

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



The Trojan Council

Chaired by Iлона de Zamaroczy

VICS XV

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the University of Virginia and VICS XV! I am Ilona de Zamaróczy, the Chair of the Trojan Council which will play off of the Achaean League, in our joint crisis simulation of the Trojan War. I am a second-year in the College of Arts and Sciences at UVA, and a double major in Foreign Affairs and Spanish.

I have been actively involved in Model UN since I first represented Belize on a GA in high school on the Arab-Israeli topic. Since then, I have pursued my interest in MUN through UVA's International Relations Organization (IRO). Most notably, this past November I served as a secretariat member, organizing the staff of VAMUN XXIX—UVA's annual MUN conference for high schoolers.

Outside of MUN, I enjoy spending time going on long runs, baking decadent chocolate desserts, and watching marathon sessions of "Top Chef." I am a DC native, though my recent vacations have been spent in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania where my parents have been posted abroad. My travels have also brought me throughout Western Europe and Southeast Asia. Finally, I recently climbed the roof of Africa on a six-day trek up Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Since Homer first penned the epic the *Iliad* around 750 B.C., myth, historical musings, and even Hollywood box office hits have sought to shroud the legend in mystery. It will be up to you, as delegates, to debate both amongst yourselves and with the Achaean League to resolve the crises thrown at you. As delegates you are expected to stay true to your assigned characters, their interests, and their motivations. As King Priam, I will solicit your viewpoints and ideas as council members. I will look for consensus among the Council in passing directives. The opinions of all council members—whether princes, allies, or priestesses—will be given equal weight. This Trojan Council is being held during the ninth year of the war (pre-Iliad), c. 1200 B.C. For nine long years, the Greek dogs have been snarling at our gates, but still we hold strong...

Please be sure to research your positions and topics thoroughly given the limited nature of this background guide. I look forward to meeting you and welcome you to shoot me an email with any questions or concerns. This will surely be a fun and intense weekend.

Cheers,
Ilona de Zamaróczy
Chair, Trojan Council
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VICS XV

“To the Fairest...”

The Greek gods were assembled at the wedding of Peleus and Thetis. All the gods had been invited except Eris, Goddess of Strife. Furious at the slight, Eris threw a golden apple—the apple of discord—with the inscription *Kallisti*, or “To the Fairest,” among the guests (Stanford). Three goddesses sought to claim the prize as their own: Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite. The goddesses asked Zeus to arbitrate the dispute, but Zeus, understandably reluctant to decide amongst his wife, his sister, and the Goddess of Love, determined that the mortal Paris would be a better judge. Thus, the three goddesses appeared to Paris on Mount Ida, each offering Paris a reward if he chose her. Hera offered Paris a powerful, rich kingdom; Athena offered Paris military prowess and victory; and Aphrodite offered Paris the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen of Troy (Timeless Myths). Paris chose Aphrodite and with the goddess’ help wooed (or kidnapped, as some stories go) Helen from her husband Menelaus (King of Sparta), and brought her and Spartan treasures back with him to Troy, thus sparking the Trojan War.

The Polis of Troy

Troy, a wealthy polis, stands near the Dardanelles. A fortified city, Troy is composed of a lower walled town and an acropolis. Troy’s four “lofty gates,” “fine towers,” and “wide streets,” as described by Homer, have kept a sizeable population safe during the long siege of the Trojan War—a population that amounts to several thousands (Wood 20). The Trojan War, beyond being the product of the gods’ quarrel, is a war between the assembled armies of the Achaean cities and the Trojan allies. Troy is geographically located “on the coast of Asian Minor near the Hellespont, the narrow western outlet of the long passage from the Black Sea to the Aegean”

(Fagles 23). Troy, also commonly referred to as Ilium, returned to its former position of power under the long and flourishing reign of King Priam. Priam, son of Laomedon, was the only son to survive Heracles’ earlier sacking of Troy. As King, Priam married Hecuba and had 50 sons and 12 daughters; the eldest was named Hector, the next Paris.

Troy’s location as a meeting point between East and West draws merchants to its naturally protected harbor. Troy is particularly renowned for its famous horses as well as its textiles. Inside Troy lies an agora, a temple to Athena in the higher city, a temple to Apollo in the citadel, and Priam’s stately palace on the acropolis, not to mention the numerous other buildings which makeup a city (Wood 20); most importantly, though, in terms of surviving the siege is the fresh water well in the lower city. As an enemy blasphemously notes: “Troy invites war. Its location, where Europe and Asia meet, [have] made it rich and visible. At Troy, the steel-blue water of the Dardanelles Strait pours into the Aegean and opens the way to the Black Sea. Although the north wind often blocked ancient shipping there, Troy has a protected harbor, and so it beckon[s] to merchants—and marauders. Walls, warriors, and blood [are] the city’s lot” (Strauss 1).



