




World Politics Simulations

Policy Formation

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When using this presentation, please cite: Ben-Yehuda Hemda, Luba Levin-Banchik, and Chanan Naveh. 2015.
World Politics Simulations in a Global Information Age. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

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- ❖ Policy formation involves decision-making and teamwork among participants *within* political and media teams
 - ❖ It requires teammates to *discuss and decide* on their collective actor profile, values, goals and policy plan
 - ❖ Policy formation is essential for *transforming* individuals into a team with a *coherent policy*



Policy Formation Guidelines

1. Get familiar
 2. Study
 3. Participate in policy formation
 4. Follow instructions
- 

1.1 Get Familiar

- ❖ Read the *initial scenario* and assess its positive and negative meanings from the perspective of your
Team
Character
- ❖ Study the empirical setting, fictional, historical or current
- ❖ Look for historical analogies as a useful way to get familiar with the situation at hand

1.2 Get Familiar

2014 Arab-Israel Conflict Hybrid Simulation

Middle East Tribune

No. 1
January 20, 2014

Palestinian Abbas to speak at the Israel Knesset

Kerry: The Leaders Need to Take Bold Decision

Washington. The talks between the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas have reached a critical point after intensive negotiations led by US Secretary of State John Kerry which included more than ten visits to the Middle East and endless rounds of talks in Jerusalem and Ramallah. Kerry praised the willingness of both leaders to confront core issues and take bold decisions towards compromise.

Secret Talks in Spain

Unofficial sources in Jerusalem and Ramallah said that “Oslo style” talks were being held between Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman and the Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat in Toledo, Spain. According to these sources, the Toledo talks are held under the auspices of Catherine Ashton, the European Union Foreign Affairs High Representative. The borders of Palestine, the status of Jerusalem and the Jordan valley, as well as the Israeli settlements and the Palestinian refugee problem are among the core issues considered by the parties.

Israel to recognize independent Palestine

Jerusalem and Ramallah Sources revealed that Israeli Foreign Minister Liberman is considering a proposal to recognize an independent Palestine by January 15, 2015. As part of the deal, Israel will support the acceptance of Palestine to the UN and pass a bill in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, to secure the status of Arabs in Israel as a minority with equal rights in a Jewish state. In return, President Abbas will formally recognize Israel as a Jewish state. The sources emphasized that to legitimize the agreement, President Abbas is planned to come to Jerusalem on March 25, 2014, to meet Israeli President Shimon Peres and to make an official visit to the Knesset.

EU officials and sources in Washington, Jerusalem and Ramallah refused to comment on the news.

ISA 2014 World Politics Simulation Project
Hemda Ben-Yehuda, Luba Levin-Banchik, Chanan Naveh

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. p. 72.

1.3 Get Familiar

2015 Hybrid Simulation of the 1938 Munich Crisis

The European Tribune

September 9, 1939 (January 23, 2015)

DEMONSTRATORS IN PRAGUE: "WE WANT HITLER"

The demonstrators protested the new "Language Law" establishing Czech as the only legal language in Czechoslovakia. The law was introduced in the Czech parliament and accepted two days ago.

The demonstrators in front of the Parliament in Prague shouted "We want Hitler", "Home into the Reich" and "*Ein Volk, Ein Reich Ein Führer*" (one people, one state, one leader). Most of the demonstrators were members of the SdP (Sudetendeutsche Partei – Sudeten German Party), a party with strong ties to Nazi Germany.

The Czech police confronted the demonstrators, claiming that the demonstrations are illegal and are jeopardizing Czech democracy. BBC reports quoting anonymous sources said that 3 demonstrators were killed and 82 were arrested.

GERMAN LEADERS: WE WILL REACT BY FORCE

Berlin: Field Marshal Hermann Göring denounced Czechoslovakia in a speech yesterday in the Reichstag. He claimed that the Czech government violated the rights of Germans and other minorities.

German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop announced that Germany cannot stand up with the depression of fellow Germans and will correct the situation by any means available, "even by force if necessary".

The Last Minute

Paris, London, Moscow and Washington are alarmed by the German declaration. Reporters: "Is Europe once again on the brink of war?"

