

*Saint Ignatius College Prep*

# ***SIMUN XVI***

*Saint Ignatius Model United Nations*



*Chicago, IL*

*November 4, 2017*

## **A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

¡Bienvenidos! My name is Tomas Turriff-Ortega, and I am extremely excited to be your chair for the Spanish side of the JCC Spanish Expeditions committee at SIMUN XVI this November. I am a senior at Saint Ignatius College Prep, and this is my fourth year involved in MUN. I am a two year SIMUN Executive Board member and am honored to be a part of the SIMUN XVI staff. I love music, play a wide array of sports from soccer to baseball and enjoy spending time with friends inside and outside of Model UN conferences. I have truly had great experiences at the past conferences I have attended, most notably WUMUNS, ILMUNC, EAGLEMUNC, NAIMUN and many more high school level conferences. I understand that because this is a training conference, some of the delegates will be walking into committee for the first time so I would like sincerely reach out and say that if any of you have questions about the topic, how committee runs, SIMUN XVI, Ignatius, or anything else, I would be happy to answer them. I want to encourage the newer delegates to speak up because that is the first step in beginning to appreciate all that MUN offers and simultaneously get better in the process. The Dias is completely open to any questions or concerns, just let us know. In addition, for those of you that are more experienced “MUNers” please lend a hand to those that might be struggling more.

As chair of the Spanish committee I will be acting as Hernán Cortés, the leader of the Spanish expedition into Mexico and head of the fight against the

Aztec Empire. We will start committee in April 1519, with the landing of Cortés' expedition at modern day Veracruz. Please remember as a historical committee, all events happening before the start date are applicable to this committee, but any



after the start date, will not be taken into account. As delegates, your actions will essentially change the course of history for the future of Mexico. As conquistadors fighting for the Spanish Crown, our end goal will be to overthrow the oppressive Aztec regime and establish the first mainland colony for the glory of not only King Charles, but also for each and everyone of us.

Throughout the course of committee, I will be searching for delegates that work with others while also staying true to their person's position. I cannot stress this point enough; deviating completely from your position to make yourself look good is not the answer. Having said that, stubbornly refusing to compromise will not get you anywhere either. Find a balance. Furthermore, find ways to convey your thoughts and solve problems in a realistic, efficient, and logical manner. As a reminder, our committee will have a Crisis staff so it is recommended that you cooperate with Crisis through notes. Finally, at some point during committee the Dias will put a limit on working papers/resolutions thus we will want you to merge

papers. Let us embark on this journey for the greatness of New Spain and the legacies we all leave behind!

Your Chair,

Tomas Turriff-Ortega

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## LETTER FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER

Dear Delegates,

My name is Adam Hidad, and I will be your political officer for this committee. Some things I enjoy are playing basketball, traveling, learning, and trying new things. I am a rising senior, and this will be my third year doing Model UN. Over my three years in Model UN, I've been to many conferences, and I have gained a lot of experience. I enjoy Model UN because it challenges me to solve current and past issues of our world. In preparation for this conference, I would

expect that you complete thorough research on your position, and become confident with your stance on the topic. In committee, one point I would stress more than anything is, speak with concern to the topic and progressively. Do not be stagnant on one topic or reword everything the previous speaker said. Overall, I wish to see a lot of dynamic debating and witness the committee come up with a strategy to win the war. ¡Viva Los Españoles! If you wish to contact me concerning any reason about the conference, please email me at [adam.hidad@students.ignatius.org](mailto:adam.hidad@students.ignatius.org).

Your Political Officer,

Adam Hidad

## **BACKGROUND ON THE SPANISH**

With the conclusion the Reconquista of Spain in 1492, the unified Iberian peninsula under the reign of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella was now able to look outward for expansion and prosperity. This same year, Columbus landed in San Salvador (the Bahamas) beginning the Columbian age of European conquest. The discovery of the Americas opened the Spanish Empire to unprecedented levels of growth, influence, power and riches in the colonies and at home with resources being shipped out of the colonies and brought back to the throne for trade and reserves. In the span of a decade, Spain became the leading naval power, richest

kingdom in Europe, and wielded control over Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, and their corresponding colonies around the globe.

