



# FICTIONAL CRISIS COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND GUIDE

CAHSMUN XVII

## Letter from the Director

Dear delegates,

My name is Ethan Jasny and I am delighted to be serving as your Director of the Fictional Crisis Committee (FCC) at CAHSMUN 2021. I am a grade 12 student at West Point Grey Academy, and I am excited to be spending my sixth and final year of high school Model United Nations directing one of the most dynamic and creative committees in CAHSMUN's repertoire.

Along with our Chairs Justin and Catherlin, we will be exploring the Duchy of Grand Fenwick, one of the smallest but most influential countries in the world. While not required, I strongly encourage you to read all or part of one of the books in *The Mouse that Roared* series, which can be found on Amazon and Kindle. You can also watch the *The Mouse that Roared* or *The Mouse on the Moon* movies, which can be found on Amazon Video, YouTube, and iTunes. Links for these resources can be found in the Further Research section at the end of this background guide. They will help you gain a more robust sense for Grand Fenwickian politics and society, while also more clearly establishing the tone of the committee. That being said, the crisis will not directly involve the events in the books and movies because it will be set in the present day as the duchy grapples with the accidental discovery of a potential COVID-19 antidote.

Should you have any questions about the committee, please feel free to reach out to me at [fcc@cahsmun.org](mailto:fcc@cahsmun.org). I look forward to meeting you all in the spring—and remember—the answer is always in the wine!

Yours,

Ethan Jasny  
FCC Director — CAHSMUN 2021

## Director's Note: Why Grand Fenwick?

It might seem like a strange choice to run a committee based on a Cold War-era book series that is all but out of print today. If you have read any of the books or seen any of the movies—which, again, I highly recommend that you do—you will no doubt see the whimsy of the series' premise, which author Leonard Wibberley exploits to parody Cold War politics. What sets the Grand Fenwick series apart from your run-of-the-mill spoof is that it is not just a parody, but a satire: the difference being that while a parody makes fun of an individual person or country, a satire assaults the very system on which all those people and countries stand. The series does not just mock the United States or the Soviet Union for their Cold War shenanigans but assails the entire corrupted, self-defeating process of international relations and the wily individuals who enable its continuance. This committee will place Grand Fenwick in a modern context, featuring all of the humorous developments and diplomatic *zwischenzug* evident in the books and movies, while at the same time asking a critical question about international politics: what's the point of it all?

## Duchess Gloriana XII's Speech from the Throne

My dearest royal subjects,

I stand before you today as your queen regnant in the face of a terrible calamity. For years, the duchy has lived in peace without the threat of outside reforms. Now, I fear that the ever-churning mill of scientific progress will once again challenge the sovereignty and dignity of all Fenwickians. But though our visages be pale, the spirit of the duchy shall not yield. Like Nelson at Trafalgar, we will prevail in the struggle even at our own downfall. I trust in the leadership of Count Rupert Mountjoy, who, since his investiture to the position of Prime Minister many years ago, has always fought for our independence, our wine, and our plumbing.

I would also remind you of the THREE LEARNINGS that have guided Fenwickian politics for hundreds of years. As I am sure you know, these were the only three things that our great founder Sir Roger Fenwick learned from his two glorious years at Oxford University:

That “Aye” might be turned into “Nay” and vice versa if a sufficient quantity of wordage was applied to the matter.

In any argument the victor is always right.

Though the pen is mightier than the sword, the sword speaks louder and stronger at any given moment.

Hopefully those will be of some use to you. Now, go on and face this foe—whatever it may be—I am not totally sure this time. I heard it was some type of plague. Is that right, Bobo? No matter: I wish you success in your great endeavour. And remember, the answer is always in the wine!

May God bless the Duchy of Grand Fenwick.

Duchess Gloriana XII

Et Hoc Est Quod Motto De Maximo Ducatus Fenwick

## Committee Description

Only five miles long and three miles wide, the Duchy of Grand Fenwick is a microstate located on the Swiss and French border in the Alps. Contained within the narrow bounds of the duchy are three valleys, a river, a castle, and a 2 000-foot tall mountain. The north of the duchy features hundreds of acres of vineyards, owing to nutritious soil from nearby mountains. These vineyards are the sole producer of Pinot Grand Fenwick, an expensive, high-quality wine which constitutes the duchy's chief (and only) export. The south of the duchy contains lands which are less conducive to winemaking but are fertile enough to support self-sustaining grain and sheep farming. To gain a better sense of the duchy's geography, please use [this map](#), which overlays the duchy's key features with the landscape of the "real world." The map will also be used during committee sessions to geographically contextualize crisis developments.

