



CRESMUN

EMINENCE EDITION
CHAPTER II

Study Guides

CRISIS

Special Committee: The 1888 Congress of Berlin — The Ether War

Introduction & Premise

1888. Nikola Tesla's early breakthroughs in high-frequency alternating current and wireless transmission arrived decades ahead of schedule, sparking a Victorian-era technological explosion. Instead of copper wires and vacuum tubes, the world runs on electro-etheric telegraphy, massive dynamo towers, clockwork machinery, and steam-powered automaton labor forces deployed across the British, German, French, and Russian empires.

The Crisis:

Midway through high-stakes imperial negotiations, every trans-oceanic cable, railway ticker, and wireless ether-receiver simultaneously flatlines—only to pick up a deafening, rhythmic, non-human broadcast emanating from deep beneath the Antarctic ice sheets.

* The Ether Interference: The repeating signal garbles all standard cryptographic codes, rendering telegraph communication useless.



* The Automaton Rebellion: Across European capitals (London, Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg), steam-driven labor and military automata freeze mid-task, before their valves hiss, their gear-boxes lock, and a subset of units suddenly turn hostile against civilian and military infrastructure.

Key Crisis Mechanics & Sub-Topics

* The Ether-Network Panic: How to maintain basic command, control, and military coordination when the primary wireless communication medium is compromised or hijacked by an unknown entity.

* The Automaton Threat: Deciding whether to scrap, quarantine, or counter-attack the suddenly rebellious steam-automatons, and managing the economic fallout of losing automated industrial labor.

* Colonial Opportunism vs. Survival: Navigating traditional 19th-century paranoia—suspecting that rival empires (e.g., secret British or Russian wunder-weapons) engineered the signal to sabotage the Berlin summit—while realizing the threat is entirely non-human.

* Scientific Mobilization: Harnessing Victorian scientific minds (e.g., Nikola Tesla, Thomas Edison, Wilhelm Röntgen, or military engineers) to decode the Antarctic broadcast and invent dampening fields or counter-frequencies



Major Factions & Portfolio Powers

- * The German Empire (Host / Chancellor Otto von Bismarck): Focused on securing Berlin, maintaining order within the Reich, and asserting imperial dominance over the conference floor.
- * The British Empire: Possesses the world's largest naval and telegraphic network (the All-Red Line), now weaponized or vulnerable due to its heavy reliance on global ether relays.
- * The French Third Republic & Russian Empire: Balancing deep-seated mutual suspicion with the urgent necessity of pooling industrial and military resources to deal with rogue automaton units.
- * The Scientific Elite / Technologists: Independent portfolio characters representing early electrical and mechanical pioneers who control patents, dynamos, and experimental laboratories.

Crisis Committee Strategy & Action Points

1. Stabilize and Isolate: Issue immediate orders to sever local telegraph lines, shut down exposed steam-automaton garrisons, and establish manual couriers to prevent cascading infrastructure failures.
2. Investigate the Source: Direct intelligence agencies and scientific advisers to pinpoint the Antarctic signal's frequency, origin, and physical nature.
3. Draft Emergency Protocols: Form emergency coalitions on the committee floor to pool scientific personnel and military assets while preventing individual empires from weaponizing the chaos against one another.

