

Historical Overview of the Nations Involved in the World Foreign Policy Simulation

Grand War

Societal and political differences among the nations of the world came to a head when Octavia, led by Chancellor Paul Pumba, launched an unprovoked attack on the Robespierre Islands in December of 1935. Forcing surrender from the already unstable government of these oil-rich islands, Octavia claimed control of the nation in a few short days. Washingtonia, led by President Charles Johnson, perceived Octavia's attack on the Islands as a dictator's attack against democracy, and declared war against Octavia.

The Napoleonic States, under Premier Keckcheklin, joined the side of Washingtonia a few days later, condemning Octavia's unprovoked attacking of a non-hostile nation. When Hu Sudoku, leader of Marxistan, came to Octavia's aid, pledging support and alliance, the world's superpowers began waging all-out war on each other. The first successful air raids by Washingtonia and the Napoleonic States against Octavia's mainland were countered by repeated naval offensives from Port Pye.

As the battle raged on, Ghandiland remained militarily and politically neutral, becoming a haven for refugees and gaining a reputation as a center for international banking and commerce.

After a week-long air raid by the Napoleonic States, Octavia's Port Pye fell in 1943. Days later, Octavia and Marxistan officially surrendered under the Treaty of Dove Rapids. Under this treaty, the Robespierre Islands were given to Washingtonia and the Napoleonic States to govern.

Post-Grand War

After Octavia's defeat in the Grand War, the nation struck out diplomatically against Marxistan, claiming their ally had betrayed them to Washingtonia during the war. Rebelling, Octavia became a rogue nation, governed by a militant dictator.

Due to political differences, Washingtonia and the Napoleonic States could not decide on a proper course of action for dividing the islands. These differences eventually led to the Chilly War, a forty-year period of high tensions between these nations, peppered with occasional top-secret military offenses. When nuclear war was narrowly avoided in 1987, Washingtonia and the Napoleonic States settled their differences in the Treaty of Pomme De Terre, which officially granted sovereignty to the Robespierre Islands.

Recent History of Robespierre Islands

Formerly a satellite nation of Octavia, the Robespierre Islands were occupied by Washingtonia during the course of the Grand War. In stages over the next dozen years, The Robespierre Islands attained their independence as a kingdom in 1956. A "republic" was proclaimed in 1987, but in actuality a series of strongmen ruled the country until 2003. In early March 2003, a successful coup led by Simoa Djibuti, leader of the Patriots for a New World (PNW), a militant faction popular among the working man, caused the nation to erupt in civil war. After drawing international attention with the genocide of more than 600,000 citizens, Djibuti was assassinated by what many deemed a Washingtonia-led task force. Under the chaos of his public death, the PNW lost military clout and faded into the various minority parties vying for control of the islands. Systematic anarchy has ensued since this event.

Government

Former republic, before civil war erupted and anarchy spread throughout the islands. The country has been a long-time follower of the Truth religion.

Economy

Decreasing insurgent attacks and an improving security environment in many parts of the country are helping to spur economic activity. The Islands' economy is dominated by the oil sector, which has traditionally provided over 90% of foreign exchange earnings. Total government revenues have benefited from high oil prices in recent years; however, revenues have declined significantly since the oil price drop in fall 2008. The Islands are making some progress in building the institutions needed to implement economic policy. Provincial Councils are also using their own budgets to promote and facilitate investment at the local level, though little success has been achieved due to their failing unification. Reducing corruption and implementing structural reforms, such as bank restructuring and developing the private sector, will be key to the Islands' economic success.