

# Clinton MUNC 2024



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**Topic:** The Trojan War

**Chairs:** Lila Jassen and Erica Roxas

**Committee Type:** Crisis

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**Director:** Roxy Hay

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Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Lila and I will be your co-chair for this crisis committee. I have been at the Clinton School since 6th grade and am a current junior. I have been a member of our school's Model UN club since 9th grade and enjoy participating in conferences, especially crisis committees. Outside of school I love to explore New York City. I like to explore new restaurants and visit unique thrift stores with my friends.

This will be my first time chairing a MUN committee and I am so excited to meet and interact with all of you. As an avid lover of Greek mythology, I am thrilled at the topic of this committee. I am eager to hear everyone make their way through this ancient crisis and the solutions you all come up with. I encourage you all to please read the background guide and utilize the additional sources for further research on the conflict and your specific god. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Looking forward to seeing you all shortly,

Lila Jassen

[lilajassen301@gmail.com](mailto:lilajassen301@gmail.com)

Hello Delegates,

My name is Erica and I will be your co-chair at this first and upcoming Clinton Model UN Conference. I have been at the Clinton school for a year now and I am a current junior! This is my first time chairing and I look forward to working with you all!

This is my second year in MUN. I have been to UNISMUN and GCMUN. My MUN journey is still young, however I have had the opportunity to speak at the UN in front of hundreds of people! I am very passionate about MUN and I am very excited to continue attending conferences either as a delegate or a chair!

I was born and raised in New York but my family is mostly from the Philippines! I am in clubs such as Key Club and of course, Model UN! I really enjoy reading (my most recent read is Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro) and books often reference Greek mythology which has caught my interest!

I am really excited to see you all work and debate with each other as you discuss solutions on our crisis topic!

Erica Roxas

[EricapRoxas@gmail.com](mailto:EricapRoxas@gmail.com)

Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Roxy Hay and I am so excited to be the director of this board. I am a junior at the Clinton School and have been an avid part of MUN for two years. I have attended Clinton since middle school and throughout my years I have participated in many clubs; Model UN, DECA, Green Team, JSU, Cross Country Club, etc. Outside of school, I have taken classes about the history of ancient Rome and Greece; this includes the topic of the Trojan War, and the Gods and Goddesses. Greek Mythology has always been one of my peak interests and for this reason I am extremely excited to see the solutions that you all come up with for this crisis. I hope everyone utilizes this background guide in preparation for the conference, and I look forward to the amazing discussions that will be held in Clinton MUNC. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I can't wait to meet you all,

Roxy Hay

[Roxanahay@gmail.com](mailto:Roxanahay@gmail.com)

## **Committee Policies**

- 1) Position Papers are required of every delegate to write and submit. As this will show the chairs that each delegate has researched their assigned country and has knowledge on the topic of discussion.
- 2) The use of Chat GPT is approved only as a resource and not as a writing device. If the chairs notice the use of AI or the paper itself has been flagged, the paper will be disqualified and further action may be taken.
- 3) Since this committee is in a crisis the use of electronic devices will be prohibited. Each delegate will be supplied with paper for writing directives and crisis notes so computers are not needed.

## **Crisis Procedure**

**Crisis Notes:** Crisis notes are notes used in order to take personal action from a delegate, without the need for committee approval, or knowing. Crisis notes are therefore bound by a character's individual portfolio power. There are a multitude of ways to write Crisis notes, but ensure to sign your character's name at the end and address it to 'backrooms' or 'crisis' on the front of your folded note.

**Directives:** Like GA and specialized committees, crisis committees have documents that take committee action with regard to the current issue. In crisis committees, this document is called a Directive. Directives will require a minimum of four people signing off on the document. This includes having two sponsors and two signatories.

**Communiqués:** Communiqués are committee documents used often in JCC to communicate with people outside of their own committee. For example, Communiqués could be used when surrender terms or ultimatums are sent to the opponent or when the committee requests aid, advice or arms from their allies. Similar to Directives, they will require a minimum of four people on the document, with two sponsors and two signatories.