The political situation of Grand Fenwick is a core aspect of the committee. The duchy was founded in the 14th century by Englishman Sir Roger Fenwick and, since then, has been somewhat isolated from the rest of the world. Today, it still has many outdated traditions, including having a monarch as the head of state (Duchess Gloriana XII), a hereditary Prime Minister as head of government (Count Rupert Mountjoy), and an army which, by constitutional requirement, cannot wield any greater weapon than a longbow. Additionally, the duchy lacks many basic amenities, such as consistent hot water, sanitation facilities, air conditioning, and modern automobiles. Many Fenwickians have antiquated understandings of modern medicine, farming, and industry. Nevertheless, Grand Fenwick, often by accident, has repeatedly found itself at the forefront of international affairs. The governing of the tiny nation is centralized in a unicameral legislature, known as the Council of Freedom, that features ten representatives. At the beginning of the committee, this parliament is evenly divided between the Anti-Dilutionist Party and the Dilutionist Party, which each control five seats. That being said, because the Prime Minister is a hereditary appointee, Count Rupert Mountjoy is effectively Prime Minister for life. When he dies or resigns, the position will automatically fall to his son, current Minister of Lunar Affairs, Vincent Mountjoy.

The committee also contains members who do not serve on the Council of Freedom. These include Tully Bascomb, Will Buckley, and Doctor Alfred Kokintz, who all have important roles in the books and films but are not elected officials. Therefore, while they are able to write both private and public directives and have the same debating privileges as others in the committee, these individuals may not vote on public directives intended to be passed by the Council of Freedom. However, they may vote on public directives that are not formal pieces of legislation but are instead designed to represent the opinions of the duchy as a whole.

Similarly, the Ambassadors from the United States, China, Russia, France, and Switzerland, are able to write both private and public directives and have the same debating privileges as others in the committee, but may not vote on public directives intended to be passed by the Council of Freedom. These positions are effectively individual blocs, who must negotiate with the rest of the committee and especially the Prime Minister while following the policy laid out by their own governments. That said, in rare cases, ambassadors could also choose to defy their own governments if doing so was beneficial to the personal ambitions of the ambassador. At times, the ambassadors may stand in a position oppositional to the rest of the committee. For example, if the Swiss government decides to invade the duchy, the Swiss Ambassador would work to negotiate a peace treaty—or a surrender—with duchy officials. It is therefore important that all delegates keep their cards close to their hands: if, for instance, the duchy makes a discovery which it wishes to keep private from China, the delegates representing the duchy should be careful not to mention this discovery in public debate.

## Timeline

**1346** — Roger Fenwick attends Oxford University and gains the Three Learnings. He leaves the University before turning 14.

**1354** — Roger Fenwick joins the army of Edward III and is commended for his exceptional use of the longbow. After victory at Poitiers in 1356, he is granted knighthood.

**1360** — After campaigning with Edward the Black Prince in Spain, Roger Fenwick leaves the English army and forms a small company of his own with 40 bowmen.

**1370** — Roger Fenwick's army is hired by Charles V the Wise of France to capture a castle in the Alps. With a band of former English criminals, Roger Fenwick storms the castle but decides to establish an independent territory, proclaiming himself Duke of the Duchy of Grand Fenwick.

**1955** — The duchy is on the brink of bankruptcy after Pinot Grand Fenwick loses profits to a California winery's knockoff: "Pinot Grand Enwick." This prompts Prime Minister Rupert Mountjoy to declare war on the United States.

**1955** — The Grand Fenwick Expeditionary Force invades New York City and inadvertently captures the Quadium Bomb and its creator Doctor Alfred Kokintz. Using the bomb as leverage, the duchy demands that all nuclear weapons of the Cold War powers be inspected by the League of Little Nations (or "Tiny Twenty").

**1962** — After Doctor Kokintz discovers that the Premier Grand Cru crop of the Pinot Grand Fenwick is a source of fusion energy, Grand Fenwick sends a rocket to the moon, beating out the United States and Soviet Union in the space race.

**1969** — Amid an anti-smoking campaign in the United States, Pinot Grand Fenwick chewing gum makes millions. Duchess Gloriana XII attempts to waste this extra money by randomly investing in the stock market but accidentally makes millions more.

**1981** — While attempting to fake the discovery of oil reserves in a complicated scheme to lower the global price of oil, real oil is actually discovered under Grand Fenwick, throwing the global energy market into chaos.

