

# Πόλεμος τῶν Πελοποννησίων

Georgia Tech  
Model of United Nations

Committee  
Peloponnesian War



# SPARTA

Crisis Committees

October 14-15, 2024

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Georgia Tech  
Model United  
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#GTMUN2024

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#GTMUN2024



# Letter from the Secretary General

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*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

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**Dear Delegates,**

*Welcome to GTMUN 2024! My name is Ebrahim Faizullabhoy, and I will be your chair for the joint crisis committee representing Sparta during the Peloponnesian War. I am a senior here at Georgia Tech, pursuing a major in biology and a minor in Spanish. After graduating in May, I will start medical school in the New York Metro area.*

*This is my eighth year overall with Model United Nations. As a senior, this conference may be the last conference I staff for— and I cannot imagine a more exciting committee and topic to be chairing. This joint crisis committee is the result of the crisis staff's many hours of deliberation and planning. Through our efforts, we hope to bring a crucial part of history to the present day during our sessions. All of us on the crisis staff are beyond excited to meet you and see your choices manifest as this committee progresses. I am truly excited to see how our version of history will unfurl. If any questions arise as you prepare for our time in committee, please do not hesitate to contact me through the email provided below. See you all in October! Good luck.*

*Sincerely,*



Ebrahim Faizullabhoy  
Crisis Director

The Peloponnesian League: Sparta  
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# *Content Disclaimer*

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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 Sparta, 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*

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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