Following the initial establishments of island colonies in the Caribbean by the Columbian expeditions, the Crown of Spain based their Viceroyalty in Cuba. The governor of Cuba, “*el adelantado*,” was Diego Velazquez de Cuellar. He employed Hernan Cortés to lead a mainland expedition to Mexico in an effort to establish relations with the natives with the eventual purpose of establishing a colony in Mexico. However, this one was not the first expedition to Mexico. In 1517, Francisco de Córdoba lead an expedition to the province of Yucatan. Although unsuccessful in the permanent founding of a trading colony, important sea routes and knowledge of the Aztec empire was acquired on this trip. Another journey into Mexico by Juan Grivalja lead further up the coast allowing Cortes’ men to sail directly to Veracruz from Cuba.

In January of 1519, three months before Cortes’ expedition was to sail out, he became the political rival to the Velazquez de Cuéllar. The governor believed



El Adelantado DON DIEGO VELASQUES de Cuellar Autor del descubrimiento de nueva España AllPosters

correctly that whoever would be the one to establish the first mainland colony in the Americas would receive great fame, riches and power. Putting Cortes in that role would give him the opportunity to make his own viceroyalty for the Crown and therefore independent from the

rule of Cuba. “*El adelantado*” tried to strip Cortes of as much power as possible, making sure he would no longer be head of the expedition to the mainland. However, in doing so, it pushed many to ally with Cortes and in no time his “mutinous” expeditionary force set sail for the eastern coast of the Yucatán Peninsula.

In response to these actions, Cuéllar sent his own force to bring back Cortes to have him tried under Cuba’s jurisdiction before Cortes tried to establish his own viceroyalty in Mexico. Keep in mind this internal conflict is still going on when Cortes’ men arrive in Veracruz.



Ultimately, this body will report its actions to the Crown, our majesty his most holiness Charles V. While Velazquez de Cuellar and Hernan Cortes may hold the regional control, the King gets the last say on decisions of power struggles such as this internal conflict. Having said that, there will be occasional correspondence between the King and this committee on our actions collectively. This timeline ends with the arrival of Cortes’ force on the eastern Gulf Coast of Mexico (modern-day Veracruz) on April 21, 1519, and is where our committee will begin.

## BACKGROUND ON THE AZTECS

Under the recent ascension to the throne of Moctezuma II in 1503, the Aztec empire has never been stronger. It rules over 25 million people in its current form and it keeps on expanding outward, specifically to the south. However, in doing so



it has also exposed certain flaws and holds on power that the Aztecs irrefutably once controlled. In order to finance these expensive conquests

of smaller states,

Mocetzuma has cracked down on mandatory tributes to Tenochtitlan from conquered neighboring states. The response of these states has been full out rebellion, causing a perpetual state of turmoil and unrest known as flower wars. The most noteworthy rejection of Aztec authority has been the Confederacy of Tlaxcala so far. They have bravely fought off Moctezuma's advances with their 80,000 warrior force, but they will not hold out forever.

Despite seeds of rebellion, the Triple Alliance get's stronger every day. They are an unmatched military presence, unlike anything our Spanish forces have ever encountered before in the New World. We may have the advantage of weaponry

and skills, but we are in unknown land, fighting a force we know very little about. The Aztecs are not to be taken lightly and will not rest until this conflict is resolved by any means necessary. We must be willing to do what is necessary for the greater glory of the Spanish Crown, because our opponents will have no issue doing whatever they believe in to remain in control of their lands.

