



Historic City. Historic Conference.

LSEMUN 2026

BEGINNER CRISIS COMMITTEE

Shattered Stripes: The American Civil War 2029

Crisis Director - Nguyen Thuc Anh To
Assistant Crisis Director - Alix Pecheur

Chairs - Kyle Wilkinson, Aryan Sanvee Vijayan

Backroomers - Prina Patel, Taha Choksi, Arad Rezavandi

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Directors' Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to LSEMUN 2026's Crisis Committee A! On behalf of the entire Crisis team, we are very excited to be running this unique crisis.

The topic is the American Civil War 2029. This is a hypothetical, contemporary military crisis whereby after years of growing party polarisation, militancy, disunity, and division, it culminated into a civil war between the Grand Old Party (commonly known as the Republican Party) and the Democratic Party.

This topic is immensely significant and relevant: Donald Trump's return to the White House has shaken up not just the United States itself, but also impacted the world order and international relations. It has caused a major shift in how countries aligned themselves, putting into question the United States' dominance on the world stage.

Trump's rise to power is inextricably linked to the growing disunity and division in the United States. Make America Great Again (M.A.G.A.), the slogan most associated with Trump, his loyal following, and the social, economic, political, right-wing and nationalist ideas they champion often clash with the typically liberal, progressive, sometimes left-wing ideas promoted by the Democrats.

Unfortunately, this division has proliferated, gradually morphing from incessant political debates to controversial discourse, to hateful and discriminatory rhetoric, and finally into violence. We are very aware of the deaths resulting from the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.): as of February 2026, two U.S. citizens have been lethally shot by Federal Agents. Regardless of whether you personally identify with left, right, blue, red, the deaths of innocent civilians should never be tolerated.

We therefore ask you, delegates, to please approach this topic in a sensitive and sensible manner. Crisis does and has garnered a reputation for being ridiculous, sometimes over-the-top, but this absolutely does not mean any sort of discriminatory and inflammatory language is tolerated. This Crisis is designed to give delegates an opportunity to reflect on American governance and bipartisan politics, and crucially to find solutions to resolve the US' growing internal differences and divisions. Crisis is not a space to further divide people. The aim of Crisis will and has always been to find a solution to resolve crises, not to continue them.



Furthermore, this study guide and Crisis will touch upon upsetting topics, such as the previously mentioned deaths under I.C.E., therefore, **reader discretion is advised**. If these topics and events make you feel uncomfortable, or affect you in any way, you are encouraged to discuss with the Crisis Director and relevant members of the Secretariat. We are here to support you.

Last but certainly not least, we must thank and credit LSEMUN 2026's USG Academics Aidan Cross as he is the one that came up with this fascinating topic and helped lay the foundations for us to run this crisis. We truly thank him for his significant contributions to this crisis.

We cannot wait to see what you guys do with this crisis. See you in March!

Your Directors,
Thuc Anh and Alix



Staff Introductions

Crisis Director - Nguyen Thuc Anh To

Hello, my name is Thuc Anh and I am ecstatic to be your Crisis Director. I am a 2nd year History student at King's College London. Yes, I am Vietnamese. Yes, I am very aware of the irony. I have been doing MUN since Sixth Form (translate: for too long). Now in University, I specialise in Crisis, having been a delegate, backroom, chair, and Assistant Crisis Director for too many Crises. This will be my first time directing a Crisis as Crisis Director. I am very excited to be doing this Crisis. I typically do historical Crises since it relates to my degree, however, I am always willing to challenge myself and try new things. Not only that, I'm very excited to do this Crisis with such a wonderful staff, all who I consider friends. I hope you guys also enjoy reading this study guide, your character biographies, and are super hyped for the conference in March! See you soon.

Assistant Crisis Director - Alix Pecheur

Hello! My name is Alix and I'll be Assistant Crisis Director for this committee! I am a second-year student at SOAS and I study Global Development and International Relations. I've been doing MUN for a very long time now but only started actively participating in the chairing/secretariat side of things as of last year. Crisis is personally my favourite committee as delegates are so much more fun and anything (truly anything) can happen but I also do tons of GA! Aside from MUN, I love going around London when it's sunny and finding new places to hang out with my friends! I'm super excited for this crisis and can't wait to see you super soon!

Democratic Alliances Cabinet (Democratic) Chair - Kyle Wilkinson

Hi all. My name's Kyle Wilkinson, and I'll be your chair for the Democratic Alliances cabinet! I'm currently studying a Master of Public Health at City St George's University of London, but previously did an undergraduate at the University of Bath. I've been doing Crisis for almost my entire MUN career and am very excited for this opportunity to finally take part in LSEMUN. See you all soon!

Save America War Cabinet (Republican) Chair - Aryan Sanvee Vijayan

Hi everyone! I'm Aryan, and I'm excited to be one of your Chairs for the US Civil War Crisis at LSEMUN 2026! I'm currently a second-year Computer Science student at King's College London. I have been active in the world of MUN since high school, especially participating in several crises. I hope to help make the crisis a fun and enriching experience for everyone. Apart from MUN, I mainly spend my time reading



books, playing games and screaming at the TV during F1 race weekends. I'm looking forward to meeting you all!

Backroomer - Prina Patel

Hello delegates, my name is Prina and I'm in my final year at City St George's, University of London studying BSc International Politics. This will be my first time as a crisis backroomer and there is no better place to start my crisis journey than at LSEMUN! I have been doing MUN for almost 8 years now and I have truly enjoyed every second of it. I even had the opportunity to be a part of the Secretariat at CityMUN 2025. Outside of MUN, you will probably see me at an Arsenal match (the only right football team to support), at another concert again, or on a random side quest in some part of the world (I need travel recommendations pretty please). I hope you all enjoy this weekend at LSEMUN 2026!

Backroomer - Taha Choksi

Hello, my name is Taha, and it gives me great honour to be serving as your backroomer on this year's Crisis at LSEMUN 2026. As a MSc Artificial Intelligence student at City St George, University of London, I've been participating in MUN for a long, long time. Being a part of MUN has taken over a large amount of my already limited free time, however I do enjoy some parts of it, and I look forward to meeting you all; Outside of MUN, I enjoy gaming, coding and baking. I eagerly look forward to meeting all of you in the committee!!!

Backroomer - Arad Rezavandi

Hello everyone, my name is Arad and I am a third-year undergrad student at City St George's University of London currently studying a BA in History and Politics. Although I have attended multiple MUN conferences across London in universities such as Queen Mary, Kings College and SOAS as a delegate, this will be my first time as a backroomer. Outside of MUN, you will often see me at the best stadium in the world, which is of course Old Trafford, where the greatest team in the world Manchester United play (the ONLY right football team to support). I really look forward to meeting all of you at LSEMUN 2026, and I hope we all have a great time together.



Introduction to Crisis

What is a Crisis Committee?

Crisis is a unique, non-General Assembly (GA) committee in MUN. In typical GA committees, delegates represent countries, and they come together to debate on a topic and write resolutions on the potential solutions and actions. In a Crisis, delegates play an individual character and are responding in real time to a critical and urgent situation (i.e. a crisis). Through debating and discussing with other members in the committee and taking action via directives, these measures will impact the progression of the crisis.

In a crisis, there are two important parts: the Frontroom(s) and the Backroom.

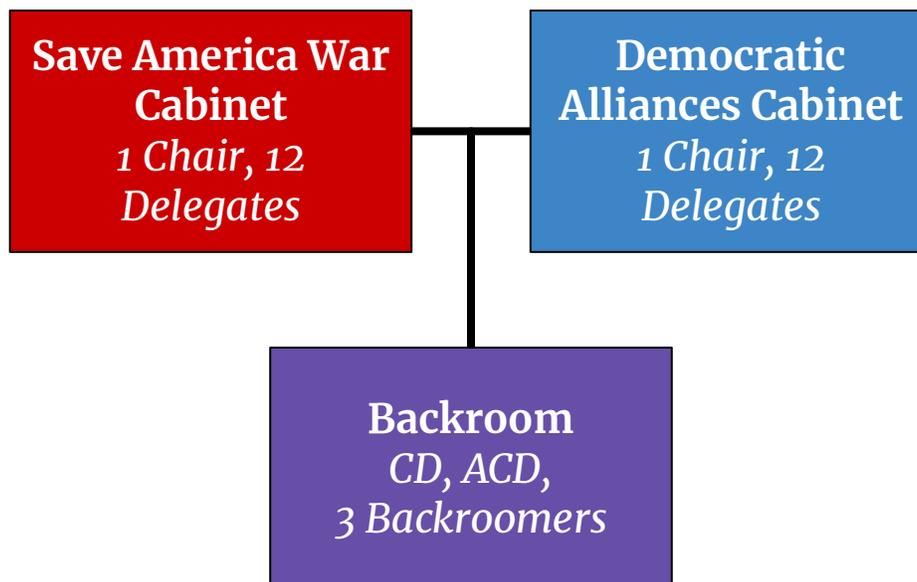


Figure 1: Visual Representation of the two Frontrooms and Backroom.

