

*The Secretariat of the Fifteenth
Annual Virginia International Crisis
Simulation Presents:*



The Achaean League

Chaired by Jessica Allison

VICS XV

Dear Delegates,

My name is Jessica Allison and I am a second-year student in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia double majoring in Foreign Affairs and Middle Eastern Studies. I have been actively involved with MUN since my freshman year of high school and have transferred that interest to my involvement in IRO here at the University. Currently I hold two titles within the organization; I serve both as Secretary and IRO's Sketchiest Member, a position of which I am very proud. I have also had the honor of being Under-Secretary General for Logistics for VAMUN XXIX, UVA's annual high-school Model United Nations Conference.

Given my avid interest in the Middle East, you might be wondering as to why I chose to design a joint-crisis committee concerning the Trojan War. To be honest, when I sat down to write this background guide I wondered the same thing. However the answer to this question is very simple, through past MUN conferences I have developed a fascination with the experience of recreating historical, in this case mythological, events through simulation. We are given the opportunity to take something that has been researched and written about, whether fiction or non-fiction, and redevelop the ending in a way that is unique to our own desires. I am so excited for the unforeseen outcomes of this second Trojan War and I hope you are as well.

As chair of this committee I will hold the position of Agamemnon, commander of the Achaeans during the ensuing Trojan War. As delegates, you will all hold positions under me and it will be your duty to serve the Achaeans to the fullest capacity. Do not be concerned if your position is not of the highest prestige or power, I specifically chose each and every one for its ability to have great impact on our topic. Please research your individual and take on his unique persona to the best of your ability. The information I have provided you with is simply a starting point, feel free to take and expand upon it as you deem necessary.

One vital point to remember is that we begin VICS XV at the beginning of the ninth year of the Trojan War. The Achaeans are left in a very interesting position at this point and it is now our job to push through the final struggle and leave the Greeks victorious. It is your sole imperative to view the Trojans as your enemies and defeat them using every resource available. I trust that you will all take on this challenge and exceed my expectations.

Good luck with your preparations. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. My email address is jka9k@virginia.edu.

Sincerely,

Jessica Allison

Background

Establishing the League

The Achaean League was established in the 4th century BC under the leadership of Alexander the Great. This was a time of great turmoil in the Mediterranean and the twelve Greek states of the Peloponnese joined together out of sheer practicality. The first goal of the Achaean League was to protect member states against pirate attacks. The League fulfilled its expectations for a short while and it was not until after the death of Alexander the Great that the League began to drift apart. This separation lasted until Aratos of Sicyon reestablished the coalition around 280 BC.



*Map of the Mediterranean, circa 4th century BC.

The revitalized Achaean League was initially purposed to ensure Greek rule in the Peloponnese over the Macedonians. This was not an arduous task and the League quickly moved on to other prerogatives. However, problems began to arise when the newly revived Greek state of Sparta began to grow in strength and push its political and economic boundaries. In order to subvert the

Spartans, the Achaeans were required to join forces with the Macedonian King Antigonos Doson. Although this forced the Achaeans to align with a previous enemy, the combined Macedonian and Achaean forces were quickly able to subdue Sparta and continue along their separate paths.

Overtime the Achaean League became no stranger to war and its consequent spoils. Just one of the many conflicts encountered by the Achaeans was the 220 BC war against the Aetolian League. Aetolian aggression was quickly condemned and this event marked the Achaeans as a military force to be reckoned with in the region. This was only exacerbated by the death of the King Antigonos when the Achaeans were able to reap the benefits of the Macedonian defeat by Rome. It was at this point that the Achaeans were able to strategically push their way to the top of Mediterranean power.

If nothing else, this brief history tells us that the Achaean League originally existed as a pragmatic alliance between Greek city-states to protect one another. Later, the League became a dominant military force in the Mediterranean region that served to promote Greek interests.

