

# Scramble for Africa: Berlin Conference 1884

International Geography Bee: Historical  
Simulation



International  
Geography Bee

Run by the staff of the International History Olympiad

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## Dear Bee Champions,

Welcome to the simulation of the Berlin Conference, here in Berlin 2018! My name is Shravan Balaji, and I am a former history bowl player and Model United Nations participant from East Brunswick High School in New Jersey, USA, and I currently attend the University of Pennsylvania. I served as captain of my high school's Academic Team and Secretary General of our Model United Nations program, and continue to be involved with MUN at Penn while working for NHBB. Both activities have meant a lot to me, and I see no better place to combine them than at the IGB's Simulation. Together, you and your fellow geography-loving peers will engage in an enthralling simulation of an council featuring the very land you are currently sitting in.

At the event you will have a chance to take part in a historical simulation of the Berlin Conference which will deal with responding to the Scramble for Africa in 1884-85. For those of you familiar with Model United Nations conferences, this simulation will operate similar to Model United Nations committees, using very basic parliamentary procedure with a "chair" to moderate debate. However, these simulations will include "crisis" elements, giving substantive updates in committee to delegates that will alter the flow of debate and require participants to use their critical thinking abilities to embrace and delineate complex solutions. We will provide separate documentation to specify procedural elements; we assure you they will be accessible and straightforward. I speak for both myself and all the Olympiad staff in saying that we hope you greatly enjoy this simulation.

Regarding the substantive content of this brief, you will have attached a basic topic background piece. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [shravan@historybowl.com](mailto:shravan@historybowl.com). I'll be happy to help throughout the preparation process so we have the best possible time in committee.

Sincerely,  
Shravan Balaji

## Current Kingdoms and States in African Continent

In order to digest fully the landscape of the African continent by 1884, a deep understanding of existing establishments will only further allow you, the delegates, to debate the regions. A full set of maps has been included in the final section of this background guide that includes these kingdoms and territorial possessions of current European powers. As well, below is a chart of the independent kingdoms that you should be familiar within the committee. There are of course several smaller kingdoms not listed, but extensive knowledge of those will not be necessary in committee.

<b>Kingdom/State</b>	<b>Location in African Continent</b>	<b>Summary of State</b>
<b>Fulani Empire</b>	North West (Also known as Caliphate of Sokoto)	Originally a simple confederation of independent Hausa states, the region was unified by 1810 when the Islamic Fulani people rose up and conquered the region. They established a caliphate at Sokoto, where the Sultan also served as Caliph. This caliph oversaw the maintenance of Islamic law and government land administration.
<b>Tokolor Empire</b>	North West (Also known as the Dominions of Ahmadu Sefu)	Under the leadership of Islamic cleric Al-Hajj Umar, this empire rose in 1845 when Umar organized a series of jihads to take over the region. He was able to take over both Segou and Timbuktu, though lack of attention toward some smaller minorities led them into an uprising in 1864. These rebels killed Umar in the uprising and his son, Ahmadu Seku, has since inherited the kingdom.
<b>Mandinka Empire</b>	North West (Also known as Dominions of Samori)	Unlike many of its neighboring empires that rose on the back of Islamic revival, the empire of Samori Toure rose in the 1850s under mostly secular leadership. Samori preferred to use conquest rather than religious fervor as his tool for growth. He quickly took local towns, set up a complex administration system, and organized one of the finest and most powerful militaries in the region.
<b>Senegambia</b>	North Western Coastline (Also known as Senegal)	The center of trade in West Africa, Senegambia had long existed as the key region for the slave trade. In the 1850s, France unilaterally intervened in the region and took control, following which they banned the slave trade. Since this initial seizure of St. Louis and Dakar on the coast, the French began to move into the interior of the Dominions of Ahmadu Sefu. This has further extended Senegambia's territory.

