



# Gamification in Education

A Proposal for the International Society of Military Sciences

May 2023

# Introduction

In November 2022, a few weeks after the **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis**, Wikistrat ran a **role-playing simulation** as part of the **"Studies in American Defence Policy"** course in the graduate program in War Studies at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC).

In this, the graduate students, RMC alumni, and Wikistrat analysts were given the opportunity to enter the shoes of historical decision makers to better understand what happened in the 13 days that analysts often describe as “the most dangerous moment in human history.”



- Background**  
Introduction, goals and an overview
- Analytic Team**  
List of the simulation's participants
- Background Reading**  
Materials for preparatory reading
- Q&A Forum**  
A discussion forum for the participants and Q&A

NOVEMBER 2022	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	Simulation						
Simulation Voting	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	20	21	22	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	

Select your team to get started



Cuba



USA



USSR

## LIVE UPDATES



Douglas Dillon

Enforcing a complete commercial and updated 12 minutes ago • view change



Che Guevara

An Independent State - Security and Economy updated 14 minutes ago • view change



Lyndon B. Johnson

The great bluff - public announcement of commented 22 minutes ago



Robert F. Kennedy

JFK beats the war drums commented 47 minutes ago

# “Reliving the Cuban Missile Crisis”

## Participant Feedback



---

The idea of setting up teams, roleplaying particular political figures and providing opportunities for private and public communications was excellent.

*Haydn Rippon, Wikistrat Analyst*

---

This was a terrific refresher on the elements of sophisticated, real-world scenario, and the key lessons of history that all is not predetermined - and instead, that people and their decisions matter a lot.

*Christopher Bott, RMC Student*

---

I learned the importance of collaboration within a team to assess situations and respond. I also gained a greater appreciation for listening to others' thoughts and opinions. People think and communicate differently - harnessing this is a strength.

I liked the immersion which all players contributed to, as well as the discussion forums in which we formulated our strategy. Was a fun and easy way to communicate.

*Simon Waring, RMC Alumnus*

---



## A Word from the Professor **Joel Sokolsky**

The Wikistrat simulation "Reliving the Cuban Missile Crisis" was an outstanding addition to my course on American Defence Policy in the graduate program in War Studies at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC). Students were given the option of substituting one written assignment for participation in the simulation. In addition, I invited a number of former students to participate. The response of all was one of great enthusiasm for this teaching method. Current students found that the simulation complimented and increased their understanding of the course material. They also learned much from the contributions other participants beyond RMC. As all participants were required to provide written contributions to the simulation, I was able to evaluate my student's performance and assign a grade. Former students enjoyed revisiting one of the most important events of the Cold War in a realistic, policy oriented manner that allowed them to broaden their historical knowledge and sharpened analytical skills. The flexible format of the simulation was conducive to those engaged in further study or employment. Indeed, Universities could use the Wikistrat simulation exercises to include interested Alumni as part of as part of their outreach programs.

The Wikistrat historical simulations are an outstanding teaching tool for courses in history, international relations and strategic studies. I look forward to incorporating them into my future courses and in providing an opportunity for those interested in enhancing their understanding of the complexities of decision-making in a global perspective.



*Joel Sokolsky is a Principal and a Professor of Political Science at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC). He has taught at the Canadian Studies Center at SAIS, Dalhousie University, and Duke University. Moreover, he has served as a consultant to several government offices. He has been the recipient of several scholarships and awards, including two NATO Fellowships and two Fulbright Scholarships. In 2012, he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.*

# Proposal

Wikistrat CEO Oren Kesler and Wikistrat CMO Tali Stambulchik invite you to participate in a panel about new educational methods, or, alternatively, make a presentation about **gamification in education**. The panel will include:

- **Introduction** to the ever-growing field of educational simulations and their role in developing skills in the fields of military, diplomacy, politics, and international relations.
- **Overview** of the different simulation methods, including the educational benefits of each.
- **Case studies** about different types of simulations: from historical ones (such as the Cuban Missile Crisis) to simulations about future and ongoing events (such as the war in Ukraine).

## About Wikistrat

Wikistrat is a consulting firm that provides clients with unique insights based on the collaborative analysis of subject-matter experts.

We do so by running **tailor-made, interactive simulations** that use gamification to promote **engagement, creativity,** and **collaboration** among the participants.

We also operate a **global network** of leading subject-matter experts, which allows us to **harness them for events such as simulations and workshops.**



Founded in  
**2009**



**500+**  
Simulations



A Network of  
**5,000 EXPERTS**



Experts from  
**100 COUNTRIES**

## About Wikistrat

# Educational Simulations

In recent years, we've been using the **collaborative analysis methodology we developed** and the **vast experience** we've gathered from hundreds of simulations to produce educational simulations for leading academic institutions.

Interactive simulations provide a unique opportunity to **learn** about historical and current events from an **invested** and **multidisciplinary** perspective, practice **policy writing**, and develop **critical thinking** and **analytic skills** while **collaborating** with peers overseas and world-leading experts.



# Gamification in Education

## A Proposal for the International Society of Military Sciences

May 2023

For more information on Wikistrat's educational simulations, contact:  
[tali@wikistrat.com](mailto:tali@wikistrat.com)

