



SAMUN XIV



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#Turning Challenges into Opportunities



Since 1983

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Disclaimer

In order to enhance your understanding of the committee's guide, it is suggested to read the committee's handbook first, as it contains essential information regarding procedure and other indispensable data.

Letters from Presidents

Letter from President Perez

Dear Delegates,

With nothing but enthusiasm and respect, president Ramirez and I extend a warm welcome to you on behalf of SAMUN. We are thankful about the privilege of presiding over the Historical Synedrio committee, where delegates will not only learn about humanity's history, but develop their critical thinking and decision-taking abilities.

There is no doubt about the importance of knowing our past in order to enhance our future. Knowing how problems were solved in the past is the best way to learn how to properly manage issues from the present while involving diplomacy, resilience and dialogue. Not because I say so, but because history talks from experience, a million years experience that is unbelievably valuable nowadays.



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Surprisingly, there is a way to achieve the learning peak. Being able to incarnate ancient conflicts is the only way to make people fully connect with them, and that is what Historical Synedrio is about. We encourage you to take the person of your character. We expect your commitment to excel your risk-taking capabilities when taking decisions within the committee. We are confident that all of you will demonstrate leadership and most importantly, enthusiasm.

Without making this any much longer, I wish you the best of the experiences in SAMUN IV; we will work exhaustively for all of you to enjoy your time as delegates.

If you've got any further questions, don't doubt in contacting me through the following email, Jorge.perez-lopez@cbsm.edu.co

Best regards,

Jorge Antonio Perez Lopez

Letter from President Ramirez

Dear Delegates



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We are delighted to have you join us for the fourteenth edition of SAMUN. We are incredibly privileged to be the presidents of the Historical Synedrio Committee this year, where we will explore the historical occurrences of Ancient Greece, a culture whose impact is still felt today.

We learn as we set out on our historical journey how crucial it is to comprehend the past in order to properly handle the difficulties of the present. Ancient Greece's diverse culture, political development, and strategic wars teach us important lessons about resilience, diplomacy, and governance. Our chosen topic reflects the nature and importance of this ancient world, and we hope it will encourage you to investigate it with interest and enthusiasm.

Your preparation should be approached with commitment and curiosity. Understanding historical facts and being able to evaluate their wider implications for the evolution of contemporary society will be essential for our talks. The secret to a productive and interesting session will be your involvement, research, and contributions.

We hope this guide will help you prepare and broaden your knowledge of the historical events that influenced Ancient Greece. We are available to help you at every stage if you need assistance or have any queries.



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We hope your preparations go well and that your time in Santa Marta will be both enriching and unforgettable.

If you've got any questions, don't hesitate to contact me via the following email, Juan.esteban-ramirez@cbsm.edu.co.

Sincerely,

Juan Esteban Ramirez

Historical Synedrio President

Introduction to the Historical Synedrio

During 403 BCE, just one year after the Peloponesian war and the thirty tyrants, Greek city-states gathered in a conclave with one single objective, initiating dialogues with Sparta. After several days of discussion, the council reached a conclusion, the conclave evolved into a public meeting with the integration of Sparta. Sparta seemed cooperative, which led to the creation of the Panhellenic Synedrio of Negotiations (PSN), council that seeked for peace and cooperation within Greek city-states such as Athens, Boeotia (Mainly Thebes), Corinth and Argos, along with the Persian empire and surprisingly, Sparta.



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Hyacinthion (7th month of the Greek calendar) 24th from 396 BCE was a key day, tensions with Sparta rose abruptly, triggered by its expansionism which interfered in the affairs of Greek city-states and their former allies in addition to its desire of generalizing oligarchies; the Corinthian War began.

The Historical Synedrio committee embodies the imminent conflict that arises, leaving humanity's destiny in delegates' hands. Delegates will have the responsibility to take action in the war, developing strategies and planning their next move, tracing their path to glory or sorrow.

PSN has scheduled various sessions in order to reach a conclusion to this issue.





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Topic A: Corinthian War

Key Concepts

1. **Corinthian War (395-387 BCE):** a war which broke out between Sparta and a coalition of Athens, Thebes, Corinth, and Argos after the Peloponnesian War ended and Spartan rule in Greece was threatening.
2. **Post-Peloponnesian War Power Shift:** Sparta became the main Greek power following the collapse of Athens in the Peloponnesian War (431–404 BCE), which led to its subsequent unpopularity.
3. **Persian Involvement:** At first, by lending the anti-Spartan alliance financial and military support, Persia significantly contributed to the demise of Spartan power in Greece. Then, concerned by the effective resurgence of Athens, Persia shifted their support to Sparta in order to maintain balance.
4. **City-States:** It is a territory whose sovereignty is not internationally recognized even though it is administered partially or fully by an autonomous governmental organism. Each of the major Greek city-states, being Sparta, Athens, Corinth, Thebes, and Argos, had its own political objectives and were the main combatants in the Corinthian War.
5. **Anti-Spartan Alliance:** Coalition conformed by city-states which were against the Spartan power, mainly led by Athens, Corinth, Thebes, Argos. Along with sympathetic entities such as the Achaemenid Empire (Persia).



