



THE
Alexander Hamilton
SOCIETY

The Echo of Defeat: Russia's Future Post-Ukraine

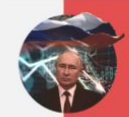
A Wikistrat and Alexander Hamilton Society Simulation

August 2023

Introduction

In early August 2023, a mere six weeks after the Wagner Group rebellion and amid the Jeddah summit aiming to end Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Wikistrat and the Alexander Hamilton Society (AHS) joined forces to conduct an interactive roleplaying simulation to explore the potential consequences of a Russian defeat on the world stage.

For ten consecutive days, AHS alumni collaborated with renowned experts from around the globe and engaged in public debates and secret negotiations to promote the interests of their actors throughout the ever-changing situation.



The Echo of Defeat: Russia's Future Post-Ukraine


A Wikistrat and Alexander Hamilton Society Simulation
August 2023

- ☰
Background
 Background and instructions.
- 📖
Background Reading
 List of materials for preparatory reading.
- 👥
Analytic Team
 Simulation participants and contact details of the supervisors.
- 🗨️
Lounge
 A discussion forum for the participants and Q&A


AUGUST 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Simulation						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9


Select your team to get started




USA




Finland




Ukraine



China



European Union



Iran

Simulation Overview

According to their preferences, the participants were divided into six groups, each representing a different country. Each participant received a role in the decision-making room of their government.



Team USA



Joe Biden
Participant



Kamala Harris
Participant



Kevin McCarthy
Participant



Team Iran



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
Participant



Ebrahim Raisi
Participant



Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf
Participant

Simulation Overview

Faced with an opening scenario in which Russia withdraws from Ukraine and encounters internal turmoil, the participants engaged in debates and negotiations through public and covert channels to promote their actors' interests.

Each team worked collaboratively to develop policy options in light of the ever-changing course of events while dealing with unique dilemmas and strategic questions on a daily basis.

✔ What now Sir/Madame Advisor?

In light of these developments, please propose strategic options for Ukraine, outlining a course of action in response to the recently unfolded events.

▼ Strategic questions to consider when writing your policy

- Given the uncertainty in Russia, how should Ukraine secure its borders to prevent any unexpected escalation?
- Should Ukraine now push for expedited membership into NATO and the EU to secure more robust security guarantees?
- How should Ukraine manage its diplomatic relations with Russia in the wake of this victory while also dealing with potential changes in Russian leadership?
- How can Ukraine leverage international support to ensure Russia adheres to its commitments and withdraws its troops to the pre-February 2022 lines?
- Should Ukraine seek stronger alliances with other countries in similar situations, such as Georgia or the Baltic states, to further strengthen its collective bargaining position on the international stage?

The Ukrainian Situation Room

Within-team communication



Private Communication

Covert communication with other teams



Public Announcements

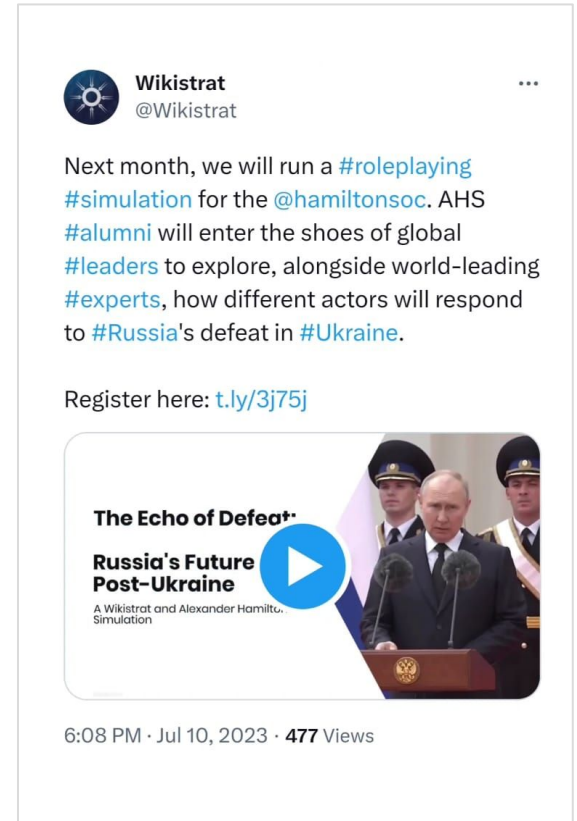
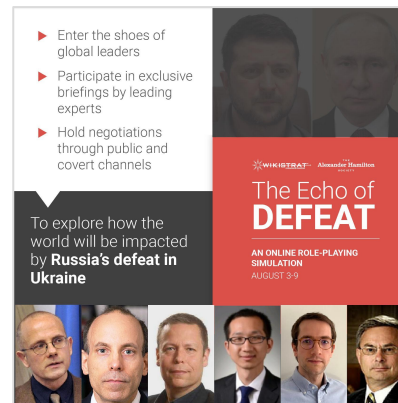
Open communication with all the teams