**17 November, 2019** — The first known case of COVID-19 is reported in Hubei province, China.<sup>1</sup>

**3 March, 2020** — The first known case of COVID-19 in the Duchy of Grand Fenwick is reported.

**29 March, 2020** (initiating crisis) — There are 50 active cases of COVID-19 within the duchy's population of around 6 000; two Fenwickians have died. Doctor Kokintz discovers a possible antidote for the COVID-19 virus in mineral compounds in the Cru Bourgeois crop of Pinot Grand Fenwick. The Council of Freedom, along with prominent Fenwickians and foreign ambassadors, is in an emergency parliamentary session, and Duchess Gloriana XII delivers her Speech from the Throne.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.livescience.com/first-case-coronavirus-found.html>

# A Brief History of Grand Fenwick

## Founding and Early History

The Duchy of Grand Fenwick was established in 1370 by Sir Roger Fenwick. Fenwick was the seventh son of a prominent English knight, but only three of his father's sons, including Roger himself, made it past the age of five. Fenwick was sent to Oxford University with the hope of later entering the church or becoming a historian but was forced to leave at the age of 14 after going broke and being brought to the brink of starvation. Overall, Fenwick's tenure at the University produced little intellectual growth, though Fenwick did gain the Three Learnings: the guiding principles of the duchy. After departing Oxford, Fenwick joined the army of Edward III in battles of the Hundred Years' War, where he displayed his mastery of the longbow. Today, the longbow is the only weapon used by the Grand Fenwick Expeditionary Force, a testament to the legacy of Fenwick's longbow prowess. Following his successes in the service of Edward III, Fenwick earned the distinctions of mounted bowman and man-at-arms before being knighted in 1356 after the Battle of Poitiers.

Fenwick then elected to remain in France with the army of Edward the Black Prince and fought during the Battle of Nájera in 1367, which temporarily restored Peter the Cruel to the throne of Castile. Subsequently, Fenwick and 40 bowmen broke from the English army and formed an independent company. Fenwick's mercenary army was hired by French King Charles V the Wise and fought under commander Bertrand du Guesclin, the Eagle of Brittany, against the same English forces Fenwick had once fought for in other battles of the Hundred Year's War. Indeed, Fenwick felt and displayed no loyalty to either the French or English, simply acting in the interest of himself and his men. This trend towards political independence and the ability to deftly play allies off of each other for personal gain is ingrained within the political culture of the duchy and exemplified by Prime Minister Mountjoy's many Cold War schemes.

In 1370, Fenwick's band of mercenaries were hired by Charles V to retake a castle in the Alps after the castle's owner had repeatedly defied French control. Fenwick raised an army consisting entirely of Englishmen who had been banished from Britain for various criminal actions and easily captured the castle. However, upon declaring victory at the castle, Fenwick proclaimed himself duke of a new territory that would extend ten arrow flights north and south of the castle and six east and west. When some questioned Fenwick's claim to this new territory due to his lack of noble birth, Fenwick delivered an address that has since been echoed by many an aspiring Fenwickian statesman: "I have seen no king seated upon a throne by Almighty God but many who mounted there over a pile of broken heads. What is good enough for kings is good enough for dukes." Charles V and successive French kings attempted to retake the duchy at various points but were easily defeated by the Grand Fenwick Expeditionary Force's deadly longbows.



As a result, the flag of Grand Fenwick, an eagle with “Aye” on one side and “Nay” on the other, continues to fly over the Grand Fenwick Royal Palace and is internationally recognized.



*The flag of the Duchy of Grand Fenwick*

## The Cold War

Grand Fenwick’s economy is entirely reliant on the export of Pinot Grand Fenwick, a popular high-end wine. Due to the wine’s appellation status, it is illegal to produce Pinot Grand Fenwick outside of the duchy; however, in 1955, a Californian winery sold bottles under the label “Pinot Grand Enwick” in what could be considered the first recorded example of a phishing scam. Lost profits sank the duchy into financial crisis, forcing drastic action on the part of the Council of Freedom. Prime Minister Mountjoy resolved to declare war on the United States with the intention of losing immediately and receiving the foreign aid that the United States often gives to countries it has defeated in war (e.g. West Germany under the Marshall Plan, Japan under the MacArthur Plan). After the United States ignored the formal declaration of war, the duchy sent the Expeditionary Force, led by Head Forester and High Constable Tully Bascomb and Sergeant-at-Arms Will Buckley, to New York City in order to flag the attention of the U.S. State Department. However, when the Expeditionary Force arrived, all of New York City was underground taking part in a disaster drill, allowing the tiny army to capture Doctor Alfred Kokintz and the extremely powerful atomic Quadium Bomb. Threatening use of the bomb, the duchy demanded that the global superpowers adhere to atomic inspections by the newly created League of Little Nations (or “Tiny Twenty”). Doctor Kokintz inadvertently discovered that the Quadium Bomb was a dud but did not tell anyone else about this discovery.

