

GMUNC XIII



THE TROJAN WAR: GREECE



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Conference Information

It's our immense pleasure to welcome all delegates to the Gunn Model United Nations Conference XIII! Before delegates start reading this background guide, please remember position papers are due on October 17 to be considered for a research award. With the final deadline on October 23 for general awards (all awards except research awards). If you do not submit a position paper by this date by 11:59, you will **NOT** be eligible for any committee awards. For questions on position paper requirements please check out the position paper writing guide on the GMUNC website (<https://gmunc.org/conference>). In addition we will not tolerate any use of AI, if a sufficient detection of AI is found you will be disqualified from **ALL** awards and your Delegation will be made aware. Please send position papers in **PDF format** (we will not accept sharing of google docs or any other methods) and committee-specific inquiries to the committee email address **gmuncxiiijccgreece@gmail.com**. All delegates are also required to complete contact and medical forms to participate in the conference, so please ensure that your delegation has submitted these forms.

Chair Bios

Heyo everyone,

My name is Fiona Wu, and I'll be your Head Chair for the Greek side of the Trojan War Joint Crisis Committee! I'm currently a junior at Gunn High School, and have been a part of Model UN for over two years now. Over the years, MUN has become an important part of my life that's allowed me to meet amazing people and learn how to connect better with others.



Outside of MUN, you can find me drawing, playing or watching tennis, spending time with my dogs, and writing for my school's newspaper. Although my Greek mythology phase peaked in fourth grade, my appreciation for the weird stories it brought is still going strong. So, whether you choose to follow Homer's *Iliad* or set on a path entirely different from the source material, I am excited to see all the creative schemes you bring to the committee. Best of luck with your preparation, and I can't wait to see what you all accomplish.

See you soon,

Fiona Wu

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Hi Delegates!

I'm Anya Ramamurthy, and I'm so excited to be your Co-Chair for the Trojan War JCC this year. I'm currently a sophomore at Gunn, and I've been doing Model UN for over a year. This is my second GMUNC and my first as a co-chair. I love MUN, especially crisis committees, for their fast pace, creativity, and teamwork. The Trojan war is especially exciting for me because of its combination of history and mythology, both of which I love. I'm hoping you'll bring that same excitement and creativity into committee.



Outside of MUN, I'm an active member of Gunn Theatre and have participated in multiple productions at Gunn. I'm also passionate about policy, social justice, and mental health awareness. Outside of academics, I love to read and spend time with my friends and family. I can't wait to see what each of you brings to committee. Good luck delegates, and I'll see you in committee!

Have fun writing!

Anya Ramamurthy

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Foreward

Welcome to the Gunn Model United Nations Conference XIII and the Greek side of the Trojan War JCC! Set at the beginning of the Trojan War, this committee takes place after Queen Helen of Sparta was taken to Troy and the Greek city-states have begun mobilizing their forces and sailing toward the city. Delegates will navigate escalating tensions as alliances are forged, strategies are debated, and war becomes increasingly inevitable. Your goal will be to defeat Troy, uphold Greece's honor, and return Helen to Greece.

As a Joint Crisis Committee (JCC), this committee will have two sides: the Greeks and the Trojans. Delegates will work together within their *own* committee to craft directives, but crisis updates will impact *both* sides of the conflict. Additionally, delegates may communicate or take action upon one another across committees through joint private directives.

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Best of luck with writing your position papers, and I look forward to seeing everyone on October 24th, 2026 for GMUNC XIII!

Fiona Wu
Head Chair

Introduction

The Trojan War is one of the most influential conflicts from ancient mythology. Part myth and part fact, it set the stage for ages to come. In this committee, ancient poems like Homer's *Iliad* and other legends that come from Greek mythology will be considered as factual.

Our committee begins after the goddess of love, Aphrodite, promises Prince Paris of Troy the love of the "most beautiful" woman in the world: Queen Helen of Sparta; problem is, Helen is already married to her husband Menelaus. Nonetheless, Paris still travels his way to Greece and manages to seduce Helen away from her kingdom. After returning home to see his wife missing, Menelaus decides to declare war on the city of Troy to restore his honor. He assembles a large army that consists of alliances with other Greek city-states, and sails to Troy to reclaim Helen.

Our committee starts near the walls of Troy. You will all be representing multiple city-states that contain different interests and priorities. You must figure out how to work together to retrieve Helen and rebuild Greece's honor. One important thing to note is that the Trojan citizens have not yet heard of the conflict, despite the Greeks getting closer by the day.

