



Crisis Simulation

The Emu Wars - United Australia Party

Imran Aly Rassiwalla
Chair



GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
Director-General

Aashka Shah
Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Parth Tornekar
Undersecretary-
General for Crisis
Simulations

Sania Jain
Chargé d'Affaires

Keira Kinnier
Director of General
Assemblies

Sonia Chornodolsky
Director of Specialized
Agencies

Sriyutha Morishetty
Director of Press and
Publications

Shorya Malani
Director of
Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable
Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club
Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club
Coach

The Emu Wars

Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

We are pleased to welcome you to GSMUN XXVI's Emu Wars Committee! My name is Imran Aly Rassiwalla, and I am extremely excited and passionate about this committee. I've proposed this committee for the past three years, and am inordinately glad that it finally got support under this administration. I could ask for no better swan-song to my high school chairing career. Although The Emu Wars is an inherently jovial topic, I am willing (and have equipped you all) to add as much depth to the committee as you want.

Alas, dear delegates and sponsors, we have come to the obligatory "bio" of the letter. I am a senior at Maggie Walker who has been a part of Model United Nations since freshman year. At Maggie Walker, I am co-captain of our school's debate team, a member of the One Small Step Organizing Team, President of Japanese National Honor Society, and a representative on the School's Advisory Council. Outside of Maggie Walker, I am Vice-President of Youth Club (a local community service organisation), a member of the Fixate Team, and dabble in improv. My favourite subject is history, and (unsurprisingly) I prefer Crisis Committees. In my spare time, I like to play video games, read, and call my friends.

You may have noticed two abnormalities in your research for this committee. First, the two background guides, and second, the absence of topics. There are, indeed, two background guides, one for Labour and one for the United Australia Party. This, while it may seem confusing and counterintuitive, has several benefits. Let's be honest, reading is hard. Reading 16 pages on a topic you only mildly care about with an obtuse dual-column format? Even moreso. By splitting the background guides on party lines, I have reduced the amount of reading for you to write a satisfactory position paper. You are free to peruse the other guide, and it would enrich your experience (you could even use it as an example of an outside source), but it is by no means a requirement. Second is the lack of topics. I have, for many years, harboured the sentiment that topics have no place in Crisis Committees. They are meant for GAs and (maybe) specialised, but crisis is meant to reflect an ongoing situation, not one that is handicapped by confining debate to a specific sector.

In terms of personal guidelines, first I would recommend drawing a smiley face on the back of your position paper (or just a :) somewhere on the page if you submit digitally) in order to unequivocally receive full credit for your paper. Position papers, reflecting Australia, should be written in British English. I personally prefer first person, but any point of view or combination thereof is permitted. The paper should also be 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, with one inch margins and citations in Chicago Manual of Style (CMS). Position papers are bound to Maggie Walker's code of conduct, meaning zero tolerance for any plagiarism. This includes generative Artificial Intelligence. It would be a disservice to yourself and your own enjoyment to let a computer algorithm dictate your behaviour for a weekend, and although (admittedly) I likely wouldn't be able to catch an infraction, you would be disappointing yourself and your potential as a delegate. Please send your paper to the chair by email by 5 pm on the day of the conference, or be ready to turn it in at the start of the conference.

Lastly, but certainly not least, please remember to bring money! We will be selling food and merchandise to raise donations for our charity, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, a global leader in the fight against blood cancer. Work diligently on your research (or don't). If nothing else, make sure to get some rest in these ever increasingly busy times. I look forward to seeing you all in committee!

Your Chair,

Imran Aly Rassiwalla
gsmunxxvi.emu@gmail.com

PROPERTY OF THE UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY

UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY BACKGROUND MANUAL

FIRST EDITION

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

JUNE 1, 1932

COLLECTIVE BACKGROUND

When the United Kingdom joined World War I, the British Dominion of Australia was drawn in. Public support for the war was high in Australia, with the government pledging 20,000 troops to the war. However, as the horrors of sluggish trench warfare sullied a supposedly easy victory, more and more Australians opposed the war. In response, the Australian government used the war as an excuse to censor the media, intern Germans, restrict free speech, and suppress political opposition.¹ Despite this political censorship, enlistments had dropped from the high of 35,000 men a month to a mere 6,000 by 1916. This was coincided by a wave of strikes that only intensified in 1917.² By the time Germany finally surrendered in late 1918, Australia faced over 200,000 casualties in a country numbering only five million—the highest casualty rate of any belligerent in the war.³ An additional 12,000 Australians would die from the Spanish Flu pandemic.