In 1962, after the Premier Grand Cru crop of Pinot Grand Fenwick began randomly exploding in the faces of consumers, leading to a loss in profits, Prime Minister Mountjoy launched a ploy to get an American loan; the loan was intended for space travel research but would actually be used to save the duchy from financial ruin and install a new plumbing system in the Royal Palace. Although the U.S. State Department, as Mountjoy planned, knew that Grand Fenwick had no intentions to fund a mission into space, it was all too happy to demonstrate its wishes for “international” cooperation in the space race and doubled the amount Mountjoy had asked for,



presenting the money as a gift instead of a loan. In response, the Soviet Union sent an unused rocket to the duchy in another pro-cooperation public relations move. However, Doctor Kokintz discovered that this particular crop of Pinot Grand Fenwick could serve as highly efficient fusion-powered rocket fuel, and so he and the Prime Minister's son, Vincent Mountjoy, successfully launched the Soviet rocket, much to the surprise of the U.S., the Soviet Union, and the rest of Grand Fenwick. The U.S. and Soviet Union launched rockets in response but were beaten to the moon by the duchy. While on the lunar surface, Vincent Mountjoy tricked the American and Soviet astronauts into signing a visa that recognized the sovereign claim of Grand Fenwick to the lunar territory. Administrative control of the moon was subsequently vested to the United Nations, but the duchy still maintains its legal claim.

## Financial Ventures

In 1969, the duchy invested in a Pinot Grand Fenwick-flavoured chewing gum. A smoking campaign in the United States encouraging people to chew gum caused this investment to soar, bringing millions in revenue to the duchy. Grand Fenwick, however, had kept a balanced budget for years, and this surplus was only crippling the duchy's economy by encouraging people not to work. Therefore, the Council of Freedom asked Duchess Gloriana XII to spend the money at random on Wall Street. The Duchess' stock purchases wound up being incredibly valuable, throwing the global economy into a tailspin.

As another example of the duchy's surprising economic influence, after high energy prices prevented the duchy from paying for hot water at the Royal Palace, Prime Minister Mountjoy attempted to fake the discovery of two billion barrels of oil in Grand Fenwick to lower oil prices. Mountjoy and oil tycoon Alfonso Birelli hired the "worst geologists in Switzerland" to fabricate the oil discovery, but they accidentally discovered real oil in the process, significantly disrupting global commodity markets and the duchy's economic independence.

In the end, all of Grand Fenwick's adventures follow a similar formula: the duchy fakes a discovery or an action in order to gain financial benefits and then, by some serendipitous occurrence, actually makes that discovery or takes that action, throwing the international powers and the duchy's own leaders into chaos. In every case, Grand Fenwick, either by luck, genius, or a combination of the two, is able to play the foreign powers off of each other to create a more prosperous duchy and a more peaceful world.

## Initiating Crisis

The date is March 29, 2020. While doing a chemical analysis of the Cru Bourgeois crop of Pinot Grand Fenwick, a version of the wine that only appears around every 70 years, Doctor Alfred Kokintz inadvertently discovers that phosphorus compounds within the wine appear to serve as

an antidote for the COVID-19 virus. At this time, Europe and Grand Fenwick itself are experiencing widespread COVID-19 outbreaks. Doctor Kokintz brings his discovery to Prime Minister Rupert Mountjoy, who calls an emergency session of the Council of Freedom, joined by members of the Grand Fenwick Expeditionary Force and ambassadors from various foreign embassies. Notably, there is only flimsy circumstantial evidence to suggest that this antidote actually works; hence, most of the ambassadors are highly skeptical of the discovery. The council now must balance economic, geopolitical, military, and health concerns to determine whether and by what means to share the antidote — if indeed it is an effective antidote — with the rest of the world.

## Current Situation

### Grand Fenwick's COVID-19 Outbreak

On March 3, 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was recorded within Grand Fenwick's borders. Since then, the virus has spread to 50 active cases of the virus within the duchy's population of 6 000. Additionally, the virus killed two elderly Fenwickian. The duchy's one hospital, Her Majesty's Surgery, has a max occupancy of three patients and lacks the resources to deal with the outbreak. Moreover, the average Fenwickian's knowledge concerning epidemiology is consistent with that of a medieval-era peasant: an understanding that predates Ignaz Semmelweis' proposal of hand-washing and Louis Pasteur's discovery of germ theory. Consequently, the notions of social distancing and personal hygiene do not fit within Fenwickians' epistemological understanding of medicine, allowing the virus to proliferate at an unprecedented rate. While Doctor Kokintz has attempted public awareness campaigns to implore citizens to wash their hands and socially distance, these have been minimally effective.