**Press Releases:** As the name says, press releases are committee documents addressed to the public. They can be used to inform or even misinform the public according to the desires of the committee. Similar to Directives and Comuinqués, Press Releases will require a minimum of three people on the document, with one sponsor and two signatories.

## **Committee Introduction**

It is with great enthusiasm and anticipation that we extend a warm welcome to all esteemed participants of the Trojan War Crisis Committee at Clinton MUNC I. We are thrilled to have you join us for what promises to be an engaging and intellectually stimulating simulation of one of the most legendary conflicts in ancient history. As you step into the shoes of the gods from ancient Greek mythology, we invite you to immerse yourselves in the complexities of diplomacy, strategy, and crisis management that defined this epic saga. Your role in this committee is paramount, and we are confident that your insights, creativity, and diplomatic prowess will contribute to shaping the course of events in our reimagined Trojan War scenario.

Throughout the conference, you will be tasked with navigating the intricate web of alliances, rivalries, and divine interventions that characterized this mythic conflict. The Trojan War Crisis Committee will provide a platform for dynamic debate, collaboration, and strategic thinking as you grapple with the challenges and decisions faced by the gods in times of crisis.

We encourage you to familiarize yourselves with the historical context, personalities, and events leading up to and during the Trojan War, as well as the broader geopolitical landscape of the ancient world. Your preparation will undoubtedly enhance the authenticity and depth of your contributions to the committee.

We are here to support and guide you throughout the conference, ensuring a memorable and enriching experience. Should you have any questions or require assistance in the lead-up to the event, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Once again, welcome to the Trojan War Crisis Committee. We eagerly anticipate the passion, dedication, and creativity you will bring to this simulation. May your diplomatic endeavors be as heroic as the warriors of old.

## **Background Information**

### **Origin of Greek Gods:**

In the beginning, there was chaos. From the void emerged Gaia (the Earth) and other divine beings such as Eros (love), the Abyss (part of the underworld), and Erebus

(where death dwells). Without male assistance, Gaia gave birth to Uranus (the Sky), who then fertilized her. The first Titans were born from the union of Gaia and Uranus. Six males were born including Coeus, Crius, Cronus, Hyperion, Iapetus, and Oceanus. Six females were also born including Mnemosyne, Phoebe, Rhea, Theia, Themis, and Tethys. After Cronus (time) was born, Gaia and Uranus decided that no more Titans were to be born.

Throughout the course of history, gods and goddesses have played a crucial role in shaping how societies define their laws, values, ethics, and morals. It is believed that gods bring prosperity, good fortune, and happiness to those who worship and obey them. The ancient Greeks had strong beliefs in a pantheon of gods and goddesses who they believed had power over all aspects of their lives. According to their beliefs, one had to offer prayers to the gods for assistance and protection, as displeasing them could result in divine punishment. The gods and goddesses were believed to reside on Mount Olympus, where they governed all aspects of human existence.

### **Oath of Tyndareus:**

Tyndareus, the king of Sparta, was afraid to select a husband for his daughter or send any suitors away out of fear of offending them and opening the doors for a quarrel. Tyndareus was extremely worried that those who were not granted her hand in marriage, would band together and kill whoever was chosen. Odysseus, one of Helen's suitors, suggested to the king that each of the suitors should swear a most solemn oath to defend Helen and her husband under any circumstances. The suitors agreed to this oath, which became known as the Oath of Tyndareus. Menelaus was chosen to marry Helen, becoming the new king of Sparta.

### **To the Fairest:**

The marriage between Menelaus and Helen did not culminate in the blissful harmony expected from a royal wedding. While the marriage seemed to be a celebration of political alliances and love, Menelaus, a powerful Greek king, welcoming the beautiful Helen as his queen was only short-lived harmony. Paris, a prince of Troy visited Sparta. Aphrodite. The goddess of love had promised him the most beautiful woman in the



world as a reward for choosing her over Hera or Athena. Enchanted by Helen's beauty, Paris kidnapped her and brought her to Troy.