At the Paris Peace Conference, Australia demanded increased independence from the British crown and that Germany pay for the total cost of the war. The nation achieved both—only to an extent. Germany would pay Australia five million pounds in reparations, and Australia, while still a dominion, would be a full-fledged member of the newly created League of Nations.⁴ The segregationist Australian government worried that this new League would recognise the equality of all races, compromising their ability to suppress aboriginal rights.⁵ Furthermore, Australia gained the German portion of New Guinea and parts of Nauru, a small island in the Pacific Ocean—Northeast of Australia. All in all, the conference was a success for Australia, but the Australian people would never forget that their new dominions, wealth, and independence were paid for in blood.

In the words of Prime Minister Stanley Bruce, in the 1920s Australia was defined by “men, money and markets.”⁶ With

the uncertainties of new technologies, the Bolsheviks in the Soviet Union looming close, and the memory of World War I still fresh, Australia experienced a turbulent but economically fruitful time.⁷ Strikes, movies, steam, communists, agrarians, prohibitionists, and corruption all defined this new era.

The Australian government also instituted a plan for veterans to settle on Australia's vast interior, a prize for their service.⁸ Oftentimes, this ‘empty’ land was occupied by aboriginals, the indigenous peoples of Australia who were suppressed by the British during the colonisation of Australia. This land grant initiative would prove mostly unsuccessful, especially for aboriginal veterans.⁹ Only three would be granted land out of over one thousand Aboriginal veterans.¹⁰

As Australia entered the latter half of the 1920s, its economy was already showing signs of turmoil. Australia's policy of borrowing heavily to complete infrastructure projects and dependence heavily on exports to sustain itself led to the economy entering a recession by 1927.¹¹ Furthermore, the Australian pound was tied to the British pound sterling, which returned to the gold standard in 1925. Having a currency on the gold standard, or with its value directly connected to gold, creates deflationary pressures that increase its value.¹² This sudden change in the value of the Australian pound severely damaged the export economy. Therefore, when the New York Stock Exchange crashed in 1929, Australia was left wholly unprepared.¹³

Both Labor and the United Australia Party shared a collective memory of World War I and the turbulent Twenties. However, from the Great Depression onwards, the stories diverge, before crashing into each other today—June 1, 1932.

Welcome honourable United Australia Party MP, to the Emu Wars: Australian Labor Party Background Guide. As a member of the Australian parliament, it is

crucial that you understand the recent history of your party. Currently, it has been three years since the Depression started, and our party has been voted into the majority. Allow me to explain.

UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY BACKGROUND

The United Australia Party's story, ironically, starts off our mainland. On September 15, 1879, Joseph Lyons was born on the island of Tasmania.¹⁴ The party is owned by Joseph Lyons, and thus, while founded in 1931, it reflects Lyons' unique political philosophy.¹⁵ A school teacher by trade, Lyons desired a modest career and a modest life. When he entered politics, he did so solely at the state level.¹⁶ Throughout his state level political career, Lyons was heavily involved in the unionist movement. He helped found a chapter of the Workers' Political League and campaigned heavily for Labor before taking office himself.¹⁷ Lyons was an exceptional orator and was compelled to fight for the interests he spoke for, leading to him taking a pay cut when he first entered the Tasmanian House of Assembly. Over the next seven years, Lyons would climb the ranks, eventually becoming the leader of the Labor party in Tasmania. Another seven years later, in 1923, Lyons would lead Labour to its first post war victory in the state, becoming Premier of Tasmania.¹⁸

Lyons was able to represent Tasmania due to his moderation. He established positive relations with both major corporations (whose interests were maligned with those of the working class) and with the conservative federal government.¹⁹ However, this moderation also frustrated Lyons, and he chose to eventually abandon his state level post for a federal one in 1929. This was Labor's landslide year, driven by the drastic unpopularity of the conservative Nationalist Party. Days later, the worst economic crisis in Australian if not world history would commence—the Great Depression.²⁰