The Achaean League

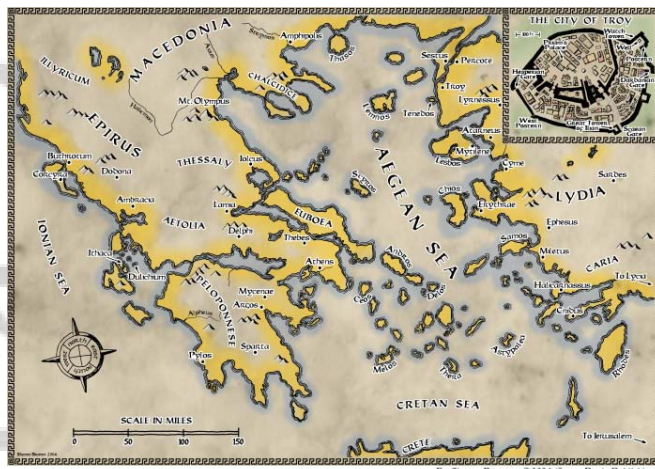
When it had come time for Helen of Troy to marry, her father Tyndareus was besieged by suitors. Tyndareus afraid to either choose a husband or send the suitors away for fear of disgruntling them took counsel from Odysseus. At Odysseus' suggestion, all the suitors agreed to swear a solemn oath that they would defend the chosen husband against whosoever should quarrel with him. So upon discovering Helen's departure, Menelaus called upon Helen's former suitors and his brother Agamemnon, King of Mycenae, to help him retrieve his wife. This host of forces drawn from throughout Greece, known as the Achaean League, was commanded by Agamemnon and assembled at Aulis (Stanford).

The Achaean League was initially established by Alexander the Great in the 4th century B.C. While the League originally functioned as a practical alliance among Greek city-states seeking protection, over time it developed into a dominant military force in the Mediterranean region.

In Book Two of the *Iliad*, Homer catalogues the list of Greek allies; included in the catalogue is a list of 164 places in Greece which sent warriors on ships to fight alongside Agamemnon, the strongest king in Greece, considered an overlord by some (Wood 22). Divisions certainly existed among the Greeks, though these were primarily of a political and geographical nature. The primary member states of the Achaean League include Aigeira, Aigio, Boura, Dyme, Helike, Patras, Caphyae, Lusi and Methydrio, Megalopolis, Tegea, and Sicyon.

"[The Trojan War] was the greatest war in history, involving at least 100,000 men in each army as well as 1,184 Greek ships," one historian notes (Strauss 3). Certainly the promise of plunder outside Troy's walls motivated the Greek allies.

Upon arriving on the beaches of Troy, Agamemnon sent envoys to King Priam but they were denied; therefore upon winning the beach, the Greeks set up camp and laid siege to Troy.



The Trojan Allies

To defend Troy against the Greek's one thousand ships, King Priam gathered a force of Trojans and allies. The Trojan Allies came from throughout Asia Minor and formed an army of many nations. The second book of the *Iliad* lists the Trojan forces, which included the Trojans themselves, as well as a number of allies—Dardanians, Zeleians, Adrasteians, Percotians, Pelasgians, Thracians, Ciconian spearmen, Paionian archers, Halizones, Mysians, Phrygians, Maeonians, Miletians and Lycians...

Thus far, the Trojan War has proven to be a drawn out conflict; without a doubt this is due to the well-matched character of both forces. The formidable Trojan Alliance is the fruit of King Priam's efforts: "Putting it together [is] no doubt a tribute to Priam's diplomacy and his purse, because all business between Bronze Age kings [has] to be greased with gifts" (Strauss 54). Thus thanks to Priam, the Trojan Alliance is a grand coalition:

"Some of the allies came from Europe—Thrace and Macedonia—but most were

Anatolian... First come the Trojans and Dardanians, to refer respectively to the populations of the Trojan Plain and, to its south, the fertile middle valley of the Scamander River... Next come men from other places in the Troad, such as Abydos, Arisbe, and Zeleia... Mysia and Phrygia due east; Paphlagonia on the Black Sea; Maeonia to the south... Caria, farther south... and Lycia, in the southwestern corner of Anatolia... The allied army might also have included Halizones..." (Strauss 54).

While over the course of the war, certain alliances have shifted and new unions formed, the cohesive strength of the Alliance remains.