However, Doctor Kokintz believes he has discovered a COVID-19 antidote. One night while working at Her Majesty's Surgery, Doctor Kokintz gave a sip of the Cru Bourgeois version of Pinot Grand Fenwick to a dying patient to fulfill their final wish. Remarkably, the patient recovered the next day and is now free of the virus. Doctor Kokintz has since theorized that the phosphorus compounds in the wine serve as effective coronavirus antibodies. That said, there is currently no laboratory testing to suggest that the antidote is effective, and Doctor Kokintz lacks the equipment to begin testing the antidote in the duchy. As a result, the foreign ambassadors are highly skeptical of the antidote, believing that it might just be a ploy to sell more Pinot Grand Fenwick. Wanting to avoid another hydroxychloroquine situation (President Trump had previously expressed strong support for the drug as a COVID-19 treatment, despite nonexistent evidence) the ambassadors are hesitant to share news of the discovery with their own people (and in some cases, governments), worrying that citizens would start drinking massive amounts of likely ineffective wine in order to achieve immunity.

Regardless of whether the antidote is real, the duchy needs to act immediately to stop the spread of the virus. The Anti-Dilutionists may support asking for aid from foreign powers to modernize the duchy's medical system, which is still literally stuck in the Dark Ages. The Dilutionists, however, are more protective of Grand Fenwick's traditional ways, and so may advocate for allowing the virus to continue spreading in hopes of achieving herd immunity.

## Pinot Production

Grand Fenwick's economy is entirely dependent on the export of Pinot Grand Fenwick. If the wine is proven to be an effective antidote to COVID-19 and other countries are aware of this proof, Grand Fenwick could be obligated to ship the wine free of charge to nations who would use it to stop the virus. This could economically cripple the tiny nation, as the duchy would be unable to earn any Pinot profits. Additionally, other countries would likely come to Grand Fenwick in order to more quickly produce the antidote wine, which could disrupt the duchy's traditional wine-making process that includes the very tedious practice of grape-treading. Many in Grand Fenwick do not want to compromise the country's economy and the quality of its wine for the sake of stopping the virus abroad.

The globalist Anti-Dilutionists would likely support some version of international cooperation at the expense of wine profits as long as the duchy is fairly compensated. However, as demonstrated by the Anti-Dilutionists vehement rejection of the proposal to dilute Pinot Grand Fenwick with water, the party would never allow foreign interference in the wine-making process. On the other hand, the Dilutionists are far more isolationist and would oppose international cooperation on the antidote. That said, the Dilutionists would be willing to reform wine production by diluting wine or using modern technology if it was necessary to salvage the economy.

## Swiss Invasion

In December 2019, a Swiss winery opened adjacent to the Grand Fenwick border. The winery has marketed its wine as "Pinot East of Fenwick," which has stolen profits from Pinot Grand Fenwick and become extremely lucrative for the Swiss economy. Prime Minister Mountjoy wrote a letter to the Swiss government demanding that they close down the winery, but the government refused, citing the fact that the winery exists within the Grand Fenwick appellation region. As a result, there has been increased military tension with the Swiss, and the Grand Fenwick Expeditionary Force has established garrisons along the Swiss border (see [the map](#)). Switzerland's COVID-19 case counts have been rising; if the antidote is proven to be effective and the duchy does not share it with the Swiss, there is a possibility that the Swiss government will attempt to invade Grand Fenwick to steal the antidote.



*The Grand Fenwick Expeditionary Force during the invasion of New York<sup>2</sup>*

## Lunar Tensions

In 1962, Grand Fenwick won the space race and claimed sovereignty over the lunar surface. While the Duchy transferred most administrative control of the moon over to the United Nations, it still technically has a legal claim. However, after China became the first nation to land an unmanned probe on the dark side of the moon in January 2019, tensions have risen, as some believe China is planning to drill for rare minerals on the lunar surface.<sup>3</sup> The United States and China are currently engaged in a territorial dispute surrounding the ownership of subterranean resources on the moon. As Grand Fenwick is still legally in control, both China and the U.S. are appealing to the duchy for support of their lunar claims. This is a significant piece of leverage that Grand Fenwick has over the two superpowers and could be used as a bargaining chip to solve the COVID-19 crisis.

## Russian Nuclear Testing

Since the Grand Fenwick Expeditionary Force captured Doctor Kokintz and the Qadium Bomb in 1955, the League of Little Nations, led by Chief Scientist Doctor Kokintz, has conducted annual inspections on the nuclear stockpiles of major powers and has been informed of all nuclear tests. However, Russia has carried out a series of secret nuclear tests of a new type of atomic bomb in Siberia in defiance of the League. This break in protocol has caused nuclear tensions to rise to the highest point since the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Grand Fenwick must decide how to restore legitimacy to the Tiny Twenty while maintaining good relations with Russia, a potentially crucial ally in the COVID-19 antidote crisis.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.empireonline.com/movies/reviews/mouse-roared-review>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.history.com/news/china-plans-historic-landing-on-dark-side-of-the-moon>

## American Stock Market Crash

Following uncertainty relating to the pandemic, in late February 2020, global stock markets had their worst week since the 2008 financial crisis, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average bottoming out on March 23.<sup>4, 5</sup> Consequently, the duchy's investment in Pinot Grand Fenwick chewing gum lost significant value, plunging the nation into debt and only furthering its economic crisis. The duchy may seek to pull its investment from Pinot Grand Fenwick and instead buy cheap stocks in companies that will likely quickly rebound. The Council of Freedom may again give control of the duchy's investment portfolio to Duchess Gloriana XII, who accidentally made millions on Wall Street in the 1960s.