After the Depression was sparked, the Labor government split along economic lines on how the crisis could best be remediated. Three major factions arose. There were those who preferred to heed the words of Sir Otto Niemeyer and representatives of the Bank of England, who controlled large swaths of Australia's economy and debt.²¹ Together with the Labor government, they drafted the Melbourne Plan, advocating for a traditionalist approach towards economic recovery. The solution was simple: raise taxes and lower spending, a stroke of deflationary genius utilised by nations throughout history.²²

The other two plans were far more radical. First, there were the supporters of Mr. Keynes, a British economist who advocated for excess inflationary spending in order to stimulate the economy out of depressions. This was the policy advocated for by Labour Treasurer Ted Theodore. Finally, there are the heretics who followed Jack Lang, the premier of New South Wales, and his radical plan. Lang's notorious plan involved reducing interest on government bonds (loans from the government to citizens) to 3%, and for the government to stop paying its loans altogether.²³ Such a radical and senseless plan would solely alienate Australia from the international economic system, ensuring the country stay impoverished forevermore.

The sensible Lyons led the traditionalist deflationary faction. Labor Prime Minister James Scullin's attempt to balance Labour infighting and protection of Ted Theodore led Lyons to leave Labor, joining the opposition. The opposition was split among disparate groups, the County Party (interested in farmers), Nationalist Party (standard centre-right), the Australia Party (a more right wing party led by a spurned Nationalist leader), and now the new Labor defectors. The latter three merged into the United Australia Party, after John Latham, the then leader of the Nationalists, and Joseph Lyons came to an agreement. Either could have led this new party, but Lyons' natural charisma made him the better choice, and

Latham soon conceded. Lyons' charisma, which got him the nickname "Honest Joe," combined with the absolutely deplorable incompetence and infighting within the Labour Party, led the United Australia Party to a victory in the 1931 elections. This victory was marked by such splendour that the United Australia Party has a complete majority in the House, meaning there is no need for negotiation with minority parties. This puts the farmer centric Country party in a precarious position, as they will have to find ways to gain our respect, though we largely aim to pursue the same goals.

With our victory, it seems as if nothing could go wrong. And yet, a spectre looms. Australia, though an industrialising state, remains agrarian. Our crops are being ravaged. It is no army of men, no plague of germs, no crisis of economics. Rather, it is an army, a plague, a crisis of birds. It is the Birds of Purgatory.

TOPIC: THE BIRDS FROM PURGATORY

As mentioned previously, veterans of the First World War were given land in the interior to settle and farm on. These plots were generally in Western Australia, and weren't actually fertile.²⁴ After the start of the Depression, with imports declining, we urged these soldiers-turned-farmers to grow wheat. We even promised to subsidise the crop, but due to external pressures retracted the oath.²⁵ As the United Australia Party comes to power, farmers are suffering. The price of wheat has fallen dramatically, adding to their distress. Farmers are now threatening to refuse to deliver the wheat, risking all Australian citizens. Additionally, some 20,000 Emus have begun to ravage the farmland in Western Australia.²⁶ When Emus eat wheat crops, they also knock over the fences, making it easier for smaller fauna to come to eat the remaining crop. Farmers now risk the dissemination of their crops and the destruction of their property.²⁷ The Emu is also a nasty bird,

standing up to seventy-three inches tall and travelling at up to thirty miles per hour.²⁸

The threat of independence also looms over the state of Western Australia. By this point, our great country has only existed for a mere thirty years, and regionalism still threatens to fracture us apart. The threat of independence from Western Australia is nothing new, but some, especially the United Australia Party, worry that this may be the straw that breaks the camel's back.²⁹ Politicians in the Party, like Sir George Pearce, have even suggested using weapons of war to dispatch of the Emu threat.³⁰ It is typical to have some reservations to such an extreme solution, but consider this. The Australian public is demoralised. Beyond the yearning for the economic prosperity left behind in the 1920s, there is a yearning for the glory, the splendour, and the imperial providence that our dominion experienced during the first World War. It is time we make Australia great again, and that starts by brutally eviscerating the Emus.