<b>Sierra Leone</b>	North Western Coastline	As a cultural hub of Western Africa, Sierra Leone saw its independence wane in the 1870s as its economy quickly declined. Palm oil prices falling and interior rivals with neighbors led to a shrinking economy. The British quickly took control and began pushing to the interior, despite opposition by Muslim groups and the French.
<b>Liberia</b>	North Western Coastline	Following the abolition of slavery in the United States, a group of former slaves returned to set up their own state. The Kru people who lived along the coastline saw themselves forced into the interior as the new state was established. With a capital at Monrovia, the small coastal state has become a center for trade, particularly coffee.
<b>Asante Kingdom</b>	Coastline of Gulf of Guinea	As one of the two major kingdoms of the Gold Coast, the Asante Empire represents the remnants of independence in the region. The British had previously conquered the Fante Kingdom directly south of the Asante Kingdom and turned it into the Gold Coast state. The kingdom itself is a union of multiple smaller provinces under the Confederacy Council. There is an Asantehene, also known as a Paramount Chief, which presides over the confederation.
<b>Arab State of Zanzibar</b>	Western Coastline	Originally organized into a monarchy under the Sultan in 1840 by Seyyid Said, the state was initially a large group of coastal islands and trading towns. Consumed by a mostly Arab population, the sultan runs the state with an iron hand, despite a primary focus on economic commerce relations. The state has free trade commercial treaties with France, Britain, and the United States. Under Sultan Bargash, who took power in 1870, they continue to have an extensive network of trading caravans throughout the interior.
<b>Upper Congo Empire of Tippu Tip</b>	South Eastern Interior (Also known as Dominions of Tippu Tip)	The Congo Empire was an Arab empire originally established by Muslim Arab traders under the leadership of Muhammad bin Hamid, better known as Tippu Tip. Following a series of years of empire building in the 1860s and 1870s, Tippu Tip began working to solidify an ivory trade route between his kingdom and Zanzibar, despite Belgium intervention.
<b>Nyamwezi Kingdom</b>	South Eastern Interior	A small kingdom resting on the southern border of Lake Victoria, the Nyamwezi found themselves as a center focus for Eastern trade. Under the leadership

		<p>of Mirambo, this small kingdom composed of Swahili merchants quickly gave the Arab traders trouble and forced them to pay taxes to travel. Despite trouble with its neighbors, the kingdom has been quite friendly to Europeans. Mirambo has just died, however, and the fate of this small kingdom is now unknown.</p>
<b>Buganda Kingdom</b>	South Eastern Interior	<p>A small kingdom on the north side of Lake Victoria, Buganda found itself as one of the strongest militarized states in Eastern Africa by the mid-1800s. Under the leadership of Mutesa I, the kingdom became highly centralized, and it possessed a highly organized military. The navy for Buganda controlled and patrolled the Lake exclusively. Mutesa I, however, has died only months before the Berlin Conference leaving many unknowns about the region.</p>
<b>Bunyoro Kingdom</b>	South Eastern Interior	<p>Part of a Lou dynasty that has ruled the region since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Bunyoro kingdom found itself in decline until the 1870s when Omukama Kabalega took to the throne. After forming a standing army and organizing the small kingdom, Kabalega began retaking the neighboring territories to re-establish the kingdom. This military campaign, financed by Khartoum traders in the north, is still ongoing.</p>
<b>Bemba Kingdom</b>	South Eastern Interior	<p>As a small matriarchal kingdom, the Bemba was able to move their kingdom and settlements as they engaged in trade. By 1850, the kingdom was set up along the Kalungu river, where they engaged in slave trades and acted as intermediaries for other trade routes in the East. The kingdom financially is quite prosperous and operates under a chiefdom system.</p>
<b>Ndebele Kingdom</b>	Southern Africa in the interior (Also known as Matabele)	<p>As former members of Shaka's Zulu kingdom, this kingdom of the "Men of Long Spears" was a large military state just north of the Transvaal Boer state. The king, who held supreme authority, is also the head commander of the military. There was no focus on trading in the kingdom, as most instead focused on maintaining the state. Despite some of the more isolationist policies of his predecessors, the current King Lobengula enacted policies more open to European when he took the thrown in 1869.</p>