## Air Conditioning for the Royal Palace

Some Fenwickians have finally begun heeding Doctor Kokintz's recommendations regarding social distancing, and thus many are now staying in their homes. Unfortunately, an early heatwave has struck the east of France and, without air conditioning in any Fenwickian buildings, the temperature inside is insufferable. In particular, the Royal Palace, wherein Duchess Gloriana XII and Prime Minister Mountjoy reside, has become very stuffy; therefore, the Prime Minister may attempt a new diplomatic machination to secure air conditioning for the duchy, or at least for the Royal Palace.

## Possible Solutions

### Test the Antidote

The first course of action that both the Anti-Dilutionists and Dilutionists would support is to test Doctor Kokintz's COVID-19 antidote. There are, however, many different ways to go about this solution. As Grand Fenwick lacks the resources to complete proper laboratory testing, the duchy could make a deal with one or more of the foreign ambassadors; the foreign country would supply the resources for testing or test the antidote itself, and the duchy would receive some form of compensation. If the antidote is proven to be effective, this solution could stifle the duchy's Pinot profits, as the nation who supplied the resources for testing would begin importing wine, likely free of charge. Alternatively, the duchy could test the antidote informally without foreign assistance: Doctor Kokintz would continue to administer the Cru Bourgeois Pinot Grand Fenwick to COVID-19 patients and see if the antidote continues to be successful on a

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/28/global-stocks-head-for-worst-week-since-financial-crisis-on-coronavirus-fears.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/index/djia>

circumstantial basis. In this way, Grand Fenwick could keep the antidote testing private and then pursue either of the following options.

### Antidote Cover-Up

If the antidote is proven to be effective, the duchy could try to keep the antidote to itself; Grand Fenwick would be able to stop its COVID-19 outbreak without upsetting Pinot Grand Fenwick production and once again becoming entangled in international affairs. However, this solution is high-risk, high-reward. While most of the foreign powers currently do not believe in the validity of the antidote, if they find out that the antidote has solved the duchy's outbreak without their knowledge, there could be increased international resentment towards the duchy, manifesting itself in a possible Swiss invasion, Chinese and American lunar aggression, or Russian nuclear threats. Consequently, for this solution to be successful, delegates representing Grand Fenwick would have to avoid leaking information on the antidote's effectiveness to foreign ambassadors.

### International Cooperation

Alternatively, the duchy could cooperate with other countries to varying degrees. The following are three possible mechanisms the duchy could use to cooperate but are by no means an exhaustive account of Grand Fenwick's options.

### The League of Little Nations

The League of Little Nations, an organization of 20 microstates created in 1955, has significant power as a neutral force in an international community fraught with division. The League has been carrying out annual nuclear inspections since the 1950s and is generally well-respected; thus, if the duchy wishes to share the antidote with the world, it could distribute Pinot Grand Fenwick through the League. This solution would be difficult to execute, as the League does not have the infrastructure to efficiently produce and transport the antidote throughout the world. As a result, world powers would likely jockey for early access to the antidote by bribing or threatening the duchy.

### Fenwickian Diplomacy

Prime Minister Mountjoy could employ his particular brand of statesmanship to play the world powers off of each other. In this solution, the duchy would tell certain nations about the effectiveness of the antidote to appear as a benevolent force while at the same time extracting benefits and concessions from other countries. Delegates can be very creative in the way they trick other countries, using either private or public directives to accomplish this task, and ambassador delegates must ensure that they are not being trapped in one of the duchy's many geopolitical snares.



One particular example of Fenwickian diplomacy that could be attempted is the ever-popular American loan gambit: The duchy would ask the United States for a loan or gift to help the Duchy deal with its COVID-19 outbreak. The Americans, wanting to show off their humanitarianism and goodwill, would likely oblige. Of course, Grand Fenwick would not need the money due to their antidote, and so could instead spend the money on installing a working air conditioning system.

## Quadium Bomb Leverage

The duchy could use the Quadium Bomb as leverage to extort one of the global powers. The threat of the duchy using the bomb has given power to the League of Little Nations. However, as only Doctor Kokintz knows, the bomb is actually a dud; if this fact is revealed, the Tiny Twenty could fall apart, and the duchy would lose its primary source of protection, making it vulnerable to a Swiss invasion, a Russian nuclear threat, or an American or Chinese lunar takeover.

