

Πόλεμος τῶν Πελοποννησίων

ATHENS

Georgia Tech
Model of United Nations

Committee
Peloponnesian War



Crisis Committees

October 14-15, 2024

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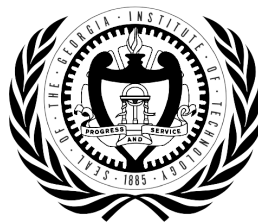
BRIDGING
TECHNOLOGY
AND
DIPLOMACY.



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#GTMUN2024



Letter from the Secretary General

Dear esteemed delegates,

Welcome to the twentyfifth edition of the Georgia Model of United Nations. I am incredibly excited to be your Secretary General for GTMUN 2024!

My first Model UN conference was GTMUN, six years ago, and it's given me a joy and passion for diplomacy that has lasted since. This year, the secretariat team has worked extraordinarily hard for months to assemble an incredible array of committees and topics to test your abilities and push you to grow as a delegate and as a future leader. As a person who was in your position six years ago, reading the GTMUN background guides, I know how it feels to prepare for a committee. Though this resource is invaluable, I encourage you to go beyond in terms of studying about your topic(s) and your country's diplomatic position. I firmly believe that the greatest moments in Model UN happen when you have resiliently prepared through different resources to bring your member state's view into the committee. It is a sincere hope of mine that you enjoy the conference, and take the fullest advantage of what GTMUN has to offer, from public speaking skills, to critical thinking and policy creation. It is opportunities like these when you can connect with fellow, like-minded delegates to bring ideas into the table and construct the progress that people across the globe need, and that only the United Nations can deliver.

GTMUN is an amazing chance to brainstorm to solve current issues creatively and practicing being the leader of tomorrow. I wish you the best in preparing for and participating at the upcoming conference!



GTMUN XXV Secretary General
Jonah Isaza

Letter from the Crisis Director

Dear Delegates for GTMUN 2024,

My name is Gita Pavuluri and I will be the crisis director for the side of Athens in the Peloponnesian War joint crisis committee. I am a sophomore here at Georgia Tech with a major in chemical engineering and a minor in Chinese and international affairs. I have been competing in Model UN since freshman year of high school, and am excited to get more involved behind the scenes and see where each of you decides to take this committee and topic. If you have any questions about the committee please email at the address listed below.

Without any further ado, Welcome to Georgia Tech Model United Nations Conference.

Sincerely,



Gita Pavuluri
Crisis Director

The Peloponnesian League: Athens
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Content Disclaimer

Model United Nations offers an opportunity for delegates to diplomatically engage with topics of global importance and meaningfully explore possibilities for conflict resolution. Many of the topics at hand may involve sensitive or controversial subject matter. We ask delegates to be respectful and professional when engaging with their committee and communicating with fellow delegates and GTMUN Conference staff. The below content warning is meant to warn you of potentially controversial topics that may appear in other aspects of the committee (e.g. debate, speeches, directives) so that you can either prepare yourself before reading this background guide or opt-out of reading it entirely. In this Joint Crisis Committee representing Athens, delegates may be involved in discussions and may receive crisis notes and updates covering death, classism, sexism, warfare, war crimes, torture, natural disasters, famine, and political suppression.

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At GTMUN High School Conference, we take equity violations very seriously and require delegates to fully comply with our equity guidelines. Failure to do so will result in an immediate disqualification from awards and you may be asked to leave the conference. Please remain respectful in committee, and avoid overgeneralizations as well as take into account individual differences and contexts during your speeches. If, because of this committee's content warning, you wish to request switching committees, please email your Crisis AUSG with a brief explanation of your concerns based on this committee's content warning and your request to switch. You will be contacted shortly regarding your request.

Comittee Dynamics

A crisis is a type of Model United Nations committee where delegates face a problem or situation and assume the role of a character or important person rather than nation to mitigate the situation. The committee is dynamic and ever-evolving with directives and crisis updates, requiring delegates to constantly adapt to new situations. However a delegate has much more autonomy in a crisis, with being able to send crisis notes, joint personal directives, and directives from the entire committee to change and resolve the situation at hand and further their own crisis arc.

This specific crisis is a joint crisis committee (JCC). A JCC is a unique form of crisis committee, aiming to simulate the interaction of two blocs who share the same crisis. These blocs are composed of representatives; each bloc deliberates in their own respective room, but the directives made from one may very well affect the other. Thus, JCC provides an opportunity to see how decisions play out in real-time.