Before you go about your research, here are a few important things you might want to know. First, this committee's topic is based in mythology. Sources can be unclear and may provide different information. Synthesize your research in the best way possible, and us chairs will have some flexibility with how you decide to interpret your findings. There are also many different roles in this committee, meaning that everyone will have different powers. Some of you are gods, some kings, and others military leaders. Mortal beings have the power to control their kingdom and army, while deities would have their mythological powers. An example would be Poseidon, the god of the sea, who is able to command the ocean. However, in this committee, the powers of gods and goddesses are not always guaranteed to work, balancing the playing field and underscoring the importance of diplomacy.

Historical Context



Before we can explore the ancient cities of Troy and Greece, we must first understand what Greek mythology (a collection of stories associated with the religion of ancient Greece, Hellenism) is about. Greek mythology imagines a cosmos ruled by the Olympians—twelve gods and goddesses who lived atop Mount Olympus and each controlled a certain vital aspect of the world.

These immortal beings were flawed. They played favorites, started feuds, cheated (whether it be in relationships or in war), and often tortured innocent people because of a bruised ego. And when all powerful, all controlling beings get mad over petty things, they begin interfering with the mortal world in ways that lead to catastrophes such as the Trojan War.

The Trojan War is one of mythology's most known legends, and comes primarily from the works of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (both written sometime around 8th century BCE), and later retold in works such as Euripides' *Trojan Women*, Sophocles' tragedies, and Virgil's *Aeneid*. It recounts one of the largest conflicts of the ancient Greek world, one in which the pride of gods intertwine with the ambitions of mortals.

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Despite its mythological nature, archaeological discoveries made in the late nineteenth century in modern-day northwestern Turkey suggest that the legendary city of Troy had once existed. The remains showed a fortified city that contained destruction consistent with warfare. Overlooking the Dardanelles Strait, this kingdom would've been able to control maritime trade and passageway between the Aegean and Black Seas.

While scholars still argue over how much of the legend is grounded in fact, the myth itself remembers Troy as a magnificent city that was encircled by walls so strong that gods themselves were said to have built them

PARIS

The myth itself begins with a dream. Hecuba, queen of the prosperous kingdom Troy and wife of King Priam, was pregnant with her son when she dreamed she gave birth to a flaming torch that would've

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burned the entire city to the ground. Alarmed, Priam consulted a seer, who confirmed the dream was a prophecy; their future child would bring about the destruction of Troy. In order to counter such a tragedy, Priam and Hecuba decided to abandon their infant (named Paris) on Mount Ida to die off.

Despite their attempt, however, Paris survived. A group of shepherds discovered him on the mountain and raised him as their own son in an act of misplaced mercy. Growing up among them, he became strong and courageous, often wrestling and racing with other young shepherds. They named him Alexander, meaning “Defender of Men”, and as he matured, he became known for his fairness and sense of justice.

HELEN

Meanwhile, across the Aegean Sea, another child was born under strange circumstances. While taking the form of a swan, Zeus fell in love and assaulted Leda, queen of Sparta. Together, they had two semi-divine children that came from eggs, one of which being Helen, who would grow up to become the most beautiful woman in the world.



By the time Helen reached marrying age, suitors poured in from all across Greece, each one a powerful king, prince, or hero. Her stepfather, King Tyndareus of Sparta, faced a dilemma: for every suitor that was chosen, there would be a plethora of rejected men who would likely want to declare war on that spouse. So, with advice from Odysseus, Tyndareus made every single suitor swear an oath. Each man vowed that, no matter who Helen ultimately married, they would defend that marriage and come to the chosen husband's aid if anyone tried to steal her away. Helen ultimately chose Menelaus, and the two got married. Nobody could have predicted just how destruction that oath, which had been made with the intention of bringing peace, would eventually cause.

VANITY AND THE APPLE OF DISCORD



Some years later, various immortal deities found themselves on Mount Olympus for the wedding of sea nymph Thetis and the mortal king Peleus, a union that would eventually produce the great hero Achilles. Every goddess, god, and hero was invited to the celebration except one: Eris, goddess of discord and chaos, who was intentionally left off the guest list for causing too much disruption. Furious at this exclusion, Eris crashed the union anyway, and tossed a golden apple that was inscribed with the words “*to the fairest*” into the crowd with the intention of sparking conflict from clashing egos.

