, the aircrafts, and, most importantly, weapons of mass destruction. They also have spies situated in every part of every city of every country.

The Outer Party makes up roughly 20% of the population. These are members of Oceania's ordinary working, middle class. They are responsible for conducting all the bureaucratic affairs of the Inner Party, and are distinguishable on the street by their required blue jumpsuits. Members of the Outer Party lack all freedom and essentially all life's pleasures – privacy, for them, is non-existent. They also don't have access to the luxurious privileges of members of the Inner Party – cars, delicious food, spacious houses, and sweets.

The Proles make up the rest 78% of the population. They are the uneducated, working class who live in poverty, looked down upon by members of the Inner and Outer parties. Proles are actually free of constant surveillance – the Party does not care to monitor them. They are considered expendable and useless, and are described as caring little about anything other than their family and their work. These are the simple, common folk.

Governing Ministries

Oceania is governed by four ministries: The Ministry of Peace, The Ministry of Plenty, The Ministry of Love, and The Ministry of Truth.

Ministry of Peace (Minipax): deals with the military affairs of the country. Only members of the inner party have access to its buildings. The building is highly secure, and any trespassers are shot on sight by the 24 – hour snipers which guard the building. This ministry revolves around the principle of perpetual war, reinforcing that all citizens must contribute resources to the military, which in turn keeps them in perpetual hardship. This ministry is also in charge of the Ministry of Plenty, meaning that the priority of resource allocation is always granted to the military needs of Oceania.

Ministry of Love (Miniluv): Oceania’s interior ministry. It reinforces the loyalty to the Big Brother, mainly through propaganda and fear techniques. It relies on constant brainwashing of the people, and is located in an ominous grey building with barbed wire and no windows. Inside its basement is a torture chamber for disobedient citizens – the famous Room 101. It is thought to contain “the worst thing in the world” – the prisoners’ greatest fear. There are rumours of hostages being held at this location indefinitely.

Ministry of Plenty (Miniplenty): responsible for economic affairs of Oceania. Its primary task is to oversee the rationing of food supplies. This is the ministry that sees the ins-and-outs of perpetual poverty of the Outer Class and the Proles. It also has access food supplies – after all, everyone in the Inner Class is remarkably chubby and they must be getting their hearty rations from somewhere. Infiltrating the Ministry of Plenty will be a difficult, but paramount task: proper access will potentially allow you to gather support from the population. Remember, people vote with their stomachs.

Ministry of Truth (Minitrue): the propaganda ministry which oversees the falsification of historical facts, the creation of propaganda films and readings, and the rewriting of the language such that it reflects the ideologies of the inner party of Oceania. This ministry holds over 3000 rooms above ground, as well as underground facilities which is likely dedicated to destroying documents. It is also responsible for the ways in which information is distributed to the masses, involving every medium possible – news, entertainment, fine arts, music, etc. Many Outer Party members are employed in offices that help change pre-revolutionary documents, such as novels and films. Once something is changed, it is regarded as universal truth, and something that has always been true. In conjunction with the Ministry of Peace, Ministry of Truth also constantly puts out films on the dire state of the war with Eurasia and Eastasia.

Topics

Phase One: Support

Your goal is to overthrow the totalitarian Inner Party. To do so, you must gain the support of Outer Party members as well as Proles, all the while remaining undercover. Should the Inner Party find out about your endeavours, you will all experience first-hand the wrath of Room 101.

The chief source of dissatisfaction with the party is the scarcely rationed resources. Proles are known to live in poverty, often scavenging the streets for food. Remember, also, that they constitute 78% of the Oceania population, and are a significant part of its agrarian labour force. Their support will be vital for you, and getting that support is a real challenge. When it comes to unifying the country, Oceanians are difficult. Most members of the Outer Party are well aware that they toe a thin line, and would not risk supporting a rebellious cause to overthrow the government. Considering that the country has existed under a totalitarian dictatorship for decades, generations of Oceanians cannot possibly conceive that another way of life is even possible. Freedom, for them, already exists in that they are subject to the ultimate Truth that is provided by the Party – they buy into the propaganda. They have no incentive to uproot their country and risk their lives.

With the above being said, your best bet for gathering support of the Outer Party members and Proles is to provide them with strong incentive. When it comes to Proles, that incentive is food. Being able to credibly provide them with proper nutritional resources would gauge their interest in your cause. The Outer Party members are trickier – they believe that their way of life is as good as it gets. Your best bet to acquiring the support of this demographic would be to provide them with information of what life was like before the totalitarian government of Oceania took over. If you manage to spread it to a considerable number of Outer Party members, all the while remaining undercover, you may succeed in gathering their support.