In this JCC, one committee will contain members from the Spartan-led coalition known as the Peloponnesian League. The other, opposing, committee will likewise represent members from the Athenian-led Delian League. As is characteristic of crisis committees, each representative has wealth and powers prescribed to them at the start of session, which they must leverage to meet their bloc's (or their own) objectives.

Πόλεμος τῶν
Πελοποννησίων
THE PELOPONNESIAN LEAGUE
ATHENS



Introduction

After the Greco-Persian wars, Greece has proved its strength to the world through beating Persia, who was believed to be one of the strongest forces at that time. In order not to rest on their laurels, Athens and many other city-states have decided to form the Delian League, to keep Persia and other threats at bay. Though on paper every member state has equal power, allotted one vote per state, Athens is their de facto leader, collecting a monetary tax for the development and preservation of its massive naval force.

As the threat from Persia dies down, new tensions and rivalries start to arise, rooted in a rift between the Athenians and Spartans that began during the Greco-Persian wars. With Athens consolidating power and starting expansion, there is a changing hierarchy and system throughout Greece— and Sparta is not exactly happy about it. Thus, the Peloponnesian League was formed in the early 6th century BCE as a powerful, but loose, alliance of city-states led by Sparta. Functioning as a counterbalance to the perceived imperialism of Athens' Delian League, the Peloponnesian league sets out to protect its member states' sovereign interests, opting for a soldier tax as opposed to tribute from its members. Unlike the more structured Delian League, members of the Peloponnesian League negotiate their own terms with Sparta. This league is not to be taken lightly: Sparta's superior land-based forces, known for their physical strength, combined with Corinth's sizable navy, ensures the Peloponnesians are a force to be reckoned with. The history of Ancient Greece was, until the advent of archeological confirmation, an amalgamation of reality and myth; yet, generally well-regarded as a neutral and objective source, Thucydides is credited with chronicling the most complete historical account of the Peloponnesian War in his recounting of it. Though it is hard to elucidate a definitive set of reasons for why Sparta and Athens went to war, Thucydides proposes a possible explanation:

“War is an evil thing; but to submit to the dictation of other states is worse... Freedom, if we hold fast to it, will ultimately restore our losses, but submission will mean permanent loss of all that we value”

Ultimately, this belief in the importance of sovereignty must have been shared by many Athenians and Spartans alike. Thus, when a coalition of city-states, led by Sparta, decided that Athens had expanded its territories greatly, war must have appeared to be the only path forward in maintaining their sovereignty.



History

Greco-Persian Wars to the Thirty Year Peace

The Greco-Persian Wars, spanning from 499 to 449 BCE, were a series of conflicts between the Greek city-states and the Persian Empire. The Greek city-states seemed to be no match for the might of the Persian empire, but the Hellenic alliance was formed, allowing for victory over Persia. The threat of a much greater opponent united the fragmented Greek cities against Persia. This newfound sense of unity and strength was instrumental in overcoming the Persian threat and significantly strengthened Greek solidarity.

After the Greco-Persian Wars, the Treaty of the Thirty Years' Peace in 445 BCE marked a period of relative calm between the Greeks and the Persians, as well as Athens and Sparta, often referred to as the Peace of Callias. While there was peace, there was also a growth in the underlying tensions and rivalries between the city-states. The peace did not fully resolve the conflicts over influence and power between the Delian League and Peloponnesian League, eventually setting the stage for the Peloponnesian War.

First Peloponnesian War

The Peloponnesian War ended the truce called the Thirty Years Treaty. However the fighting resumed in 437 BCE, when the Peloponnesian War started. The war arose from long standing rivalries and tensions between the two leading Greek city-states, exacerbated by the

dominance of Athens within the Delian League and Sparta's leadership of the Peloponnesian League. The conflict can be divided into three main phases: the Archidamian War (431–421 BCE), the Sicilian Expedition (415–413 BCE), and the Ionian or Decelean War (413–404 BCE). During the Archidamian War, Sparta invaded the Athenian territory annually, while Athens relied on its naval supremacy to conduct raids, collect talents, and maintain its empire.