Before the Simulation: Promotional Marketing Materials

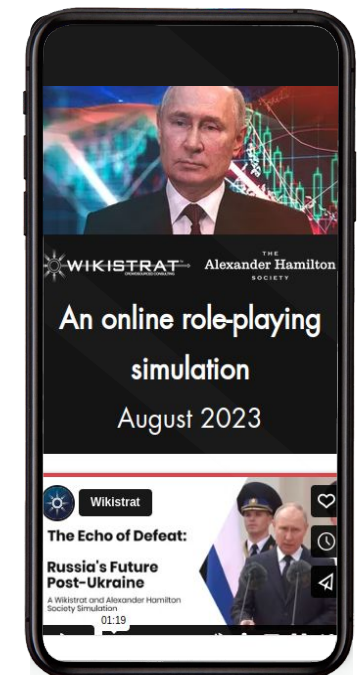
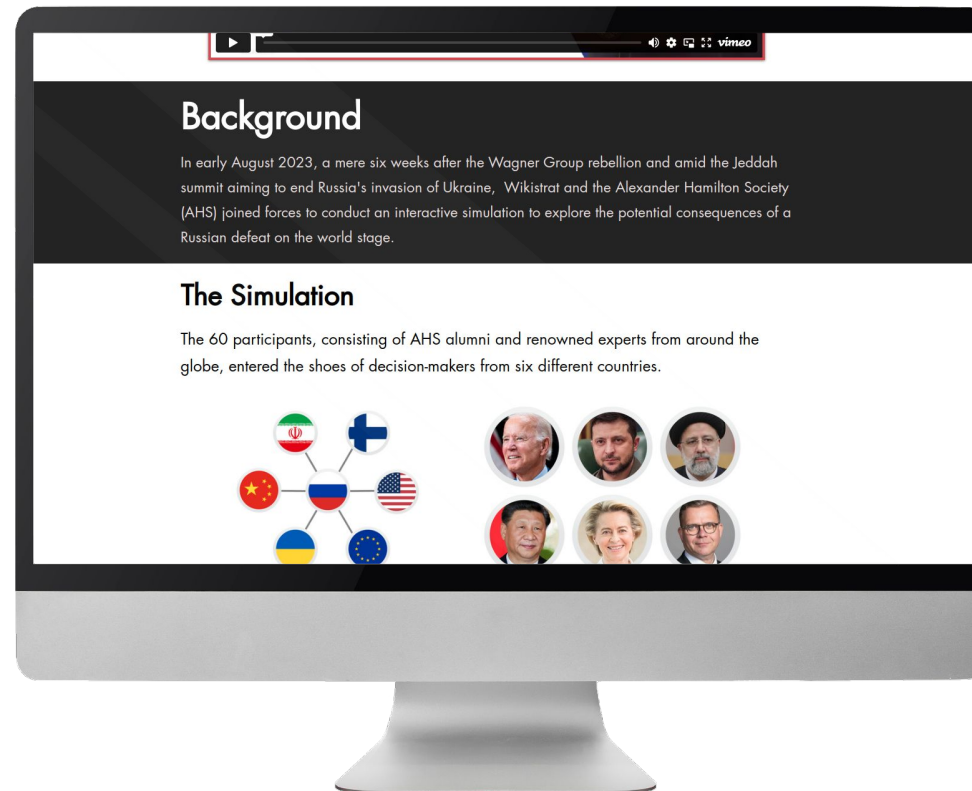
In the weeks leading up to the simulation, Wikistrat created a marketing bundle to promote registration for the simulation, with graphics and videos that were shared on social media and via email.