SPARTA



# 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.

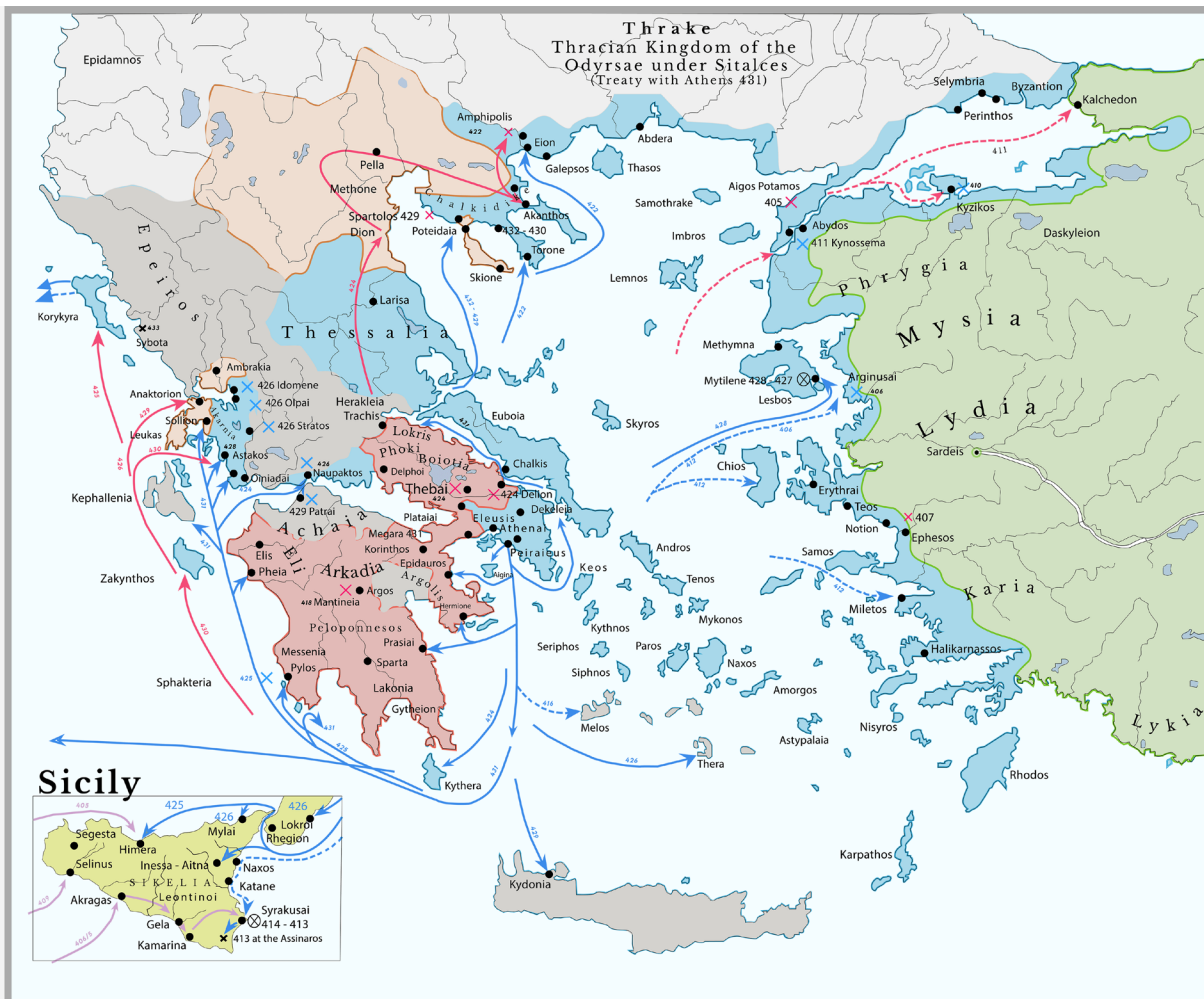
## Peace of Nicias

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 Peloponnesian League*

The Peloponnesian League, a confederation of city-states led by Sparta, is formed in 550 BCE after the Greco-Persian wars. Functioning primarily as a counterbalance to perceived Athenian militarism and expansionism, or *hêgemonía*, the League consisted of a weak confederation of member states that negotiated their own terms with their *de jure* leader. Membership required the provision of military support to the league and a promise to 'hold common friends and enemies'. At its head, Sparta was known famously for its superior land-based forces, which, when combined with the experience and naval prowess of member state Corinth, made the Peloponnesians a formidable enemy.

Its Delian foes were generally no match for Spartan land-based forces, but the Athenian navy crushed the Peloponnesians on many occasions. Recognizing this, the Peloponnesian league eventually allied with Persian Achaemenid Empire during the latter half of the war, leading to decisive victories due to substantial Persian naval prowess. In the history books, the Peloponnesian alliance wins at the Battle of Aegospotamos in 405, leading to complete Athenian capitulation and signaling the end of the Greek Golden Age, ushering in an era of Spartan *hêgemonía*.

## *Current Situation*

As discussed in the Joint Crisis Committee introduction, the Peloponnesian Wars occurred in two parts, separated by a period of precarious peace. This committee begins in 432 BCE at the cusp of the short-lived peace, when a failed Athenian attempt to capture Sicily from Spartan rule breaks the treaty. As members of the Peloponnesian League, you convene to determine a response, both long-term and immediate, to the violence of Athens' Delian league, throughout the Second Peloponnesian War.

## *Guiding Questions*

The fundamental problem which you must solve as an esteemed member of the Peloponnesian League is one of your territorial securities. As Athens and its allies continue to raid your

territories, kill your citizens, and burn your settlements, ***how will you ensure security within your borders from Athens' onslaught?***

In tandem with protecting your lands, one must also wonder what exists past your borders—what promises of wealth are to be found within Athenian lands? You must contend also with the possibility of expansion of territory. ***How, if at all, will you conquer the territories of your enemy?***

Ultimately, even if Sparta and its allies manage to conquer these foreign lands, Athens or some other force may succeed in reconquest. You must consider how you will fend off these efforts. ***How will you ensure that Sparta maintains a hold on its new lands and potentially bring upon an age of Spartan hegemony throughout Greece?***

Though these questions are important to consider, the complex nature of this Joint Crisis Committee guarantees that there will be many more that will arise. As valiant soldiers of Sparta, you must demonstrate the cunning, collaboration, and resourcefulness to overcome these hurdles and emerge victorious.

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## Characters

### ***Pleistoanax, King of Sparta***

Pleistoanax, as king of Sparta, is the most powerful 'delegate' of the Peloponnesian League. He remains leader throughout the former part of the Second War. Though Sparta is known for the physical strength of its warriors, Pleistoanax prioritizes peace—often for his own selfish reasons. Militarily, his campaigns in Attica proved effective in breaking up Athenian hegemony in the area.

### ***Agesilaus II, King of Sparta***

King Agesilaus II of Sparta is an equally charismatic and formidable leader during the latter part of the Second Peloponnesian War, known for his strategic acumen and military prowess. His reign is marked by effective use of Sparta's disciplined hoplites and logistical resources, particularly during his campaigns in Asia Minor. Agesilaus' leadership revitalizes Spartan efforts, countering Athenian influence and expanding Spartan control through his successful operations in the western part of the Persian Empire.

***Lysander, Spartan Admiral***

Lysander is the most important Spartan military leader during the Second Peloponnesian War, with a powerful army at his command. While most Spartans simply rejected Athenian imperialism and fought to retain their political and cultural autonomy, Lysander wanted to completely destroy Athens and campaigned for Spartan hegemony.

***Brasidas, Spartan General***

Brasidas is a prominent Spartan commander during the Second Peloponnesian War, renowned for his strategic acumen and leadership. Motivated by a desire to bolster Spartan influence and secure his own legacy, he achieves a significant victory with the capture of Amphipolis in 422 BCE, which notably shifts the balance of power in the conflict.

