

A movie poster for 'Planet of the Apes'. The background is a dark, teal-tinted image. In the upper right, a human hand in a green military uniform sleeve holds a black handgun, pointing it at the forehead of a chimpanzee in the upper left. In the foreground, a close-up of an older, graying ape's face with a stern expression. The ape's fur is dark with white salt crystals or snow on its head and shoulders.

RGSSMUN V

Planet of The Apes

New age of ape domination?

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Equity Message

RGSSMUNV is dedicated towards creating a safe, inclusive and equitable environment for debates. We understand that certain topics within the wide range of matters within debate cover sensitive issues regarding the real world. We ask that delegates be respectful, professional, tactful, and diplomatic when engaging with all committee content, representing their assigned positions in an equitable manner whilst communicating with staff and other delegates, and responding to opposing viewpoints that may be voiced by others.

This specific background guide contains, including but not limited to, topics pertaining towards violence, exploitation, and war. We understand that these topics may distress some delegates, and while minimal, should be only utilized as a point of discussion.

If, at any point in committee, a delegate feels uncomfortable with topics being discussed, the delegate is encouraged to reach out to their Chairs, Crisis Directors, and RGSSMUNV's equity director.

RGSSMUNV expects all delegates to conduct oneself in a respectful manner, keeping consideration towards others' boundaries. Debate should be productive, and respectful. At no point in time should delegates feel personally attacked, or unsafe. We want all delegates at RGSSMUNV to feel safe and comfortable during the committee.

Letter from the Crisis Director

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt welcome to each of you as participants in the RGSSMUNV “Rising Shadows” crisis committee. As your Crisis Director, I am honored to guide you through this immersive experience that will transport you into the intricate and dynamic world of the Planet of the Apes. Your decisions in this committee will not only shape the destiny of the Ape Nation but will also unravel the complexities of power, survival, and coexistence.

The history of this conflict is a tapestry woven with threads of social upheaval, political intrigue, and technological evolution. The rise of the apes and the struggles of humanity create a narrative that is not merely about survival but also delves into the profound aspects of identity and the consequences of wielding power.

Prepare yourselves for a crisis where alliances may crumble, and unexpected collaborations might emerge. The fate of the Planet of the Apes lies in your hands. May your deliberations be thoughtful, your strategies cunning, and your decisions impactful.

Best of luck.

Sincerely,

Anish Neethi Ganesh

Planet of the Apes

Introduction & History

In the not-so-distant future, Earth has undergone a radical transformation. A simian flu has decimated human populations, granting apes enhanced intelligence. A new era has dawned – one where apes have risen to dominance, and humanity struggles to survive. This committee will delve into the rich history leading to this point and explore the ongoing conflicts shaping the Planet of the Apes.

1. Planet of the Apes (1968)

In the original film directed by Franklin J. Schaffner, astronaut George Taylor (played by Charlton Heston) crash-lands on a mysterious planet ruled by intelligent apes. Taylor and his fellow astronauts discover a society where humans are primitive and mute, while apes are the dominant species. As Taylor struggles to survive and understand this strange world, he uncovers shocking truths about its history and the fate of humanity.

2. Beneath the Planet of the Apes (1970)

Directed by Ted Post, this sequel follows astronaut Brent (played by James Franciscus) as he ventures into the underground ruins of New York City, encountering a society of mutant humans who worship a doomsday bomb. Meanwhile, Taylor, having disappeared at the end of the first film, is revealed to have become a captive of the apes. The film explores themes of religious fanaticism, nuclear apocalypse, and the search for identity.

3. Escape from the Planet of the Apes (1971)

In this installment directed by Don Taylor, Cornelius (played by Roddy McDowall) and Zira (played by Kim Hunter), two intelligent chimpanzees from the future, escape the destruction of Earth and travel back in time to 1970s America. Initially celebrated as celebrities, they soon face persecution as fear grows of the future they represent. The film explores themes of prejudice, ethics, and the consequences of time travel.