The promotional posts published by Wikistrat alone received over **2.5K impressions**.



Before the Simulation: Landing Page for Registration

A dedicated landing page was built to provide further information on the simulation, and a registration form was created to record the team preferences of each registrant and immediately notify AHS about every new submission.



Simulation Onboarding: Onboarding Call, Tutorial, & Emails

A day before the simulation's launch, login details for early access were provided to the participants and an onboarding call with full instructions and a Q&A session was held. A full recording and a shorter tutorial were shared with those participants who couldn't attend.

The Echo of Defeat: Russia's Future Post-Ukraine
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August 2023

Early Access

Dear Participant,

We are pleased to grant you access to "**The Echo of Defeat: Russia's Future Post-Ukraine**" simulation, which will take place on Wikistrat's interactive platform from August 3 to 9.

This email contains your login credentials and explains how the simulation will work.

Character and Login Details

You can **log in** using the following details:

Username:
Password:

In this simulation, you will be on **Team**, playing , .

AUGUST 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	Simulation	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

ANALYST AND CLIENT LOGIN

Username/Email
Password
Log In Forgot your password?

Onboarding Call: "The Echo of Defeat: Russia's Future Post-Ukraine"

04:17

vimeo

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the schedule of the simulation?
[Click here to expand](#)

Can I write more than one entry?
[Click here to expand](#)

Who to contact if I encounter any problems?
[Click here to expand](#)

What format should my entry follow?
[Click here to expand](#)

How much do I need to study about the role I'm playing?
[Click here to expand](#)

How do I interact with other entries?
[Click here to expand](#)

Simulation Tutorial

0:00 / 2:27

Simulation Onboarding: Team & Role Assignment

LIVE UPDATES

 Zhang Guoqing A Superpower Peace Initiative commented Aug 11, 2023	 Chuck Schumer Connecting Outside of the Simulation updated Aug 11, 2023 • view change	 Wille Rydman Leveraging Political Change in Russia: A commented Aug 11, 2023	 Sauli Niinistö Cyber Attacks Originating from commented Aug 11, 2023
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In total, **110 Wikistrat experts and AHS alumni** asked to join the simulation. **46 AHS alumni** and **45 top Wikistrat experts** were chosen to participate, and each of these was assigned a role of a decision-maker in one of the simulation's **6 teams**.

Recent Activity
 ▾ [Click here to see what's new on Team USA](#)

William Burns
 Coordinating positions on a return to the 2014 borders of Ukraine updated Aug 12, 2023 • [view change](#)

Olivér Várhelyi
 Ukraine is Europe, and Europe is Ukraine updated Aug 11, 2023 • [view change](#)

Wang Yi
 Enlarging Sino-Iranian Strategic Partnership & Aligning National Strategic Interests updated Aug 09, 2023 • [view change](#)
 Beijing Accepts Iranian Request for Middle East Regional Conflict Mediator updated Aug 09, 2023 • [view change](#)

