



# Directorate Of Authority

*On the cards:* Does the house believe that national “greatness” is best achieved through absolute authority or moral leadership?

## Letter from the Executive Board –

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Directorate Authority.

This committee offers a unique opportunity to examine leadership, power, governance, and legitimacy through the perspectives of some of history's most influential figures. As delegates, you will be challenged to defend ideologies, justify policies, and confront difficult questions surrounding the exercise of authority and the responsibilities that accompany it.

The Directorate Authority is designed to move beyond simplistic distinctions between right and wrong. Instead, it seeks to explore a fundamental question that has shaped societies throughout history: *Is effective leadership best measured by moral principles or by the ability to achieve stability, security, and national objectives?* Through debate, delegates will examine competing visions of governance, statecraft, and political legitimacy while engaging with the historical legacies of the individuals they represent.

This study guide serves as an introduction to the themes, concepts, and questions that will frame committee proceedings. It is intended to provide direction for your research; however, delegates are encouraged to investigate beyond its contents and develop a comprehensive understanding of their portfolio and its historical context.

The Directorate Authority rewards critical thinking, persuasive argumentation, and the ability to navigate complex moral and political dilemmas. We encourage all delegates to approach committee with curiosity, preparation, and a willingness to challenge both established narratives and one another's assumptions.

We look forward to witnessing an engaging, dynamic, and memorable debate.

Sincerely,

**The Directorate Authority**

Abbas R  
Adil Sayyed

## Clear Matrix Distinction

**AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS →**

Joseph Stalin

Adolf Hitler  
Benito Mussolini  
Vladimir Lenin  
Mao Zedong  
Xi Jinping  
Vladimir Putin  
Kim Jong Un  
Julius Caesar  
Genghis Khan  
Napoleon Bonaparte  
Otto von Bismarck  
Hideki Tojo  
Ali Khamenei  
Saddam Hussein  
Muammar Gaddafi  
Bashar al-Assad  
Aurangzeb  
Fidel Castro  
Hugo Chávez  
Donald Trump

**Moral Leadership →**

Mohandas Gandhi  
Nelson Mandela  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
George Washington  
Barack Obama  
Volodymyr Zelenskyy  
Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Winston Churchill  
Margaret Thatcher  
Muhammad Ali Jinnah  
Sun Tzu  
Emperor Hirohito  
Louis XVI

*You are hence advised to strictly collaborate with leaders from your own ideology to maintain the purity of the ROP that must be followed!*

## **The Rules Of Procedure**

The committee will be following THE OXFORD UNION debate style combining it with the British parliamentary system debate, unlike conventional Model United Nations committees, delegates do not represent states or governments. Instead, they represent influential historical and contemporary leaders, defending ideas, philosophies, and leadership models associated with their assigned portfolios.

The committee will debate the motion:

"This House Believes That National Greatness Is Best Achieved Through Absolute Authority Rather Than Moral Leadership, or vice versa"

The debate will be divided into two principal sides:

**Proposition**, leaders which support the motion, and  
**Opposition**, leaders which opposes the motion.

Delegates are expected to engage directly with the motion, construct persuasive arguments, challenge opposing viewpoints, and defend their positions through historical evidence, political theory, and philosophical reasoning. Unlike traditional MUN procedures, the primary objective is not consensus-building or drafting resolutions. Instead, success depends upon the ability to persuade the house through logical argumentation, rhetorical skill, historical analysis, and effective rebuttal.

### **Opening Speeches**

The debate begins with opening speeches from both sides with timings confirmed by the chairperson in the training session. Speakers introduce their side's central arguments, establish the framework of the debate, and explain why the motion should either stand or fall.

For this committee, delegates should be prepared to define concepts such as:

- National Greatness
- Absolute Authority
- Moral Leadership
- Legitimacy
- Stability
- Freedom
- State Power

### **Rebuttals**

Following opening arguments, delegates are expected to directly challenge opposing claims.