Peace of Nicias

Through crushing defeats on both sides, the Leagues were more amenable to peace, resulting in the signing of the Treaty of Nicias in 421 BC. This signaled the end of the first period of fighting between the two axes in what was meant to be a promise of fifty years of mutual defense and peace. By most accounts considered an amicable treaty, at least on paper, the treaty returned everything to its prewar state, with some exceptions and addendums. Despite its promises, the treaty was almost immediately broken by the largely unsuccessful attack on Sicily by Athenian forces, to which Sparta responded brutally. Nearly the entire Athenian navy was destroyed, and the third period of the Peloponnesian wars commenced in 413 BC.

Greece, Asia Minor and Sicily during the Peloponnesian Wars.

The Peloponnesian War (431 - 404 BC)

- Athens and her allies █
- Athenian Naval Campaign ←
- Athenian Naval Campaign 416 - 404(?) BC - - -
- Athenian Victories ×
- Sparta, Peloponnesian League and allies █
- Later allies of Sparta █
- Spartan Campaigns 431 - 421 BC ←
- Spartan Campaigns 415 - 404(?) BC - - -
- Spartan Victories ×
- Neutral Greek States █
- Persian Empire (Under Artaxerxes I, Xerxes II and Darius II) █
- Satrap's Residence ●
- Other Location ●
- Persian Royal Road ▬▬▬
- West Phoenician/Carthaginian Military Operations against Sicily. ←
- Battle ×
- Siege ⊗
- Area / Region / Territory Mysia



The Delian League Now

In 432 BCE, the Delian League, under Athenian leadership, was at the zenith of its power and influence. Initially formed as a defensive alliance against Persian aggression, the league had evolved significantly. By this time, Athens had effectively transformed the league into an Athenian empire, leveraging its naval superiority and economic resources to assert control over its member states. The league's treasury, which had been kept on Delos, was moved to Athens in 454 BCE, further centralizing power and highlighting Athens' dominance. This period saw the imposition of Athenian hegemony over league members, including the collection of tribute and military support. The increased control and wealth contributed to rising tensions with Sparta and its allies, setting the stage for the Peloponnesian War.

However Sparta and its allies are making military movements in the years preceding 432 BCE and the Delian League is reacting in turn. The committee will start in 432 BCE and as delegates and representatives it will be your job to guide the League through this tumultuous time.

Effects of the War

The immediate consequence of Athens' defeat in 404 BCE was the end of its empire and the imposition of oligarchic rule by Sparta, known as the Thirty Tyrants. Although Spartan dominance only lasted until 403 BCE, this marked a shift in power dynamics in Greece. The instability that followed the war left many Greek city-states vulnerable to external pressures, one of them being the rise of Macedon and Phillip.

Guiding Questions

This committee will be a Joint Crisis Committee, or a JCC, regarding the Peloponnesian War. The outcome of the Peloponnesian war had strong effects that are still felt today. With the end of the Peloponnesian War, Greece's golden age came to a close as well as Athens reigning supremacy over Greece. This time marked a change in warfare style as well as the ways of thinking and ruling in Greece.

There are many still some threats that the members of this League have to tend with as well as goals to ensure that their city-state or region prospers:

Athens and the Delian League originally had to surrender to the Peloponnesian League, despite having superior resources and strength. What ways can this committee protect the members of the Delian League?

Athens and the Delian League were symbols of democracy. However, before the Peloponnesian War, discontent was spreading amongst members of the Delian League. How should this committee proceed to ensure strength and efficiency but opportunity and a voice for all?

The strife caused by the Peloponnesian War led Greece to be weakened enough to be invaded and conquered by Macedonia. How can this committee provide long standing stability for their city-states and the rest of Greece?

Characters

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Representative of Athens

Athens and its representative are considered the unofficial leader of the Delian League due to its command over the large Athenian Navy. The Athenian Representative also currently manages the League's finances, but the League is financed through all its members as well as past conquests. The Athenians recently sided with Corcyra against Corinth and are currently unwilling to surrender any power to the Spartans. The Athenian representative is still planning on strengthening the League to protect itself from Sparta and its allies.

Representative of Aegina

The representative of Aegina represents a key player of the Delian League. Aegina is known for their key naval role in defeating the Persians. Aegina is the closest physically to Athens and the rest of mainland Greece, leaving them potentially vulnerable to land attacks. The Aeginians fought against Athens in the First Peloponnesian war but since has been less involved militarily and acts as a sphere of fun and pleasure within southeastern Greece.