The Trojan Army

Thus far, the Trojan War has often showcased contests between champions, a standard Bronze Age procedure. Also, a number of the battles have taken place on the plain between the Greek beach encampment and the Trojan city walls. The Trojans are particularly skilled in archery, a useful commodity in preventing the walls from being breached. Both Greek and Trojan infantry typically adopt the phalanx style of fighting. The infantry adopts tight formations and advance as a line. The Greek hoplites, in particular, excel at this form of fighting and hand to hand combat. The group cohesion and speed of the Greek phalanxes often prove to be a great challenge to the chariots, preferred by the Trojans. The Trojans are great charioteers, which serves them well on the plain of Troy, in terms of being a "multipurpose vehicle, used for transport to, from and around the battlefield as well as for mobile fire support

and for sheer intimidation" (Strauss 60-1). Unfortunately, however, until now Homer describes the battles waged between Greeks and Trojans as consisting primarily of "a dispersed battle" in which the terms of warfare are determined by close combat, hand, and might. As this war continues, if the Trojans are to win, they will have to conceive of new tactics to overcome the Greek forces in battle.

While King Priam confines himself to the city, he still retains the power of command. Nevertheless, his eldest son Prince Hector serves as commander of the combined Trojan forces. Hector of the "flashing helmet" is Troy's fearless and inspiring leader; his name makes the Achaean foes tremble.

The Olympian Gods

The Gods are in large part responsible for the Trojan War. Its source is the aforementioned dispute over Eris' apple of discord. Homer begins his chronicle of the epic noting in fact that "the will of Zeus [is] moving the [the war] toward its end" (Fagles 39). The gods' apparent involvement in the war almost begs the question: what free will do we mortals retain in determining the outcome of this war? And yet, these first eight years of war have repeatedly shown the coupling of destiny and prophecy with divine free will and human responsibility.

Mount Olympus plays home to the Greek Olympian gods, "a family like many a family on earth. It has an all-powerful, philandering father, who cannot be defied but may be deceived, a watchful, jealous and intriguing wife, and sons and daughter who vie for their parents' favor as they pursue their individual aims" (Fagles 41).

Hell hath no fury like a scorned goddess. The most passionate of the gods involved in the struggle are Hera and Athena; as one author writes in no uncertain terms:

“they hate Troy and the Trojans with a bitter, merciless hatred” (Fagles 41). On the Trojan side, however, are Aphrodite and Apollo, stalwart champions of the besieged. The gods’ reasons for divine intervention are at times trivial; and yet their direct involvement causing plagues, protecting favorites, providing protégées with special powers cannot be discounted in the grand scheme of things. Certainly though many of the gods prefer to be neutral.

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of the Trojan War is caused by the impertinence of the gods: “the immunity of the gods, who fight their mock battles while men stand and die, casts into higher relief the tragic situation of the men who risk and suffer not only pain and mutilation but the prospect, inevitable if the war goes on long enough, of death...” (Fagles 43).

Therefore, while it may have been prophesied that Troy will fall to a wooden horse, surely we mortals must not lose sight of hope and rather cling to our free will in determining the course of history...

The First Eight Years

The Achaeans have besieged Troy for eight years; the forces are so well-matched, neither can conquer the other. A number of problems plague the Greeks. During this time, Achilles has led a series of campaigns in the countryside around Troy, in neighboring kingdoms and vassal states to obtain supplies and women slaves. Still the Greeks often find themselves short on resources and the troops repeatedly seek to mutiny, disillusioned by the many years of war and their long absence from home. A particularly stark moment in the course of the war occurred when the Greek camp was afflicted by an epidemic caused by Apollo. The Greek commanders often fight among themselves; in particular, the Greek hero Achilles and the commander-in-chief Agamemnon are known to quarrel.

The siege of Troy was never complete: the city-state has continued throughout the course of the siege to maintain diplomatic relations with allies in the interior of Asia Minor. Because the Greeks control only the entrance to the Dardanelles whereas Troy holds on to the shortest point in the Dardanelles Strait at Abydos and Sestus, Troy can still communicate with European allies.

Topics of Debate

The Trojan Council will be asked to address questions centered around three broad topics when they meet. (1) Most importantly and most pressing, the Council will bend its mind to the task of finding a conclusion to this drawn-out conflict. A range of options exist from diplomatic negotiations to renewed military efforts. (2) Given the long nature of the current conflict, relations among Trojans and their allies are tense. The Council will have to resolve issues of political ascendancy and turmoil within the alliance. (3) Finally, the Council will have to redefine its relations with the Greeks. Given the importance that control over the Dardanelles has on access to the Black Sea and its trade, how shall the Trojans and Greeks manage trade agreements, embargos, etc.?