Effective rebuttal involves:

- Identifying contradictions.
- Challenging historical examples.
- Questioning assumptions.
- Demonstrating flaws in logic.

The strongest speakers **do not** merely repeat prepared points; they actively engage with the arguments presented by the opposing side.

### **EXAMPLES OF INTERESTING QUESTIONS THAT MAY COME UP →**

**Examples include:**

- "If moral leadership is sufficient, how would Gandhi have responded to Nazi Germany?"
- "If authoritarian leadership creates greatness, how do you explain the collapse of the Third Reich in Germany?"

*The speaker may choose whether to accept or reject the certain QUESTIONS.*

### **Floor Debate**

After formal speeches, the Chair may open the floor for broader discussion.

Delegates may:

- Question opposing speakers.
- Challenge definitions.
- Introduce new historical examples.
- Expand philosophical arguments.

This portion is often the most dynamic part of the debate.

### **Closing Arguments**

Closing speakers summarize their side's position and explain why the motion should ultimately be accepted or rejected.

Rather than introducing entirely new arguments, closing speeches should:

- Reinforce key themes.
- Highlight weaknesses in the opposition.
- Demonstrate why their interpretation of history is more convincing.

**END WRITING CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE IN TERMS OF DOCUMENT –  
Contingent on the executive board post assessment of the committee.**

**THE ROP WILL BE EXPLAINED IN 'OCEANIC DEPTH' IN THE TRAINING SESSION!**

**Suggested Readings/Watch:**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/OxfordUnion>

[https://www.mozoro.net/docs/Oxford\\_debate\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.mozoro.net/docs/Oxford_debate_guidelines.pdf)

## **Understanding The Agenda**

"This House Believes That National Greatness Is Best Achieved Through Absolute Authority Rather Than Moral Leadership."

At its core, this agenda seeks to examine one of the most enduring questions in political history: ***What makes a nation truly great, and what type of leadership is most effective in achieving that greatness?***

You should note that this committee is not intended to be a discussion of whether a particular historical figure was "good" or "bad." Instead, it is an examination of the philosophies, methods, and governing principles employed by influential leaders throughout history. The objective is to assess which form of national leadership is superior.

For the purposes of this debate, delegates should carefully consider the meaning of the three key concepts contained within the motion:

### **National Greatness**

Delegates must first determine what constitutes "*national greatness*". Greatness may be measured through numerous indicators, including but not limited to:

1. Military strength and security
2. Economic prosperity and industrial development
3. Political stability
4. Territorial expansion
5. Scientific and technological advancement
6. Cultural influence
7. International prestige
8. Social welfare and quality of life
9. Protection of rights and liberties
10. Historical legacy and longevity

### **Absolute Authority**

*Absolute authority refers to a system in which significant political power is concentrated in a single leader, ruling party, institution, or governing body capable of making decisions with limited opposition or constraint.*

You should examine this concept may consider questions such as:

- Does centralized authority enable faster decision-making?
- Are strong leaders necessary during periods of crisis?
- Can national development occur more efficiently when opposition is limited?
- Does political stability require concentration of power?
- Is individual liberty sometimes sacrificed for collective progress?

### **Moral Leadership**

*Moral leadership refers to leadership grounded in ethical principles, legitimacy, justice, accountability, public trust, and respect for human dignity.*

#### Characteristics of Moral Leadership

- ❖ Lead through personal example and integrity.
- ❖ Place ethical considerations above political expediency.
- ❖ Respect the rule of law and institutional accountability.
- ❖ Encourage public participation in governance.
- ❖ Protect civil liberties and human rights.
- ❖ Seek reconciliation rather than repression.
- ❖ Prioritize long-term societal well-being over short-term political gains.
- ❖ Accept limitations on personal power.