Representative of Byzantium

With Byzantium being so far up north, it is often not involved with some Grecian affairs or has a different third role in others. The Byzantines initially supported the Persians but then fought

against them. The north of Greece was invaded by Persians causing mainly people to flee. Byzantium is now free from the Persians and eventually made peace with them. Byzantium is currently more aligned with the Delian League but as a people they have more split loyalties and after the first Peloponnesian War Athens has been steadily increasing their tributes. Byzantium controls a major shipping area that provides food and grain to the Aegean and Athens.

Representative of Chios

The representative from Chios represents a valuable city state in terms of location - it is a port city with trade route access to mainland Greece, Persia, as well as the rest of the Ionian city states. Chios was freed from Persian rule about half a century ago and is making the most of that freedom. They do not currently pay tribute to Athens, but they are a solid allied member of the League. Chios provides ships and naval arms for the League allowing for more control over their funds.

Representative of Naxos

Naxos started out as a marble and stone exporter. The business of stone was successful enough for the colony of Naxos to become a prominent city-state and later to join the Delian League. Representatives from Naxos are starting to become unhappy with the Athens treatment of the other city-states in the Delian League. The people of Naxos have strong connections with the gods, especially Dionysus

Representative of Plataea

The Plataeans are loyal allies of the Athenians, being grateful for their help with earlier struggles with Thebes. Because of this they are also deeply distrustful of the Spartans. Plataea is one of the original sites of the founding of the Delian League lending it historical and symbolic importance. It was also the location of one of the founding battles of the Persian War. After the Persian War, Plataea was able to rebuild fully, but they are currently wary of the Thebans and others.

Representative of Paros

Paros is located centrally in the Aegean Sea and is a well-known spot for fine white marble. Their main customers are the upper level classes around Greece and Persia. The main goal of the people of Paros is to keep their livelihood and mines going. There are strong workers as well as craftsmen there due to the nature of the business, however trade is more of a central goal to the Parians.

Representative of Samos

Samos is another major player in the Grecian area. Their main contribution to the navy lies in the technology, they are the founders of the trireme warships. Due to this technological superiority, they were also able to establish colonies in Northern Africa. While not as powerful as Athens, Samos is looking to maintain their colonies and land.

Representative of Thasos

Thasos was under Persia during the Greco-Persian Wars. They were able to successfully defend themselves during a siege against Persia by the Ionians. The Thasians, however, were able to build warships and strengthen their personal defenses. Thasos later joined the Delian League but currently have their personal grievances on how the Thasian mines and markets are being used.

Representative of Lemnos

Lemnos is currently an Athenian cleruchy (Athenian citizens ruling over a land awarded to them) after Athens freed them from Persian rule. Because of this, Athenian cultures and attitudes have intertwined with Lemnos's culture, however the people of Lemnos still want independence due to being under the Persian empire and then Athens immediately after. Lemnos is located in the northern Aegean sea and is often associated with Hephaestus after it was claimed he landed there after birth. Metal-working is a strong part of the culture of Lemnos as well.

Representative of Hellespont (Dardanelles)

Hellespont includes a very important and strategic passage between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. The bridge existing there allowed for the movement of the Persian army but also other military movements. However, these straits could be fatal to whoever crosses them by sea because of the narrowness, if the invader does not have an accurate plan to safely make passage.

Representative of Delos

This was the original center for the Delian League. Delos is a hub for people to make pilgrimages to the birthplace of Apollo. Delos holds a religious and cultural significance in the Greek world, however as Athens consolidated more power, Delos's was taken away. Because of its significance the people of Delos have less independence and freedom to rule themselves, however it is a goal of theirs.

Representative of Melos

Melos was known for its obsidian exports to Phoenicia and in earlier times was an important trading hub. Melos's people worshiped Aphrodite who had an acropolis dedicated to her on Melos. Melos has historic ties to Sparta, however the people of Melos are more neutral during the war. As they reside in an important position geographically they are important, and are involved with negotiations with Athens and the rest of the Delian League. They also have prominent sulfur mines.

Representative of Carystus/Karystos

During the Greco-Persian war, Persians invaded Carystus and then Athens demanded Carystus join the Delian League. Under the force of Athenians Carystus did join but unwillingly. They had a series of ships and defenses as well. They were known as well for the physicians and advanced in medicine as well.

Representative of Miletus

Miletus is known for its advanced math and sciences. Earlier in history they were part of Athens and then invaded by the Persians however they managed to keep a special status as to grow their infrastructure. However Athens put down revolts in Miletus causing some discontent amongst the Miletusians. They are the main link and settlement in Asia Minor giving them greater access to resources away from the mainland.

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