Pro-German Demonstrations in Sudetenland

Sporadic demonstrations of ethnic Germans in the German populated region of Sudetenland. The demonstrators protested against the new law and demanded greater autonomy for the region.

Some reports have actually claimed that SdP members were reinforced by SA thugs, coming from Germany, whose main purpose was to create provocations, justifying German intervention in Czechoslovakia's internal affairs.

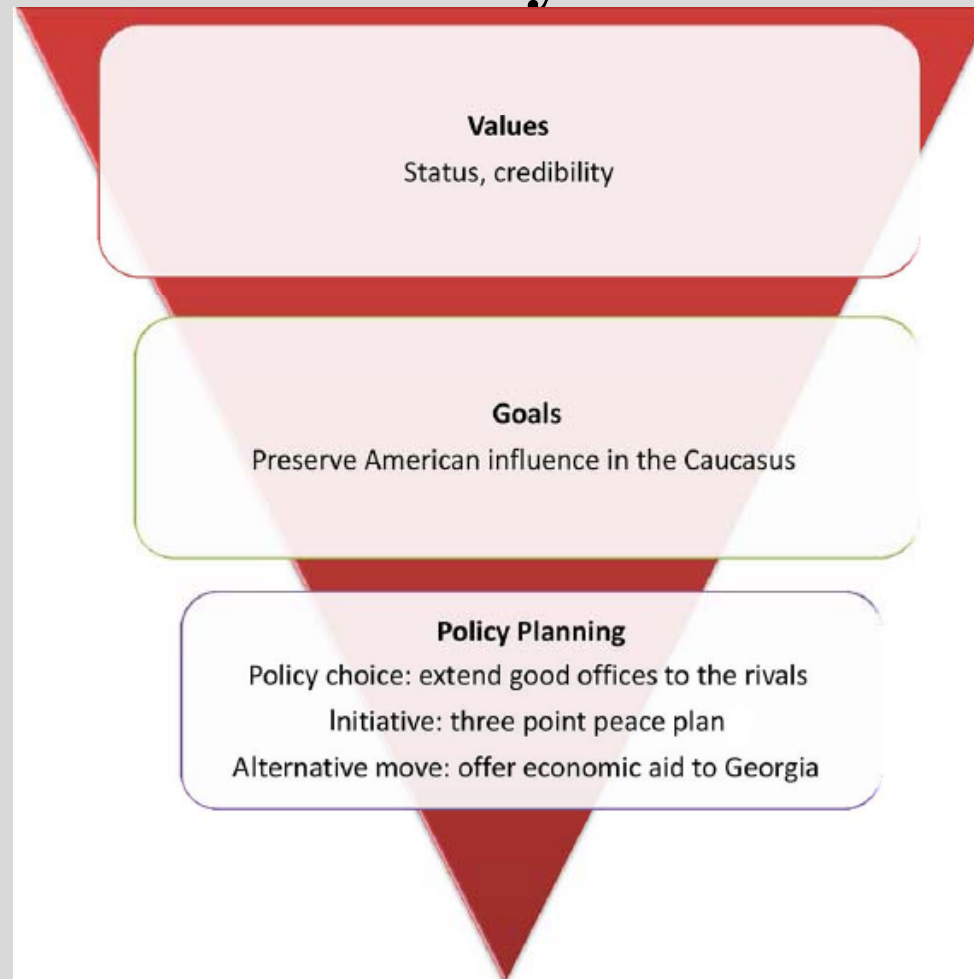
Commentary

Professor Sergey Kononov Dean of Slavonic Studies at Oxford University believes the law is problematic. "Today 3.5 million Germans live in Czechoslovakia constituting 35%, They will not accept it and will try to get support from Herr Hitler's Germany".