### **CASE 1 EXEMPLAR – How to understand leadership styles through historical interpretation.**

**NOTE** - Try to go through the reading and analyse various leadership styles and positions based on the previous factors as mentioned under 'National Greatness' *which will help you research for your own portfolio better!* This reading is solely meant as a rough idea of how the committee assessment of decisions made by leaders may affect their outcomes, on both their own accords and the world.

## **Joseph Stalin**

Soviet premier Joseph Stalin, 1950. In late 1934—just when the worst excesses of Stalinism seemed to have spent themselves—the Secretary General launched a new campaign of political terror against the very Communist Party members who had brought him to power; his pretext was the assassination, in Leningrad on December 1, of his leading colleague and potential rival, Sergey Kirov. That Stalin himself had arranged Kirov's murder—as an excuse for the promotion of mass bloodshed—was strongly hinted by Nikita Khrushchev, first secretary of the party, in a speech denouncing Stalin at the 20th Party Congress in 1956.

Stalin used the show trial of leading Communists as a means for expanding the new terror. In August 1936, Zinovyev and Kamenev were paraded in court to repeat fabricated confessions, sentenced to death, and shot; two more major trials followed, in January 1937 and March 1938. In June 1937, Marshal Mikhail Tukhachevsky, at the time the most influential military personality, and other leading generals were reported as court-martialed on charges of treason and executed.

Such were the main publicly acknowledged persecutions that empowered Stalin to tame the Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet elite as a whole. He not only “liquidated” veteran semi-independent Bolsheviki but also many party bosses, military leaders, industrial managers, and high government officials totally subservient to himself. Other victims included foreign Communists on Soviet territory and members of the very political police organization, now called the NKVD. All other sections of the Soviet elite—the arts, the academic world, the legal and diplomatic professions—also lost a high proportion of victims, as did the population at large, to a semi-haphazard, galloping persecution that fed on extorted denunciations and confessions. These implicated even more victims until Stalin himself reduced the terror, though he never abandoned it. Stalin’s political victims were numbered in tens of millions. His main motive was, presumably, to maximize his personal power.

### *Role in World War II of Joseph Stalin*

#### ***Yalta Conference-***

During World War II Stalin emerged, after an unpromising start, as the most successful of the supreme leaders thrown up by the belligerent nations. In August 1939, after first attempting to form an anti-Hitler alliance with the Western powers, he concluded a pact with Hitler, which encouraged the German dictator to attack Poland and begin World War II. Anxious to strengthen his western frontiers while his new but palpably treacherous German ally was still engaged in the West, Stalin annexed eastern Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and parts of Romania; he also attacked Finland and extorted territorial concessions. In May 1941 Stalin recognized the growing danger of German attack on the Soviet Union by appointing himself chairman of the Council of People’s Commissars (head of the government); it was his first governmental office since 1923.

*Why did the German-led invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 fall short?*



*Examine how Stalin's Red Army defeated Hitler's Fourth and Sixth Armies in the Battle of Stalingrad -*

In the Battle of Stalingrad (1942–43), the advancing Germans were finally stopped by the Red Army in desperate house-to-house fighting.

Stalin's prewar defensive measures were exposed as incompetent by the German blitzkrieg that surged deep into Soviet territory after Hitler's unprovoked attack on the Soviet Union of June 22, 1941. Khrushchev claimed that Stalin was shocked into temporary inactivity by the onslaught, but, if so, he soon rallied and appointed himself supreme commander in chief.

When the Germans menaced Moscow in the winter of 1941, he remained in the threatened capital, helping to organize a great counter-offensive. The Battle of Stalingrad (in the following winter) and the Battle of Kursk (in the summer of 1943) were also won by the Soviet Army under Stalin's supreme direction, turning the tide of invasion against the retreating Germans, who capitulated in May 1945.

As war leader, Stalin maintained close personal control over the Soviet battlefronts, military reserves, and war economy. At first over-inclined to intervene with inept telephoned instructions, as Hitler did, the Soviet generalissimo gradually learned to delegate military decisions.