Ending the Siege

The siege of Troy is not strictly speaking a siege. Our Greek foes at no point have yet encircled the city, for fearing of spreading their forces to thin and risking an overwhelming Trojan counterattack. Even the foe Odysseus of Ithaca recognizes the reality of this situation and notes that the Trojan defenders are “as many as the leaves and flowers that come in spring” (Strauss 77). The Achaeans have thus far been unable to build palisades or ditches to cut off Trojan contact with the outside world (Strauss 77). A fresh water well exists in the

lower city, and resources, while at times tight, have not forced the hand of the Trojans to sue for peace yet. There is nothing to suggest that the siege might not last for another eight years.

In terms of city defenses, the Trojan fortifications are at their weakest near a wild fig tree close to the western gate. Short of ruse, the only ways of breaching the city walls consist of “scaling the city walls with ladders, breaking through the walls or through a gate with battering rams or hammers or axes, or tunneling below the walls” (Strauss 76). The Trojans’ options in terms of offensive tactics are either to nibble away at Greek strength through a series of guerilla raids or a frontal assault of the Greek camp. Thus far, the Trojans have for the most part shied away from offensive operations for fear of incurring large casualties and driving away allies. And yet by bowing to the dictates of defensive warfare, Troy cannot determine the course of the war.

Questions to consider: What timeline should Troy adopt to end its siege and the war? Are defensive or offensive tactics preferable? What considerations must be taken into account during military planning to pacify Troy’s allies? Of course suing for peace is always an option...

Ascendancy Within the Alliance

“In the years of warfare that followed [the Greek landing], the Greeks ravaged and looted the Trojan countryside and surrounding islands, but they made no progress against the city of Troy. Ironically, the *Iliad* focuses on pitched battle on the Trojan Plain, although most of the war was fought elsewhere and consisted of raids.” (Strauss 3)

During the first eight years of war, the Greeks have reached the walls several times though they have always been pushed back by the Trojans. Unable to breach the walls then, the Trojan War has become characterized by intermittent fighting. Camped as they are on the beaches of Troy and miles from home, the Greeks must go on a number of expeditions throughout the Dardanian countryside. Without supply lines to sustain the Greek army, these raids became a means of procuring supplies, food, and women.

Over the course of the war, the Greek camp at Troy has become a naval station of sorts: it made a convenient jumping-off place for attacks. The Greeks, with their superior naval power, attack the Trojan coastline virtually at will, ransacking cities; carrying off Trojan women, treasure, and livestock; killing some leading men, ransoming others, and selling most of the rest as slaves (Strauss 87-8). The loot serves as morale to the Greeks, the raids supply the army’s needs. By conducting these raids, the Greeks are successfully transforming the war in to a two-dimensional war on land and sea, much to the Trojans’ dismay.

“Raiding [is] a mixed blessing for the Greeks. It prolonge[s] the war, and protracted wars are often as hard on the attacker as on the defender,” notes one commentator—but raids are a mixed blessing for the Trojans too (Strauss 99). While the Greeks may be amassing loot and slaves in their camp, they have yet to breach the city walls. Moreover, though the raids have the adverse consequence of weakening the Trojan alliance and resolve of our neighboring city-states, it also prohibits the Achaeans from amassing all their forces at once for an attack on Troy.

Questions to consider: Is there any way to distract the Greeks through raids, while destroying their remaining forces in

one fell swoop? What can be done to minimize the destructive effects of the raids? How should the Council address the growing tensions and discontent among our allies that is being caused by the raids?

Trade Concerns between the Achaean League & Trojan Alliance

Prior to the Trojan War, Troy and its Greek counterparts shared relatively friendly relations, particularly in terms of trade. The Mycenaeans in particular have come to dominate the Aegean Sea in terms of trade. Previously, Troy was home to a bustling port which welcomed traders from all parts. However, the Trojan War has disrupted trade routes. Though Troy hosts a sheltered harbor, Trojan seamanship is weak. Yet, Troy retains the invaluable asset of being strategically placed on the Dardanelles, a key passageway between the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea. In terms of geography, Wace and Stubbings write: "The entry from the Aegean to the Black Sea is rendered difficult for ships under sail by the prevalence of the northerly winds and by the southbound current... the sailor is therefore dependent on free access to harbours in the Straits" (281).

Questions to consider: How should the Trojans and Achaeans manage trade concerns, especially given the tangled control of the straights both sides share? Should Troy attempt a recapture of the entrance to the Dardanelles via an attack on the Greek fleet? What can Troy do to entice the return of merchants and traders to its harbor?

