

CASE

It's 1915; World War I has been going on for about a year. You're Italy, and have decided to enter the war. Opp/choice: On which side should you intervene, the Allied Powers or the Central Powers?

ALLIES

1. Allies will probably win... bandwagon with them to gain benefits afterwards

- Allies will win since they (i) have more troops, (ii) have stronger economies, (iii) only have to fight a defensive war, which is easier

(a) Reclaim Trento, Dalmatia from Austria

- secret Treaty of London negotiations means that the Allies are willing to promise it to us

(b) More favorable diplomatic position after the war

(c) More favorable economic position after the war

(i) Trade benefits

(ii) Our factories won't be destroyed

2. Maximize Italy's ability to wage war

(a) French investment, need their financiers

- they could recall their debt, causing fiscal panic

(b) It's logistically very difficult to attack France... narrow front which they've very heavily guarded with fortresses.

Austrians are too poor to afford fortresses.

3. Values

(a) We're a democracy. The Allies are largely also democracies.

- Feel kinship with them

- How could we possibly fight them?

(b) Heathen Turks are fighting for Germany – don't want to side with them!

GERMAN SCUM

1. Central powers will probably win... bandwagon with them to gain benefits afterwards

- Central powers will win since they (i) have a badass army, (ii) have stronger heavy industry to support that army, (iii) have interior defensive lines, and can knock out Russia and France in turn

(a) Reclaim Nice/Savoy, Tunisia from France

(b) More favorable diplomatic position after the war

(c) More favorable economic position after the war

(i) Trade benefits

(ii) Our factories won't be destroyed

2. Maximize Italy's ability to wage war

(a) French investment, need their financiers

- they could recall their debt, causing fiscal panic

(b) Allies are easier to attack.

Austrians have an unassailable position in the Alpine mountains, very narrow front. If you've seen any James Bond movies, you just know they've got all these skiers with machine guns, too.

3. Values

(a) We're a member of the Central Alliance! So we have preexisting treaty commitments. It's look bad if we break them.

(i) Morally wrong

(ii) And practically wrong, since it will undermine our credibility

(b) Another core Italian value is hating the French.