2.1 Study

- ❖ Integrate your knowledge on the actor and character with details provided in the scenario
- ❖ Consider updates for your team's values, goals and policy plans in light of the scenario

Gradual Policy Formation



Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. p. 81

2.2 Policy Formation: Discuss and Decide

- ❖ Core actor attributes
- ❖ Actor values and goals
- ❖ Policy plans and initiatives

2.3 Actor Profile

- ❖ Transform individually prepared *actor portfolio* and all *character biographies* into a single file
- ❖ Share, compare, and discuss findings with your teammates
- ❖ Reach consensus on relevant information

2.4 Actor Values

- ❖ Core beliefs that:
 - Shape the actor's worldview
 - Include ideological and normative precepts
 - Guide actors
 - Are rarely forsaken
- ❖ Identify your actor's values
- ❖ Rank them
- ❖ Discuss the relationships between them

2.5 Actor Goals

- ❖ Operational stakes:
 - An actor wants to accomplish
 - Require allocation of resources
 - Stem from core values
 - Related to events in the scenario
- ❖ Clarify your actor's goals
- ❖ Rank them
- ❖ Discuss the relationship between them

2.6 Actor Policy Plans and Initiatives

❖ *Policy Plans*

Most suitable policy measures and initiatives

Relate to each of the goals

Reflect the perspective of your team

❖ *Initiatives*

A document with offers and/or threats

Translate your team's decisions into operational acts

❖ *Alternative Moves*

A second-best choice to reach team's goals

3.1 Participate in Policy Formation

Each team member should

- ❖ Initiate a dialogue with teammates and comment on their remarks
- ❖ Evaluate and argue with others on their findings and suggestions
- ❖ Add resources and integrate diverse perspectives

A joint team position is reached by a vote or by the decision of the team leader

3.2 Face-to-Face Policy Formation

Policy Formation in the 2013 Gulf Nuclear Simulation



❖ Make sure to record discussions for later use!

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. pp. 77-79

3.3 Cyber Policy Formation

The Iranian team in the 2012 Middle East Cyber Simulation



The screenshot displays a social media feed with four posts. Each post includes a profile picture, a name, a title, a snippet of text, and interaction icons (likes, dislikes, and a 'Remove Preview' link).

- Post 1:** User: **Luba Sim** MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD, PRESIDENT. Text: "We can challenge the US team - http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content..."
- Post 2:** User: **Guy Zohar Sim**. Title: "Congress Pushes Iran Regime Change Over Diplomacy". Text: "Lawrence Wilkerson: Obama painting himself into a...". Source: "THEREALNEWS.COM | BY THE REAL NEWS NETWORK". Interaction: "6 hrs · Unlike · 3 · Remove Preview".
- Post 3:** User: **Guy Zohar Sim** SAEED JALILI, SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. Text: "So Iran is ready to talk? What shall we say? Any suggestions? <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/02/16/world/meast/iran-nuclear/>". Interaction: "6 hrs · Edited · Unlike · 3 · Remove Preview".
- Post 4:** User: **ChananSim Naveh**. Text: "Do you mean proposals for statements we should make? Maybe if we need to be more radical we should make a stronger statement about the Israeli threat and how we will defend ourselves." Interaction: "6 hrs · Unlike · 1".

❖ On social networks you can interact with teammates 24/7

3.4 Initiatives

German team initiative in the 1938 Munich Cyber simulation



Guy Zohar Sim Czechoslovakia is an antithesis to the Wilsonian concept of self-determination. On this basis, Germany demands an overall solution to the Czech problem, threatening Europe's stability. Please look at the map - it illustrates the solution and is nothing but fair to all minorities that fell under Czech Imperialism.

- * The German majority area of Sudetenland will be delivered to Germany.
- * Slovakia will be independent.
- * Hungarian minorities will be transferred to Hungary.
- * Poland will annex the polish town of Český Těšín and the surrounding area.
- * Areas with Czech majorities - Bohemia and Moravia - will remain independence under German patronage.