Council Positions:

**Note that there exist a number of variations in the spellings of Ancient Greek names and places*

1. Acamas- Son of Eussorus, commander of the Thracians.

2. Aeneas- Son of Anchises and goddess Aphrodite, kinsman of Priam, fights in the Trojan War; commander of the Dardanians.
3. Ascanius- Son of Hippotion; Trojan ally and co-commander of a contingent from Phrygia.
4. Asius- Leader of Trojan allies from Percote, Practius, Sestos, Abydos, Arisbe, and their environs.
5. Asteropaeus- Son of Pelegon, Trojan ally; Commander of the Paenonians.
6. Cassandra- Daughter of Priam and Hecuba, and Princess of Troy; Apollo granted her the gift of prophecy.
7. Deiphobus- Trojan prince, son of Priam.
8. Dymas- Trojan merchant specializing in husbandry and the horse trade.
9. Epistrophus- Trojan ally and co-commander of the Halizonians.
10. Euphemus- Son of Troezenus, Trojan ally; captain of the Cicones.
11. Eurypylos- Son of Telephus of Mysia who brings a contingent to fight for Troy.
12. Glaucus- General in the Trojan army, charged with keeping the civil peace within Troy.
13. Hector- Son of Priam and Hecuba, supreme commander of the Trojans; Troy's crown prince and greatest warrior.
14. Hecuba- daughter of Dymas and Priam's wife and Queen of Troy.

15. Laocöon- Seer and Trojan priest of Apollo.
16. Memnon- King of Aethiopia and kinsman of Priam, brings a contingent to fight for Troy.
17. Mesthles- Son of Talaemenes; Trojan ally and co-commander of a contingent of Maeonians.
18. Nastes- Son of Nomion; Trojan ally and co-commander of contingent of Carians.
19. Pandarus- Son of Lyacaon and great archer; Trojan ally who brings a contingent from Zelea.
20. Paris- Son of Priam and Hecuba, and Prince of Troy who abducted Helen from Menelaus in Lacedaemon, thereby causing the Trojan War.
21. Penthesilea- Queen of the Thracian Amazons who brings a contingent of women warriors to fight for Troy.
22. Sarpedon- Son of Zeus and Laodamia; Trojan ally and co-commander of the Lycians.
23. Sybil- Oracle from Dardania, near the Hellespont.
24. Telephus- Bastard child of the royal family, trained in skills of espionage and special operations.

Committee Format

Each council member's viewpoint and advice will be weighed equally. Every council member comes from a range of geographic places and walks of life, though the Trojan Council as a whole must stand united in its purpose. You will receive

dossiers containing more detailed information on your position and assigned tasks upon your arrival at VICs. Nevertheless, it is your job to come prepared with a familiar knowledge of the background of the Trojan War as well as your particular assigned characters.

I will lead the committee sessions under the guise of King Priam. The Council will be tasked with passing directives to address the crises of the day. Given the varied backgrounds and personal interests of each council member, I expect some amount of divided debate. Do bear in mind though that the ultimate goal of the Trojan Council the weekend of VICs is to end the siege of Troy. While it is important for you to stay true to your particular motivations, our end goal can only be achieved through the united will of the Council. Each council member will be given one vote; a simple majority will be necessary for a directive to be passed.

Committee will not follow strict parliamentary procedure. Committee debate will consist of something more informal, with a particular emphasis on moderated caucuses. Delegates will be welcome to consult with their home governments, resources, etc. should they wish to request further information, issue orders, or clarify positions.

As the Trojan Council is rooted in as much myth and legend as history and literature, research of the topic and your positions can be difficult. Therefore, position papers will not be required. However, do not interpret this as an excuse to come to committee underprepared. In lieu of position papers, *delegates are required to come with a short proposal (one page) stating their policy recommendations in ending the Trojan War*, particularly as they relate to the three above-mentioned topics.

Please infuse this proposal with your character's personal perspective on the situation.

Finally, something very important to keep in mind is that events in this recreation of the Trojan Council do not have to develop as they did historically. For example, while historically some of the above council members meet grim deaths at the hands of the Greeks, such realities will be deemed irrelevant for the purposes of this Council. A gift horse will by no means conclude this conflict. Most importantly, this means that the fate of the Trojans is not doomed, and by no means pre-determined.

May Apollo and Aphrodite smile upon us!

Delegate Resources/Works Cited

****Iliad* by Homer (though be sure to note that a number of the events mentioned in this epic will be irrelevant to our discussion as the Council will meet pre-Iliad)

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