## **The Rise and Unification of Germany in the 1870s**

With the collapse of the Holy Roman Empire by 1806 and the rise of states like Prussia, the question of control of the many kingdoms of central Europe was a primary concern in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The rise of nationalism among several different people groups within the region allowed for consideration of a further federated organization, but with individual representation. It is important to note that, while scholars often give 1871 as an official date of German unification, the process as a whole was over a series of years beginning as early as 1850.<sup>2</sup>

Looking originally at the state of affairs in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, consistent fighting in central Europe was primarily between Prussia and Austria, as they both attempted to exert influence over the dozens of smaller independent kingdoms surrounding them. With Prussia controlling most of modern “German lands”, including the Rhine River and all land between Lithuania and central Germany, the question that lay before Prussian leaders, like Otto von Bismarck, was in what way he should consolidate power.<sup>3</sup> By the year 1860, it became clear that conquering these smaller provincial kingdoms was necessary, which led him in 1862 to reorganize and modernize the Prussian military<sup>4</sup>.

Beginning in 1864, Bismarck and the Prussians began their consolidation, first by fighting Denmark for the regions of Schleswig and Holstein. After a quick victory, Bismarck moved on to Austria, began a war over Holstein, and quickly defeated the Austrian Empire in the Seven Weeks’ War. This would be the last time that the Austrians held any claims in German provinces. Worrying over the best ways to secure many of the southern provinces, who were in principle opposed to Prussia’s Protestantism and militarism, Bismarck decided to manipulate the state of affairs. By provoking the French into a war in 1870, by using a fake offensive letter to the Prussian king, Bismarck was able to use a sense of nationalism to convince the southern provinces to rally behind him in the war.<sup>5</sup>

Following the French Declaration of War on 16 July 1870, Prussia quickly gained alliances with the southern provinces, including Baden, Bavaria, Hesse-Darmstadt, and Wurttemberg, as they began an assault onto the French Republic. Quickly, the modernized Prussian Army won a series of decisive victories, ultimately culminating in the Siege of Paris that resulted in the fall of the capital city by the end of January 1871. This victory allowed the German states to proclaim officially their empire with Wilhelm I as Emperor and Bismarck as head of government. Another notable possession that the Germans gained in the war with France was Alsace-Lorraine along the new French-German border.<sup>6</sup> With these swift and decisive moves under determined leadership, Bismarck and Prussia unified central Europe yet again under a single empire: the German Empire.

## **Egypt by the 1880s**

Egypt in the 1880s went through a variety of stages in what would become a greater concern for European states. In the early 1880s, Egypt began initially as a part of the larger Ottoman Empire, which had dominated the Arab populations and northern Africa for centuries. Egypt, which had been under a French protectorate officially (and British unofficially) since 1801, was placed in an interesting situation upon the rise of Urabi. An Egyptian soldier by the name of Ahmed Urabi had led various revolts around the country in 1880, which the British government named the “Urabi Revolts”. He was one of the major protesters and riot leaders against the British rule at the time.<sup>7</sup> The unequal treatment by soldiers between the Egyptian and the Turkish soldiers sparked sentiments of inequality amongst the people.

This sentiment then grew beyond the army, to just the citizens in general, and even between the foreign and native Christians. The weak government at the time tried to appease the rioters, to no end. This led to tensions between the European backed Khedive and the Egyptian people backed Urabi. With the French occupied by Tunisian revolts, the British alone in 1882 bombarded Alexandria and took control of Egypt, though they said it was only temporary. Further Egyptian nationalism created further problems for the British almost immediately, as the local populations began their own forms of protest. Called the Anglo-Egyptian war of 1882, a series of local battles, such as the Battle of Kafr-el-Dawwar and the Battle of Tel el-Kebir, soon erupted in the region.<sup>8</sup> Despite British success in controlling the region, tensions continued to threaten its complete control of the Egyptian peoples.

