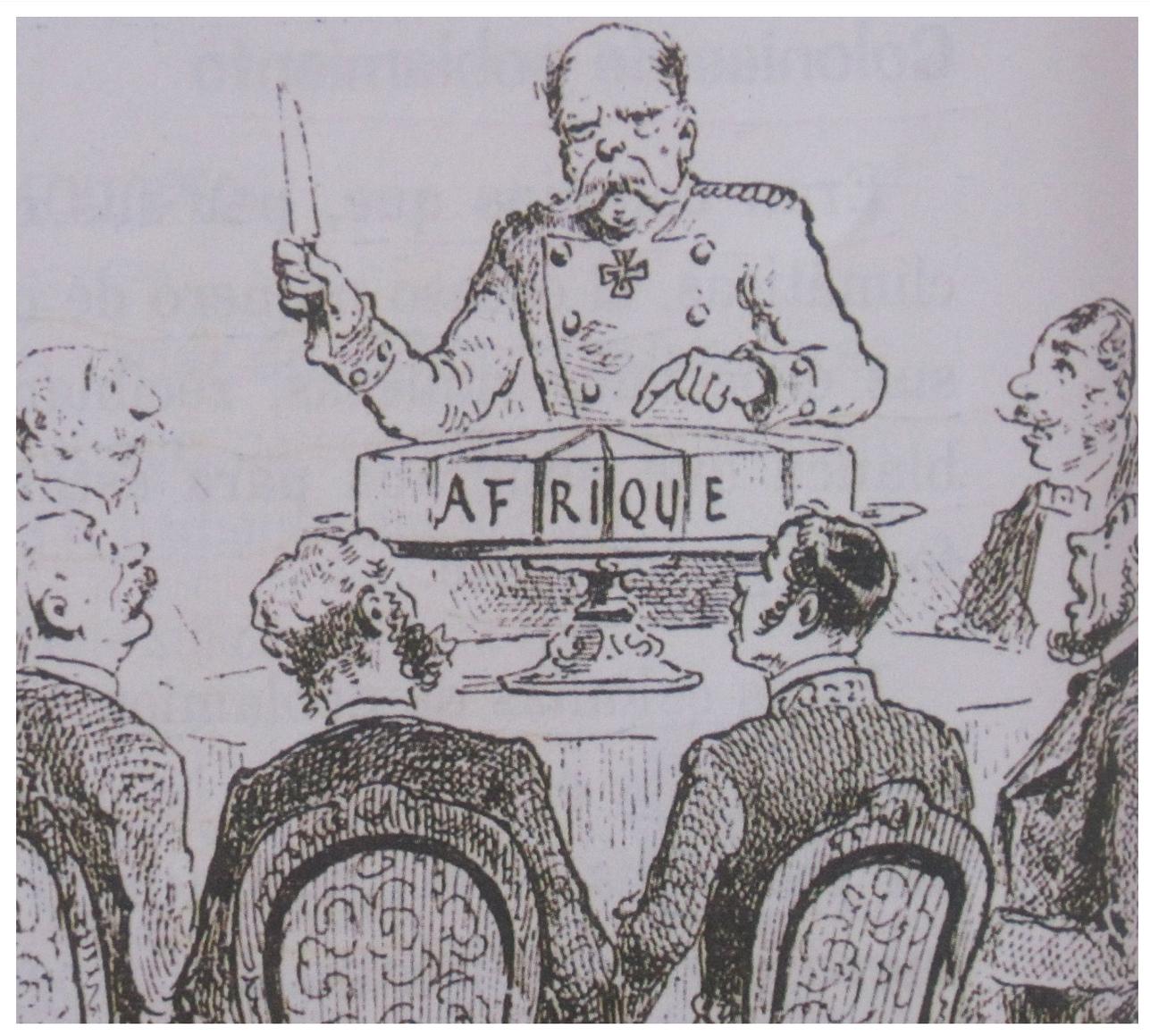


VIRGINIA MODEL UNITED NATIONS



THE BERLIN CONFERENCE

Chair: Kate Rutman
Crisis Director: Carolyn Ours

Dossier

The actual representatives at the Berlin Conference have been listed wherever possible. For two supplemental representatives, historical figures who may have logically fulfilled the role have been listed and marked with an asterisk. African representatives were obviously not at the historical conference of Berlin, but are historical figures. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Crisis Director or Chair with concerns, questions, or clarifications.

Paul von Hatzfeldt - Representative of the German Empire

Von Hatzfeldt presently serves as the head of the Foreign Office in Germany. He is very close and loyal to the German Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, which has contributed to his rise in rank in the foreign service. Von Bismarck and von Hatzfeldt both believe strongly that free trade is the key to economic success in Africa. They are concerned about the geopolitical rise of Great Britain as an imperial power and are hoping to prevent disruptions in the balance of power in Europe. Germany as a whole also supports French ambitions in Africa to divert their attention and strategy away from Europe. Germany has a particular interest in Cameroon, and Tanzania.