***Antalcidas, Spartan Diplomat***

Antalcidas is a skilled Spartan diplomat known for his pivotal role in the later stages of the Peloponnesian War. Driven by the ambition to restore Spartan hegemony and secure favorable terms for Sparta, he negotiates the Treaty of Antalcidas in 387 BCE, which effectively ended the war by recognizing Spartan dominance in Greece and reshaping the region's power dynamics.

***Clemens, Ambassador of Corinth***

Clemens of Corinth is instrumental in commanding a powerful Corinthian fleet during the Second Peloponnesian War, which played a key role in the naval engagements against Athens. His effective leadership and tactical decisions helped strengthen the Peloponnesian League's maritime capabilities and contributed to the broader conflict between Athens and Sparta.

***Pagondas, General of Thebes***

Pagondas of Thebes, a strategic military leader, plays a crucial role in the Second Peloponnesian War, leveraging Thebes' formidable infantry and strong cavalry forces to challenge Athenian dominance. Under his command, Thebes contributes significantly to the war effort by providing well-trained troops and exploiting its strategic position in central Greece to support the Spartan cause.

***Perseus of Argos***

Perseus of Argos, though not a central figure in the Second Peloponnesian War, represented Argos, a city-state that attempts to navigate the conflict's shifting alliances. Argos' contribution to the war was marked by its strategic location in the Peloponnese and its potential to sway the balance of power through its alliances, though its influence was limited compared to more



dominant states like Sparta and Athens. As leader, Perseus is known to ally with whatever group may provide his people protection.

### ***Diocles of Megara***

Diocles of Megara, a figure marked by controversy during the Second Peloponnesian War, plays a pivotal role in altering the course of his city-state's fortunes. Although allied with Sparta during this war, his actions seem to favor Athenian interests, as a former ally of the Delian leader. Many regard him as a wild card, following any alliance that may line his city-state's treasuries.

### ***Pausanias of Mantinea***

Pausanias of Mantinea emerges as a significant leader during the Second Peloponnesian War, navigating his city-state through the complexities of alliance and conflict. Under his guidance, Mantinea actively supports the Spartan cause, leveraging its strategic location to influence military campaigns. Pausanias is known for his ability to balance regional power dynamics, ensuring Mantinea remained a crucial player in the broader war effort without compromising its autonomy. He highly values this autonomy— if anything comes to threaten it, he will fight to protect fellow Mantineans.

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### ***Apostoles, Ambassador of Syracuse***

Apostoles of Syracuse plays a crucial role in harnessing the city's specific strengths during the Second Peloponnesian War. Syracuse, with its advanced trireme fleet and fortified harbors, stands as a formidable bulwark against Athenian expansion in the western Mediterranean, especially due to its location in Sicily. Under Apostoles' guidance, the city utilizes its naval superiority and skilled mercenaries to disrupt Athenian supply lines and support the Spartan cause.

### ***Tissaphernes, Achaemenid Satrap in Asia Minor***

Tissaphernes, the Achaemenid satrap of Asia Minor, plays a key role in the Second Peloponnesian War through his substantial financial support to Sparta. Though he is not a delegate in the Peloponnesian league directly, the alliance between Sparta and the Achaemenids allows him to channel Persian resources into the conflict against their common enemy. Tissaphernes' strategic alliance with Sparta aligns with his broader goal of curbing Athenian influence and reasserting Persian control over the Greek world, significantly shifting the war's dynamics.

***Pharnabazus II, Achaemenid Satrap in Phrygia***

Pharnabazus II, the Achaemenid satrap of Phrygia, becomes a pivotal figure in the Second Peloponnesian War by providing critical financial backing to Sparta. Though he does not have the resources to direct Persian troops to the Peloponnesian league, his substantial funding strengthens Spartan forces and disrupts Athenian plans. As the representative of Persia, Pharnabazus' involvement specifically aims to reinforce Persia's strategic presence in the Greek world.

***Lapetus, Ambassador of Epidaurus***

Lapetus of Epidaurus emerges as a notable figure in the Second Peloponnesian War by leveraging Epidaurus' strategic position and maritime capabilities. Situated on the southeastern coast of the Peloponnese, Epidaurus contributes to the broader conflict through its strong local fleet and its ability to influence naval engagements. Under Lapetus' leadership, the city-state aligns with Sparta, helping to balance Athenian power and secure key maritime routes crucial to the transport of troops and resources.

***Spiros of Arcadia***

Spiros of Arcadia significantly influences the Second Peloponnesian War through his strategic role in Arcadia. Representing the region's collective interests, Spiros leverages the historic strength of Arcadia's unified city-states, such as Mantinea and Tegea, to bolster the Peloponnesian League. His efforts emphasize Arcadia's crucial contribution of both military support and diplomatic influence, but it is evident that his allegiance is essentially and fundamentally to the Arcadian states.

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