The Suez Canal, which the Europeans first constructed in 1869, was also a point of dispute in Egypt by the various nations. Both the French and the British wanted sole control over this passageway for economic and trading purposes. Contemporaries at the time also understood that whoever controlled Egypt controlled the canal. The British, though initially opposed to the building of the canal due to the use of slave labor in building it, decided there was a need to act. Already controlling Egypt, Gladstone's government in Britain decided to purchase the shares of the canal from the civilian leader of Egypt, Isma'il Pasha, who was massively in debt to European countries. At the cost of 4,000,000 pounds, the British therefore in 1875 became major shareholders in the canal, though the French still possessed the majority.<sup>9</sup> The need to clarify the control of the canal was a central focus of many European states by the time of the Conference.

### **Causes of the Berlin Conference being Held**

The German chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, at the intent of Portugal, first summoned the Berlin Conference. The purpose of this conference was to negotiate and set up rules to guide the control of Africa. The reasons that precipitated this conference came because of outcomes of the scramble for Africa. The initial goal was to discuss the Congo and Niger River basins, after question arose whether they should be neutral and open to free trade. This is because various countries, which had claimed territories around the region, were getting into conflicts with each other, most notably Portugal, about the use of the river for trade. The conference needed to set up rules allowing free trade in the regions if free trade was the policy that the Europeans chose to establish for the region.

The rise of Germany as a superpower in Europe was certainly a major factor. Largely in part to its vast economy and recent unification, Germany had become a major player in the realm of European diplomacy in a relatively short amount of time. They had also taken over most of Western Africa's coastline forcefully, threatening the older powers such as France and Britain.

Working hand in hand with the German rise was the changing economies of many of these European states at the hands of the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution marked a change in the manufacturing process within Europe as a whole, which included going from hand production to machines in the mostly coal and textile factories. By the year 1884, the Industrial Revolution had already taken off in the various Western countries, sparking the need for labor and most specifically cheap natural resources for the new factories, prompting the scramble for African countries.

The need for defined regions and spheres of control in the continent also prompted the scramble. The Western countries, which had previously colonized various regions in the continent, would not define their specific boundaries and would get into conflict with other powers, which wanted to annex the nearby region. The need to end these conflicts and carve out regions prompted the conference. Finally, on a more social side, European populations had become increasingly concerned with the continuation of slave trades in Africa. The European powers had taken various indigenous people to work in their own countries in the earlier days of their colonization, causing severe pain and inhumanity.<sup>12</sup> The need to end this type of behavior was strong among many of the Colonial powers, but firm a new treatise on the institution of slavery in many of these spheres of influence had yet to be established, thus necessitating discussions in Berlin over how to proceed.

### **Relevant Wars involving European or African States from the 1850 until 1884**

In the time between 1850 until 1884, a series of fourteen conflicts broke out that laid the groundwork for many current diplomatic relations among European and African states. To say that these were the only conflicts in this time period would be historically inaccurate, but for the relevance of this committee, an understanding of the significance and outcomes of these conflicts is crucial. Note that further research may be necessary if your state is involved in one of the following conflicts, as these conflicts will directly affect your state's foreign policy stances.

<b>Conflict</b>	<b>Actors Involved</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Possession Changes</b>	<b>Overall Outcome</b>
<b>Crimean War</b>	Russia, France, Ottoman Empire, Great Britain, Sardinia	October 1853- February 1856	Black Sea became neutralized, and Moldavia/Wallachia returned to Ottoman Empire.	French forces suffered far more, as they were the largest group in the war. The victors forced Russia to neutralize the Black Sea, as Western powers secured Ottoman possessions from Russian aggression eroding them away.
<b>French War with Senegal</b>	France, Kingdom of Waalo, Kingdom of St. Louis and Medine	1854-1860	Control of the Senegal River changed to French possession	Under the leadership of Louis Faidherbe, the French extended their control beyond the coastline and down the Senegal River and began setting up a series of forts in the interior.
<b>Hispano-Moroccan War</b>	Spain, Morocco	October 1859- April 1860	Control of Ceuta and Melilla given to Spain from the Moroccan government	A quick war initiated by Spain gave them further control over a series of northern territories along the coastline of Morocco.