Three goddesses immediately stepped up to claim the apple: Hera, queen of the gods and goddess of marriage; Athena, goddess of wisdom and strategic warfare; and Aphrodite, goddess of love. Rather than settle the disputes themselves, the gods (Zeus especially, who wisely did not want to spark the anger of three powerful goddesses) turned to a mortal to decide. That mortal turned out to be Paris, the very same shepherd-prince living quietly on Mount Ida who was predicted to destroy Troy.

Each goddess offered Paris a bribe; Hera promised him power over Asia and Europe, Athena offered wisdom and unmatched skill in battle, while Aphrodite offered him the love of the most beautiful woman alive. Paris, being a teenage shepherd who lacked the true dictator mindset, chose Aphrodite, awarding her the golden apple and securing her favor (and in turn making Hera and Athena his enemies). The catch, of course, was that the most beautiful woman alive was already married to Menelaus of Sparta.

THE SE/AB-DUCTION OF HELEN



Around this time, Paris's true identity was revealed. When King Priam held a contest for young princes, his officers discovered that the finest bull that could act as a prize for the competition belonged to Paris's herd. Paris agreed to give up the animal only if he could compete, and he traveled to Troy, where he defeated every challenger except Hector, the king's eldest son. After seeking refuge in Zeus's temple, Paris was recognized by his sister Cassandra—as she had been granted the gift of prophecy by Apollo, earlier—who revealed that he was the lost prince of Troy. Overjoyed, and seemingly forgetting the prophecy predicting that Paris would bring about the kingdom's demise, King Priam welcomed Paris back into the royal family and restored his status as a prince.

Soon after, he traveled to Sparta under the guise of a diplomatic visit, where he was hosted by Helen's husband Menelaus. With Aphrodite's help, Paris set about seducing Helen. Ancient sources disagree on how willing Helen was in this; some versions describe Aphrodite using her divine influence to make Helen unable to resist Paris, while other versions suggest Helen went along more consciously. Either way, while Menelaus was away in Crete for important business, Paris and Helen left Sparta together for Troy, taking a fair amount of Spartan treasure along with them for good measure.

THE RISE OF THE GREEK ARMY

Returning home to find his wife gone and his palace robbed, Menelaus understandably gets a little bit upset. He turned to his older brother Agamemnon, king of Mycenae and by far the most powerful ruler in Greece, for help. Together the brothers began calling in the oath sworn by Helen's former suitors, the one

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made years earlier to protect whichever man she chose to marry. One by one, the kings, princes, and warriors of Greece were summoned to honor their word.

Not everyone was thrilled about this. Odysseus, happily a married father, famously tried to fake madness to avoid the draft by plowing his fields with salt instead of seeds. The trick was exposed when someone placed his infant son in the path of the plow and Odysseus swerved to avoid him, proving that he was perfectly sane.



Additionally, Achilles was hidden by his mother and disguised as a daughter of King Lycomedes because of a separate prophecy that warned Achilles would die if he were to join the war. He too was eventually discovered and recruited, unable to resist a display of weapons hidden among the gifts brought before the girls.



Eventually, a massive coalition of Greek forces assembled under Agamemnon's overall command, gathering their ships at the port of Aulis, ready to sail for Troy and reclaim Helen by force.

EARLY SACRIFICES

There was, however, one final obstacle before the fleet could even set sail. The winds of the water refused to cooperate, leaving the entire Greek armada stranded. Greek seer Calchas then revealed that this was due to Agamemnon angering goddess of the wilderness Artemis by killing a sacred deer in her grove and then boasting that he was a better hunter than she was. Artemis, in her fury, refused to release the still winds until Agamemnon paid for such offense.

In order to appease the goddess, Agamemnon was told he needed to sacrifice what was most dear to him: his own daughter, Iphigenia. So, with his reputation and the campaign at stake, Agamemnon lured his daughter to Aulis under the pretense that she was to be married to Achilles, only for her to get stabbed upon arrival. Some tellings describe Artemis taking pity on the girl at the last moment and whisking her away to become a priestess,



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substituting a deer on the altar in her place. Regardless of what happened to Iphigenia, the winds finally shifted, and the Greek fleet, thousands of ships strong, was free to set sail towards Troy.

Current Situation



Presently, the Greek army is about to reach the shores of Troy. This militia includes a thousand ships, each filled with warriors and weapons from across each city-state, making this journey one of the largest military expeditions to date. Many Greek leaders, along with the mission of recovering Helen, want to use this opportunity to prove their military might and unity. As delegates, you will have to work quickly to ensure that both diplomacy and military power is valued.