### **Causes and Beginning of The Trojan War:**

It is believed that the gods intervened in many significant historical events, including the Trojan War. The Trojan War, a legendary conflict from Greek mythology is believed to have taken place around the 12th century BC. The war was fought between the city of Troy, located in present-day Turkey and the Achaeans. The great empire of Troy, with walls said to be indestructible having been built by the gods themselves. Ruled by King Priam and Queen Hecuba who were both deeply loved and highly respected by their people. Priam had 50 sons and 50 daughters, the most known being the Trojan prince, Hector of Troy. The roots of the war can be traced back to the wedding feast of Peleus and Thetis, where the goddess Eris, feeling isolated, threw a golden apple inscribed with "To the fairest" among the 3 goddesses, Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite. Paris, the Trojan prince, was chosen to judge. Each of the goddesses having their own incentive, Aphrodites was the exchange for the love of the most beautiful mortal woman, Helen. However, Helen was already married to Menelaus, the king of Sparta. After Paris kidnapped Helen and took her to Troy, Menelaus called upon the other Greek kings, invoking their oath to defend the rights of the husband whose wife was taken. Helen had many men interested in her, and to come to an agreement without sparking anger all her suitors vowed to protect the chosen man. Thus, the Greeks assembled a formidable force and the Trojan War began.

**Consequences:**

The abduction of Helen by Paris triggered a series of events that ultimately led to the declaration of war by the Greeks against Troy. Furious at the violation of his marriage and the dishonor brought to his name, invoked the Oath of Tyndareus and called upon his fellow Greek Leaders to join him in seeking justice and the return of Helen. The collective call to arms resulted in the union of a Greek force that set sail for Troy.

**Major Battles and Significant Events****The Duel of Paris and Menelaus:**

To settle the dispute and avoid a full-scale war, the Greeks and Trojans agreed to a one-on-one duel between Paris and Menelaus. The duel took place outside the walls of Troy, witnessed by both armies. Menelaus was initially winning the duel, and Paris seemed on the verge of defeat. However, the goddess Aphrodite intervened to save Paris. She whisked him away from the battlefield and transported him back to the safety of Troy. The intervention of the gods in the duel angered the Greeks, especially Menelaus, who felt cheated of his victory. This event served to escalate the hostilities between the Greeks and the Trojans, leading to the continuation and intensification of the Trojan War.

**The Cattle Raid of Diomedes and Odysseus:**

In a daring night raid, Diomedes and Odysseus infiltrated the Trojan camp and carried out a cattle raid, aiming to disrupt the Trojans and gather intelligence. During this mission, they encountered and slew the Trojan spy Dolon, gaining valuable information about the Trojan positions. This episode showcased the resourcefulness and strategic acumen of the Greek commanders, foreshadowing their later exploits in the war.

**The Teuthranian War:**

The Teuthranian War, while not extensively detailed in surviving texts, is mentioned in various ancient sources. The Teuthranians were allies of Troy, and their

involvement in the war suggests a broader geopolitical context. The conflict likely involved battles between Greek forces and these allies, emphasizing the complex alliances and hostilities that characterized the broader Mediterranean region during this era.

### **The Role of Ajax and Protesilaus:**

Ajax, known as Ajax the Greater, was a towering figure among the Greek warriors. His exceptional strength and prowess in battle made him a key asset to the Greek forces. Throughout the first nine years of the war, Ajax participated in numerous engagements, becoming one of the most stalwart defenders of the Greek cause. Protesilaus, on the other hand, was the first Greek to set foot on Trojan soil. His death, foretold by an oracle, highlighted the tragic inevitability and sacrifice woven into the fabric of the Trojan War.

### **Battle of the River Scamander:**

In Book 12 of the Iliad, the River Scamander becomes a battleground during the Trojan War. As the Greeks attempt to ford the river, the river god becomes enraged and attacks them with floods and waves. The river itself is personified and depicted as actively resisting the Greeks. Achilles, in his rage, directly confronts the river god. The river tries to drown him, but Hephaestus, the god of blacksmiths, intervenes, sending fire to burn the river. This battle with the river showcases the divine forces taking an active role in the conflict, adding a layer of supernatural elements to the war.

