

SSISIM 2022

# **THE SEVEN YEARS WAR, REIMAGINED**

**NOUVELLE FRANCE  
BACKGROUND GUIDE**

**DIRECTOR**

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**MODERATOR**

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# EQUITY DISCLAIMER

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Throughout this committee, delegates will be engaging in complex debates and discussions covering a wide array of topics. As SSICsim seeks to provide an enriching educational experience that facilitates understanding of the implications of real-world issues, the content of our committees may involve sensitive or controversial subject matter for the purposes of academia and accuracy.

We ask that delegates be respectful, professional, tactful, and diplomatic when engaging with all committee content, representing their assigned country's or character's position in an equitable manner, communicating with staff and other delegates, and responding to opposing viewpoints.

This Background Guide presents topics that may be distressing to some Delegates, including but not limited to:

*A live presentation from our Director General of Equity Affairs will precede the first committee session, addressing important and challenging elements of discourse within the committee and how to handle them.*

Great care will be taken by staff in handling any/all of these topics should they arise.

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SSICsim recognizes the sensitivity associated with many of our topics, and we encourage you to be aware of and set healthy boundaries that work for you. This may include: refraining from reading certain parts of the background guide, preparing yourself before reading this background guide, doing some self-care or seeking support after reading the background guide, or anything that can help make you feel more comfortable. We ask that all Delegates remain considerate of the boundaries that other Delegates set.

SSICsim expects that all discussions amongst delegates will remain productive and respectful of one another. If you have any equity concerns or need assistance in setting boundaries or navigating sensitive subject matter, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or our Director-General of Equity Affairs, Aidan Thompson, at [equity@ssicsim.ca](mailto:equity@ssicsim.ca). We want you to feel safe and comfortable at SSICsim!

If you wish to switch committees after having read the content warnings for this committee, please:

- Contact your Faculty Advisor/Head Delegate with your request if you are a part of a group delegation
- Email our Director-General of Equity Affairs, Aidan Thompson, with a brief explanation of why you would like to switch committees if you are NOT a part of a group delegation.



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DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EQUITY AFFAIRS

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Dear delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this year's edition of SSICSIM, and the QCC of the Seven Years War: Reimagined. My motivations behind orchestrating this committee are equally me being extremely nerdy and wanting to be able to discuss important events in Canadian history that I feel are often glossed over. I am also acutely aware of the problems facing indigenous communities in Canada, so as a result I chose to include their perspective in the war.

It should be noted that I do not intend to rewrite history, but simply offer an alternate perspective on past events. In that same breath, I wanted to ensure somewhat equitable representation in the committees in terms of characters, however unfortunately there was not much that we could find. The committees will all start in 1754 with the taking of Fort Necessity and will be periodically updated with events as each public and private directives are passed.

There will be pre-planned events, but ultimately YOU decide the final outcome of this war which I think is the most interesting part. For those of you who are unfamiliar with crisis, you will be assigned a character and your aim is to improve their standing within the committee. Additionally your aim is to improve your camp's position in the war. This will be done by passing public directives as well as private directives in order to influence the crisis updates which will help determine your course of action during committee.

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This was definitely a huge task for me and everyone else involved to see this conference and these committees come to life but I'm glad we got it done and I'm excited to help you guys all have an amazing time as delegates here at SSICSIM!



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MARTIN MADIBA (HE/THEY)  
DIRECTOR FOR THE SEVEN YEARS WAR, REIMAGINED

# HISTORY/CONTEXT

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## **The War of Austrian Succession**

An important element in the prelude to the Seven Years' War was the War of Austrian Succession. Prussia and France won in this conflict against Great Britain and Austria. While Austria ceded land to Prussia, Britain and France's longstanding tensions went unresolved. Simmering over the following decade, these tensions erupted in the Seven Years' War when French troops took Fort Necessity in 1754.

## **Nouvelle France**

In 1534, under the reign of French King Francis the First, Jacques Cartier launched the first French expedition to North America. He arrived in the estuary of the Saint Lawrence river, eventually claiming what is now the Island of Montreal for the French. In the following centuries, French explorers such as Samuel de Champlain settled the interior such that by 1699, France controlled Canada's Atlantic coast, Hudson's Bay, the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes, as well as the Mississippi valley.

France had always had a close relationship with North America's Indigenous Peoples. These relations primarily stemmed from trade as most French settlers were either traders or missionaries; therefore, for the most part, the people of Nouvelle France, peacefully coexisted with Indigenous Peoples.

# STATE OF AFFAIRS

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British settlers of late have been expanding and migrating into the Ohio valley. This valley is currently under French control. Thus, British settlement poses a threat to the French presence in North America, and delegations need to determine a way to mitigate it. Furthermore, some lands were ceded to the British following the War of Spanish Succession, including Acadia and land around Hudson's Bay.

This secession poses a problem as it limits the expansion of France's fur trade with Indigenous Peoples. The loss of territory has also raised doubts regarding France's ability to help her North American allies. Thus, ameliorating these alliances is a pressing matter delegates must attend to.

## Present Issues

One of the main objectives of the upcoming war for France is to rebuild that trust between local French militias and Indigenous confederacies allied to them, as well as to expand the trading relationships between french fur traders and indigenous communities. It is also important to note that the French officially saw indigenous populations as equals and that, under orders from King Louis XIV, they were to be treated equally. In reality though there are many accounts of french settlers attempting to assimilate indigenous people into french culture, often forcibly and with little to no regard for their indigenous counterpart

## Questions to Consider

1. How can Nouvelle France ensure its North American colonization is profitable?
2. How can Nouvelle France combat the British at sea? Are there alternative solutions France may consider, ie. should it fight land battles instead? If so, where should the French aim to attack?
3. How can France maintain its relationships with the Indigenous Peoples?



# CHARACTERS

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## **King Louis XV**

King of France during the war, he was in charge of France's official foreign policy. However, he also led a covert foreign policy called “le secret du roi” which went against France’s official political interests.

## **General Montcalm**

Commander of the French North American Forces. Born from a noble family, he enlisted in the army at a young age; and fought in wars such as the War of the Austrian Succession.

## **Marquis de Vaudreuil**

Governor of New France during the war, has ties to the French monarchy, other European powers, and Indigenous nations.

## **Gaspard-Joseph Chaussegros de Léry**

French commander during the Seven Years War, well connected to General Montcalm; he was also a known engineer within the military.

## **Levis**

French ambassador to the UK during the war.

## **Bougainville**

French admiral during the time of the war.

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## Francois Bigot

intendant (head of central administration) of New France.

## Duc de Choiseul

French diplomat, official head of French foreign policy.

## Charles III of Spain

King of Spain; Allied with France through the *Pacte de Famille*.

## Baron Armand Dieskau

French Major-General; Leader of French reinforcement in response to British America's efforts to reclaim Fort Duquesne.

## Francis I

Holy Roman Emperor, close ally of the French.

## Elizabeth

Empress of Russia, close ally to the French.

## Aranda

Spanish count and diplomat, important to maintaining alliance with France.

## Beauharnais

Other French admiral, Governor of Martinique.

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