Today it is June 1, 1932. We stand at the crux of the unknown. Our party is reworking the very fabric of our economy, transitioning from an Agrarian to an Industrial state. The Birds from Purgatory continue to ravage the crops in Western Australia day after day. War draws closer and closer. Stalin has gained control of the Soviet Union and looks to expand outward, threatening our Pacific domains. Germany turns to extremism, and once again we are threatened by the prospect of being drawn into a European conflict due to our status as a Dominion.³¹ The Great Depression engulfs the entire world. And, in the midst of it all, we stand here. How we save our people is up to us, but this background manual would be remiss if not to include some commonly held and potential solutions to save our party and our country. Good luck, members of parliament. Whether young or old, new or experienced, regardless, the future is now in your hands.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

This section will be split into economic and Emu policy, starting with the former and moving into the latter. Currently, it is the position of our Party to follow the Premier's Plan exactly: Reducing spending, raising taxes, and increasing the interest rate on bonds.³² However, the United Australia Party also has another key aim—industrialization. So many of the sorrows of our economic state, have their roots in our agrarian reliance, even though the Australian soil is remarkably poor. Australia is a state that would be more prosperous if industrialised.³³

Industrialism is also crucial when considering Japan. Japan, as with our predicament, faces not only a lack of high quality farmland, but a lack of land and resources altogether.³⁴ Their solution is industrialisation. Japan, in its desire to expand, wishes to expand to and take over Australia. Industrialisation would not only be a way to emulate the Japanese, but also to deter them through building a strong military presence.³⁵

Next comes the pressing concern of Emu policy. Should Western Australia actually attempt to secede, it would not only destroy our political base (Western Australians tend to be more conservative) but would also be an embarrassment, dooming our party entirely.³⁶ It is essential that Western Australia remain under our jurisdiction, therefore, making it imperative that we address the Emu threat.

One possible solution, as suggested earlier by George Pierce, is war against the birds. The advantages of this proposal is its popularity with Western Australians, who are considering using their own arms to fight the bird.³⁷ However, there are two major problems with this idea. The first is that war is inherently costly. Bullets cost money, which will be redirected from our industrialization and economic recovery efforts. Can we really prioritise the goals of the Western Australians so much? After all, we lead not Western Australia, but all of Australia. The second problem is with the unlikely and yet

technically possible scenario that we lose the war against the birds. It would be a humiliation so great it may trigger a Japanese invasion or even an emergency election that throws our party out of power. While this scenario is unlikely, the possibility acts as a detractor from the war approach.

Another solution is the importation of Emu's natural predators: Dingoes and Eagles.³⁸ Dingoes, which are a type of domesticable dog, would be able to limit the devastation enacted by the Emus. Increasing their population may be the best solution, but it is time-consuming and unknown to work. Importing eagles is the same. Both solutions do far less harm than Emus do to the crops, making them good for the farmers long term. However, they lack a level of flashiness, a level of certainty, that comes from mowing down the Emus with machine guns. It is a boring approach, but still one that can be pursued. Regardless of the method, the Emus must be addressed. Every day, Western Australians face the risk of starvation due to the destruction of their crops by the Emus.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What policies can the United Australia Party implement in order to ensure that we win the next election?
2. How can we win back the seditious Western Australians? What policy should we pursue against their enemy of the Emus?
3. What is the best way for Australia to escape from the Great Depression? What economic policies should supplement the Melbourne/Premier's Plan and industrialization?
4. How can we stop the Japanese threat to our possessions, beyond just relying on British protection of our dominions?

FURTHER RESEARCH

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRz52AQIMk&ab_channel=ExtraHist

- ory: Video describing the economic tensions behind the Emu Wars
2. Experience of Nationhood: A classic history textbook describing Australia's history in the 20th century
3. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Emu-War>: A encyclopedia source providing fundamental and detailed information regarding the Emu Wars
4. <https://web.archive.org/web/20190721205219/http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/primeministers/scullin/in-office.aspx>: A source detailing Australia's Prime Ministers and the split occurring between parties
5. <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/about/Pages/1930-to-1939-Depression-and-Crisis.aspx>: Website detailing the Great Depression Era in Australia's Government