## QUESTIONS to CONSIDER

*What are my goals for this committee session?*

*Who should I be working with in committee?*

*How does my position's agenda overlap with the agenda of the expedition?*

*How can I direct my points made in my position paper into real life arguments in committee?*

## HELPFUL LINKS

**<http://www.spanishwars.net/16th-century-conquest-of-the-aztec-empire-partI.html>**

**<http://www.spanishwars.net/16th-century-conquest-of-the-aztec-empire-partII.html>**

**[http://www.pbs.org/conquistadors/cortes/cortes\\_d00.html](http://www.pbs.org/conquistadors/cortes/cortes_d00.html)**

## POSITIONS

Although this Spanish side of the JCC shares the same goal of establishing a mainland colony in Mexico, many of these positions hold opposing views on how to do so. In addition, be aware of internal conflicts inside of the committee itself, just as the Aztec side will have its own internal struggles. Finally, this list of positions just gives a short description of each delegate in the committee. Specific personal powers will be distributed on the day of the conference.

1. **Xicotencatl the Younger** - although initially against the Spanish conquistador forces, he recognizes the Spanish are the lesser of two evils compared to the Aztecs. He has full control of the Tlaxcallan forces in aiding Cortes.
2. **Maxicatl of Ocotelolco** - wields influence and control over the large economic resources of Tlaxcala.
3. **Tlacochealcatl of Cempoala** - close allies and friends of Cortes and his men. He controls the entirety of Cempoala's military forces.
4. **Pánfilo de Narváez** - extremely loyal to the Crown and Velazquez de Cuellar, but opportunistic when need be. As the officially appointed governor of Mexico, he seeks to find and return Cortes to Cuba to be tried. He controls a smaller retrieval force with the purpose of intercepting Cortes and bringing him back.
5. **Gonzalo de Sandoval** - Cortes' right hand man. Has direct control of one-fourth of Cortes' men. Oversees all operations of new establishments and fortifications.

6. **Pedro de Alvarado** - Cortes' first captain. Considered second in command in the absence of Cortes. Individually controls one-fourth of Cortes' forces and one of eleven fleets.
7. **Cristobal de Olid** - quartermaster of the expedition. Skilled navigator and in command of one-fourth of Cortes' men.
8. **Diego de Ordaz** - true explorer of the unknown and skilled writer in persuading factions to join the Aztec resistance. Has no official opinion in the struggle between Diego Velazquez and Cortes, but leans more towards Velazquez
9. **Jeronimo de Aguilar** - rescued by Cortes at Conzumel and serves as an important translator for diplomatic negotiations.
10. **Malinali "La Malinche"** - given to Cortes as a gift upon his arrival in Tabasco. Can communicate in Nahuatl, Spanish, and Mayan. Skilled negotiator and interpreter for diplomatic meetings.
11. **Bernal Díaz del Castillo** - recounter of the events and actions of the expedition for Spanish audiences and the Crown.
12. **Alonso Hernández Portocarrero** - messenger of the expedition in Mexico. Relates communications across Mexico and back to Spain.
13. **Francisco de Montejo "El Adelantado"** - informer of the Spanish courts of the actions of the expedition. Notable for his diplomatic connections and supporters in Spain and around Europe.

14. **Juan Díaz** - chaplain of the expedition. Conducted the desires of the Church during the expedition and very influential in Cortes' decisions.

15. **Andrés de Tapia** - good friend and advisor of Cortes' and wanted to be on the expedition so much, he sailed after Cortes to the island of Cozumel to join the purpose on the conquest.

16. **Alonso de Avila** - another seasoned veteran of previous expeditions to Mexico and Yucatan. Even though he is not as close with Cortes, Cortes trusts his ability in battle and trusts him to protect all the finances of the expedition. He is in charge of the "royal fifth" to the Crown.

17. **Juan Velazquez de Leon** - kinsman of Diego Velazquez and is not sure where his loyalties lie yet. Still, important commander for Cortes' armies.

18. **Diego Velazquez de Cuéllar** - governor of the Viceroyalty of Cuba and adamant political opponent to Cortes. Although he wishes to see a mainland colony established for the Crown, he wants Cortes to be removed from power and appoint himself governor of Mexico to gain the fame, riches and glory that come with the title.