4. Conquest of the Planet of the Apes (1972)

Directed by J. Lee Thompson, this film depicts a dystopian future where apes are enslaved by humans as a result of a deadly virus that wiped out domesticated animals. Caesar (played by Roddy McDowall), the son of Cornelius and Zira, leads a rebellion against human oppression, igniting a violent struggle for freedom. The film serves as a social commentary on civil rights and revolution.

5. Battle for the Planet of the Apes (1973)

Directed by J. Lee Thompson, this concluding chapter in the original series depicts Caesar's efforts to establish a peaceful society where apes and humans can coexist. However, tensions between the two species escalate, leading to a climactic battle for dominance. The film explores themes of reconciliation, leadership, and the cyclical nature of conflict.

6. Planet of the Apes (2001)

Directed by Tim Burton, this reboot of the franchise stars Mark Wahlberg as astronaut Leo Davidson, who becomes stranded on a planet ruled by intelligent apes. Unlike the original film, this version features a different narrative and diverges significantly from the source material. It explores themes of genetic engineering, societal control, and the search for identity.

7. Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011):

Directed by Rupert Wyatt, this reboot serves as a prequel to the original series, exploring the origins of intelligent apes and the downfall of humanity. Scientist Will Rodman (played by James Franco) experiments with a viral drug intended to cure Alzheimer's disease, inadvertently enhancing the intelligence of a chimpanzee named Caesar (played by Andy Serkis). As Caesar evolves and leads a revolution, the film raises questions about ethics, scientific responsibility, and the nature of humanity.

8. Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (2014):

Directed by Matt Reeves, this sequel to "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" depicts the aftermath of a global pandemic that devastates human civilization. Caesar and his fellow apes establish a thriving community in the redwood forest, while a group of human survivors seeks to restore power in a decaying San Francisco. Tensions escalate between the two groups, leading to a tragic confrontation that threatens to reignite war.

9. War for the Planet of the Apes (2017)

Directed by Matt Reeves, this concluding chapter in the reboot trilogy follows Caesar as he confronts the ruthless Colonel (played by Woody Harrelson), who seeks to eradicate all intelligent apes. As Caesar grapples with his own inner demons and the moral complexities of war, he embarks on a quest for vengeance and redemption. The film explores themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and the legacy of violence.

Each film in the "Planet of the Apes" franchise offers its own unique interpretation of the original story, exploring themes of science fiction, social commentary, and existential philosophy across different eras and cinematic styles.

Topic 1. The Rise of Ape Civilization and its Impact on Global Politics

This topic delves into the transformative effects of the rise of ape civilization on the global political landscape. As apes gain intelligence and organize into complex societies, traditional power dynamics among nations are disrupted, leading to new alliances, rivalries, and diplomatic challenges. Key discussion points could include the emergence of ape-led governments and their interactions with remaining human enclaves, the formation of international organizations or alliances to address shared challenges, and the implications of ape ascendancy for existing geopolitical structures. Delegates may also explore the role of emerging leaders within the ape community, potential flashpoints for conflict between apes and humans, and strategies for promoting peace and cooperation in this evolving world order.

The Dawn of Ape Ascendancy

In the wake of humanity's downfall, apes have risen to prominence, establishing their own societies, cultures, and governance structures. Led by visionary leaders such as Caesar, apes have demonstrated remarkable intelligence, adaptability, and resilience in the face of adversity. As delegates, you will navigate the complexities of ape-led governance and the evolving role of apes on the global stage.

Global Politics in Flux

With the ascent of ape civilization, the geopolitical landscape undergoes a seismic shift. Traditional power structures crumble as apes assert their dominance, challenging the supremacy of human-led nations. Delegates will grapple with the implications of this power shift, exploring alliances, rivalries, and diplomatic initiatives aimed at fostering stability and cooperation in this volatile world.

Interactions with Human Enclaves

Despite their diminished status, humans remain a significant presence in this new world order. Delegates will confront the complexities of ape-human relations, navigating issues of coexistence, equality, and the ethical treatment of both species. From humanitarian aid efforts to potential flashpoints for conflict, the interactions between apes and humans will shape the trajectory of global politics.

Strategies for Peace and Cooperation

As delegates representing various factions within ape civilization, you will be tasked with charting a course towards peace, prosperity, and mutual understanding. Discussions may revolve around the establishment of international organizations or alliances to address shared challenges, the promotion of dialogue and reconciliation between apes and humans, and the pursuit of sustainable development goals in this post-human world.