Delegates and Chairs will be in the Frontroom. As this is a bi-cabinet crisis, the Frontroom will consist of two Cabinets. A Cabinet can be a nation, faction, organisation, etc. where delegates in it have similar goals and objectives. The role of a delegate in the Frontroom is to discuss measures that can be taken, plans, schemes, etc. with other delegates. The Chair is there to support delegates, such as providing guidance on directives, as well as monitor any structured debate delegates wish to enter into.

The Directors and Backroomers will be in the Backroom. The Backroom is what enables the actions delegates would like to do. Delegates will send directives via a software called Master of Disaster (which will be explained later in this guide), detailing what they want to do and how they will do it. Backroomers will process these directives and,



depending on the quality of the directive and the feasibility of the desired action, will compute the outcome and affect the progression of the crisis.

As stated before, delegates will be playing individual characters. Alongside the study guide, delegates will receive character biographies which details: the character's background story, their role and the resources they have (i.e. what power and authority they wield), significant relationships, and personal goals. This gives delegates all necessary information about their characters in order to participate fully and effectively in the Crisis.

Directives

Directives are instructions for actions delegates want to take. It details what a delegate wants to do, why they want to do it, and how they want to do it. The content of a directive can be whatever the delegate can think of, from security directives protecting themselves from harm, to military and war plans, to creating a new country.

As per tradition of London university Crises, directives shall be written in letter format.

Personal Directive

Personal directives are individual actions conducted by you and utilise any resources you currently have. They are often used to fulfil personal objectives and are typically the quickest action to take.

A personal directive may look like this:

Dear Jim,

My security is of the utmost importance. Therefore, I will require that my security detail be effective immediately:

- I will hire 6 bodyguards; they must be formerly trained by the US Army with at least 10 years of experience and a clean record. I will enact a rotation where 2 bodyguards will protect me in the morning, 2 in the afternoon, and 2 in the evening. That way, the 4 bodyguards off-duty can take sufficient breaks and be highly alerted when called on-duty.
- I will have a personal, private chef. The chef must have worked formerly for a Michelin restaurant and must be aligned with the Make America Healthy Again movement. The chef will cook for me protein-only meals to ensure I build up muscle and strength, thereby ensuring that in the case I must fend for myself, I can.
- Similarly, I will also hire a gym trainer with the same qualities as the body guards. The trainer will train me to ensure I can fight against anyone.
- Finally, I will have a food tester hired directly from the Department of Health



and Human Services to test both my food and drinks before I eat them.

Considering my immense wealth and fortune, I will pay all of these people out-of-pocket a handsome amount to ensure their loyalty towards me until the end.

Make America Great Again!
RFK Jr.

It is highly recommended that at the beginning of the crisis, you should send a Security Directive as your first directive. Security Directives ensure that your character stays safe from potential harm. It is recommended that you periodically update your Security Detail as the crisis progresses and the stakes grow higher. Without a Security Directive, your character may endure great pain or, worse, death.

Group Directives

Group directives are actions taken by a group of delegates, pooling in their resources provided that all delegates in this group must agree to its usage in the directive. The minimum number of delegates for a group directive is two (2) and the maximum number is eleven (11).

A group directive may look like this:

To my dearest Assistant,

I will embark on a propaganda campaign with Kamala Harris and Tim Walz in all Swing States. The purpose is to convince the people in these states to be sympathetic to the Blue cause, to stick with the Democrats, and be brave and stand up against the Trump-Vance administration. Therefore, we hope to flip these Swing States and make the Democratic-leaning as much as possible.

- We will hold multiple political rallies calling on the people to join and fight for the Democrats. In these rallies, we will also emphasise why the Trump-Vance administration is evil, and therefore why it is necessary to fight back rather than stay silent. Harris and Walz will do most of the talking as they are significantly better orators.
- Afterwards, we will go into the streets and talk to people directly, bringing our respective Security Details to ensure our safety. Though a risky move, this will demonstrate that we are for the people and that we are unafraid to be with them on the ground.
- We will target all Swing States, focusing our most energy in the Swings that are EVEN but were won by Vance in the Election. That will be Arizona, Nevada and North Carolina.



To ensure our safety, our planned route for this campaign should be hidden from any intelligence. Our respective Security Details must accompany us at all times.

God Bless America,
Joe Biden

Cabinet Directive

Cabinet directives are usually directives that handle the biggest and most substantial actions, one that utilises the resources of *all* delegates in the committee. Cabinet directives must be voted on, which will be handled by the chair.

Once the cabinet directive has been sent on MoD, the chair will read the directive and conduct voting procedures. In order for a cabinet directive to pass, it must pass with a unanimous vote. Abstentions will *not* count as votes against.

If the cabinet directive fails to pass unanimously, the directive may be turned into a group directive *only* utilising the resources of the delegates who agree to said group directive.

A cabinet directive may look like this:

To the United States of America,

Following Article V of the Constitution, the House of Representatives and Senate have passed the necessary $\frac{2}{3}$ majority votes each to enact 2 Amendments to the Constitution.

We have agreed to amend Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitution, which states that: “No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.”

Our first amendment is to Strike “a natural born Citizen”. The newly amended clause will be: “No person except a Citizen of the United States [...]”. This means that any American citizen, natural born or naturalised, will be eligible for the Office. This will ensure diversity in our leadership, and that any American person can see themselves reflected in their President. This will empower the many diverse Americans on our mainland soil or beyond.

Our final amendment is to Add that only those below the age of seventy (70) are eligible for the Office. The addition will be at the end of this clause, stating “Any Person over the age of seventy Years will not be eligible for the Office.” This will



guarantee that our President will be at best health at all times, therefore, guarantee their leadership at any times including the most urgent and dangerous.

We call upon all States to ratify these Amendments as we believe this will ensure that the highest office of the most powerful nation in the world will be held by American-loving and highly competent individuals.

In God We Trust,
The US Congress

Top Tips for Writing Directives

The most commonly asked questions by Crisis delegates are regarding directives, specifically how to write them and, importantly, how to write good directives.

Delegates must remember two things about the Backroom: 1) they are your friends and 2) they are human. The Backroom can only enact your plans if you are explicit about it. Therefore, you should write directives as clearly as possible so that your assigned Backroomer can understand and process it. Backroomers are also humans, therefore, we must put in a lot of effort and focus into processing a directive similarly to how you put in a lot of effort and focus into writing it. It is highly recommended that you write your directive as concisely as possible, avoiding too much fluff.

Furthermore, beyond writing a directive well, you must also consider the feasibility of your plans i.e. do you have the resources for your plans? Do you have the authority and power to enact them? This means that sometimes delegates send a very well-written directive that is impossible to enact because they simply do not have the resources and/or the power to do it. Therefore, it is recommended that you read your character biography carefully to know exactly what you have and what you can do and ask for updates on the changes in your resources.

Rules of Procedure

As Crisis is often fast-paced, the default state of the committee will be perpetual unmoderated caucus. This will help delegates focus on communicating their ideas and plans quickly without needing to go through the often long procedure.

However, delegates may exceptionally go into certain structured debate if they feel like it is necessary and productive for the crisis. Delegates may motion for a Tour de Table/Round Robin, whereby delegates will be called upon in English alphabetical order to give a speech for a certain amount of time. Tour de Table is typically a good way to begin committee as it acts similarly to opening speeches in GA. Consultation of the



Whole (CoW) is another common type of structured yet informal debate where delegates will moderate themselves for a total amount of time. Both Tour de Table and CoW require a supermajority (2/3) to pass.

Delegates may also go into Moderated Caucuses, which require a simple majority (1/2) to pass.

Master of Disaster

The software we will be using is 'Master of Disasters' (MoD). This is the software where delegates will write their directives and send them to the backroom. News updates and cycles will also appear on MoD too.