As an alliance of multiple Greek city-states, you will have to recognize the importance of collaboration. This is a once-in-a-lifetime moment; never before has Greece *or* Troy seen this level of alliance between the Greek kingdoms. However, you must make sure that you are acting for the common purpose: getting Helen back. If each city-state only worked towards their own interests, the result would be a very easy victory for Troy. Furthermore, the army must prepare for multiple outcomes, such as a quick beach assault or a long, exhausting siege. Keeping the army together requires much more than military skill, for you must also ration the limited supplies and manage the troops' morale. Delegates should also look at the big picture in terms of military strategy. If kingdoms were to back down within a few days, their kings would be seen as weak and thus would lose respect. On the other hand, a longer drawn-out war will place a strain on civilians and resources back home. Soldiers also must consider the sacrifices that come with the

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Greek army, since they will be facing much more than just opposing soldiers with obstacles like Troy's civilians and the challenge that comes with navigating rocky and cliff-ridden terrain.

In addition to keeping the army stable on the beach, delegates must manage the financial tension that comes with attacking Troy. Troy's ports sit near the intersection of Aegean and Black Sea, along with the kingdom being located right between Europe and Asia. The Greeks' invasion will be affecting the multiple trade routes that cycle through the Trojan ports, and a large war could majorly disrupt Troy's trade-based economy. Because of this, the war threatens to erode international alliances. With the combination of financial distress caused by Greece's invasion and the fact that Greece is at its strongest and most unified right now. There's no telling which side international countries will choose to support. In addition to that, Troy is *very* reliant on international trade. Many of their resources come in through their ports from ships that cross the Aegean and Black Seas. If their main mode of importing resources were to be blocked, Troy would find itself isolated.

Right now, the likelihood of a compromise between the two sides decreases by the hour. With an army waiting for them on Trojan sand, Greek leaders must figure out how to work fast while using diplomacy so that this conflict can be solved with minimal disagreements and sacrifices. Your mission is to make sure that Greece can attain immortal glory and retrieve Helen, or else this will all have been for nothing.

Individual Positions

Name	Description
Athena	Goddess of strategic warfare, wisdom, and handicraft.
Hera	Goddess of marriage, family, and childbirth. Queen of gods.
Poseidon	God of the sea, earthquakes, and horses.
Hephaestus	God of fire, metalworking, and forgery.
Menelaus	King of Sparta and husband of Helen.
Agamemnon	King of Mycenae and brother of Menelaus.
Odysseus	King of Ithaca. The wisest and most cunning of the Greeks.
Diomedes	King of Argos, Greek's youngest warrior

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Nestor	King of Pylos, Greek's oldest warrior
Thetis	Sea goddess and leader of the 50 Nereids. Mother of Achilles.
Achilles	Prince of Pythia and the greatest warrior to ever live.
Patroclus	Prince of Opus and lifelong friend of Achilles.
Ajax the Greater	Prince of Salamis and the 2nd strongest Greek warrior.
Ajax the Lesser	Locrian Leader
Teucer	Prince of Salamis Island
Idomeneus	King of Crete
Machaon	Greek Physician and son of Asclepius.
Philoctetes	Wielder of Heracles' bow.
Calchas	Greek seer.
Palamedes	Euboean prince, strategist, and inventor.
Epeius	Builder of Trojan Horse, a craftsman and engineer.
Menestheus	King of Athens
Sthenelus	Loyal ally of Diomedes and son of Capaneus.
Eurybates	Herald responsible for communication between Greek leaders.
Leitus	Boeotian leader
Eurypylus	King of Thessalia
Thoas	King of Aetolia

Questions to Consider

- Unlike in myth, the Greek forces no longer retain the element of surprise. What alternative strategies should be employed to overcome the impenetrable walls of Troy, given that previously used tactics (the famous horse) are no longer viable?
- Given how diverse its army is, how can Greece maintain allyship and a cohesive front? How would you settle internal disagreements and enforce unity?

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- Should the Greek coalition only pursue military retaliation against Troy, or should diplomatic efforts be explored?
- What level of civilian participation is necessary to sustain Greek military operations, including preparation of supplies, reinforcements, and naval coordination?
- How will the Greeks secure food, weapons, and reinforcements while operating far from home territories?
- What is the role of gods in the war? How can you use their powers to your advantage and disadvantage?

Committee Goals

1. Manage internal political tensions between major leaders
2. Defeat Troy through strategic planning, whether by siege, direct combat, or alternative tactics.
3. Navigate divine influence and maintain favor or neutrality among Olympiad gods.
4. Achieve a resolution while preserving Greek Honor and unity.
5. Return Helen to Menelaus.

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