Introduction

Ancient Greece was a place filled with rising tensions and constant conflicts, some of which represented turning points in history. But the Corinthian War (395-387 BC) was a pivotal event that changed the course of Greek society.

With the Peloponnesian war reaching an end, Sparta's dominance within Greece

was clear after defeating Athens. Nevertheless, Sparta's ambition led to aggressive policies and several intents to impose oligarchic governments on other city-states, which caused discontent and resentment.



In 404 BC, Spartans kept the desire of imposing their oligarchic system to the city-states, a desire that led to the creation of the thirty tyrants, a Spartan imposed oligarchy that ruled Athens after the Peloponnesian war.

As the name says, thirty commissioners were

assigned to the oligarchy. Spartan oligarchies maintained a conservative framework. With



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Critias as a head, this wasn't the exception. Their regime fostered a bloody purge where nearly 1,500 Athenians were exterminated. Many others fled the city, looking forward to gathering forces in order to fight the tyrants, which they then defeated in a battle that took place in Piraeus in 403 BC. Even though the thirty commissioners fled, all of them were killed within the next few years. This increased the animosity and desire for retribution of the affected states.

Not enough with that, the Spartans kept getting involved in Persian affairs, which wasn't appreciated by Persians. Hence, straining relations. In addition to this, Spartans supported Cyrus the Younger in his race for the throne against his brother, King Artaxerxes II. This act entangled Sparta in Persian internal conflicts.

All of this heightened tensions with multiple city-states and Persia, who considered that Spartans were trespassing their sovereignty, attempting against Greek autonomy.

However, the Corinthian war didn't emerge until the main catalyst for it appeared, a local conflict in northwest east, where Thebes and Sparta intervened. This intervention was the cornerstone for the war as it reignited tensions and worked as the main excuse to create a coalition among Thebes, Athens, Corinth and Argos, or better known as the Anti-Spartan Alliance. Their main objective was to restore balance to Greek politics and curtail Spartan hegemony.



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Knowing this, the Corinthian war emerged as a result of several factors such as Sparta's post-war dominance, its political machinations, and its questioned external interventions. All of these factors were the perfect setting for a conflict. The war ended after the Allies had no other choice than to seek for peace after the Persians shifted their support to Sparta. This because they were concerned about the power that the Allies gained.

Fortunately, delegates may reshape the war, completely changing its outcome and impact in the Greek community. Will the Allies find the path towards victory? Will the Spartans defeat the Allies? Or peace will be achieved?

Current Situation and Approach

A year after the Peloponnesian War, in 403 BCE, the Greek city-states attempted to come back from the catastrophic battle that had altered the Hellenic world. As a ray of hope, the Panhellenic Synedrio of Negotiations (PSN) was established. Athens, Thebes, Corinth, Argos, Sparta, and even Persia were all brought together by the PSN, which was created as a platform for communication and collaboration. Using diplomacy to restore the broken alliances and avert future hostilities was its clear goal.

At first, Sparta's involvement in the PSN was viewed as a friendly gesture. The Spartans, who had won the Peloponnesian War, seemed to support harmony and collaboration, which



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encouraged cautious optimism, but conflicts rapidly developed. By imposing harmosts (Spartan term for a military governor) and enforcing its own political will throughout the Greek world, Sparta started to consolidate power, whilst the PSN placed an emphasis on unity and respect for one another. Important city-states who hated Spartan intrusion and power, such as Athens and Thebes, felt marginalized by these measures.

The situation had gotten out of control by 395 BCE. City-states like Thebes, Corinth, and Argos formed covert alliances in response to their discontent with Sparta's hegemony. Still in the wake of its Peloponnesian War defeat, Athens discovered a point of agreement with its former enemies. Seeing the increasing unrest, Persia stepped in to support the coalition militarily and financially in an effort to offset Spartan influence and retake Ionian cities.

The once-peaceful Panhellenic Synedrio was now the scene of secret diplomacy and controversial arguments. As representatives complained, accusations of treachery swept the room. Declaring that Sparta's hegemony threatened the independence of all Greek states, the Thebans called for swift military action against the city-state. As a focal point for the coalition, Corinthian officials stressed the strategic significance of their city. Although it was keen to regain its power, Athens urged prudence to avoid launching another expensive conflict too soon. Although many Greeks were suspicious of their motives, Persian envoys attempted to unite the alliance under the pretext of mutual benefit by promising troops and wealth.



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The Allies were clear, resistance was required to bring the Greek world back into equilibrium because Sparta's activities had disrupted it. Sparta, completely opposed to them, argued that they are allowed to perform its activities. Finally, the PSN's tenuous peace came to an end with the declaration of the Corinthian War. Everyone left the place and a new and destructive struggle began.

Stages

Stages may change depending on what happens on the committee except for the first. They are the base for the committee, leaving room for delegates to build their own story.

Sub-stages appear in the committee. They depend on delegates' actions or God's decisions.