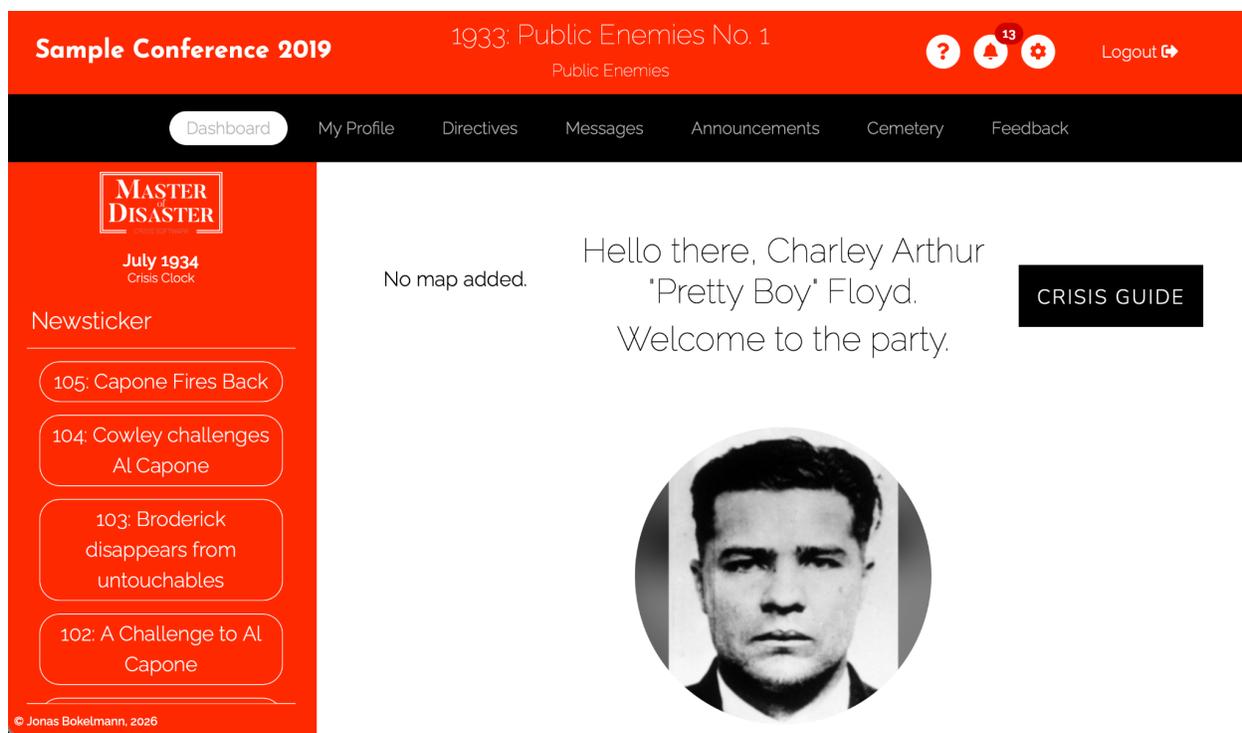


Figure 2: The sample layout of MoD from a Delegate's perspective.

To familiarise yourself with this software, please click on the link attached and select the 'Delegate' tab to see what it is like to use MoD from a Delegate's perspective: https://app.masterofdisaster.co.uk/examplecrisis/del_index.

How should you prepare for a Crisis?

If this is your first time doing Crisis, do not fret! At the beginning of the first committee session, the Directors will be going through some major and key points about the Crisis



so that everyone is up to speed. You are encouraged to ask them any and all questions regarding the Crisis.

Before the conference, you should read this Study Guide in full to get an understanding of the background context of the Crisis, the recent events leading up to the Crisis, and finally the mechanics controlling the Crisis. This will give you a good understanding of the 'world' you are in, ensuring whatever action you take makes sense and is feasible.

Furthermore, and to reiterate, you should also read your Character Biography in full to understand what your specific character can do in the crisis, namely knowing what power and authority they have (their role), what resources they can use, who they interact with (significant relationships), and finally their goals i.e. what do they want to achieve in this Crisis.



Introduction to the Topic

“I was no party man myself, and the first wish of my heart was, if parties did exist, to reconcile them.”

- George Washington to Thomas Jefferson, 1796 (National Archives, 2026)

The thirteen colonies fought fervently against the British empire, and with their army full of people of different ages and different skin colours, they fought as one to make the newly independent United States of America (Davidson, 2016).

Only 4 scores and 5 years later would the United States fall into disunity and be drawn into another war, this time a war against themselves: a civil war between the Northern and Southern states (Weber and Hassler, 2018). The deadly 4 year war would cost the lives of around 2% of the population, a high mortality rate that indeed would alter the mentality of a grieving USA (Weber and Hassler, 2018). For a country named the *United States*, how could such disunity occur?

Fast forward to the 21st century, the question of unity returns to the forefront as the two dominant parties of the US – the Republican Party and Democratic Party – become ever more polarised. In particular, it has caused a phenomenon called affective polarisation: though policy-wise, both parties and their voters seem to agree more than they think they do, both parties maintain an emotional dislike towards one another, and this is something politicians have capitalised on (Kleinfeld, 2023). This political dislike manifests dangerously, in particular in the rise of extremism seen in the country, from hateful and inflammatory discourse to outright political violence (Mayer et al., 2024).

This culminated into our crisis: the 2028 Presidential Election created an uncomfortable sense of *déjà vu*, whereby the hotly contested win by Newsom results in another January 6th insurrection, only this time it has completely paralysed the country. 6 months of protest and unrest would continue, building up to the violence in Washington, D.C. , whereby the disorder grew immensely violent, resulting in many deaths from both parties. Seeing this as justification for war, the Republican cabinet would declare a civil war against the Democrats.

The United States has fallen into a second civil war over 160 years after the first. A country disunited, shattered, and broken, how could they reconcile?



Background of the Topic

Disclaimer: These sections make references to many topics delegates might find uncomfortable and distressing, such as but not limited to racism, sexism, homophobia, etc. Reader discretion is advised.

American Politics

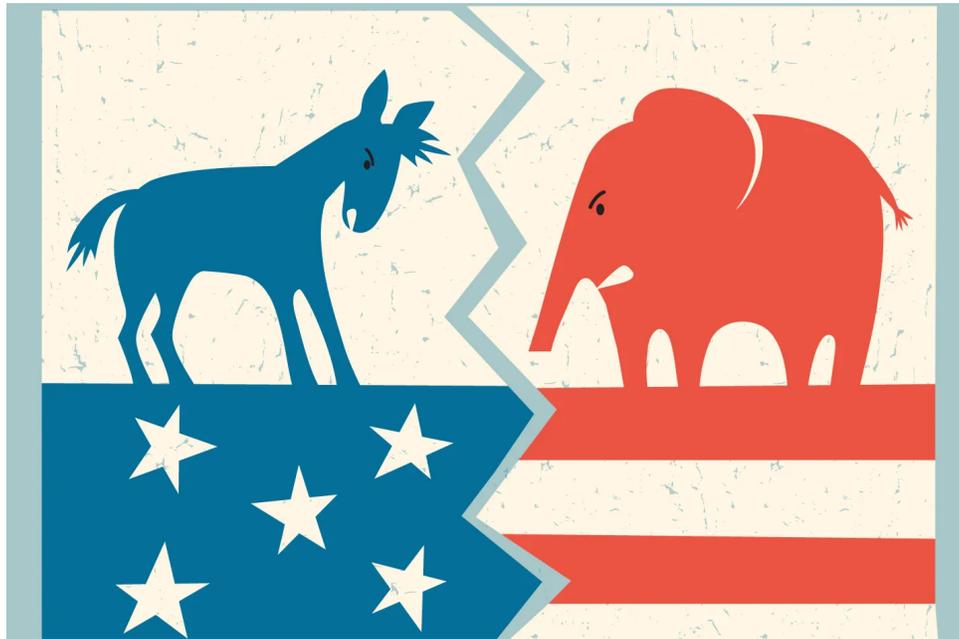


Figure 3: Visual aid illustrating the two US political parties: the Democratic Party (left, often represented by its mascot, the donkey) and the Republican Party (right, often represented by its mascot, the elephant). Visual aid from Klein (2018).

The Democrats

The Democratic Party is the major liberal party in the United States. Founded in 1828, it is the world's oldest active political party (Cole, 1970). While the Democratic Party has undergone several ideological changes in its 200-year long history, it is currently a centre-left party, espousing liberalism and centrist policies. There is, however, a significant progressive minority within the party that seeks to implement more left-wing policies.

The party was founded by Andrew Jackson and Martin van Buren in 1828 (Cole, 1970). It initially supported agrarian democracy and expansionism (aka Manifest Destiny), while opposing high tariffs and the creation of a Central Bank (Britannica, 2020). Its agrarian ideology meant that the party was generally supportive of slavery until the outbreak of the Civil War, when the party split into pro and anti-slavery factions and went through several ideological shifts.



From 1860 to 1908, the Democrats only won the Presidency twice, mainly due to the ideological churn that the party went through during and after the civil war over slavery and economy. This process would be completed following the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932, whose New Deal coalition united traditional support from white southerners with new electoral groups such as women, workers, union members, Catholics, Jews and African Americans (Leuchtenburg, 2016). Democratic support for the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s as well as the elections of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama have since completed the transformation of the party from one based on white agrarianism to a more traditional liberal party.