<b>Second Schleswig War</b>	Austria, Prussia, and Denmark	February 1864-October 1864	Prussia gained control of Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg.	As the beginning of a move by the Prussian Empire to expand and found a new Germany, an invasion by Prussia and Austria resulted in gains and quick losses by Denmark.
<b>Austro-Prussian War</b>	Austria and its German allies (called German Confederation), Italy, Prussia and its German possessions	June 1866-August 1866	Prussia gains control of Hanover, Hesse, Frankfurt, Nassau, and part of Hesse-Darmstadt.	In a quick decisive Prussian victory, Prussia successfully took control of the Northern German states and prevented any further influence of Austria in Germany. Italy was also able to secure Venetia from the Austrians.
<b>Italian Wars for Independence (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	Italy, Austria, France	April-June 1859 (2 <sup>nd</sup> War); June-August 1866 (3 <sup>rd</sup> War)	Sardinia unified with Lombardy while France gained Savoy and Nice; Veneto ceded to Italy by Austria	Using a series of alliances, Italian states were able to chisel away at the control of northern lands from the Austrian Empire. These states, such as Lombardy, then saw themselves incorporated into a new Kingdom of Italy.

<b>Franco-Prussian War</b>	France, German Empire	July 1870-May 1871	Germany gains the territories of Alsace-Lorraine.	In an effort formally to establish the German Empire, Bismarck of Prussia provoked the French into a war only to quickly seize Paris within months. The French Empire fell after this leading to the rise of a new Third Republic.
<b>British 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Xhosa Wars</b>	British Empire, Xhosa Tribes, Khoikhoi tribes	1850-1853; 1877-1879	British annexation of further Xhosa territory outside of the Cape Colony	As the Cape colony and the British continue to expand their sphere of influence in Southern Africa, it has come at the losses of the local Xhosa tribes, who have now fought nine wars with the British.
<b>Anglo-Ashanti Wars (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	British Empire, Ashanti Empire	1863-1864; 1873-1874	No land changes	The 2nd War was a skirmish caused by the Ashanti entering British territory that quickly ended after the British government refused to send reinforcements yet still repelled the Ashanti. The 3 <sup>rd</sup> War was a result of Ashanti invasion to new Gold Coast lands gained by the British from the Dutch. In the end, a fully restocked British army repelled the Ashanti.
<b>Russo-Turkish War</b>	Russia, Romania, Serbia, Ottoman Empire	April 1877-March 3, 1878	Ottoman Empire lost control of Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, and Kars. All became independent, except Kars.	This war is one of the many wars chiseling away at Ottoman influence. In many ways, this war removed Ottoman roles in much of the Balkan peninsula and allowed Russia to pivot into control of much of the Black Sea region, despite its previous losses.
<b>Anglo-Zulu War</b>	British Empire, Zulu Empire	January 1879-July 1879	British officially annex the Zulu Kingdom.	As the British continued to expand their influence throughout southern Africa, the main concerns were the Zulu kingdom to the east and the Boer Republics to the north. In this particularly bloody war, the British officially ended Zulu independence.
<b>Franco-Tunisian War</b>	France, Tunisia	April-October 1881	France officially makes Tunisia a protectorate of the Third Republic.	To the dismay of the Italian Kingdom, France invaded and suppressed Tunisia, making it an official protectorate. This officially left Tunisia as a French colony.