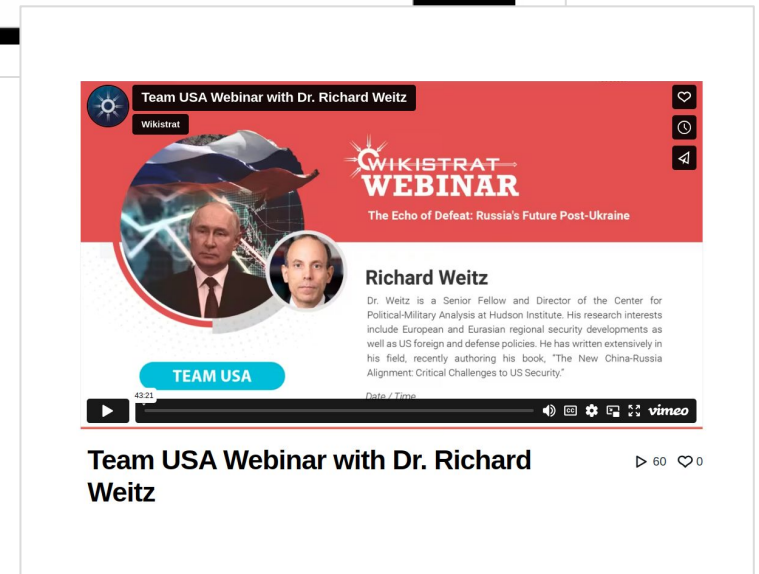
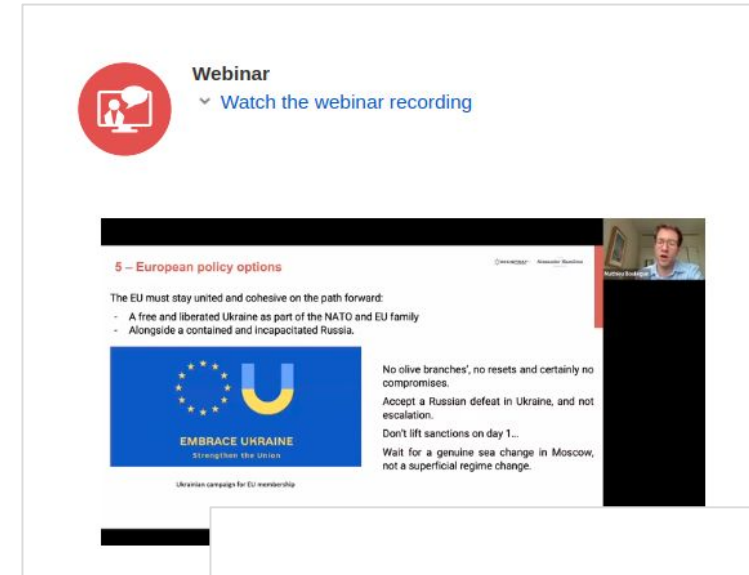
Ruslan Stefanchuk
 Ukraine's Foreign Policy updated Aug 09, 2023 • [view change](#)

Simulation Onboarding: Exclusive Webinars

During the first two days of the simulation, Wikistrat held 6 exclusive webinars on the topic - each from the perspective of one player.

Just like actual policymakers, the participants received briefings from leading experts before making decisions that could entirely change the course of events. Each of these was concluded with an open Q&A session.

The recordings of these briefings, which **totaled 277 minutes**, have been **watched over 110 times** and were shared with all the participants once the exercise concluded.




Simulation Onboarding: Preparatory Reading


A list of background materials was shared with the participants. This included a general overview of the situation through articles published by AHS alumni and short videos as well as a more detailed list of reading materials specific to each team.