*Deciding Germany's future: The Potsdam Conference -*

Stalin participated in high-level Allied meetings, including those of the "Big Three" with Churchill and Roosevelt at Tehrān (1943), Yalta (1945), and Potsdam (1945). A formidable negotiator, he outwitted these foreign statesmen; his superior skill has been acclaimed by Anthony Eden, then British foreign secretary.

**Further suggested readings before your portfolio to gain input on analysing leadership styles →**

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Joseph-Stalin/Role-in-World-War-II>

<https://www.nelsonmandela.org/biography>  
<https://www.notablebiographies.com/Lo-Ma/Mao-Zedong.html>  
<https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/biography/>

## **Research Expectations**

This committee requires delegates to move beyond basic biographical knowledge. Knowing the dates of a leader's rule, major battles, or famous speeches will not be sufficient. Delegates should instead seek to understand the political philosophy, governing methods, and leadership principles associated with their assigned portfolio.

When researching, delegates should focus on the following areas:

### **1. Leadership Philosophy**

What did your assigned leader believe about power, authority, governance, and the relationship between the state and its people?

For example:

- Did they prioritize order over liberty?
- Did they believe strong leaders were necessary?
- Did they emphasize popular consent and legitimacy?
- Did they justify the use of force to achieve political goals?

### **2. Methods of Governance**

How did your assigned leader govern?

Consider:

- Centralization of power
- Democratic institutions
- Use of military force
- Public participation
- Political opposition
- Civil liberties
- Economic planning and control

Delegates should be able to explain not only what their leader achieved, but how those achievements were pursued.

### **3. Vision of National Greatness**

How did your assigned leader define national success?

For some leaders, greatness meant military conquest and expansion. For others, it meant independence, national unity, economic prosperity, social justice, or moral progress.

### **4. Historical Outcomes**

What were the consequences of your leader's approach?

Delegates should examine both achievements and shortcomings.

Questions to consider include:

- Did their methods produce long-term stability?

- Did their policies strengthen national institutions?
- Did their achievements endure after their rule ended?
- Were the costs justified by the outcomes?

*Ask yourself how is your leader viewed today, why, and is it justified?*

#### MUST EVALUATE TOPICS FOR PORTFOLIOS –

1. Military strength and security
2. Economic prosperity and industrial development
3. Political stability
4. Territorial expansion
5. Scientific and technological advancement
6. Cultural influence
7. International prestige
8. Social welfare and quality of life
9. Protection of rights and liberties
10. Historical legacy and longevity

#### MUST ASK QUESTIONS FOR EACH PORTFOLIO RESEARCH –

1. Is it better to be feared or respected?
2. Can democracy compete with authoritarian efficiency?
3. Are human rights a luxury or a necessity?
4. Can a morally good leader make a nation powerful?
5. Can an authoritarian leader be benevolent?
6. Does history remember outcomes or methods?
7. Is national greatness possible without sacrifice?
8. Does the end justify the means?
9. Should leaders be judged by intentions or results?
10. Is stability more important than liberty?

#### MUST ANSWER QUESTIONS POST DEBATES –

1. *Is legitimacy more durable than fear?*
2. *Can moral authority produce political stability?*
3. *Does greatness require ethical conduct?*
4. *Are moral leaders more trusted by future generations?*

### Advice from the board –

1. Delegates should not simply defend every action taken by their assigned leader. Instead, they should seek to understand and articulate the broader principles that shaped their leadership.
2. A successful delegate will be able to answer the following question:  
Based on the experiences, beliefs, and methods of your assigned leader, does history demonstrate that national greatness is best achieved through absolute authority or through moral leadership?
3. Ultimately, are you using your assigned portfolio as a lens through which to evaluate the motion, drawing upon historical evidence, political philosophy, and practical outcomes to support their arguments?

Research TONS, read TONS and be prepared TONS and ***you will be all set.***

Any questions before the training session can be sent at –  
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