<b>First Boer War</b>	South African Boer Republics, British	December 1880-March 1881	Independence of the two Boer Republics	After victory on the part of Boers in the north and the heavy British losses, the victors forced the British to sign an unfavorable treaty that recognized these Boer Republics' independence.
<b>Mahdist War</b>	Mahdist Sudan, Khedive of Egypt, Britain, Italy, Belgium, and Ethiopian Empire	1881-today (1884)	Currently being fought	Due to a rebellion by Muslim clerics in the Sudanese region, control of the area by British and Egyptian officials is at risk. The Egyptians and British have begun a policy of evacuation of the region, but the British have not fully implemented this. Most notably, there currently is an ongoing seize of the city of Khartoum, which the British and Egyptian forces hold, by the Mahdist forced of Muhammad Ahmad.

### Actors in this Committee

- ✚ **Austria-Hungary- Count Gustav Kálnoky** (Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairmen of the Ministers' Council for Common Affairs). As a General in Hungary who served in foreign diplomatic service for the Empire in London, Rome, Copenhagen, and St. Petersburg, he is fairly well travelled in Europe and has built a variety of connections within their foreign governments, particularly the Russian government, despite Russian tensions in the Balkans. Appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1881, Kálnoky is heavily conscious of the Empire's alliance with the Germans. He is a devout Catholic and has the distinct task as foreign minister to balance the competing influence of the two parliaments that form the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary. Both the Hungarian and Austrian Parliaments and Prime Ministers are currently under the rule of the liberal party, but overall Kálnoky is immune to the changing tides of these two parliaments, as he runs the independent Council of Ministers under the dual government of the Emperor. In the end the Emperor-King Franz Joseph I, who resists all efforts to limit the scope of his own influence, ultimately runs the Empire.
- ✚ **Belgium-Joseph de Riquet de Caraman-Chimay** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- A member of the aristocracy, Joseph was commonly referred to as the "Great Prince" and was a noble in the region of Chimay. Originally a member of the Chamber of Representatives (legislature), he became foreign minister in 1884 as a member of the Catholic Party in Belgium, which had gained an absolute majority in the Chamber of Representatives in 1884 for the first time. Belgium in this time continues to exist as a constitutional parliamentary monarchy under Leopold I, who is the uncle of Britain's Queen Victoria. Leopold himself was a skillful diplomat who often kept Belgium neutral while securing its interests.<sup>19</sup>
- ✚ **Denmark- Otto Rosenørn-Lehn** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- Originally a simple landowning aristocrat with a deep interest in art, Otto was pursued in 1870 to be the next

foreign minister in the new Centre government of Ludvig Holstein Holsteinborg. Despite brief removal during a change in the Prime Minister in 1875, the Prime Minister retained him in the National Landowners Party government, which currently controls the legislature with Jacob Bronnum Scavenius Estrup as its Prime Minister. In the end, this conservative government holds power over the monarchy, which by the Danish Constitution limited in 1849 before the current monarch Christian IX took the thrown. In many ways, outsiders see Estrup as running a semi-dictatorship with parliamentary control. <sup>20</sup>

- + *France-* **Jules Ferry** (President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs)- As a member of the Republican Party in opposition for many years, Ferry rose to the head of the Council of Ministers from 1880-1881 and then assumed it again in 1883. This time, however, he assumed the role of minister of foreign affairs within the Council. Known for his domestic secular stances against the Jesuits and against Christian schools, his primary focus in power has been to expand France's colonial territories with the hope of reforming the French Empire. He is staunchly opposed to the return of any monarchy and associated himself with the Opportunist Republican factions. In the end, the main power of the country resides with the President Jules Grevy.<sup>21</sup>
- + *Germany-* **Paul von Hatzfeldt** (Secretary of Foreign Affairs)- Originally the ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in Constantinople until 1881, he became foreign minister under Otto von Bismarck's government in 1881. Extremely liked by Bismarck, he became an integral part in German foreign relations due to his mastery of French, which allowed him to be a diplomatic aid in the Franco-German War of 1870-71. Bismarck, however,

continues to be a domineering figure who rules as Chancellor, despite the presence of Wilhelm I as King of Prussia and German Empire.<sup>22</sup>