Member States of the Achaean League

Aigeira – Located in modern day Western Greece. Aigeira is one of the most prosperous states of the Achaean league from an economic standpoint.

Aigio – This state became a part of the Achaean League in 800 BC. It served as the capital of the League until the annexation of the Roman empire in 146 BC.

Boura – Boura joined the confederacy in 246 BC. At the time Boura was under tyrannical rule.

Dyme – This is the most westerly of the Achaean cities. Dyme was one of the more prominent cities involved in the revival of the Achaean league in 280 BC.

Helike – Helike was the most prominent city in the first Achaean League.

Patras –A leading member of the Achaean League, Patras was inhabited exclusively by Greek ruling families.

Caphyae - Belonged to the Achaean League until defeat by the Aetolians during the 220 BC war.

Lusi and Methydrio –Ancient cities of Arcadia. Acted as member states of the Achaean League.

Megalopolis – This city was established as part of Arcadia to become a political counterpart to Sparta.

Tegea – A city in ancient Greece, known for being a part of the Arcadia municipality. Tegea is notable for sending large numbers of men and supplies to aid the Achaeans during the Trojan War.

Sicyon – A city of Corinthia, reputable for being the homeland of Aratos of Sicyon, Head of the Achaean League during the 3rd century BC.

The Achaean Army

Up until the Trojan War, the Achaean Army consisted of small, light troops equipped with the thureos shield, spears and javelins. This style of fighting aided the Achaeans in that they were very well equipped to fight from a distance. While this method served their military needs well, the fighting style of the Achaeans later became very heavily influenced by the Macedonians. The Achaeans adopted the use of helmets, greaves, and breastplates to protect soldiers instead of using one cumbersome heavy

shield. Furthermore, there was a transition away from light troops, which were able to make quick movements, to more stable, stationary fighting. This is the type of military combat enacted during the Trojan War.

Our Enemy

The city of Troy is located in between Europe and Asia near the Dardanelles. This strategic position allows the city to serve as the center of the ancient world. Aided throughout the war by the peoples of Anatolia, Troy had many Asia Minor neighbors come to their assistance. It bringing down the Trojan forces, the Achaeans had to attack many of the neighboring cities as well.



*The City of Troy.

At the time of the Trojan War, the Trojan forces are led by King Priam. Further, Priam relies on his two sons, Paris and Hector, to make many of the decisions for the city.

Paris, from the viewpoint of the Achaeans, is the sole cause of the Trojan War. When he stole Helen away from Menelaus he paved the way for the consequent war.

Hector is the presumed heir to the throne of Troy. He is most known for his defense of Troy and for this he was a favorite of the Greek God Apollo. Hector has established himself as a force to be reckoned with by the Achaeans.

Years Leading Up to the Trojan War

From the perspective of the Achaeans, the Trojan War has its roots in undue promises and thievery. As part of a bribe, Paris, the Prince of Troy, was promised the most beautiful woman in the world by Aphrodite. This woman just happened to be Helen, the wife of Menelaus. Paris decided that it would be best for him to go and collect his prize from Sparta, so off he went. The fact that Helen was already spoken for was no source of concern for Aphrodite however, the mortal men thought much differently.



*Paris, Prince of Troy

At the time Helen and Menelaus were happily married and no-one suspected that graciously welcoming Paris into Sparta would carry such hefty consequences. Paris was treated as an esteemed guest during his visit it is was a shock to all when he quickly took advantage of this privilege. Menelaus trusted Paris enough to leave him alone at the palace while he went away for a brief trip and it was during this time that Paris abducted Helen and fled with her to Troy. Yet, taking Menelaus' wife did not fully suffice for Paris; he also took with him much of Menelaus' wealth. Soon after

arriving in Troy, Paris arranged for him and Helen to be married.