3.5 Media Management for Political Teams

- ❖ Plan a strategy toward the media
- ❖ Debate the public image your team wants to create
- ❖ Use the media to maximize goals
- ❖ Publish short press releases and get interviewed, incorporate “sound bites” to gain media coverage
- ❖ Beware of media manipulation

3.6 Policy Formation by Media Teams

- ❖ Discuss the products you will publish
- ❖ Plan the publication schedule and prepare for the media break as a prime time media session
- ❖ Initiate interviews with political leaders
- ❖ Take competing media teams into account to gain rating

Preparation of media products at this stage helps the team cope with time pressure and reporting challenges during intensive world politics negotiations

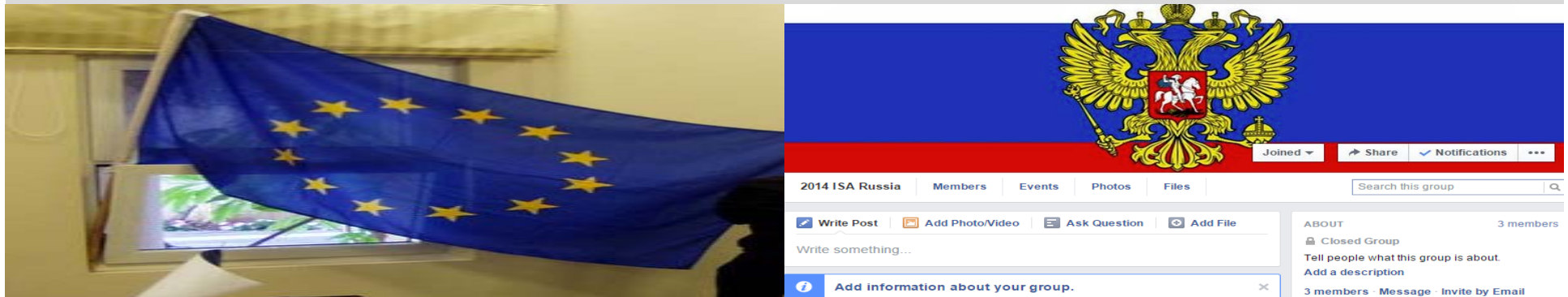
3.7 Atmosphere in Policy Formation

Authentic atmosphere

Enriches the simulation experience

Brings characters and teams to life

Use ethnocentric rhetoric



Decorate your team's space with national flags, maps, insignia and emblems

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. pp. 15, 77

4.1 Follow Instructions


- ❖ Abide to *simulation rules*
 1. Follow proper modes of conduct
 2. Adhere to assigned paradigms and theories
 3. Act according to details and logic of the empirical topic
 4. Get the consent of your educator for violent initiatives
 5. Adhere to team decisions when interacting with others
 6. Cease negotiations during the media break
 7. Use one primary platform for cyber activities
 8. Back up all communications
- ❖ Keep schedule in mind and hand assignments on time

Questions for Discussion

- ❖ Why is policy formation important?
- ❖ How can regime type influence policy formation?
- ❖ How does leadership affect intra-team decision-making?
- ❖ Are policy initiatives based on knowledge or intuition?
- ❖ Must the team agree on all policy measures?
- ❖ What are your expectations from allies and rivals?
- ❖ How can you use the media to promote your team's values, goals and plans?
- ❖ What happens when simulation rules are violated?



Key Concepts

- ❖ Policy formation
 - ❖ Initial scenario
 - ❖ Discuss and decide
 - ❖ Coherent policy
 - ❖ Teamwork
 - ❖ Values, goals, policy plans
 - ❖ Initiatives and alternative moves
 - ❖ Simulation atmosphere
 - ❖ Simulation rules
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Relevant Figures and Tables

- ❖ Figure 5.3. *Scenario Format: Middle East Tribune*, 2011 page 72
- ❖ Figure 5.4. *Scenario Format: Middle East Tribune*, 2014 page 72
- ❖ Figure 5.5. *Scenario Format: U.S. Intelligence Report*, page 73
- ❖ Figure 5.6. *Scenario Format: First Israeli News Release*, page 73
- ❖ Figure 5.7. *Iranian Policy Formation*, page 77
- ❖ Figure 5.8. *Initiatives in the Middle East Simulation*, page 78
- ❖ Figure 5.9. *Gradual Policy Formation*, page 81
- ❖ Figure 5.10. *Values and Policy*, page 83

- ❖ Table 5.2. *Policy Formation Instructions for Participants*, page 85

Available online at book's website under classroom resources