## Bloc Positions

### The Anti-Dilutionist Party (Count Rupert Mountjoy, Crown Ministers)

The Anti-Dilutionists are the governing party in the Council of Freedom, led by hereditary Prime Minister Count Rupert Mountjoy. The party draws its name from the fact that it does not support diluting Pinot Grand Fenwick, the Duchy's sole export and economic base, in order to increase production and profit. That said, the Anti-Dilutionists are reformers who wish to modernize the Duchy. They have grand plans for infrastructural development, tourist attractions, and greater government spending. The Anti-Dilutionists would likely support international cooperation on the COVID-19 antidote while using Fenwickian diplomacy to rise above the major world powers. Prime Minister Mountjoy is a cunning statesman and would likely be able to compromise with the Dilutionists if it could bring him personal benefits, such as air conditioning for the Royal Palace. Mountjoy and the Anti-Dilutionists are happy to trick and cheat foreign powers to benefit the duchy and themselves.

“Those who would add water to Pinot Grand Fenwick would cheapen every work of art in the world so that there would be no such thing as a masterpiece, but only a hundred million imitations of what was once a unique work. They would put the Mona Lisa on a postage stamp, and use the sublime words of our immortal bard, Roger Bentshield, to sell cigarettes. The wine is the blood of our grapes. It cannot and must not be diluted. This monstrous proposal is the result of the influence of foreign ideologies. It is traceable to the cant of Communism in their cramped Kremlin caves, on the one hand, and the wiles of the capitalists in their scintillating American



skyscrapers, on the other. The freedom, the honor, the future, and the intrinsic worth of Grand Fenwick depends on a resounding ‘No’ to this monstrous proposal at the polls next March.”  
Prime Minister Count Rupert Mountjoy on the Dilution Question, 1955<sup>6</sup>

### The Dilutionist Party (David Benter, Shadow Ministers)

The Dilutionists, led by David Benter, are the opposition party in the Council of Freedom, deriving their name from the belief that Pinot Grand Fenwick should be diluted. The Dilutionists, while claiming to be progressive socialists representing the working man, are, in fact, traditionalists who hope to preserve Grand Fenwick’s culture and customs. Therefore, they would likely avoid spreading news of the antidote’s effectiveness to the rest of the world, as this would prevent the production of Pinot Grand Fenwick for consumption and could lead to international encroachment onto the Duchy’s traditions and the rights of the working Fenwickian. The Dilutionists also prefer honest relationships with foreign powers as opposed to Mountjoy’s trickery. They view Mountjoy as naive and idealistic in his plans to reform the economy and bring Grand Fenwick into the 21st century.



*Prime Minister Count Rupert Mountjoy (right) and Leader of Her Grace’s Loyal Opposition David Benter (left)*<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Wibberley, Leonard. *The Mouse That Roared*. The Estate of the Late Leonard Wibberley, 2015.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2016/08/marwan-bishara-donald-trump-mouse-roared-election-160817121849841.html>

## The Grand Fenwick Expeditionary Force (Tully Bascomb, Will Buckley)

Tully Bascome, the Head Forester and High Constable, and Will Buckley, the Sergeant-at-Arms, are leaders of the Grand Fenwick Expeditionary Force, which consists of twenty bowmen and three men-at-arms. They will be wary of potential military invasion from the Swiss and likely support peaceful international cooperation, as they wish to avoid war.

## Doctor Alfred Kokintz, Chief Scientist

Doctor Kokintz, a world-renowned nuclear physicist who was captured by the Grand Fenwick Expeditionary Force in 1955, is currently researching the properties of Cru Bourgeois Pinot Grand Fenwick in hopes of proving its capabilities as a viral antidote. He also supports significantly reforming Her Majesty's Surgery in order to bring modern medicine and science to the pre-industrial Grand Fenwick. However, Doctor Kokintz fits the trope of an absent-minded professor: he often takes an indifferent approach to politics, preferring to study *bobolinks*: rare birds who sometimes migrate to the duchy.

## Vincent Mountjoy, Minister of Lunar Affairs

In addition to serving as the Minister of Lunar Affairs for the Anti-Dilutionist cabinet, Vincent Mountjoy is also the son of Prime Minister Count Rupert Mountjoy. Since the Prime Minister is a hereditary position, Vincent Mountjoy will automatically become head of government once his father dies or resigns. However, unlike his father, the younger Mountjoy is not nearly as crafty a statesman and spends most of his time aiding Doctor Kokintz in his scientific explorations. He would thus likely side with Doctor Kokintz in modernizing Grand Fenwick's medical infrastructure and developing the antidote.