*Evelyn DeMorgan: Helen of Troy, 1895

Upon his return to Sparta, Menelaus was undoubtedly outraged at the turn of events. He called upon the fourteen suitors of Helen to defend her honor and help him gain her release. While most of the suitors did not wish to go to war, troops and supplies were sent to Menelaus' aid. A fleet was established shortly thereafter under Agamemnon's oversight. All that awaited was the affirmative command to set sail towards Troy.

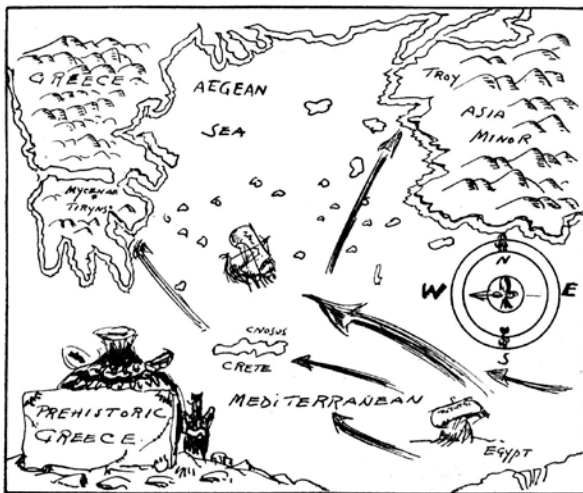
As a last measure of good faith and diplomacy, Menelaus and Odysseus arranged to host a meeting with King Priam of Troy. The two men demanded the release of Helen back to Sparta and the return all of the stolen treasure. King Priam, full-well knowing the effect that his actions would have, refused their demands. It was not long after this event that Menelaus declared war between the Achaeans and the Trojans.

The First Eight Years

The Achaeans promptly realized that their opponent was of much greater power than

originally expected. The Trojans were ready and able to defend their homeland and the actions of their beloved prince. It became apparent that the Achaeans would have to shift their plan of attack. They did so to include attacking some of the neighboring regions that continued to supply Troy with goods and supplies. The conflict against the Trojans now encompassed much more than simple open battle with swords and arrows, it also comprised of destroying the Trojan economy.

The Achaeans won many key battles against the Trojans in the first eight years of the war. The fall of Hector signified a major victory for the Greeks as did the fall of Penthesilea, a major Trojan ally. However, the Achaeans under Agamemnon were always missing one key resource needed to break through the walls of Troy. This essential figure was Achilles, whom finally joined the fight at the beginning of the ninth year and gave the Greeks a little extra boost.



*Map of the Trojan War.

Present

The Achaeans have fought successfully up to this point, yet the city of Troy has not

fallen. The sole focus of this committee is on breaking through the walls of Troy. The Achaeans will need to start getting creative in developing a strategy.

Committee Topics

Delegates will be expected to address three main topics throughout committee sessions. They are as follows:

1) Trade concerns between the Trojan council and the Achaean league.

Prior to the Trojan War, the states of the Achaean League were on relatively amiable terms with the city of Troy. Now, as part of war strategy, the Achaeans are determined to bring down the Trojan economy to ensure victory. However, this requires that the Achaeans dismantle the economies of other city-states as well.

It is imperative that the Achaeans continue on the track of destroying the Trojan economy whilst not bring detriment to our own situations.

2) Political consolidation within the Achaean league.

There is no question that the member states of the Achaean league are comprised of different military, political, and economic abilities. The purpose of discussing this topic is to form a more cohesive structure within the League. Delegates will be expected to work with one another to alleviate differences and ensure that the Achaeans act as a unified body against the Trojans.

3) War events leading up to the Trojan horse and the potential burning of Troy.

At this point, the Achaeans have set up camp near the mouth of the Scamander river. The city of Troy itself stands on a hill, across the plain of Scamander. This is where

the battles against Troy have and will continue take place.

The Achaeans have won some influential battles, however they have yet to breach the walls of Troy. This is now the task of all delegates. We are not to feel pressured to repeat the acts of history, any viable strategy to defeat the Trojans will be looked favorably upon.