The Democrats are generally backed by urban voters, college graduates, people of colour, younger voters, women and LGBTQ+ people (Pew Research Center, 2024). On social issues, it campaigns for abortion rights, gun control, climate change action, LGBTQ+ rights as well as other common center-left policies.

On economic issues, it espouses liberal policies such as free market capitalism but also some traditionally centre-left policies such as healthcare reform, paid family leave, support for unions, etc. On the economy, the Democrats are more similar to centrist European parties such as the Liberal Democrats in the UK than traditional centre-left parties such as Labour in the UK (Meyerson, 2024).

The Grand Old Party

The Republican Party, also known informally as the Grand Old Party (GOP), is the major right-wing, conservative party in the United States. It emerged as a rival to the Democratic Party in the 1850s and has since dominated US politics along with the Democrats (Gould, 2014). While founded as an anti-slavery party, the Republicans have undergone several ideological shifts, transforming into a traditional right-wing party during the 20th century before undergoing more right-wing shifts in the past two decades.

The Republican party was established in 1854 as an anti-slavery party opposed to the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The party quickly gained support in the industrial North which supported ending slavery unlike the agrarian South. The Republicans first came to power with Abraham Lincoln's victory in the 1860 presidential election (Burlingame, 2018). In the following period of Civil War and Reconstruction, the party mainly focused on abolishing slavery, preserving the Union and extending civil rights to freedmen. By the late 19th century, the party shifted its focus to right wing policies that supported business interests while promoting protective tariffs. The Republicans then faced a long period (1933-1968) out of power due to the success of Roosevelt's New Deal



Coalition, with the exception of Dwight D. Eisenhower who was a moderate that adopted many New Deal era policies (Gould, 2014).

The party would however turn to the right, using the “Southern Strategy” to win support amongst white southerners, who were traditionally Democrats, but was angered by the Democratic Party’s support for the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s (Maxwell and Shields, 2019). This was combined with a rightward shift on social policies, a more hawkish foreign policy and an emphasis on free market liberalism, firmly entrenching the Republican party as a conservative, right wing party by the 1980s. In the 21st Century, the party would become more socially conservative and adopt populist economic policies, leading to the election of Donald Trump in the 2016 election.

The Republican party’s main voting blocs include rural voters, white Southerners, evangelicals, men, senior citizens, and people without college degrees (Pew Research Center, 2024). On the economy, it supports capitalist policies and deregulation while opposing labour unions and public insurance. Following the 2024 election, the party has also started supporting tariffs and protectionism while opposing globalization. On social issues, it advocates for restricting abortion access, promotes gun ownership, and opposes immigration and transgender rights.

Make American Great Again (MAGA) and Donald Trump

The Rise of MAGA

In the 21st century, several voices within the Republican party began calling for a shift to the right, advocating for more socially conservative policies such as restricting abortion access and LGBTQ+ rights while pushing for more populist economic policies (Lange and Oliphant, 2024). During the 2016 Presidential election, Donald Trump managed to unite these voices along with disenchanted and economically anxious voters under the slogan ‘Make America Great Again’, due to which this movement is often referred to as the MAGA movement.

The MAGA movement combines right-wing populism, anti-globalism and nationalism. Followers also hold significant authoritarian and autocratic views such as the belief that the President is above the rule of law (Abromeit, 2018). Major policies include immigration restriction, trade protection, isolationism, rejection of net-zero policies, etc.

On the economy, MAGA advocates for protectionism, high tariffs and lower taxes while opposing globalization, free trade and net zero policies such as carbon taxes or EV



subsidies. MAGA also espouses an “America First” foreign policy which emphasizes isolationism and unilateralism (Thompson, 2017). National interests are always prioritized over global cooperation, with Trump often rejecting global institutions such as the UN and the EU.

Many policies, especially those surrounding immigration are rooted in racial discrimination (Ott, 2017). A large section of MAGA also supports “family values” that push the agenda of a “traditional” family where the man is responsible for work and leadership, confining the woman to the status of a homemaker. MAGA also generally opposes transgender rights. While the MAGA movement started as a small minority within the Republican party, the election of Donald Trump in 2016 and 2024 has made MAGA the largest faction within the Republican party. Traditional republicans are often mocked publicly using names such as RINO (Republican in Name Only). Most of the mainstream Republicans of Bush and Reagan have been sidelined or forced to retire from the party (Lowry, 2023).

Donald Trump’s First Administration

Donald Trump was first elected President following the 2016 election. He had won the Republican nomination by campaigning on right wing populism and anti-immigration policies. He defeated several mainstream Republicans and moved the Republican party further to the right. His image as an anti-establishment figure garnered significant support, enabling his shock victory over Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election. Upon his inauguration, he became the first president in American history without prior public office or military background (Dimock and Gramlich, 2021).

Alongside his election in 2016, the Republicans also won majorities in the House and the Senate, creating a government trifecta that enabled Trump to pursue several legislative interests. Central to his economic policy was the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, commonly known as the Trump Tax Cuts. The Act reduced tax rates for individuals and corporations, increased the standard deduction and family tax credits, and several other reductions in taxation. This Act was a significant part of Trump’s populist agenda, and its impact has been debated with critics claiming it has worsened federal debt, mainly helped the rich and has only had modest improvements on economic growth and median wages (Chodorow-Reich, Zidar and Zwick, 2024).

On Foreign Policy, Trump’s ‘America First’ approach was characterized by unilateral actions and disregarding traditional norms and allies. He denied entry to the United States to citizens from six Muslim-majority countries. He withdrew from the Paris Agreement, the Iran Nuclear Deal and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He also recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and brokered the Abraham Accords (U.S.



Department of State, 2020). He also negotiated with the Taliban, which led to the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021.

The latter part of Trump's first term was mainly spent dealing with two major crises. Firstly, he deployed federal law enforcement in response to the Black Lives Matter protests that began in reaction to the murder of George Floyd. This deployment was controversial with concerns ranging from legality to police brutality (Golden, 2020). The second crisis was the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. His initial response to the pandemic was slow and he often made statements that were contradictory to advice from his own administration and spread misinformation. Trump did, however, initiate Operation Warp Speed that aimed to accelerate the development of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The 2020 Election and Joe Biden's Administration

The 2020 presidential election saw former Vice President under the Obama administration and Democrat, Joe Biden, return to the White House after gaining 306 electoral votes over the incumbent President Trump's 232 (CNN, 2020). This marked the first time a seated president lost a re-election bid since George H.W. Bush's defeat in 1992. Unprecedented for several reasons, including numerous claims of electoral fraud and interference by foreign actors, as claimed by the defeated President Trump (GovFacts, 2026), the election was held in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This caused concern over mail voter fraud and increased risk of infection, resulting in multiple states suing the federal government to postpone, which were later overruled in state supreme court (Persily and Stewart, 2021).

Prior to President Biden's return to the White House, with his Vice President Kamala Harris, the January 6th Capitol Riots took over central Washington D.C. The FBI estimates between 2000 to 2,500 people entered the Capitol. By the time the numerous police services, national guard regiments, and security services had cleared the rioters out, the main buildings and offices of Congress had been looted, burnt, and brought to near ruin (BBC, 2023). 7 deaths were directly caused by the January 6 insurrection, with dozens of injuries and \$2.7 billion in public cost as a result of the damages done by rioters.

In the following weeks, the arrested rioters and President Trump were brought before courts. 1575 arrests were made by federal officers, with 64% of sentenced defendants being sent to prison (NPR, 2026). On charges of incitement of insurrection, the House of Representatives triggered the formal impeachment process for President Trump. The Senate later acquitted Trump, gaining less than the required two-thirds majority to carry out the charges (Gregorian, 2021).



This uneven start to the Biden administration was soon eclipsed, with multiple executive orders being passed by President Biden soon after taking office. Most notably a National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response, increases in national and foreign aid and development, and increases in labour market investment through lower unemployment rates (The American Presidency Project, 2025). Throughout his time in office, President Biden's key focuses were on infrastructure development, economic growth, and social welfare and benefits. As his presidency continued, his approval rating continued to lower, with key events negatively impacting his national popularity, such as the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, and the subject of his age and mental fitness, given he was the oldest President to take office (Montanaro, 2021).

Trump's Return to the White House

In July of 2024, nearing the end of Biden's presidency, President Biden announced he would not seek to run for a second term. He advocated for his Vice President, Kamala Harris, and fully endorsed her as the Democratic candidate for the 2024 presidential election (Smith, 2024). Following Harris' defeat in the election, Donald Trump retook office on January 20th 2025.

Contrasting his first presidency, President Trump and his administration had come into power with a prepared plan, known as "Project 2025" (The Heritage Foundation, 2023). A 900-page document comprised of conservative policies with a timeline of plans for each aspect of Trump's first year as the 47th President, the plan received continuous backlash due to the controversial reforms to many aspects of each branch of government, as well as the continued reductions and eliminations of spending towards social benefits and protective measures (Wendling, 2025). President Trump signed the highest number of executive orders on his first day back in office, including many reforms to immigration, foreign aid, and drilling practices. He also pardoned more than 1,500 rioters involved in the January 6th insurrection, drawing immediate backlash from Democrat members of the House (Bennett, 2025).