- ✚ *Great Britain- **Lord Granville*** (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs)- As one of the leading statesmen in Britain throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Earl Granville was a shrewd politician within the Liberal party. As a member of the conservative House of Lords, he successfully maneuvered himself into the position of Foreign Secretary, first from 1870-1874, and then again in 1880. Conveniently, he finds himself in an increasingly friendly environment with the Prime Minister at this time, being the best friend of Lord William Gladstone. While the monarchy under Queen Victoria was slowly but surely becoming more of a figurehead than a political leader, the Queen found favor in the Liberal party. Due to the death of her husband, Albert, in the later days of 1861, the Queen removed herself from the national scene, as she entered a permanent state of mourning, though her national popularity still carries great weight.<sup>23</sup>
- ✚ *Italy- **Pasquale Stanislao Mancini*** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- Beginning his career as an intellectual and literary figure in southern Italy, he helped to influence the unification process of the Italians by persuading officials to participate in the war against Austria in 1848. Following a series of endeavors in the Piedmont and Rome, the new Liberal government of Agostino Depretis in 1876 incorporated him as Minister of Justice. This government has in the past few years seen a series of issues of instability and corruption, as the peninsula and new Kingdom of Italy finds its roots. Following his predecessor's (Cairolis) gaffe in failing to foresee the French Occupation of Tunis, Mancini became Foreign Minister in 1881.<sup>24</sup>
- ✚ *Luxemburg- **Baron Felix de Blochausen*** (Prime Minister and Director-General for Foreign Affairs)- When Blochausen first rose to power as Prime Minister in 1874, Luxembourg was in a consistent state of threat. Tensions between France and Germany continued to intensify consistently, placing the independence of the small state at risk. As such, Blochausen chose to become both the Director General of the Interior and of Foreign Affairs, effectively solidifying his control over the state. Still limited by the monarchy under William III, Blochausen enjoys most autonomy and stands as a staunch Orangist, in favor of maintaining the singular monarchy between Luxembourg and the Netherlands.
- ✚ *Netherlands- **Joseph van der Does de Willebois*** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- Having previously served as both a Catholic minister and a lawyer, he rose to prominence thanks to his friendship with the monarch William III. At this time, Jan Heemskerck Abrahamszoon rose to power as Prime Minister under the Independent Conservative Party leadership. This change of power from the Anti-Revolutionary party in 1883 allowed Joseph to become foreign minister, where he has held the position since. By this time, the Netherlands is acting as a constitutional monarchy.
- ✚ *Ottoman Empire- **Mehmed Said Paşa*** (Grand Vizier)- In a time of immense transition and seeming decline in the Ottoman Empire, Mehmed Said Paşa proved himself to be a skilled diplomat and political agent. Largely loyal to Sultan Abdul Hamid II, he became Grand Vizier (Prime Minister) of the Ottoman Empire a series of times culminating in his ascension to power in 1882. Following a series of European interferences in Egypt and Tunis, Paşa became largely distrustful to this day of foreign nations in the Ottoman and Turkish lands. Before becoming Grand Vizier, he served both as the Minister of the Interior, as well as the Governor of the Bursa region. Despite the fact that the sultan still holds absolute power in theory, efforts on his part to modernize the empire and the bureaucracy has resulted in the reduction of some of his power and opening of influence