Endnotes

1. “Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians,” Australian War Memorial, accessed February 25, 2024, <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar/first-world-war>.
2. Stephen Garton and Peter Stanley, *The Great War and Its Aftermath, 1914–22* (Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2013).
3. Ibid.
4. “Overview of Australia’s Involvement in the First World War,” Department of Veterans’ Affairs, accessed February 25, 2024, <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/media-centre/media-backgrounders/overview-australias-involvement-first-world-war>.
5. Stephen Garton and Peter Stanley, *The Great War and Its Aftermath*
6. Ibid.
7. Acton Peninsula, “Stanley Bruce,” National Museum of Australia, October 31, 2022, <https://www.nma.gov.au/explore/features/prime-ministers/stanley-bruce>.
8. Leslie Lloyd Robson, *The Convict Settlers of Australia* (Melbourne, Australia: Melbourne University Press, 1970), 18 & 45.
9. “The Great Emu War - Battlebirds,” Extra History, accessed February 25, 2024, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiRz52AQIMk&ab_channel=ExtraHistory.
10. Ibid.
11. ¹ Ibid.
12. *Windows on Our Past : Constructing Australian History* (Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 1993).
13. *Australia’s Great Depression: How a Nation Shattered by the Great War Survived the Worst Economic Crisis It Has Ever Faced* (Crows Nest, Australia: Allen & Unwin, 2022).
14. “James Scullin,” Australia’s Prime Ministers, accessed February 25, 2024, <https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/australias-prime-ministers/james-scullin>.
15. Museum of Australia. “Joseph Lyons.” Prime Ministers of Australia, October 31, 2022. <https://www.nma.gov.au/explore/features/prime-ministers/joseph-lyons>.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.

18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. Mason K. J., *Experience of Nationhood* (Cengage Learning Australia, 2014).
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.
26. “The Great Emu War - Battlebirds,”
27. Ibid.
28. Frank B. Gill, *Ornithology*, Third, 2007.
29. “The Great Emu War - Battlebirds,”
30. “EMU,” Smithsonian’s National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, accessed February 25, 2024, <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/emu>.
31. “The Great Emu War - Battlebirds,”
32. Ibid.
33. “The Holocaust Chronicle,” Roots of the Holocaust, accessed February 25, 2024, <https://web.archive.org/web/20150101004701/http://www.holocaustchronicle.org/StaticPages/50.html>.
34. Museum of Australia. “Joseph Lyons.”
35. Mason K. J., *Experience of Nationhood*
36. Ibid.
37. Ibid.
38. “EMU,” Smithsonian’s National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute

Bibliography

- “Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians.” Australian War Memorial. Accessed February 25, 2024. <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar/first-world-war>.
- Australia’s Great Depression: How a nation shattered by the Great War survived the worst economic crisis it has ever faced. Crows Nest, Australia: Allen & Unwin, 2022.
- “EMU.” Smithsonian’s National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. Accessed February 25, 2024. <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/emu>.
- Garton, Stephen, and Peter Stanley. *The Great War and its aftermath, 1914–22*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2013.
- Gill, Frank B. *Ornithology*. Thirded., 2007.
- “The Great Emu War - Battlebirds.” Extra History. Accessed February 25, 2024. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiRz52AQIMk&ab_channel=ExtraHistory.
- “The Holocaust Chronicle.” Roots of the Holocaust. Accessed February 25, 2024. <https://web.archive.org/web/20150101004701/http://www.holocaustchronicle.org/StaticPages/50.html>.
- “James Scullin.” Australia’s Prime Ministers. Accessed February 25, 2024. <https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/australias-prime-ministers/james-scullin>.
- Journal of Australian Studies* 30, no. 88 (May 18, 2009): 147–57. <https://doi.org/14443050609388083>.
- K. J., Mason. *Experience of Nationhood*. Cengage Learning Australia, 2014.
- Museum of Australia. “Joseph Lyons.” National Museum of Australia, October 31, 2022. <https://www.nma.gov.au/explore/features/prime-ministers/joseph-lyons>.
- “Overview of Australia’s Involvement in the First World War.” Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Accessed February 25, 2024. <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/media-centre/media-backgrounders/overview-australias-involvement-first-world-war>.
- Peninsula, Acton. “Stanley Bruce.” National Museum of Australia, October 31, 2022. <https://www.nma.gov.au/explore/features/prime-ministers/stanley-bruce>.
- Robson, Leslie Lloyd. *The convict settlers of Australia*. Melbourne, Australia: Melbourne University Press, 1970.
- Windows on our past : constructing Australian history*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 1993.