A Quick Introduction

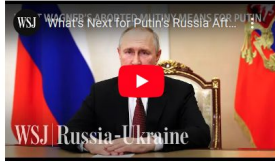
How Ukraine Got the Upper Hand against Russia




A Closer Look At Putin's Inner Circle



What's Next for Putin's Russia After Wagner Aborts Mutiny



Russia Has Already Lost: US Officials Lay Out State of Putin's Invasion



Recommended Reading

- [Reconstructing Ukraine: Creating a Freer, More Prosperous, and Secure Future](#), RAND Corporation
- [Rethinking Tradeoffs Between Europe and the Indo-Pacific](#), Luis Simón and Zack Cooper, War on the Rocks
- [How helping Ukraine prepares us for a confrontation with China](#), Gabriel Scheinmann, The Washington Post
- [NATO's new center of gravity](#), Chels Michita, Politico
- [NATO's Next Decade](#), Foreign Policy
- [What If Russia Loses?](#) Liana Fix and Michael Kimmage, Foreign Affairs
- [The Global Stakes of the War in Ukraine](#), J. Daryl Charles, Providence

Diving Deeper

The Ukrainian Perspective

- [Ukraine's Spring Offensive Comes With Immense Stakes for Future of the War](#), Julian E. Barnes, Eric Schmitt, Adam Entous and Thomas Gibbons-Neff, New York Times
- [How to end Russia's war on Ukraine](#), Chatham House
- [Consequences of the War in Ukraine: A Bleak Outlook for Russia](#), Brian Michael Jenkins, RAND Corporation
- [How to Reform and Reconstruct Ukraine After the War](#), Howard J. Shatz, Gabrielle Tamini, Charles P. Ries, and James Dobbins, RAND Corporation
- [Politics of Ukrainian Reconstruction](#), Howard J. Shatz, Khrystyna Holynska, William Courtney, RAND Corporation

The European Perspective

- [Europe's new Marshall Plan: The EU makes a bet on rebuilding Ukraine](#), Suzanne Lynch, Politico
- [Reading the Tea Leaves on EU Enlargement: Ukraine and Moldova on Track](#), Marja Golubeva, CEPA
- [Germany Has a New Consensus on China](#), Noah Barkin, Foreign Policy
- [Europe: Ukraine's Essential Ally](#), William Courtney and Hans Binnendijk, RAND Corporation
- [Rethinking the EU's Role in European Collective Defence](#), Lucia Retter and Stephanie Pezard, RAND Corporation

The Finnish Perspective

- [The Finnish effect of the war in Ukraine](#), Alex Gordon, New Eastern Europe
- [War with Russia? Finland has a plan for that](#), Richard Milne, Financial Times
- [Finland and Nato: What's at Stake?](#) Juha Jokela, Institut Montaigne
- [Russian Collateral Damage: Finland and Sweden's Accession to NATO](#), Rene Nyberg, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- [The impact of the war in Ukraine on Finland](#), STTK

The American Perspective

- [What Is America's Interest in the Ukraine War?](#) Joshua Shiffrin, Cato Institute
- [One Year of Supporting Ukraine](#), The White House
- [Avoiding a Long War: U.S. Policy and the Trajectory of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict](#), Samuel Charap and Miranda Priebe, RAND Corporation
- [What is America's end-game for the war in Ukraine?](#) Felicia Schwartz and Amy Kazmin, Financial Times

The Chinese Perspective

- [China's 'Peace Plan' for Ukraine Isn't About Peace](#), Foreign Policy
- [China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis](#), PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- [Ukraine's Delicate Balancing Act with China](#), Maksym Skrypchenko, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- [Leaderless, Cut Off, and Alone: The Risks to Taiwan in the Wake of Ukraine](#), Evan Montgomery and Toshi Yoshihara, War on the Rocks
- [China Studies Nuclear Risk in the Context of the Ukraine War](#), Lvie Goldstein and Nathan Waechter, The Diplomat

The Iranian Perspective

- [Iran, Russia, and the Challenges of "Inter-Pariah Solidarity,"](#) Mathieu Droin and Nicole Grajewski, War on the Rocks
- [The Wagner Mutiny Could Strengthen Iran in Syria](#), Jeremy Hodge, Foreign Policy
- [How the Ukraine Crisis Benefits Iran's Eurasia Strategy](#), Agha Hussein, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- [Ukraine war at year 1: Russia-Iran alignment threatens delicate Middle East balance](#), Jared Szuba, AL-Monitor
- [Russia's invasion of Ukraine is also Iran's loss](#), Mark N.Katz, Responsible Statecraft
- [Can the West Stoo Russian-Iranian Convergence? Alex](#)