for individuals like the Grand Vizier.<sup>27</sup>

- ✚ *Portugal*-**José Vicente Barbosa du Bocage** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- Quite differently from most statesmen in this time period, Bocage was a zoologist before he became the Vice President of Academia Real das Cienncias de Lisboa, eventually in 1880 retiring from the academia world. Due to his high profile connections in the government, he became Minister of the Navy and has been now serving as Foreign Affairs Minister since 1883. The Prime Minister Fontes Pereira de Melo took power for the third time in 1881 as a part of the Regenerator Party, which advocated for a more conservative form of Liberalism after the Revolution of 1820. The king at this time was Luis I, who took the throne in 1861. Largely due to previous revolutions, however, Luis I is viewed as an ineffective monarch who tends to favor the Conservative Regenerator Party.<sup>28</sup>
- ✚ *Russia*- **Nikolay Girs** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- As a person of Scandinavian decent, Girs found himself with a great opportunity under Alexander II to rise as a minister abroad in both Switzerland and Sweden. He became assistant foreign minister in the 1870s under Chancellor Alexander Gorchakov, though his fate came into question upon the rise of power of Alexander III. Since Alexander III was an anti-German Slavophile, many expected that Girs's removal was imminent, but instead he became Foreign Minister in 1882. Despite this surprising move, Alexander III continues to prove his conservatism, and he has assumed great power in his role as Tsar of Russia. It is also important to note the role of Count Mikhail Reytern, who serves as Chairmen of the Committee of Ministers, though this is an example of Alexander III's friends becoming political leaders.<sup>29</sup>
- ✚ *Spain*- **José de Elduayen**-The Marquis of the Pazo de la Merced (Minister of State)- Not only a politician, Elduayen is also a noble in Spain, who used his connections to get immediately involved in politics. First joining parliament in 1856 as a Union Liberal, he rose to prominence as under-secretary of home office, beginning in 1865 when the Liberals rose to power. When Antonio Canova Del Castillo became Prime Minister of Spain for the third time in 1879, he allowed for entry of Elduayen into diplomatic affairs. In 1883, Elduayen became Minister of State in 1883 under the pro-Bourbon Monarchy government. As a member of the Liberal-Conservative party, he was staunchly pro-monarchy and a big supporter of the young Alfonso XII who had become king in 1874 at the age of 18.

- ✚ *Sweden-Norway*- **Carl Hochschild** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- Having just seen a change in power in Sweden-Norway as the outgoing Prime Minister Carl Thyselius was removed following only a year in May of 1884, questions arose over the fate of his cabinet. Thyselius and his successor Robert Themptander were both independent of the two major political parties: either the Protectionist Majority Party or the Lantmanna Party. This allowed Hochschild to remain in his position as Minister of Foreign Affairs, where he had been since 1880, in the new government of Themptander. Hochschild was in many ways forced into a constant working relationship with King Oscar II, who was a dynamic arbitrator in Europe in this time. In many ways, with the founding of the position of Prime Minister in 1876, Sweden-Norway is directly in the middle of a possible transfer to parliamentary control.<sup>31</sup>
- ✚ *United States of America*- **Frederick Frelinghuysen** (Secretary of State)-First beginning his political career as a member of the United States Senate, he represented New Jersey from 1866 until 1869 as a member of a prominent family. In 1870, he declined the position of Ambassador to the United Kingdom instead to return to the Senate in 1871, where he became chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee. When Chester Arthur became President in 1881, Arthur made him Secretary of State, where he continues to serve. As a member of the Republican party, Frelinghuysen has shown himself to be primarily concerned with maintaining trade relations with western hemisphere countries, rather than putting the United States at risk of foreign conflict.

### Questions to Consider:

The following questions are simply a short list of questions to help guide your own research. Your ability as a delegate to answer such questions will be crucial to your greater success in the committee. Please do not hesitate to contact the chair in the event that you, as a delegate, are struggling to locate research to answer one of these questions, and we will happily try to assist.

- What is the specific foreign policy, as a whole, that your country is employing at this time? What is their foreign policy in terms of African affairs?
- What limitations do you have in the official capacity you are in? How much power does your character have in his government, and how much larger influence does your character exert on the domestic populations of your state?
- What is your state's policy, both de jure and de facto, on the institution of slavery? Has the government officially abolished it in your country, and what are public opinions of it?
- What is your state's view of free trade? Is free trade a policy you should be advocating in favor of it, or are their limitations to free trade for the sake of national interest?

- What alliances does your country currently hold with the other countries at the conference? What alliances would your government like to build at the conference?
- What is the current state of other colonial possessions your country possesses both within and outside of Africa? Is your country having difficulty maintaining any of their colonies?
- What is the one thing your country needs the most from this conference? As some form of foreign minister, what is your end goal from this conference?