Through efforts to increase US investment and improve the economy, President Trump launched multiple initiatives and attempts to invigorate the private sector, including many wealthy business leaders in his inauguration, and securing multiple contracts in the technology, defence, and social media sectors. Creating the Department of Government Efficiency/DOGE, was a project built off of an initially strong relationship with the X CEO, Elon Musk. This was swiftly diminished and fully deteriorated following Musk's criticism of Trump's plans to reduce tax-friendly tokens towards electric vehicles, as well as his budget, which Musk criticising, stating it would "bankrupt America" (BBC, 2025).



Over the course of 2025, President Trump granted increased powers to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement/ICE officers, with the aim of increasing deportations of alleged “illegal aliens and immigrants” (Trump, 2026). These increased powers, along with a reduction in training and screening resulted in ICE officers making record numbers of arrests and eventual deportations, as well as riots and violence breaking out across the nation (Bennett, 2025).

Earlier in the year, he also began the official withdrawal process from the World Health Organisation/WHO, relieving the USA of their obligations from a global health standpoint, whilst also significantly diminishing the overall capacity and funding of the organisation. Alongside this, and the multiple executive orders Trump signed, his monumental “One Big, Beautiful Bill” also passed in the summer, allowing significant reductions in tax on corporations and reducing investment on environmental sustainability practices (Bennett, 2025).

Since the start of his second presidency, Trump had made clear that his political sentiments on foreign policy and diplomacy had changed. Most notably, his continued use of tariffs on foreign imports damaged trading relations with many nations and became a key tool for leverage during foreign visits (Tasker, 2025). Foreign relations were further strained with the rest of the world, following multiple grievances being raised over Trump’s direct conflicts with the United Nations and maintained involvement with many of the ongoing conflicts.

Trump’s administration found one of its greatest straining points following the release of the Epstein files, containing material that potentially incriminated multiple high-profile business leaders and members of the administration, including President Trump himself (Mangan, 2026). Following the recent arrests of the former Duke of York, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, as well as the former UK ambassador to the US, Lord Peter Mandelson, the White House has since left no official comment, despite multiple members of the administration being questioned by Senate committee members (Smith, 2026).

Democrat Responses

Kamala Harris’ defeat in the 2024 election reveals the structural and fundamental weaknesses of the Democratic Party itself. As Galston and Kamarck (2025) and Geismer (2025) have shown, one of the Democratic Party’s biggest weaknesses is their consistent tendency to stick with the status quo, being hesitant to change in fear of being considered too ‘radical’. Crucially, the Democratic voters’ base has consistently been the professional class, and this has seeped into the way the Democratic party



governs such as the previously mentioned hesitancy towards radical change (Geismer, 2025).

Furthermore, this approach to appeal to the sensibilities and respectability of the professional class has made the Democratic Party appear out-of-touch with the majority of Americans, which are the working class (Galston and Kamarck, 2025; Geismer, 2025). For instance, Biden's COVID-19 stimulus bills proved immensely inflationary, which hit the working-class population hard (Galston and Kamarck, 2025). However, the Biden administration regardless tried selling the effectiveness of Biden's economic plans which did not align with the realities of the majority of Americans, only further illustrating the out-of-touch nature of the modern Democratic Party. Moreover, with Trump's populist messaging, it has given space and representation for the working class, so much so that both white and non-white working-class voted for Trump over Harris in 2024 (Galston and Kamarck, 2025).

This culminates in the Democratic strategy to point out the evils of the Republican Party but never themselves offer solutions to the problem; for instance, nearly half of Americans lack adequate healthcare, yet Harris did not substantially mention much about the topic in her campaign (Geismer, 2025). Again, too fearful and hesitant to do anything 'radical', and comfortable protecting the status quo, the Democrats fail to enact substantial change that may benefit the lives of the majority of Americans when the majority of Americans demand change, only further disillusioning them and pushing them further to extreme ends.

After losing the Presidency, House, and Senate to the Republicans in November of 2024, all seemed gloomy for the Democrats. However, a slow Blue Wave was beginning to take shape, starting with Democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani's win for the mayoral seat, running against incumbent Eric Adams and former governor Andrew Cuomo on a campaign focused on a rent freeze, free buses, universal childcare, and new taxes on the wealthy (Subramanian, 2025). The midterms of 2026 saw this Blue Wave really take shape as the Democrats closed the gap in the Senate and finally retook the House. This gave them political leverage against the Republicans, which they utilised to block Republican bills.

Though the party is toughening up a bit against the Republicans, they are still very much disunited. In particular, there is a tension between establishment Democrats, such as Newsom, and progressives, such as Mamdani; the former still advocate for incremental change and policies that would work in the system, whilst the latter advocate for radical, sweeping change across the board (Nadeem, 2021).



Recent Events

The 2028 Presidential Election

In 2028, the US saw one of the most debated elections in presidential history take place. With Trump having announced JD Vance as the presidential candidate of the Republican party in the previous months, discussion arose within the voting population. JD Vance approached his electoral campaign in a way that left many under the impression he was acting as a proxy for Trump; however, the months previous to the election showed his position shifting towards a Stephen Miller direction with ideas such as the Project 2050. This had extensive effects on the Democratic voters who saw the introduction of maximum restrictions on immigrations and the intensification of aggressive deportation as one of the biggest threats to their values. The opposing candidate to JD Vance, the Democratic representative and former governor of California, Newsom also sparked debate within Republicans. His stance as a social liberal figure and progressive leadership has widened the gap between both parties to one of the most extreme extents.

The buildup to the 2028 elections illustrated one of the most intense political eras in the United States's election history. Voter fraud accusations and ICE activities were at the highest they had been and political discussions took over national discourse.

On election night, the entire nation sat on the edges of their seats watching news outlets predict the results for the elections. On that faithful night in November, contrary to what many people expected, Newsom won the 2028 Presidential Election with a total of 286 electoral votes against Vance's 252 (to see which states were won by either Vance or Newsom, see Appendix 2).

2029: Insurrections and Interim War Cabinets

As Vice President, Vance is also the President of the Senate, so he oversees the counting of votes that takes place in a joint session between the House and Senate (National Archives, 2026). After the counting has been finished, Vance was supposed to affirm that Newsom the next President of the United States, similarly to how his predecessor, the 49th Vice President Kamala Harris, affirmed she lost to Donald Trump back in exactly 4 years ago (Korecki and Leach, 2025). However, Vance subverts this: taking on the aggressive style he adopted from his President, Vance dramatically rejects the election results.

Immediately, Vance and many senior members of the Trump cabinet started accusing the Democrats of committing electoral fraud. This theory and accusation gained



enormous traction within the Republican party and the MAGA base, stirring political unrest within the country.

A sort of *déjà vu* swept across the country as the idea of elections being stolen was so provocative, it motivated mass protests that evolved into violent uprisings, even a second insurrection similar to the first January 6th insurrection in 2020. Trump and his cabinet refuse to vacate their positions and end their tenure, instead reacting aggressively against Democratic-aligned counter protests in an immensely aggressive manner.

Newsom, in response to Vance's rejection of election results, the Trump administration's unwillingness to leave the White House, and the all-too-familiar violence, made a statement: evidently, the Trump administration does not serve the people but themselves, and they are willing to subvert democracy in exchange for eternal power like a dictatorship or absolute monarchy. Newsom called for the people to unite behind the Democrats and resist the oppressive regime.

The Trump administration reacted aggressively against these claims, interpreting it as a call for violence against the government. Trump invoked the Insurrection Act of 1807 which authorises the President to deploy military into states to restore order in the case of insurrection, rebellion, or civil disorder (Lasky, 2023). This act includes the federalising of the National Guard by invoking Article 10 (Lasky, 2023; this will be explained more in the Mechanics section under Military Functions). However, some states' National Guards, namely ones that are immensely Democratic-aligned, refused to follow Trump's orders on the basis that both Trump and Vance are illegitimate leaders and therefore, have no authority to invoke such an act. Regardless, the military was deployed to aggressively handle the civilian populations.

Newsom, seeing how horribly the situation has escalated, called on Democratic leaders to assemble and create a temporary, interim government to fight back against the militant Trump administration. The forces, known as the [Democratic Alliances Cabinet](#) to reflect the varied and diverse nature of the Democratic and progressive parties, decided to set up shop in New York. Trump and Vance would similarly rebrand their government as the [Save America War Cabinet](#).