## Laura Backstab, Ambassador from the United States

The United States wants to appear as a close ally of Grand Fenwick for international optics purposes and would likely be willing to offer the duchy a loan or gift if asked. That said, the U.S. also wants the duchy to side with it on the lunar subterranean drilling rights dispute and may demand this in exchange for help. In regards to the COVID-19 crisis, the Trump Administration is quick to provide support for unproven treatments;<sup>8</sup> therefore, Ambassador Laura Backstab hopes to keep Doctor Kokintz's discovery of a possible antidote from both the American people and government unless there is laboratory testing proof, fearing that millions of Americans would start drinking dangerous amounts of wine at the behest of President Trump.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/16/us/politics/trump-hydroxychloroquine-coronavirus.html>

## Sergey Predavat, Ambassador from Russia

Like the U.S., Russia also wants to give the impression of being a benevolent actor, but unlike the four other represented foreign countries, believes (or wants its citizens to believe) in the validity of Grand Fenwick's COVID-19 antidote. Russia has been quick to approve potential virus treatments,<sup>9</sup> and Ambassador Sergey Predavat, one of President Vladimir Putin's cronies, has been on the lookout for potential antidotes. If the duchy does not make a deal with Predavat, Russia may attempt to extort Grand Fenwick by diplomatic or military means for access to Pinot Grand Fenwick. Russia has already defied the League of Little Nations through its surprise nuclear tests and, without a strong response from the League, may be willing to do so again to acquire the antidote.

## Hu Beipan, Ambassador from China

China's primary objective in this committee is to gain access to mining rights on the moon. The moon has significant silicon reserves, which China is hoping to mine to fuel its booming technology industry. China may be willing to provide resources for Grand Fenwick, including state-of-the-art voice-controlled air conditioning units, but only if control of lunar resources on parts of the moon are vested to the Chinese government. If not, China may attack the United States and Grand Fenwick's lunar bases.

## Nils Verraten, Ambassador from Switzerland

Switzerland borders Grand Fenwick to the east and has been assembling its army in the Neuchâtel region in preparation for a ground invasion. Tensions between the two nations first rose after the Swiss government refused to shut down the winery selling "Pinot East of Fenwick." If the duchy hides the effectiveness of the COVID-19 antidote from Switzerland, which is currently facing a major outbreak, but Ambassador Nils Verraten finds out, the Swiss government could cite this incident as a *casus belli*. To avoid an invasion, Grand Fenwick may be willing to negotiate with the Swiss to give them access to the COVID-19 antidote, presuming it is effective, in exchange for ceasing production of "Pinot East of Fenwick"; however, as the wine is very lucrative for the stumbling Swiss economy, this may be too much to ask for the Swiss government.

## Estelle Trahir, Ambassador from France

France has generally maintained a peaceful stance in regards to Grand Fenwick, serving to moderate the hot tempers of Switzerland, the U.S., and Russia. France may be willing to aid the duchy's pandemic response, but crippled by its own COVID-19 outbreak and highly skeptical of the antidote, the help France can provide is fairly limited. In the event of a Swiss invasion,

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/russia-sputnik-vaccine-1.5681742>

France may come to Grand Fenwick's defence if relations remain positive. However, Ambassador Estelle Trahir is a descendant of Charles V the Wise and may seek to avenge her ancestor's legacy by finally recapturing the Grand Fenwick Royal Palace should the opportunity present itself, and there are others in the Macron Administration who seek to act upon France's irredentist claim to the duchy.

## Discussion Questions

For Fenwickians:

1. To what degree should Grand Fenwick retain its economic and political independence?
2. How should the duchy test the effectiveness of Doctor Kokintz's COVID-19 antidote?
3. Should the duchy prioritize preserving Fenwickian cultural identity or modernizing the duchy's antiquated ways?
4. Which foreign power presents the greatest threat to the duchy?
5. Which nation(s) should Grand Fenwick negotiate with?

For ambassadors:

1. What is the main objective of your country in regards to Grand Fenwick?
2. To what degree are your personal ambitions as an ambassador distinct from the goals of your country?
3. What information is safe for you to divulge with the rest of the committee? What information would you like to find out about the duchy or other ambassadors' countries?
4. What is your country's relationship with the other countries represented by ambassadors?

For all delegates:

1. What are the incentives that guide the actions of global powers?
2. What is the relationship between scientific discovery, economic growth, and political greed?
3. In what way do the events of this crisis exemplify larger historical or modern geopolitical trends?
4. Who are the "winners" of the crisis? What does it mean to be a winner in this context? Are there really any winners in international politics?

## Further Research

Grand Fenwick book series:

[\*The Mouse that Roared\*](#)

[\*The Mouse on the Moon\*](#)

[\*The Mouse on Wall Street\*](#)

[The Mouse that Saved the West](#)  
[Beware of the Mouse](#)

## Grand Fenwick movie series:

*The Mouse that Roared* ([YouTube Movies](#)) ([Prime Video](#))

*The Mouse on the Moon* ([YouTube - abridged](#)) ([Prime Video](#))

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