



MID-LIFE CRISIS

POPULAR FRONT OF MOLDOVA, 1988

Communication issues, work troubles, and an abundance of wine? Sounds like a mid-life crisis.

In the twilight and fall of the Soviet Union, most former Soviet republics struggled to define themselves as independent nation-states.

Moldova, which had little sense of a separate national unity before the Soviet Union, suddenly found itself torn between a multitude of competing identities. Some, claiming that Moldovan and Romanian cultures and languages were identical, clamored for unification with Romania. At the same time, ethnic minorities, who used Russian as a *lingua franca*, fiercely protested against marginalization. Still others attempted to differentiate Moldovan identity from Soviet, Russian and Romanian ties, claiming it was distinct and unique.

Enter: the Popular Front of Moldova. A group of writers, politicians, and thinkers aiming to define a new path forward for the small country, the Popular Front will soon be faced with challenges ranging from financial woes to identity politics.

It is up to this committee to define a new identity for Moldova and to lead it through the tumultuous years surrounding the Soviet Union's collapse, with the ultimate hope that Moldova will rise to prosperity.

BACKGROUND GUIDE



CLAIRE VALVA
CHAIR

Claire is a third year majoring in Geophysical Sciences and Math. Claire was born and raised in Oakland, California to have an undying love for sourdough bread, the Oakland Athletics, and the exact temperature of 71 degrees Fahrenheit.

When she isn't complaining about the snow, baseball, or math, Claire can be found yelling at other members of the water polo team in the (indoor) pool, pretending to understand atmospheric dynamics, drinking coffee, or attempting to explain kombucha to her roommates.

Besides all of this, of course, Claire is part of ChoMUN. This will be Claire's third ChoMUN, previously staffing the Hongs of Canton and the Westinghouse Electric Company, and she is very excited to hear the enthusiastic debate that will come with this committee.

If you are interested in bread, coffee, or have any questions about this committee, you can email Claire at clairev@uchicago.edu.



ELMA HOFFMAN
CRISIS DIRECTOR

Elma is a second year majoring in Comparative Literature, focusing on Japanese and Russian literature. She originally comes from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, but will most likely note her attachment to France if asked where home is.

Elma wishes she could talk about what she does outside of school, but let's face it – she spends the vast majority of her time walking around campus with her nose stuck in a language textbook anyway. When not accidentally bumping into people, find Elma taking part in the Model UN team, making the campus listen to her practicing carillon, exploring on Google Maps, and attempting to write a novel.

Especially interested in post-Soviet identity and linguistic politics, she looks forward to seeing how delegates will delve into a lesser-known history and take Moldova's conflicts in stride.



ALEX PRICE
CRISIS DIRECTOR

Alex is a third year double-majoring in Russian/Eastern European Studies and History. A native of the hip-yet-underrated city of Columbus, Ohio, Alex is more than happy to let everyone know why she loves her hometown (and why everyone else should love it too!).

When she's not busy with schoolwork or Model UN, Alex can often be found in on-campus coffee shops writing articles for The Gate (the University's political review), reading books in Russian, planning trips abroad that she can't afford, and drinking exorbitant amounts of coffee.

Having spent year living in Moldova on an exchange program, Alex considers Moldova a second home and is excited to see how delegates will reimagine its recent history through this committee!

STAFF CHOMUN