Lastly, you must acquire proper military resources in order to have an upper hand. Luckily, among you there is a rogue member of the Inner Party who has access to the Ministry of Peace. Use him wisely, and you might just gain control of enough ammunition to take the Inner Members of the Party by surprise. Be careful! Do *not* get discovered.

Phase Two: Military Maneuvering

The Ministry of Peace contains a large arsenal of weapons, including aircrafts, tanks, machine guns, and vehicles. The Ministry is located in London, and the weaponry is dispersed between the headquarters of the facility and the Disputed Territory, which Oceania has control over.

Once civil war breaks out, it will be difficult for you to tip the balance in your favor without acquiring considerable hold over some military arsenal. The Ministry of Peace is under heavy surveillance by guards who are armed to their teeth. The Disputed Territory, however, has a large population of civilians who live in slave-like conditions, and share your disdain for the Inner Party. It is worth considering that once the civil war breaks out, the attention of the Big Brother will be turned away from them. If you manage to get these people on your side, you will add a significant number of support to your ranks and, with their aid, may be able to seize control over the ammunition in the Disputed Territory.

Mobilizing your forces will require a coordinated effort between yourselves and your supporters. Getting the Proles population on your side will give you considerable leverage. You need to consider, however, that Proles have their own interests and technically have no reason to follow your instructions to the T. They are also untrained civilians with their own lives and families, which means forcing them into an army could cost you a lot of supporters.

Phase Three: State Building

The second topic is what the core of the committee truly is. It is also your biggest challenge. You must now build a liberal democracy from the ashes of a state that has survived under a totalitarian regime for many decades. Again, some things to consider:

Firstly, your country is filled with people who have lived in a dictatorship for generations. They, quite literally, have no idea what a democracy is. You must undo generations of totalitarian rule by introducing them to the principles of free and fair elections.

Secondly, once you overthrow the government, you will effectively become the ruling body of Oceania. This means that you must decide, amongst yourselves, what kind of a state you want Oceania to be. You must also divide the power amongst yourselves, and form Oceania's first government. Surely, however, there are some very power hungry individuals amongst you. Some of the most challenges you will face will be not the clashes against the Party, but rather the clashes with each other.

Thirdly, you have to establish diplomatic relations with Eurasia and Eastasia. These nations do not trust you, and why should they? But their support is essential, as you will find post-revolutionary Oceania in deep economic turmoil, and failing to establish a strong trading partnership might lead to the starvations of thousands of your people. In order to establish these relations, you must demonstrate that you are a reliable ally that is willing to follow international norms.

Character List

You will receive additional details about your individual character upon the start of the first committee session. Meanwhile, this is the list of the individuals that comprise the rebellion:

1. **Jack Miller** – Leader of the rebellion. Works for the Ministry of Truth. Cunning strategist. Promotes the benevolent idea of freedom for the individuals.
2. **Lucy Miller** – Jack’s Wife. Equally as cunning as her husband. Has the same ambitions. Has a brilliant strategic mind and has a huge hand in helping him develop plots for the uprising.
3. **Adam Carter** – Jack’s second in command, has a huge hand in leading the revolution. Genuinely believes in the idea of freedom and democracy.
4. **Brian Edwards** – Claims to be a defected member of the Inner Party that actually feeds the rebels information about the state officials.
5. **Jerry Fisher** – Works of the Ministry of Peace. Ambitious soldier. Loyal to Jack.
6. **Sandra Powell** – Works for the Ministry of Truth. Cunning woman, is at odds with Jack.
7. **Brianna Butler** – Old, wise woman. Taking part in the revolution because she believes in the idea of democracy and individual liberty. She claims to remember what the Oceania was like before the nuclear fallout, and wishes for it to return to its prior state. Her opinion is highly respected by the rest of the rebels.
8. **Scott Murray** – Works for the Newspeak department. Is in charge of gaining access to records of old speak language in order to reverse the commonly spoken language in the country back to its original form.
9. **Stella Simmons** – Works for the Ministry of Plenty. Youngest member of the rebellion, not really taken seriously, but, believes in the revolution and wants to help out in whatever way she can.
10. **Peter McCauley** – Works for the ministry of Plenty. Married, has two young children, wants to create a better world for them. Believes in the revolution, wants to help out in whatever way he can.
11. **Justin Ticker** – Works for the ministry of Plenty. Young and ambitious. Believes in the revolution, wants to help out in whatever way he can.
12. **Anna Briskott** – Works for the Ministry of Truth. Believes in the revolution, wants to help out in whatever way she can.
13. **Alex Robertson** – Works for the Ministry of Peace. Believes in the revolution, wants to help out in whatever way he can.
14. **Hannah Coleman** – Works for the Ministry of Truth. Believes in the revolution, wants to help out in whatever way she can.
15. **Ray Jackson** – Works for the Ministry of Peace. Believes in the revolution, wants to help out in whatever way he can.