Baron Alphonse Chodron de Courcel - Representative of France

De Courcel is a career diplomat, serving as French Ambassador to the German Empire. He represents French interests in Africa, including recent de facto control over Tunisia. France hopes to formalize that control if possible. Furthermore, France is seeking control over the north bank of the Congo River and the trade benefits that ownership would provide. They are looking to check the power of Great Britain in the area while also defending their claims to Brazzaville, located in modern-day Republic of the Congo.

Sir Edward Malet - Representative of Great Britain

Sir Edward Malet was a career British Diplomat, who previously served as Consul-General in Egypt, where he supported administrative and financial reforms. However, he contributed to the British invasion of Egypt in 1882 by overstating the Khedive government's lack of control, prompting military intervention. He currently serves as Ambassador to the German Empire. Some British interests are averse to internationalization of the Niger, Britain's primary sphere of interest in Africa, but overall the potential commercial benefits of the conference outweighed these concerns.

Francois Auguste, Baron Lambermont - Representative of Belgium

Lambermont has been serving in the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for over 40 years by the start of the Berlin Conference. He, along with Baron de Courcel, served as joint reporters for the Conference and disseminated progress reports and releases and proceedings were underway. While King Leopold is ambitious in his pursuit of new territories, the Belgian people viewed expansion as risky and far preferred informal trade and a focus on South America and Russia. This conflict defines much of Lambermont's role at the Conference. Belgium and Leopold are focused on Congo and gaining exclusive access to the resources in that region.

Henry Morton Stanley - Independent Representative and Adviser to the Conference

Henry Morton Stanley is the most renowned explorer of the Congo region and has been brought to this conference specifically for his regional expertise. Due to his various associations with Great Britain, Belgium, and the United States, he comes independently and without political direction. His explorations were previously funded by both the *New York Daily Herald* and the London *Daily Telegraph*. His most recent undertaking has been transportation endeavors in the Congo basin on behalf of King Leopold. Stanley has bargained directly with some of the indigenous leaders in Africa, which gives him either strategic leverage or a bitter history, depending on the leader in question.

Frederick Philip, Jonkheer van der Hoeven - Representative of the Netherlands

Frederick Philip proudly represents the Netherlands. He is keeping an eye on the now British controlled territory of Cape of Good Hope which has many people of Dutch descent after immigrating a hundred years ago to produce food for passing vessels. There is a strong presence of Dutch traders in the Congo estuary, some say that they have the strongest commercial interests currently. He also has to keep in mind that many wealthy British investors have large stakes in Dutch companies. He has been instructed by the Foreign Affairs minister to be mindful of the Netherlands's powerful neighbor, Germany, in Europe and Great Britain near the Netherlands Indies in Asia.

Antonio José da Serra Gomes, Marquis of Penafiel - Representative of Portugal

Serra Gomes began his diplomatic career in 1846 and was named envoy to the Court of Berlin in 1880. Portugal's claims to the Congo Basin have existed uncontested for centuries until now. Serra Gomes comes to Berlin prepared to defend their holdings along the Congo River. The treaty signed (but never ratified) with Great Britain proposed free trade, but Portugal also recognizes its immense power in controlling land around the entrance to the river in Angola. More broadly, Portugal is limited by its size and military prowess compared to the other imperial powers, having been further weakened by lengthy and expensive wars. Furthermore, after centuries of dependence on the slave trade in Angola and Mozambique, colonial economies have yet to adjust to anti-slavery laws. Colonial authorities are frequently corrupt in allowing traders to operate.

Don Francisco Merry y Colom, Count Benomar - Representative of Spain

Spain wants to protect claims in Equatorial Guinea, Fernando Po is a large island with cocoa and coffee plantations. These produce valuable products to be shipped north. Colom is weary of his German and French neighbors who have also established colonies. Spanish holdings are quite restricted, but the Count wants to protect what his country has now.

Henry Sanford - Representative of the United States of America

Henry Sanford is a wealthy and well-connected American diplomat originally appointed as Minister to Belgium by President Lincoln in 1861. He was later involved with the International African Association and worked closely with King Leopold to convince Henry Morton Stanley to

explore the Congo Basin. Leopold then leveraged his connections with Sanford to advocate for the emerging Belgian colony (to be the Congo Free State) back in the US. Sanford has other close connections to current and former US politicians and businessmen. The United States is focused on avoiding war (with or between European powers) and securing free access to African resources and markets for future trade. They are not presently interested in territorial administration and hoping to maintain friendly relations with all European allies.