The Breaking Point: Bloody Sunday

On the warm day in the first week of May, protestors took to the street in Washington, D.C. They were protesting right outside the White House, demanding that the Trump/Vance administration be held accountable for their actions. Immediately, a counter-protest ensued, further causing unrest in the streets of D.C.



The unrest quickly grew violent as civilian militias began participating in the ruckus. Soon, shots were fired, and the protests quickly grew bloody and lethal. It would take hours and the sun setting for the chaos to finally die down. The Save America War cabinet would evacuate and relocate to Mar-a-lago, abandoning the White House. All sides were angry at this event. People began demanding for answers and someone to blame: who caused this bloody event?

A Democratic civilian militia would soon take responsibility for this event, justifying that they were fighting against a greater evil which were the Republicans. They claimed they were fighting for democracy, referring back to Newsom's earlier call for resistance. This, according to the Trump/Vance administration, looked like an admission of guilt on behalf of Newsom and thus, accused the Democratic party of infringing constitutional rights and essentially beginning war.

As a result, Trump, JD Vance, and Miller took the final decision of announcing via a public rally that they would declare a Civil War against Newsom and the Democrats as a whole in order to not just to Make America Great Again, but to Save America.

Thus, our Crisis begins in May of 2029.



Committee Mechanics

Map

For this Crisis, we will be using a custom Map made on the website called Google MyMaps. The Map will help delegates know where their plans will take place, and to visualise how it will commence.

The Contiguous States, Alaska, and Hawaii

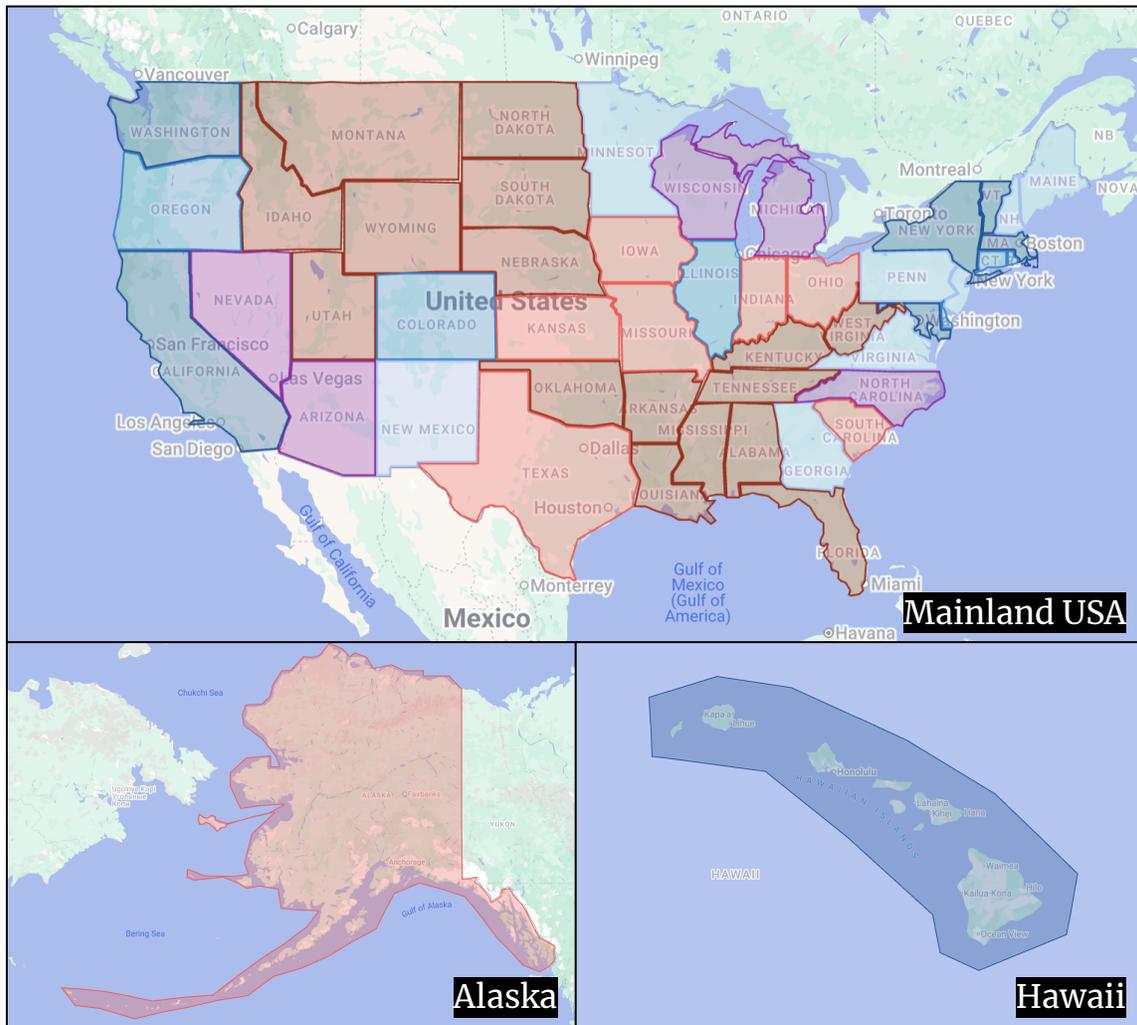


Figure 4: The Map of the USA, created by the Crisis Director. Above is mainland USA (with the 48 states, plus Washington, D.C.) and below are Alaska (bottom left) and Hawaii (bottom right).

The Map is split into the 50 States (including Alaska and Hawaii), plus Washington, D.C. Most of the events that will happen in this Crisis will take place in the 50 States plus Washington, D.C.



The colours shown on the map correspond to the Affiliation System, which will be explained below.

Insular Areas

Beyond the 50 states and Washington D.C., the US has authority over several areas generically called “insular areas” (U.S. Department of the Interior, 2016). These areas are generally designated in two ways: organised/unorganised, and/or incorporated/unincorporated (Sheposh, 2018).



Figure 5: Map of the US territories taken from Duggal (2026). These territories will be represented on the Crisis Map in Grey.

The Palmyra Atoll is the only incorporated territory of the US; it is an uninhabited, nature reserve consisting of about fifty islands south of Hawaii (U.S. Department of the Interior, 2016; Sheposh, 2018).

Puerto Rico, Guam, the US Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands are unincorporated yet organised territories (Sheposh, 2018). They have a local government, and the people there are considered US citizens who can travel anywhere within the United States (Sheposh, 2018). They can vote in their local elections and in



the presidential primary elections, but not the general presidential election (Sheposh, 2018).

There are also unorganised, unincorporated territories, the majority of which were acquired under the 1856 Guano Islands Act: this act enabled the US to claim any islands with guano, which are essential bird droppings that are immensely effective fertilisers (Johnston, 2017). These territories are uninhabited with the exception of American Samoa: this territory has a local government, and the citizens here are US Nationals (Sheposh, 2018). US Nationals can travel freely in the US, but cannot vote even if they move there since they are not a US citizen (Sheposh, 2018).

Finally, there is the Compact of Free Association whereby three sovereign nations - the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau - will receive American financial assistance and in return, the US may establish military presence there (Foster and Hezel, 1998; Kiste, 2019; Foster, 2019).

For the purposes of this crisis, these insular areas will be coloured in grey and will be primarily regarded as untouched. Delegates are, of course, welcome to write directives about these territories if they wish.

Affiliation System

This Crisis will use an Affiliation System that is based loosely on the Cook Partisan Voting Index (PVI). This system will show what a region's party affiliation is, whether or not they are safely, strongly, or leaning towards **Republican/Democrat**, or whether or not they are **50/50**. R stands for Republican whilst D stands for Democrat.

A region's affiliation will have an impact on how successful and feasible directives will be. For instance, if a Republican Delegate wants to recruit people from a Democratic-affiliated region, that directive will most likely fail.

Delegates may directly affect and change a region's affiliation, such as but not limited to propaganda, military campaigns, economic policies, etc. Depending on how well written these directives are, it may change the affiliation of a region, giving an advantage to either the Republican or Democratic cabinet. For instance, if a Republican Delegate still wished to pursue recruiting people from a Democratic-affiliated region, it will be advised to attempt to sway support towards the Republicans such as through successful propaganda schemes.



Colour (as represented on the Map)	PVI Equivalent	What does it mean?
Dark Red	$R \geq 10$	This region is safely Republican and is unlikely to change.
Red	$5 \leq R \leq 9$	This region is strongly Republican , though can be subjected to change.
Light Red	$1 \leq R \leq 4$	This region is Republican -leaning, however, can be easily changed.
Purple	EVEN (0)	This region does not lean towards either party. It is 50/50 .
Light Blue	$1 \leq D \leq 4$	This region is Democratic -leaning, however, can be easily changed.
Blue	$5 \leq D \leq 9$	This region is strongly Democratic , though can be subjected to change.
Dark Blue	$D \geq 10$	This region is safely Democratic and is unlikely to change.