1. The Spark of War
1. Struggle for Dominance
2. The Reckoning

1. The Spark of War

The start of the war. Delegates need to settle themselves and address Sparta's dominance(Allies) or keep gaining power(Sparta). Each side needs to clarify their intentions and plan their movements. Each side needs to establish the



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location of their main base. Troop count is at its peak, so take advantage of it, but make sure to use them wisely.

Key Elements

- Delegates establish alliances and discuss grievances
- Early battles (land or sea) occur based on initial strategic choices, shaping the war's momentum.
- Political maneuvering is crucial as coalitions form and power blocs emerge.
- Economic strategies, such as securing funding (possibly from Persia) or controlling key trade routes, are emphasized.
- Lay the groundwork for their long-term strategies.

2. Struggle for Dominance

The intermediate part of the war. The aftermath of the first stage shows the territory shift and the troop loss. This stage is full of campaigns, clashes and shifting alliances. During this stage, Persians may choose to shift powers or maintain their support towards the Allies.

Key Elements

- Military campaigns intensify as coalitions clash on land and at sea.
- Diplomacy with Persia or other external powers could become critical, with delegates vying for support.



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- Delegates may introduce innovations, such as new tactics or economic warfare, impacting the war's trajectory.
- Manage resources (troops, supplies, morale) effectively.
- Secure territorial or strategic advantages.

3. The Reckoning

The last phase of the war. Every moment is decisive and crucial. Decisions taken in this stage will be responsible for the side's success or defeat. During this last phase, troop count is low, meaning that critical thinking and teamwork is required. Will Sparta win? Or will the Allies win?

Key Elements

- Delegates focus on consolidating their victories or salvaging their positions.
- Major battles or peace talks determine the final shape of the Greek political landscape.
- Economic exhaustion or external pressures (e.g., Persian intervention) could force resolutions.

Characters

1. Sparta

a. Leaders



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- i. Agesilaus II
 - b. Generals
 - i. Antaclidas
 - c. Philosophers
 - d. Scientists, Mathematicians, Physicists or Research Generals
 - i. Lysander
 - e. Oracles
 - i. Pythia
2. Allies
 - a. Leaders
 - i. Conon
 - ii. Iphicrates
 - b. Generals
 - i. Thrasybulus of Athens
 - c. Philosophers
 - i. Plato
 - ii. Aristotle
 - iii. Socrates
 - d. Scientists, Mathematicians, Physicists or Research Generals
 - i. Eudoxus of Cnidus
 - ii. Theophrastus



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e. Oracles

i. Selloi of Oracle of Dodona

Troop Count

Each side will start with a troop count. However, this number may increase or decrease during the war. In order for the troop count to decrease, delegates would need to send troops to war, in which some of them would die. Also, troops may not even reach their destiny by being stopped by some extraordinary event or even getting killed. On the other hand, troop count may increase by incentivizing citizens to join the army or training the young to do so. Characters such as philosophers have greater possibilities to drag people to the army.

Sparta:

1. Infantry: 24,000
2. Cavalry: 1,700
3. Naval (boats): 85

Allies:

1. Infantry: 20,000
2. Cavalry: 1,500
3. Naval (boats): 95



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Map



QARMA

1. How can the PSN resolve the issues of autonomy and sovereignty that Sparta's policies have violated while keeping the Greek city-states at peace for the long run?



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2. How should Persia be controlled to prevent undue influence on Greek politics, and what part should it play in the coalition's efforts to challenge Spartan hegemony?
3. Should the PSN focus on working diplomatically or get ready for military conflicts?
4. What economic tactics can the PSN use to keep up the coalition's fight against Sparta without becoming overly dependent on Persian assistance? In case of being associated with Sparta, what would you suggest?
5. How should the PSN handle city-states that are neutral or reluctant to be an ally of any side?
6. In order to stop another hegemon from emerging, how should the PSN handle the Greek world's eventual post-war governance?
7. In case that Persia changes its allegiance to Sparta or withdraws its assistance, what backup measures should each allegiance/Sparta have?

Questions

1. How has your character's past experiences shaped their current stance on Spartan hegemony?
2. What political alliances or rivalries does your character have, and how do they influence decision-making?
3. How does your character view Persian involvement in Greek affairs—should Persia be a strategic ally or a foreign threat?



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4. What is your character's opinion on the balance between diplomacy and military action in resolving conflicts?
5. How does your character plan to ensure the long-term stability of their city-state or faction beyond the war?
6. What unique role does your character's position (e.g., leader, general, philosopher, oracle) play in shaping war strategy or policy?

Useful Links

<https://www.britannica.com/place/ancient-Greece/The-Corinthian-War>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Corinthian-War>

https://www.heritage-history.com/index.php?c=resources&s=war-dir&f=wars_corinthian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yR9bNAK5RHI>

<https://worldhistoryedu.com/corinthian-war-395-387-bc/>

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/peloponnesian-war/>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Peloponnesian-War>

https://www.worldhistory.org/Peloponnesian_War/

<https://www.britannica.com/place/ancient-Greece/The-Peloponnesian-War>