Emeric, Count Szechenyi de Sarvari Felso-Videk - Representative of Austria-Hungary

Austria-Hungary has been in a tenuous alliance with Germany and Russia since 1873 with the creation of the League of the Three Emperors. He is well aware of the fear that Germany has of Austria forming stronger ties with France. Due to high pressures at home and other European neighbors, the empire has yet to establish colonies in Africa. The monarchy is not particularly interested in African colonies, but it is weary of other countries expanding their influences and armies as is now as an extremely powerful European power. He will try to act as a regulator to disputes at the conference.

Count Edoardo de Launay - Representative of Italy

Edoardo de Launay is an Italian career diplomat working as the Ambassador to Berlin. He is a strong advocate of cooperation between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy and is actively working to support the interests of his allies. Italy's only main claims in the region are in Somalia, to the East of the main portion of the Congo Basin. Italian political movements pushed the country to expand into Africa, despite a wealth of economic problems within her own borders. Somalia's ports were the primary draw to the area. However, Italian claims to Somalia have not been formalized at the onset of the conference. Italy is hoping to maximize economic payoffs while supporting their stronger allies in the continent.

Count Kapnist - Representative of the Russian Empire

Russian Czar has charged his best diplomat, Count Kapnist, to guard eastern interests. He can act very independently as he has little to lose. The Russian Empire currently has no holding on the continent. He can be seen as the watchdog of the conference as Russia has no territorial claims in Africa. The Emperor thinks that the western nations might try to come to an agreement that could affect the great empire.

Mehmed Said, Pasha - Representative of the Ottoman Empire

Mehmed Said is an Ottoman dignitary and the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire under Sultan Abdul Hamid II. The Ottoman Empire has lost a great deal of land due to European imperialist excursions. They lost complete control over Egypt to Great Britain, and both Algeria and Tunis went to France. While this resulted in increased regional stabilization, the Ottomans fear appearing weak on the national stage and are seeking resources to continue their industrialization. While the Ottoman Empire does not yet have any established holdings in the Congo Basin, both Said and the Ottoman Sultan are aware of opportunities that exist in the region to regain prominence in Africa.

Mwanga II, Kabaka of the Kingdom of Buganda

Mwanga II is a young leader, assuming position of Kabaka (King) of Buganda at age 16 following the demise of his father, the previous Kabaka, in October of 1884. Internally, Mwanga is dealing with a constant barrage of Christian missionary groups, each of whom is attempting to gain influence in the Kingdom. He is more resistant to these groups than his father was, perhaps knowing that missionaries often precede European colonization. Mwanga II is focused on maintaining the ancestral traditions of his Kingdom and defending against forces looking to take land and resources. He is hoping that his presence at this Conference will preclude any interest in Buganda from European powers, and he is willing to leverage the Kingdom's resources (ivory, primarily) with Europeans as they have already done with Arab traders. Buganda is the most powerful of the African kingdoms in the region in terms of military might and manpower.

Chwa II Kabalega, Omukama of the Kingdom of Bunyoro

Kabalega assumed the position of Omukama (King) of Bunyoro in 1870 and immediately began working to expand his Kingdom through trade. The salt mines at Kibiro are the Kingdom's greatest asset and source of economic growth, along with ivory. Within his Kingdom, Kabalega has a reputation as being ruthless, having killed off political competitors and cracking down on the civilian population. While his military force is formidable, the loyalty of his soldiers is occasionally questionable. Bunyoro's military prowess is comparable to Buganda's, although the latter has slightly more fire- and manpower. Kabalega is unwavering in his desire to stand up to imperialist powers and protect the sovereignty of his kingdom. While his violent methods may have been doubted by civilians, he successfully united Bunyoro against the existential threats of seceding rebel states, Buganda, and an imperial Egypt.

Tippu Tip - Representative of Zanzibar

Tippu Tip is perhaps the most well-known trader of slaves and ivory to dominate Eastern Congo. He has a network of both Arab traders and African chiefs who serve under him and facilitate his trade empire. He navigated with Stanley down the Congo River and was subsequently approached by both King Leopold and the Sultan of Zanzibar in hopes that he would support their respective imperial ambitions. He has assumed the de facto role of unofficial representative of Zanzibar's interests in the Congo, but has close European ties that he is careful to leave undisturbed. Tippu Tip is hoping not only to represent Zanzibar, but to protect his own interests and ensure relatively undisturbed trade throughout the Congo Basin. He knows that his success poses a threat to European business interests in the region.

Chitimukulu Sampa of the Bemba Kingdom

Sampa assumed the position of Chitimukulu (King) in 1883, succeeding his brother Chitapankwa. However, he is struggling to unify the kingdom, as his nephew holds the title of Senior Chief and has amassed a substantial following. Sampa is the more unpopular of the two and was not supported as he assumed the throne. He has no clear or established means of communication with the various Bemba chiefs. Sampa has also refused to see European missionaries attempting to enter the Kingdom, knowing that their anti-slave trade positions and

connections pose an existential threat to the Bemba. The Bemba, too, are relatively strong with respect to military power, although fragmented in their political loyalties. Sampa comes to the Conference frustrated--both by the internal turmoil of his kingdom and the persistence of outsiders trying to intervene.