At the beginning of our Crisis:

- 21 states and Washington, D.C. will be leaning, strongly, or safely **Democratic**.
- 24 states will be leaning, strongly, or safely **Republican**.
- 5 states will be split **50/50**, being neither Republican nor Democratic.

To see exactly which States are Democratic, Republican, or 50/50, please go to Appendix 1. In Appendix 1, it will have a table of the PVI of all States, including Washington, D.C. The PVI is based on the results from the 2020 and 2024 elections (Wikipedia, 2020), however, some States' PVI have been changed accordingly to better reflect the current events of our Crisis.

Military Functions

In this Crisis, certain characters will have military capabilities.

The US President and Secretary of Defence/War have control over the United States Armed Forces (PBS News, 2025). Therefore, directives involving the US Armed Forces must have both Donald Trump *and* Pete Hegseth as co-submitters of a group directive.



Governors are both the Head of their State and the Commander-in-Chief of their State's National Guard and their State's Defence Force (Ferguson, 2006; POLYAS, 2024). The National Guard is uniquely both a state and federal entity, and can be called in three ways: state active duty, via Title 32 of the US Code, or via Title 10 of the US Code (Poynton, 2010). The latter, Title 10, is the only one that authorises the President of the US to federalise and command the National Guard (Ponyton, 2010). For the purposes of this Crisis, the National Guard will be continuously under their governor's command until either Donald Trump or Gavin Newsom invokes Title 10.

Donald Trump can invoke Title 10 and can only federalise National Guards under a Republican Governor. Similarly, Gavin Newsom will be granted similar Title 10-like powers, only federalising National Guards under a Democratic Governor. Delegates must note, however, that the Governor's affiliation does not always align with their State's affiliation, and therefore federalising the State's National Guard that opposes the State's affiliation may have unintended negative consequences. For instance, Kelly Ayotte will be the Republican Governor for New Hampshire, which is a Democratic-leaning state. If the Save America War Cabinet attempts to federalise New Hampshire's National Guards, this may have negative consequences considering the State's Democratic tilt. To see the Governors of all 50 states, please see Appendix 3.

Troops System

Military-based delegates will have a certain number of troops. This will be specified in their character biographies.

In the Save America War Cabinet, the Cabinet will have access to:

- the Army;
- the Navy Forces (which is a conglomerate of the Navy, Coast Guard, and Marines);
- the Air Force;
- Republican-governed National Guards; and,
- Republican-governed State Defense Forces (SDFs).

In the Democratic Alliances Cabinet, the Cabinet will have access to:

- the Army National Guard;
- the Air National Guard;
- Naval Militias;
- Democrat-governed SDFs; and,
- Civilian Militias.



For logistical ease, we will not be using specific numbers to calculate troops. Instead, we will categorise these units as either Tiny, Small, Medium, Large, or Huge. For example, a character may have 2 Medium Army units and 1 Small Air Force unit.

It will be assumed that the character moves with their troops when entering into battle. Delegates must specify if they want to assign a generic General to send off into battle. For example, one may write in their directive: “I will assign General A to command 1 Small Army Unit to Los Angeles, California.”

Espionage

At the beginning of the Crisis, 3 members per cabinet will have access to Spy Units. Other characters in the Cabinet, if they wish to obtain spies, must either recruit and train their own ones or ask one of the three characters of their cabinet to transfer some units via a group directive. The threshold for acquiring spies is very high, conditional on a very well written directive *and* that circumstances allows for it. Therefore, delegates should not expect to always have them.

It is known that in the Save American War Cabinet, the Director of National Intelligence, Director of the FBI, and the Secretary of Homeland Security will have spy units. In the Democratic Alliances Cabinet, it is unknown who in the cabinet has spy units.

Wealth System

Arbitrary Wealth Percentage	Corresponding Wealth Level
100%	Tremendously High
80%-99%	Very High
60%-79%	High
40%-59%	Medium
20%-39%	Low
0%-19%	Lowest

At the beginning of the Crisis, characters will be assigned a certain Wealth Level. This will be an arbitrary percentage number. For example, if a character has 85% Wealth, that is considered a Very High Wealth Level.



For the purposes of the Crisis, the Wealth system can only be used exclusively for military campaigns and political bargaining. Directives that embark on purely business, profit-making ventures will not be in order.

Firstly, the Wealth system can be used in military campaigns. For instance, a delegate could invest 20% of their Wealth into a battle. This could be used to train up soldiers or buy weapons, increasing the chances of the military campaign succeeding.

Secondly, the Wealth system can be used in bargaining. For example, a delegate can give away 10% of their Wealth to another delegate in exchange for information. A delegate can also get a loan from a Non-Playable Character in exchange for winning a certain battle, for instance.

Bi-cabinet Meeting

Delegates may wish to hold a bi-cabinet meeting whereby both cabinets will meet in an official capacity to discuss and deliberate.

This is the order of proceedings:

1. Cabinet A writes an invitation to Cabinet B to have a bi-cabinet meeting as a Cabinet Directive. In the Cabinet Directive, it must state what is the purpose of the meeting.
2. Cabinet A votes on the Cabinet Directive. If it passes, Cabinet A's Chair will approve it and inform the Backroom that a bi-cabinet meeting has been requested.
3. The Backroom will close directives and send Cabinet A's invitation to Cabinet B.
4. Cabinet B will have 10-15 minutes to read this invitation and discuss amongst themselves whether or not to accept the invitation.
5. Cabinet B will vote whether or not to accept the invitation, requiring a unanimous vote for this invitation to proceed.
6. Cabinet B's Chair will inform the Backroom on the result.
7. The Backroom will write a Press Release on this matter.

If successful, the Backroom will come to either Cabinet A or B and usher them to the opposing cabinet to begin the meeting.

At the beginning of the bi-cabinet meeting, the Chairs will open the floor for motions. It is recommended that delegates motion for a Consultation of the Whole for bi-cabinet meetings.



During this time, directives will be closed. The backroom will continue processing any unanswered directives during the meeting.

Negotiated Settlement

A civil war can be won by military victories. It can alternatively be won by peaceful means, namely negotiated settlements (Toft, 2010). This is a very powerful mechanic and can only be enacted sometime in Day 3 of the conference.

A negotiated settlement shall be formatted similarly to a GA Draft Resolution, requiring at least two Perambulatory Clauses and two Operative Clauses. It does not need Sponsors or Signatories.

Settlements can be written before or during a bi-cabinet meeting.

However, in order to pass and vote on a negotiated settlement, it must be during a bi-cabinet meeting. In order for a negotiated settlement to pass, it must pass by a supermajority of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the combined cabinets during a bi-cabinet. Assuming we have a total of 24 delegates in the entire crisis, this means 18 delegates must vote in favour of the negotiated settlement for it to pass.

Only one negotiated settlement can be successful. This means if other negotiated settlements have been introduced, they will be discarded if one passes.



The Characters and Cabinets

Save America War Cabinet	Democratic Alliances
Donald Trump - <i>President of the United States</i>	Gavin Newsom - <i>Democratic Presidential Candidate & Leader of the Democratic Alliances</i>
JD Vance - <i>Vice President of the United States & Republican Presidential Candidate</i>	Andy Beshear - <i>Democratic Running Mate</i>
Pete Hegseth - <i>Secretary of Defence/War</i>	Eric Swalwell - <i>Governor of California</i>
Kristi Noem - <i>Secretary of Homeland Security</i>	Kathy Hochul - <i>Governor of New York</i>
Stephen Miller - <i>Advisor on Homeland Security & Deputy Chief of Staff</i>	JB Pritzker - <i>Governor of Illinois</i>
Marco Rubio - <i>Secretary of State</i>	Amy Klobuchar - <i>Governor of Minnesota</i>
Tulsi Gabbard - <i>Director of National Intelligence</i>	Josh Shapiro - <i>Governor of Pennsylvania</i>
Kash Patel - <i>Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)</i>	Barack Obama - <i>Special Envoy for the Democratic Alliances</i>
Byron Donalds - <i>Governor of Florida</i>	Bernie Sanders - <i>Senator from Vermont</i>
Greg Abbott - <i>Governor of Texas</i>	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez - <i>House Representative for New York</i>
Lisa Murkowski - <i>Governor of Alaska</i>	Zohran Mamdani - <i>Mayor of New York</i>
Elon Musk - <i>CEO of Tesla</i>	Michael Bloomberg - <i>Owner of Bloomberg LP</i>

Key Non-Playable Characters

In our Crisis, we will also have Non-Playable Characters (NPCs) for delegates to interact with. They will be controlled by the Backroom. These characters include:

Other State Governors

For more information on them, see Appendix 3.



