



AISMUN VI Background Guide

Committee: Historical Crisis Committee

Topic: The Siege of Troy



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Letter from our Chairs

Esteemed delegates,

Welcome to AISMUN VI! Kathryn and I, Jayden, are excited to welcome and spend time with you during this conference as we explore the Trojan War. As your chairs, we aspire to make this conference as enjoyable and exciting for you as possible.

Kathryn and I have both been in MUN for 3 years, and since then, we've spent time at numerous conferences around the United States, such as MUNUC, GTMUN, ENMUNC, and, of course, AISMUN, to hone our debate, research, and writing skills. As a result, we've learned that while practice and repetition are both invaluable assets to help any delegate learn, it's participating in conferences that truly give MUN its spirit and thrill.

Please remember that we are not only your guides, but also your aids. This background guide is designed to provide an understanding of the committee, parliamentary procedure, and the history behind the topic; however, please feel free to ask us as many questions as you need. Our goal is to create an inclusive and stimulating environment for you to devise creative resolutions for this year's Historical Crisis.

We hope that this guide will be a helpful resource for you, and we look forward to seeing you at AISMUN VI!

Sincerely,

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Introduction to the Siege of Troy

Καλοσιρθαται (Welcome) to this year's Historical Crisis. The Siege of Troy was one of the most legendary battles of the ancient world. Lasting approximately 10 years, sometime between the 12th and 13th centuries BC, the Greek forces of Menelaus, Agamemnon, Odysseus, Diomedes, and Nestor fought against the Trojan forces to restore their honor after Paris, the Prince of Troy, kidnapped Helen of Sparta, the wife of Menelaus. After the incident, Menelaus would assemble the five armies, including his own-to form the Archaean Forces that would fight against the Trojan army.

Unlike in the General Assembly, instead of representing a country, you will all represent key figures in the Siege of Troy, both the Greek alliance and the Defenders of Troy. As a Greek warrior, your goal will be to infiltrate Troy, capture the city, and rescue Helen of Troy. Meanwhile, the Trojan warriors will need to focus on pushing back the Greek soldiers and protecting their city.

Throughout this committee, delegates will explore the ongoing feud between the Trojans and the Greeks, developing strategies of attack and defense, all while constantly responding and adapting to regularly changing developments. You can accomplish this through several different ways, including land and naval battles, espionage, bribery, or any other strategies that you may conceive. However, remember that diplomacy is key to any MUN conference.

Map & Geography of the War



Key Locations

Location
Athens
Argos
Ithaca
Mycenae
Pylos
Salamis

Sparta
Troy

Diagram of Troy



Key sections

Section	Location	Purpose
The Royal Palace	At the top of Troy, surrounded by two giant stone walls.	Where the royals and elite —such as Prince Paris— are housed.
Stone walls	The city of Troy consists of	Troy's main source of

	two stone walls, which are 30 feet (9 metres) tall and 16 feet (5 metres) thick.	protection from invaders.
Gates and Towers	Within the walls of Troy are gated sections as well as a tower paired with each gate.	Paired with the walls, they give Troy extra protection. Allowing Trojan soldiers to easily defend the city.
Wells	These are the numerous water reserves hidden under Troy.	The wells supply the city with water in the event of a siege.

Aulis to Troy



Key Figures

Read Homer's Iliad for more details

Archaean Forces

Crisis Position: The objective of the Archaean forces is to infiltrate the city of Troy, rescue Helen of Troy, and return her to Menaleus.

Achilles: Achilles is the greatest warrior in the army of Agamemnon. During the first 9 years of the Trojan War, Achilles desecrated the countryside around Troy and captured 12 cities. During the 10th and final year of the war, a feud between him and Agamemnon ensued when Achilles insisted that Agamemnon restore his prize of war, Chryseis, to her father to appease Apollo's wrath. In response, Agamemnon took Achilles' most treasured slave, Briseis.

Agamemnon: Agamemnon is the leader of the Greek army and is the most powerful of the Greek kings. He rules over Mycenae, an ally of Sparta. As the leader of the Archaean forces, he leads the Greek soldiers into battle. During the 10th and final year of the war, a feud between him and Achilles prolonged the end of the war due to their disagreements.

Ajax Telamonian: Also known as “Ajax the Great”, he is the cousin of Achilles and is renowned for his exceptional strength. He is a fierce warrior and was trained by Chiron, the mentor of Heracles. Ajax has currently fought Hector twice, without the help of Achilles. Ajax has been planning, with the help of Odysseus, to convince Achilles to forget his feud with Agamemnon.

