Dear Delegates and Moderators,

Welcome to the French Committee for Public Safety! In a few short months, delegates will join other members of the committee to discuss and respond to the issues facing the French Republic.

The document included here is a ‘topic abstract’ for the French Committee for Public Safety at NAIMUN LIII. Here, you will find information and avenues for further research on the topics we will be discussing during the conference.

The intent of this abstract is so that you may begin research and have an understanding of the material that will be discussed in this committee before a full background guide is released. Use these abstracts to help you focus on understanding the issues at play in each topic and the ways in which they may interact with the programs and goals of the committee.

We hope to assist you in any way possible in the lead-up to NAIMUN, so if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the Chair and Crisis Manager of the French Committee for Public Safety—Luis Joy and Katie Haynes—directly at lrj24@georgetown.edu or cmh278@georgetown.edu.

Best,
Aaron and Arnosh

Aaron Wen
Secretary General

Arnosh Keswani
Director General
The old order is no more. Our glorious revolution marches ever onward. We have cast aside the feudal lords, dissolved the archaic provincial system, and all men now emerge into the dawn of a new era. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen has enshrined forever the liberties due to each common man but we, the Committee for Public Safety, have been tasked by the National Convention to uphold the Republic by any means necessary. For threats to our security abound and indeed, my friends, they come from within. Conspiracies and subterfuge can be found around every corner. The Catholic Church - the Second Estate - conspires with monarchs against us; and, though some priests are for us, the upper echelons of the clergy are opposed to our Republic’s success. Revolts have sprung up on the outskirts of the Republic and the food shortages caused by dissent in the countryside are causing our once-magnificent Paris to starve.

We can save this Republic, my brothers. But there is not a man among us who can do it on his own. This Committee must make crucial decisions between liberty and security, science and faith, progress and passivity, and, ultimately, between success and failure. The domestic considerations of this Committee will ask you how to temper the Republic’s radical ideals with the day-to-day maintenance of the peace. You will be forced to ferret out spies in our government, control the markets and the message, and work together to keep our people safe and free.

… and Threats Abroad
The glorious Revolution of 1789 has unsettled all of France’s European neighbors, from Portugal to Russia. The revolutionary ideals we espouse have threatened the cozy ancien régime who despise the French Republic and the values for which it stands - freedom from tyranny, justice, and the empowerment of the common man. In 1792, after years of hostility, we declared war on Austria and Prussia, commencing the European sphere of the wider French Revolution - one which we hope will ignite the fires of revolution across the continent. Our early victories gave the National Convention the necessary impetus to rid ourselves of the French monarchy and lop off the heads of the timid King Louis XVI and his extravagant Queen, Marie Antoinette – the sister of the Austrian and Holy Roman Emperor, Leopold II. In the year 1793, our great war continues, but trouble brews as the dastardly United Kingdom considers entering the war against the French Republic, and - with our armies now marching across the European continent - we must be wary of an attack from across the Channel.
The fate of the French Revolution will be decided at the home front and on the road. The reactions of Europe’s old kingdoms will largely depend on the policies enacted by this Committee. Ultimately, this body will have to decide if the French Revolution is a phenomenon particular to the French historical experience, or if it’s a universal political model that can spread across the whole map of the Europe – and the world. This aspect of the committee will be a contest of diplomacy and war in which all delegates will have to chart the best path for the survival of the French Republic.
Topic Abstract: French Committee for Public Safety

Resources for Further Research

- Attempts to offer an historical explanation for the process by which the French Revolution which espoused peace and the equality of men gave way to the Reign of Terror

- Examines the social and cultural policies of the Revolution with a focus on understanding why so much power was handed over to the CPS and what this transfer of power meant for the future of France

- Gives a brief survey of the French monarchy and then explores in depth the development of the National Convention and the CPS

- Though on face a biography of Napoleon the man, in this book Roberts offers a description of the Revolutionary Wars and an in depth analysis of the French military at the time of the new Republic.

- Examines the political and military tensions in Europe which spiraled into the Revolutionary Wars in Europe.