### **Philoctetes and the Bow of Heracles:**

Philoctetes was a Greek hero who possessed the bow and arrows of Heracles, which were crucial for the Greeks in their efforts to conquer Troy. In the earlier years of the war, Philoctetes was bitten by a snake and left on the island of Lemnos due to the unbearable stench of his wound. However, as the war continued, the Greeks learned through prophecies that they needed Philoctetes and the bow to win. Odysseus and Diomedes were sent to retrieve him. Philoctetes played a significant role in the later stages of the war, particularly in the events leading up to the fall of Troy.

**The Death of Achilles' Friend, Antilochus:**

Antilochus was the son of Nestor and a close friend of Achilles. In Book 17 of the Iliad, during a chariot race, Hector kills Antilochus, further intensifying the personal vendetta between Achilles and Hector. The death of Antilochus becomes a poignant moment in the larger narrative, contributing to the emotional weight of the ongoing conflict.

**The Raid of Achilles:**

Following the death of his friend Patroclus at the hands of Hector, Achilles is consumed by grief and rage. In Book 21 of the Iliad, he goes on a rampage, killing numerous Trojans in an attempt to avenge Patroclus. The river Scamander itself opposes Achilles, and the god Hephaestus intervenes to prevent the river from overwhelming him. This episode underscores the emotional turmoil and destructive power of Achilles, setting the stage for his pivotal role in the later events of the war.

**Greatest Warriors**

The Trojan War showcased some of the greatest warriors and notable human characters of antiquity. At the forefront of this epic tale were two exceptional warriors: Achilles, the unmatched Greek hero, and Hector, the noble prince of Troy. Achilles, renowned for his unparalleled strength and skill in battle, was the central figure among the Greeks, feared and respected by both allies and enemies alike. His conflict with Hector, a man of honor and courage, became a symbol of the clash between personal glory and familial duty. Other notable warriors included the wily Odysseus, whose cunning strategies played a pivotal role in the Greek victory, and Ajax, a formidable giant known for his immense strength. On the Trojan side, Paris, the prince whose actions triggered the war, displayed both charm and recklessness. The tragic figure of King Priam, Hector and Paris's father, added a poignant dimension to the narrative. The Trojan War, immortalized in Homer's Iliad, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of these extraordinary characters, each contributing to the rich tapestry of human virtue, flaws, and the inexorable march of destiny.

## The Current Situation

It has been nine years since the war's initiation. The war is still raging between the Greeks and Trojans with no end in sight. Olympus is in chaos as the warring gods continue to battle amongst themselves. The most pressing issue at the moment is the actions of two formidable Greek warriors. Agamemnon and Achilles, who are raiding and pillaging villages, invade the town of Lyrnessus. Lyrnessus was a city located in the Troad, the region surrounding Troy. During the raid, they murder the entire family of Princess Briseis and kidnap her along with Chryseis, the daughter of Apollo's priest. Chryseis is given to Agamemnon to acknowledge his position as the leader of the Greek troops, while Achilles claims Briseis for himself. Chryses, the priest of Apollo, came to Agamemnon to ask for the return of his daughter, Chryseis. Agamemnon refuses and insults Chryses. As a result, Chryses prays to Apollo to avenge his ill-treatment. It is up to Apollo to decide how to respond to Chryses request. It's up to the gods to decide a path forward and bring an end to this war.

## Character Positions

**Apollo** is a Greek god who is associated with various domains, including archery, music, dance, truth, prophecy, healing, diseases, the sun, light, poetry, and more. He embodies a perfect balance of superior qualities, moral virtues, harmony, moderation, and reason. Apollo is the son of Zeus and Leto, and he has a twin sister named Artemis. Apollo sides with the Trojans because he is displeased with Agamemnon, the leader of the Achaean forces, for insulting his priest.

**Aphrodite** is a Greek goddess associated with love, beauty, lust, pleasure, passion, and procreation. She is the daughter of Zeus and Dione, and is married to Hephaestus. However, she is known for being unfaithful to her husband, and was caught in an act of adultery with Ares, the god of war. Aphrodite was one of the three goddesses whose dispute resulted in the Trojan War, and she supports the Trojans due to her affiliation with Paris and her son Aeneas, who are both on the Trojan side. During the war, Aphrodite plays an active role in safeguarding Paris and Aeneas in battle.