Vladimir Putin - President of Russia

Vladimir Putin is the President of Russia and has been in the Kremlin since 2012 (Ray, 2018). The former KGB officer turned politician has essentially centralised all power in him, such as tremendous grip on mass media and the Internet, and state control of an estimated 70% of the Russian economy (Ray, 2018).

Generally, Russia and the United States are antagonistic to one another, with tensions beginning all the way back in 1945 with the superpower conflict between the US and then-USSR (Dorau, 2016). With Putin's assertive and aggressive foreign policy, namely in Crimea and Ukraine, it has caused much diplomatic isolation initiated by the US and its allies like NATO (Dorau, 2016). However, Trump's stance on Russia and Putin is relatively soft compared to his counterparts, and Putin has capitalised on this greatly such as with the initial peace settlements regarding Ukraine in 2025 (Harding, 2025). Seeing the US in disarray and civil war, it gives Russia the opportunity to return back to superpower status. Equally, he is friendly and warm towards Trump so, by association, he is friendly towards Vance.

Xi Jinping - President of the People's Republic of China

Xi Jinping is the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party and President of the People's Republic of China since 2012 and 2013 respectively (Albert, 2018).

With China's rise as a major economic, technological, and political player on the world stage in the 21st century, it challenged the US' supposed global dominant position, putting the two nations in a state of competition best demonstrated by their trade war beginning in 2018 (Zhang, 2018). Though the trade war began and was heavily pushed by Trump in his first administration, during his second administration Trump took a softer stance and negotiated a sort of truce with Xi Jinping (Czin et al., 2025). Xi Jinping, however, is very much 'China-first', so he will always seek to push the US towards negotiating deals favourable to Beijing.

Seeing the US in a state of civil war, it has allowed China to really dominate world trade almost unopposed, which Xi Jinping is admittedly very pleased about. Regarding the future of the US, he ideally would like to see a US ran by a very pro-China or, at least, China-friendly leader.

Zack Polanski - Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Seeing his unpopularity skyrocketing, Sir Keir Starmer of the Labour Party called for a snap election in 2028. On results day, an entirely new regime took over the UK. Elections for the new Prime Minister were now between the Reform and the Green Party. After



much lobbying and new youth involvement in support of the Green Party, Zack Polanski was elected as the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. His party's views on the United State's civil wars are clear; he supports democratic freedom of expression and wishes to see a United States that is more socially progressive, thus supporting the Democratic Alliances.

Jordan Bardella - President of France

After Marine Le Pen's inability to run for the 2027 presidential elections due to her awaiting trial (Elslander, 2025), Jordan Bardella of the *Rassemblement national* (RN, or National Rally in English) took over the campaign. With surprisingly overwhelming support due to the rise of the right-wing forces in France, he won the 2027 elections and thus became the first extreme right president under the Fifth Republic. His stance regarding the US civil war is clear; he is a strong supporter of the Save America War cabinet and refuses to cooperate with the Democratic party as he believes they are not the rightfully elected leaders, subscribing to the election fraud allegations.



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Appendices

Appendix 1 - PVI of each State

This will be the starting PVI of each State for our Crisis. This is based on the 2020 2024 Elections' PVI statistics, however, some States' PVI have been changed (highlighted in bold) to better reflect the events that have occurred prior to our starting date of May 2029.

The original PVI based on the 2020 and 2024 Elections can be found in this link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cook_Partisan_Voting_Index.

<i>State</i>	<i>PVI</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>PVI</i>
Alabama	R+15	Montana	R+10
Alaska	R+6	Nebraska	R+10
Arizona	EVEN	Nevada	EVEN
Arkansas	R+15	New Hampshire	D+2
California	D+12	New Jersey	D+4
Colorado	D+6	New Mexico	D+4
Connecticut	D+8	New York	D+11
Delaware	D+8	North Carolina	EVEN
Florida	R+11	North Dakota	R+18
Georgia	D+2	Ohio	R+5
Hawaii	D+13	Oklahoma	R+17
Idaho	R+18	Oregon	D+8
Illinois	D+6	Pennsylvania	D+2
Indiana	R+9	Rhode Island	D+8
Iowa	R+6	South Carolina	R+8
Kansas	R+8	South Dakota	R+15
Kentucky	R+15	Tennessee	R+14
Louisiana	R+11	Texas	R+6
Maine	D+4	Utah	R+11



Maryland	D+15
Massachusetts	D+14
Michigan	EVEN
Minnesota	D+3
Mississippi	R+11
Missouri	R+9

Vermont	D+17
Virginia	D+3
Washington	D+10
West Virginia	R+21
Wisconsin	EVEN
Wyoming	R+23

Washington, D.C.	PVI: D+10
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Appendix 2 - The Election Results of the 2028 Presidential Election

This table shows the number of Electoral Votes won by each Presidential candidate in the 2028 Presidential Election. In order to win the Presidency, a candidate must secure 270 Electoral Votes (National Archives, 2024).

<i>JD Vance</i>	
States	Electoral Vote
Alabama	9
Alaska	3
Arizona	11
Arkansas	6
Florida	30
Idaho	4
Indiana	11
Iowa	6
Kansas	6
Kentucky	8
Louisiana	8
Mississippi	6
Missouri	10

<i>Gavin Newsom</i>	
States	Electoral Vote
California	54
Colorado	10
Connecticut	7
Delaware	3
Georgia	16
Hawaii	4
Illinois	19
Maine	4
Maryland	10
Massachusetts	11
Michigan	15
Minnesota	10
New Hampshire	4



Montana	4
Nebraska	5
Nevada	6
North Carolina	16
North Dakota	3
Ohio	17
Oklahoma	7
South Carolina	9
South Dakota	3
Tennessee	11
Texas	40
Utah	6
West Virginia	4
Wyoming	3
Total	252

New Jersey	14
New Mexico	5
New York	28
Oregon	8
Pennsylvania	19
Rhode Island	4
Vermont	3
Virginia	13
Washington	12
Wisconsin	10
Washington, D.C.	3
Total	286

Appendix 3 - List of Governors in 2029

This table shows the Governors and their party affiliation (which is denoted as either (D) for Democrat or (R) for Republican). Note that a Governor’s party affiliation does not always align with their State’s affiliation.

State	PVI	Governor
Alabama	R+15	Tommy Tuberville (R)
Alaska	R+6	Lisa Murkowski (R)
Arizona	EVEN	Katie Hobbs (D)
Arkansas	R+15	Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R)
California	D+12	Eric Swalwell (D)
Colorado	D+6	Michael Bennet

State	PVI	Governor
Montana	R+10	Greg Gianforte (R)
Nebraska	R+10	Jim Pellen (R)
Nevada	EVEN	Joe Lombardo (R)
New Hampshire	D+2	Kelly Ayotte (R)
New Jersey	D+4	Mikie Sherrill (D)
New Mexico	D+4	Deb Haaland (D)



		(D)
Connecticut	D+8	Ned Lamont (D)
Delaware	D+8	Matt Meyer (D)
Florida	R+11	Byron Donalds (R)
Georgia	D+2	Keisha Bottoms (D)
Hawaii	D+13	Josh Green (D)
Idaho	R+18	Brad Little (R)
Illinois	D+6	JB Pritzker (D)
Indiana	R+9	Mike Braun (R)
Iowa	R+6	Rob Sand (D)
Kansas	R+8	Jeff Colyer (R)
Kentucky	R+15	Jacqueline Coleman (D)
Louisiana	R+11	Jeff Landry (R)
Maine	D+4	Nirav Shah (D)
Maryland	D+15	Wes Moore (D)
Massachusetts	D+14	Maura Healey (D)
Michigan	EVEN	Jocelyn Benson (D)
Minnesota	D+3	Amy Klobuchar (D)
Mississippi	R+11	Andy Gipson (R)
Missouri	R+9	Mike Kehoe (R)

New York	D+11	Kathy Hochul (D)
North Carolina	EVEN	Josh Stein (D)
North Dakota	R+18	Kelly Armstrong (R)
Ohio	R+5	Vivek Ramaswamy (R)
Oklahoma	R+17	Gentner Drummond (R)
Oregon	D+8	Tina Kotek (D)
Pennsylvania	D+2	Josh Shapiro (D)
Rhode Island	D+8	Helena Foulkes (D)
South Carolina	R+8	Pamela Evette (R)
South Dakota	R+15	Dusty Johnson (R)
Tennessee	R+14	Marsha Blackburn (R)
Texas	R+6	Greg Abbott (R)
Utah	R+11	Spencer Cox (R)
Vermont	D+17	Phil Scott (R)
Virginia	D+3	Abigail Spanberger (D)
Washington	D+10	Bob Ferguson (D)
West Virginia	R+21	Patrick Morrisey (R)
Wisconsin	EVEN	Mandella Barnes (D)
Wyoming	R+23	Megan Degenfelder (R)