Gabriel, August, Count van der Straten Ponthoz - Representative of Belgium

Belgium's King Leopold II wants to acquire the area of the Congo as to begin an empire. Currently Belgium is without any colonies and the ambitious King thinks that the energetic Count will be able to help change this throughout the course of the conference. The Count has seen first hand what the wealth extricated from the African continent can do. The towns in Belgium are being transformed into beautiful cities. He thinks that with the obtainment of a colonies, Belgium's cities can rival those of the other great nations.

Mr. Antoine de Serpa Pimentel, Councillor of State - Representative of Portugal

Portugal asked the German chancellor to called together the great European powers to try to mitigate issues arising from dispute in Africa. He is eyeing the areas of Mozambique and Angola. The Anglo-Portuguese Treaty signed on February 26, 1884 that fell apart was a major push for Bismarck to call the conference. Portugal was the first European country to claim territory in sub-saharan Africa and has many economic resources invested in the area. There are some issue of other nations questioning how present the Portuguese are in administering the area which in turn threaten the legitimacy of Portugal's claims of the Kongo Empire area.

Jules Ferry, Minister of Foreign Affairs - Representative of France

Ferry has been a supporter of laicism as well as colonial expansion throughout his career. After the 1870 war in which France lost to Prussia, Ferry shifted his focus to colonial expansionism. He hopes in gain great economic benefit from a potentially large powerful empire. Jules Ferry is a strong proponent of democracy and has been know to remove monarchists from government posts back at home. He holds the opinion, which is very unpopular back at home, that France should work with Germany rather than fight as it has become too powerful and it is the most practical thing to do. Ferry has pushed for many educational reforms in France, and hopes to bring educational systems to Africa as well.

The Earl Granville, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs - Representative of Great Britain

Great Britain has an empire spanning across the globe. The French are becoming increasingly weary of the every expanding British empire so the two seem to be racing each other to conquer the most land possible. The Earl will use all of his diplomatic skill to slow the rate of France's colonization in West Africa. He is a strong advocate of keeping Britain out of alliances in order to avoid being dragged into a war on the continent.

August Busch, Councillor of Legation and Undersecretary of State - Representative of Germany

After Germany joined the triple alliance with Italy and Austria Hungary, Busch has been charged with protecting this alliance as it proves to isolate France. In return, Germany has made sure to avoid a war on two fronts in the future. This alliance has further dragged Germany into the “scramble” as it must protect Italian interests in North Africa. He is hesitant to spark any controversy as Germany is hosting the conference, but wants to make sure that Germany will profit economically from the spice trade in eastern Africa. In order to increase economic gain, Busch is trying to get trade restrictions removed by any means possible.

John Kasson - Representative of the United States of America

John Kasson is a former American Congressman from Iowa and diplomat who was appointed Envoy and Head of the US Legation at Berlin by President Arthur. Kasson and his delegation are attending the conference in order to protect American perceived and potential interests in Africa. Kasson also understands the symbolic role of the United States in contributing to the legitimacy of the conference. The United States is focused on avoiding war (with or between European powers) and securing free access to African resources and markets for future trade. They are not presently interested in territorial administration and hoping to maintain friendly relations with all European allies.

Emile de Vind - Representative of Denmark

De Vind is the Danish envoy to Germany. Denmark’s primary interests in Africa are along the West coast, where it previously sold forts to the British around the mid-19th century. Denmark was the first state to abolish the slave trade in 1802 and remains firmly committed to ensuring that the other plenipotentiaries follow suit. Denmark is somewhat lacking in natural resources, having lost much of its rich land resources to war earlier in the century. However, a burgeoning industrial sector does create an impetus for further exploration into the African continent, so it is in the nation’s best interest to establish fair practices for future colonization.

Baron Gillis Bildt - Representative of Sweden-Norway

Baron Bildt has served as the Swedish ambassador to Germany since 1874. Bildt was instrumental in negotiating agreements between the Swedes and Germans previously, and may need to reprise this role at the conference. Sweden-Norway’s foreign policy to this date has focused on European issues, and they do not have any significant holdings on the African continent. However, Sweden-Norway is allied strongly with Germany, while enjoying lucrative trade with various countries present at the conference. Bildt has been instructed to advance all proposals that advance “civilization” and Christianization as a whole. He must balance the demands of King Oscar, who has the ultimate say in all foreign policy matters, with his own judgments about what is best for the country.

We appreciate your feedback about our conference. Please direct all inquiries and comments to our Secretary-General.

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