Diomedes: Diomedes is the youngest of the Greek kings and rules over the city of Argos, second in military might only to Mycenae. Diomedes is known as a formidable and great politician who brought economic stability and prosperity to his people.

Menelaus: Menelaus is the brother of Agamemnon and the King of Sparta. He is known for his strong sense of duty and responsibility. However, after the kidnapping of his wife Helen by Paris, Prince of Troy, Menelaus commanded the Greek soldiers to sail to the Trojan coast to attack the land and restore Greece’s honor.

Nestor: Nestor is the King of Pylos and is the oldest of the Greek kings. As a former Argonaut, he travelled the world alongside Heracles. Even in his old age, he offers his countless years of wisdom and experience to Menelaus, along with his fleet of 90 ships.

Odysseus: Odysseus is the King of Ithaca and is the most cunning and wisest of the Greeks. Even as the ruler of one of the mightiest fleets of warriors, Odysseus was reluctant to send his men to war. Because of his high intelligence, Odysseus proved the most difficult to recruit.

Defenders of Troy

Crisis Position: The objective of the Defenders of Troy is to defend the city of Troy and protect Prince Paris against the invading Archaean forces while maintaining their honor.

Euphemus: Euphemus is the Prince of the Cicones and a fierce warrior. He leads the Thracian Cicones into battle to help protect and aid the Trojans.

Eurypylus: Eurypylus is a mighty warrior and the Prince of Mysia. After arriving late to the war, Eurypylus leads an army of Mysian warriors to aid the Trojan forces.

Glaucus: Glaucus is a captain of the Lycian army under the command of his cousin Sarpedon. A strong and sensible leader, Glaucus and the Lycian army provide aid to the Trojan forces, mainly providing support in breaching the Greek defenses.

Hector: Hector is the Prince of Troy and the older brother of Prince Paris. Hector is known as the greatest warrior of Troy, as well as the leader of the Trojan forces.

Memnon: Memnon is the King of the Ethiopians and a prominent military commander. Following Hector's beck and call, Memnon brings his troops to the front lines of the Trojan War, providing aid and protecting Troy against the Achaeans.

Penthesilea: Penthesilea is a mighty female warrior and Queen of the Amazonians. Along with Memnon, she and the Amazonian warriors respond to the beck and call of Hector to aid the Trojans in battle.

Sarpedon: Sarpedon is the cousin of Glaucus and the commander of the Lycian army.

Sarpedon is known for being particularly rational, claiming that there is no reason to fight or hate the Greeks; he simply fights because he is an ally of Troy.

Timeline of Key Events

Watch [this video](#) for a clearer understanding

~ 1151 BC

- Paris, the Prince of Troy, chose Aphrodite after he was promised the hand of Helen of Troy, who at the time was married to Menelaus, the King of Sparta.
- Paris kidnaps Helen from Sparta
- Menelaus calls in the Greek leaders—who are bound by the Oath of Tyndareus—to go to war with Troy

~ 1150 BC

- The Greek fleet assembles in Aulis
 - The Greeks proceed to sail to the coast of Troy

~ 1150 BC

- The Trojan War begins

~ 1150 BC - 1141 BC

- This is when the Crisis will begin, during the Trojan War

Notes on Crisis Procedure

- Delegates must be ready to adapt to regular updates from the Crisis Team.
 - Quick strategic analysis, resourcefulness, diplomacy, and creativity are essential
- Both committee actions (delegate directives) and individual actions outside of the committee (backrooms) will play a role in the Crisis.
 - Expect regular updates from the backrooms that could shift the flow of events.
- Backrooms
 - The backrooms provide updates to the delegates based on directives that the delegates have either passed or failed
- Moderated Caucuses:
 - Moderated Caucuses will always be short and poignant
 - Once called on, each delegate will be required to speak for the period of time set by the delegates.
- Points & Motions
 - Motions such as “Motion to suspend” and “Point of Order” are typically streamlined by the Chairs
- Directives
 - Rather than long, consecutive debates before writing resolutions, crises are based on **directives**.
 - Directives are short, operative-centered documents that the committee votes on to respond to events
 - No preambleatory clauses, only action

- Personal Powers
 - Each delegate may have a specific ability or responsibility depending on who they represent
 - Ex: A ruler with a large fleet of naval ships might offer members of their fleet to gain information or support.
- Typical flow of debate
 - Crisis Update
 - The backrooms will provide regular updates, updating the delegates on the current situation.
 - Motion for a moderated caucus to discuss the updated situation
 - An unmoderated caucus will follow immediately after
 - Directives are introduced and voted on
 - Crisis Team responds based on the directive

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