Simulation: Gamification and Immersiveness

In addition to the roleplaying element of the simulation, the immersiveness was further increased by the presentation of the opening scenario, both in video format and in written form, accompanied by unique mock articles for each team - by their country's media outlets and, naturally, from their perspectives.


Opening Scenario
[Click here to read the full scenario](#)

Here Come the Hawks – Russia's Military Retreat Leads to Domestic Unrest


September 23, 2023

After an intensive year and a half of conflict in Ukraine, the Russian Federation announced today that it would withdraw its troops to the pre-February 2022 invasion lines. In a somber press conference, Sergei Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, made the announcement, stating that "we are committed to promoting stability and peace in the region. We will withdraw to our pre-invasion positions immediately."

Владимир Зеленский @ZelenskyyUa
 Today is a day of immense joy for Ukraine! Our tenacity, unity, and the tireless sacrifices of our brave hearts have paved the way for victory! The enemy capitulates, validating our unyielding spirit and determination. We have withstood, we have fought, and today, we stand victorious!



9:23 AM · Sep 23, 2023
 382.6K Retweets 186.9K Quote Tweets 1.3M Likes



one that could reshape the nation's political landscape for years to come.

Pause 01:02

Islamic Republic News Agency

Home News About Iran Multimedia All News


Journalist ID: 1114
 News Code: 85172807

News Politics

0 Persons

Tags: Russia Ukraine

Russia's Strategic Retreat from Ukraine Reveals Deep-seated Impacts of Western Manipulation



Tehran, IRNA - The recent decision by the Russian Federation to retreat its military forces to their pre-February 2022 lines underscores the destructive aftermath of the Western-triggered war in Ukraine. Despite being depicted as a setback for Russia by Western media, the decision mirrors a conscious choice for regional stability over the expansionist aims of NATO.

Headline

Politics | Qatari emir invites Iran's Raisi for state visit

Tehran, IRNA - Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has invited Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Visit Doha.

2 days ago

Latest News

Iran, IAEA enjoy stable ties based on March agreement: Nuclear chief

Simulation:

Communication Channels

Throughout the simulation, the participants developed a total of **65 policy proposals** to promote the interests of their actors throughout the ever-developing events.

These were discussed and refined by collaborating with their teammates through **276 comments**. They held secret between-team negotiations, which included **51 messages** that were sent via covert channels, and no less **than 81 messages** that were shared in the public domain.

The American Situation Room

Within-team communication



Private Communication

Covert communication with other teams



Public Announcements

Open communication with all the teams



"I enjoyed the ability to open lines of communication with other countries. This really opens the realm of possibilities and, maybe more importantly, allows for dialogue that impacts internal policy-making. This is the best change yet on the platform and brings the platform closer to the type of dialogue that occurs in real policy-making without being too complex."

Wikistrat Expert

Simulation: Daily Emails

Every day, each team received an email with updates on the simulation. To promote participation and engagement with other participants' entries, each email highlighted a few selected policy proposals, and provided the readers with strategic questions to guide them in their response and analysis of the proposals. In total, **78 strategic questions** were shared with the crowd.

"[What I enjoyed most were] the internal discussions and input from other team members to provide the best outcomes, being able to have civil disagreement on the way towards developing policies."