Committee Positions



Each committee position was chosen for its ability to have a huge influence on the crisis at hand. Individuals range from great warriors to suppliers of goods and materials to seers whose duty it will be to predict the effects of our actions. All come from different states within the Achaean League and have a unique perspective to offer.

Upon arriving at VICIS, delegates will not be given dossiers containing further information on the crisis at hand or their positions. I recommend that you become familiar with your position and the position of other prominent members of the Achaean league prior to attending the first committee session.

Committee Positions will be as follows:

1. Agamemnon – Chair, Agamemnon will be the commander of the Achaeans during the ensuing Trojan War.
2. Odysseus – Odysseus was the legendary Greek king of Ithaca. He is renowned for his guile and resourcefulness. Odysseus always championed the Achaean cause, especially when King Menelaus was in question.
3. Achilles – Invulnerable yet temperamental warrior on the side of the Greeks.
4. Menelaus – King of Sparta and the husband of Helen. Menelaus has a personal stake in this war in that he is fighting for the return of his wife.
5. Nestor- Nestor is elder statesman type figure worthy of much respect; he is one of the most trusted councils to Agamemnon.
6. Idomeneus - Led the Cretan armies to the Trojan War. Idomeneus was one of Agamemnon's trusted advisors.
7. Calchus – Trusted Seer, made many predictions about the outcome of the Trojan War.
8. Poseidon - Held a grudge against Troy, took his revenge by aiding the Greeks against the Trojans.
9. Patroclus - Achilles' beloved comrade.
10. Ajax- Ajax is notable for his abundant strength and courage.

11. Laocoön -Member of the Achaean League, provides a different outlook in that he spoke out against the Trojan horse.
12. Diomedes - One of the leaders of the Achaeans during the Trojan War, providing perhaps as many as 80 ships. Known for being a great warrior.
13. Antilochus - Distinguished for his beauty, swiftness of foot, and skill as a charioteer. He was a favorite of the gods and an intimate friend of Achilles.
14. Agapenor- King of the Arcadians, led their forces throughout the Trojan War.
15. Menestheus . Leader of the Athenians against Troy.
16. Aegisthus- Cousin of Agamemnon. While Agamemnon was away Aegisthus became his wife's lover.
17. Cassandra – Voice of descent on the Achaean council, spoke out against the Trojan horse.
18. Philoctetes- The archer who inherited the bow and arrows of Hercules, which was needed to win the war.
19. Orestes – Son of Agamemnon.
20. Epeius – Holds the reputation of being a coward, known most for the construction of the Trojan horse.
21. Podalirius – A famous healer, led troops from the Greek state of Thessaly.
22. Stentor - Regarded as one of the most powerful voices of the Greeks throughout the war, “his voice was as powerful as fifty voices of other men.”
23. Demophon - represented Athens during the Trojan War.

Committee Format

Decisions for this committee will be made by a simple voting majority. This will ensure that all committee members are placed on an equal footing. Further, the chair will have no impact upon the committee's proceedings; I will simply serve as a parliamentarian.

Committee members will not be expected to follow strict parliamentary procedure. Instead, committee sessions will consist of more informal debate, similar to that of a moderated caucus.

Delegates will have the opportunity to communicate with their home states and resources outside of the committee room to request further information and/or issue orders.

Delegates will be asked to issue directives to establish policy in response to the impending crises. While a central focus of this committee will be to consolidate forces within the League and defeat the Trojans, delegates are asked to represent their positions to the fullest capacity, even if this means creating discord within the League.

Position Papers

As this is a mythical league and research is often difficult, I will not be requiring position papers. However, this is not an excuse to come to committee underprepared. In lieu of position papers, I am requiring that

delegates arrive at VICS XV with a short (One page) proposal highlighting their recommendations on how to approach the end of the Trojan War. As previously stated, I will settle for nothing less than complete victory for the Achaeans and would be very interested to hear as many and as varied proposals as possible.

Delegate Resources/Bibliography:

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