**Ares** is the Greek god of war and courage and one of the Twelve Olympians. He is the son of Zeus and Hera and is not married though he frequently engages in liaisons, most notably with Aphrodite. He embodies the fierce spirit of battle and warfare. At first, Ares had no fixed allegiance and promised his mother Hera, and sister Athena that he would side with the Greeks in the War. However, Aphrodite convinced him to break his alliance and join her in support of the Trojans.

**Artemis** is the Greek goddess of wild animals, the hunt, vegetation, and chastity. She is also the patron of girls and young women, and a protectress during childbirth. She is the daughter of Zeus and Leto, and the twin sister of Apollo and swore to never marry. Among the rural populace, Artemis is the favorite goddess. She favors the Trojans, often embodying Trojan warriors on the battlefield and sends her wrath to those who do not pay her tribute.

**Hera** is Greek goddess of women, marriage, family and childbirth. She is also the queen of the gods, as she is married to Zeus, the king of the gods. Hera is greatly worshiped by the Greeks, and they have built many elaborate and lavish temples in her honor. The cow and peacock were sacred to Hera. The goddess Athena supports the Greeks and works with other deities to undermine the Trojans. She holds a grudge against Prince Paris for choosing Aphrodite as the most beautiful goddess.

**Athena**, the daughter of Zeus, was born fully armored from his forehead and has no mother. As the Greek goddess of wisdom, craft, and warfare, Athena embodies cold rationality, strategy, and tactics in war, standing in stark contrast to her brother Ares' rage, impulsiveness, and violence. Athena supports the Greeks because Paris did not choose her as the most beautiful of the three goddesses. She frequently assists the Greeks on the battlefield and their heroes, particularly Achilles. Athena often provides Achilles with wise counsel and encouragement.

**Hephaestus**, the Greek god of artisans, craftsmen, and fire, is the son of Zeus and Hera and husband of Aphrodite, although their marriage is not a happy one. He resides in his palace on Mount Olympus where he crafts tools for the other gods. Despite being kind

and hardworking, because of his limp, he is considered physically unattractive by the other gods. Hephaestus sides with the Greeks and mostly forged various weapons and armor for Greek heroes, Achilles in particular. However he is also worshiped by the Trojans due to his crafting power.

**Poseidon**, god of the sea, earthquakes, storms, and horses, is notorious for his bad temper, mood swings, and greed. He is known to be vengeful when insulted. Poseidon is on the side of the Greeks due to his grudge against Laomedon, the Trojan king. He aids the Greeks in the war because of his dislike of the Trojans.

**Hermes** is the god of trade, wealth, luck, fertility, animal husbandry, sleep, language, thieves, and travel. He is known for being quite clever and is the swiftest of the gods, using his speed to deliver messages for them. He also helps lead the dead in the Underworld. He favors the Greeks and often provides aid to their warriors on the battlefield.

**Zeus** is the ruler and protector of all gods and humans in ancient Greek mythology, and is the god of the sky and thunder. He is married to Hera and together they had Ares, Hebe, and Hephaestus.. Zeus also had Athena with his first wife Metis. He was also known for his frequent erotic escapades which resulted in many powerful offspring including; Apollo, Artemis, Hermes, and Persephone. He is known for wielding his thunderbolt and controlling thunder, lightning, rain, and wind. Zeus might interfere in the war on occasion, but maintains his neutrality for the most part.

**Hades** is the Greek god of the dead and the king of the underworld. His wife is Persephone. As the god of the underworld, Hades rarely interferes in the matters of mortals or the conflicts of the other gods. Nevertheless, during the Trojan War myth, Hades has a significant part to play as the Underworld is the place where the souls of the warriors who died in the battle are sent.

**Persephone** is the daughter of Zeus and Demeter. As the goddess of spring and vegetation, Persephone is associated with growth, fertility, and love. Her return above

the earth each spring symbolizes immortality. After marrying Hades she also became the goddess of the Underworld and its various themes, including reincarnation and ghosts. She remains impartial in the war.