Wikistrat Expert

”

Team Ukraine: August 5 Updates - "The Echo of Defeat: Russia's Future Post-Ukraine" Simulation



Dear Team Ukraine,

As we are entering the third day of the simulation, we would like you to consider the following questions:

- [German Galushchenko](#) calls for restoring pre-2014 borders for Ukraine, adding that from an energy policy view, the resources located in Donbas and Crimea would be a significant help in reconstructing Ukraine. **Now that Russia is weakened, should the borders be restored by military force or should they be restored by negotiation to save lives? Which option has a better chance of success?**
- Similarly, [Serhiy Marchenko](#) calls for the restoration of pre-2014 borders by demanding that Russian forces withdraw from all Ukrainian territory within one month. If Russia has not withdrawn after a month, the remaining territories will be taken by military force. **Could Russia use this one month of decision time to further entrench its position? Would an immediate attack create favorable momentum for Ukraine? Is it possible for Ukraine to reconquer Eastern Ukraine and Crimea through military force?**

See you on the platform!

Team USA: August 11 Updates - Less than 24 Hours



Dear Team USA,

We are now entering the very last day of the simulation.

Today at midnight ET time (tomorrow, August 12, at 5 AM London time) the simulation will conclude.

Today, we would like to read your opinion on the following:

[Joe Biden](#) proposes a plan to ensure Russia's future stability in order to stop ultranationalists from gaining power and restarting the war in Ukraine. [Mitch McConnell](#) however points out that resources would be better spent by studying potential successors and learning how to work with or manipulate them. **Should the US attempt to seat favorable leadership in Russia?**

See you on the platform!

Simulation Value: Participant Feedback

On a scale of 1-5 (5 being the greatest), participants rated the simulation **4.5 for enjoyment** and **4.2 for learning**. **The daily questions were rated 4.3 for value**, and the **webinars were ranked 4.2**.

“Participating in the simulation was nothing short of exhilarating! Wikistrat brought the challenging questions, setting the stage for endless debate, and The Alexander Hamilton Foundation offered insightful wisdom, guiding us through the maze. We dug deep into scenarios, challenged our perspectives, and laughed at the complexity of it all. It wasn't just a learning experience; it was an intellectual adventure that left us all buzzing with energy.”

AHS Alumna

”

Enjoyment

4.5

Learning

4.2

Value of Daily
Questions

4.3

Webinars

4.2

Simulation Conclusion: Social Media

Participation certificates that can be shared on LinkedIn were presented to all **60 active participants**.

The **top 30% of participants**, who contributed the most to the discussions, received a gold certificate of excellence.

Happy to share the completion of a very interesting wargame crisis simulation with **Wikistrat** and **The Alexander Hamilton Society**. For ten days, I had the opportunity to participate in a strategic level exercise for Team China, attempting to maneuver, assess, and address geopolitical events and trends as they developed.

I am very thankful for this opportunity and looking forward to future war games to come.

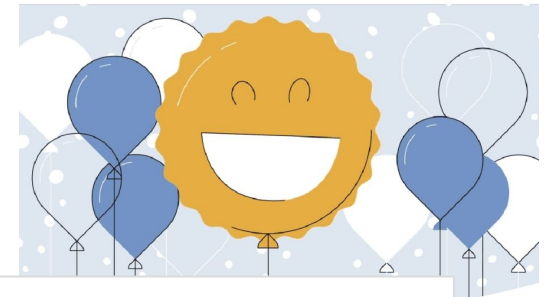
Onward!



For the past 10 days, I've been partaking in "The Echo of Defeat: Russia's Future Post-Ukraine" simulation, hosted by **Wikistrat** and **The Alexander Hamilton Society**.

In this exercise, participants simulated real world leaders, formulating foreign policy proposals and strategies to navigate a world post-war in Ukraine.

At the conclusion of this simulation, I was awarded a Diploma of Excellence for Top Analyst Contribution. Looking forward to continuing my studies in the AHS Security & Strategy Seminar Series.



Licenses & certifications



"The Echo of Defeat: Russia's Future Post-Ukraine" simulation participant

Wikistrat

Issued Aug 2023

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The Echo of Defeat:

Russia's Future Post-Ukraine

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