**Demeter** is the Greek goddess of the harvest and agriculture, presiding over crops, grains, food, and the fertility of the earth. She is very important to the farmers and peasant people of Greece. She is also impartial in the war.

**Agamemnon** is the king of Mycenae, was the commander-in-chief of the Greeks during the Trojan war, and was one of the most powerful lords in Greece. He sacrificed his daughter Iphigeneia to the goddess Artemis so that his ships could sail for Troy.

**Dionysus** is the god of wine, revelry, and theatrical arts. Born from the partnership of Zeus and mortal Semele, his dual nature reflects the divine realm and mortal realm. Dionysus is a symbol of transformation, resilience, and the unconstrained celebration of life.

**Hephaestus** is industrious and talented, is the god of artisans and holds the domain of craftsmanship and forge. Hemphaestus embodies both physical and intellectual strength; despite facing rejection from his own mother, he rose above and became the divine blacksmith and inventor of Olympus. He has crafted remarkable works such as the thunderbolts of Zeus and the armor of Achilles.

**Hector** is the Trojan prince, hero and the greatest warrior for Troy during the war, leading the Trojans and their allies in the forefront of the Trojan war. He embodies the virtues of courage, honor, and familial duty.

**Machaon** is the surgeon for the Greeks, the father of surgery, a heroic warrior and king. He had gone to Troy with thirty ships, commanding men who came from Tricca, Ithome, and Oechelia. He was wounded by Paris, but was carried from the battle field by Nestor.



## Conclusion

In the time frame in which this committee takes place, the Trojan War is in full swing, with the Greek and Trojan forces locked in a seemingly endless conflict. Mount Olympus is in turmoil as warring gods intensify their battles. The primary concern arises from the actions of Agamemnon and Achilles, formidable Greek warriors who, during a raid on Lyrnessus, murder Princess Briseis' family and capture her, along with Chryseis, the daughter of Apollo's priest. Agamemnon claims Chryseis, further escalating tensions. When Chryses, Apollo's priest, seeks the return of his daughter, Agamemnon refuses, prompting Chryses to pray for Apollo's intervention. The gods, particularly Apollo, hold the fate of the war in their hands, as they must decide how to respond and guide the course of the ongoing conflict.

Each god and goddess has their own stake in this war, with alliances and rivalries that add complexity to the ongoing conflict. Apollo, Aphrodite, Ares, Artemis, and Hera support the Trojans, while Athena, Hephaestus, Poseidon, and Hermes side with the Greeks. Zeus, Hades, Persephone, and Demeter remain mostly impartial.

The gods and goddesses of Olympus will play a crucial role in determining the fate of the Trojan War with their choices and interventions impacting the world below. As the conflict unfolds, it will be up to the delegates to represent the interests and desires of their respective gods and goddesses, and to make choices that determine the outcome of this ancient war.

## Guiding Questions

- What measures should be taken to ensure the humane treatment and safe return of prisoners of war from both sides?
- Are there specific conditions or agreements that need to be met before the release of prisoners?
- To what extent is divine intervention acceptable in the conflict, and are there boundaries that the gods should not cross?
- Are there calls for accountability or punishment for gods whose actions have negatively impacted the course of the war?
- What measures can be taken to prevent future divine interference in mortal conflicts?
- What diplomatic, economic, or cultural initiatives can be implemented to rebuild trust and foster positive relations between Troy and Sparta?
- Are there proposals for joint ventures or collaborative projects to solidify the peace between the two city-states?
- What decisions should be made regarding the fate of Helen of Troy? Are there discussions about her return to Sparta or remaining in Troy?
- How can her role be used to promote reconciliation and understanding between the two sides?
- What diplomatic initiatives are being considered to bring an end to the Trojan War?
- Are there proposed terms for a peace treaty, and how can both sides come to a mutually acceptable agreement?
- How can the gods be persuaded to reconcile after taking opposing sides in the war?
- Are there rituals, negotiations, or compromises that can be proposed to restore harmony among the divine beings?

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