Ethical Considerations and Human Rights

Amidst the geopolitical upheaval, delegates must not lose sight of the ethical considerations inherent in ape governance. Issues of human rights, dignity, and equality demand careful deliberation, as delegates seek to build a society founded on principles of justice and compassion.

Guiding Questions

1. How has the emergence of ape civilization reshaped traditional power dynamics on a global scale?
2. What are the key challenges and opportunities presented by the rise of ape-led governments in the context of international relations?
3. How do interactions between apes and remaining human enclaves influence geopolitical tensions and diplomatic efforts?
4. What strategies can be employed to promote cooperation and peace between apes and humans in this evolving world order?
5. How do emerging leaders within the ape community shape the trajectory of global politics, and what are their respective agendas and motivations?
6. What are the implications of ape ascendancy for existing geopolitical structures and international organizations?
7. How do environmental factors, resource scarcity, and territorial disputes contribute to geopolitical tensions in a world where apes are the dominant species?

8. What lessons can be learned from past conflicts and diplomatic efforts in addressing challenges arising from the rise of ape civilization?
9. To what extent do cultural, ideological, and religious differences influence diplomatic relations between apes and humans?
10. How can the principles of diplomacy, negotiation, and conflict resolution be applied to navigate the complexities of ape-led governance and global politics?

Topic 2. Ethical Considerations of Scientific

Advancements and Genetic Engineering

With the advancement of scientific knowledge and technology, apes have gained the ability to manipulate their own genetic makeup and augment their cognitive abilities. This raises profound ethical questions regarding the use of genetic engineering, experimentation on sentient beings, and the pursuit of scientific progress at the expense of moral considerations. Debates on this topic could center around the ethical responsibilities of scientists and policymakers in regulating genetic research, ensuring the welfare of experimental subjects, and safeguarding against potential misuse of biotechnological advancements. Furthermore, delegates may examine the implications of genetic enhancement on notions of identity, equality, and natural rights, considering the potential for exacerbating existing inequalities within ape society or creating new forms of discrimination based on genetic superiority.

The Dawn of Genetic Advancements

In the world of the "Planet of the Apes," scientific breakthroughs have granted apes the ability to manipulate their own genetic makeup and enhance their cognitive abilities. As delegates, you will navigate the ethical dilemmas arising from these advancements, considering the potential benefits and risks associated with genetic engineering.

Ethical Responsibilities of Scientists and Policymakers

The power to shape the genetic destiny of sentient beings comes with immense ethical responsibilities. Delegates will engage in discussions surrounding the regulation of genetic research, the establishment of ethical guidelines for experimentation, and the role of policymakers in safeguarding the welfare of experimental subjects. Key considerations include ensuring transparency, informed consent, and adherence to principles of bioethics.

Safeguarding Against Misuse of Biotechnological Advancements:

While genetic engineering holds promise for advancing ape civilization, it also poses significant risks if misused or exploited. Delegates will explore strategies for mitigating these risks, including measures to prevent the creation of genetically modified organisms with unintended consequences, such as increased aggression or decreased empathy.

Implications for Identity, Equality, and Natural Rights

The ability to enhance genetic traits raises profound questions about identity, equality, and the natural rights of sentient beings. Delegates will examine how genetic enhancements may exacerbate existing inequalities within ape society or create new forms of discrimination based on genetic superiority. Discussions may also touch upon the implications for notions of individuality, autonomy, and self-determination.

Promoting Ethical Research and Innovation

As stewards of scientific progress, delegates are tasked with promoting ethical research practices and fostering a culture of responsible innovation. This includes advocating for transparency in scientific endeavours, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and ensuring that advancements in genetic engineering are guided by principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice.

Guiding Questions

1. What ethical principles should guide the regulation of genetic research and experimentation in ape society?
2. How do advancements in genetic engineering challenge traditional notions of identity, equality, and natural rights among apes and humans?
3. What safeguards are necessary to prevent the misuse or exploitation of biotechnological advancements in the pursuit of scientific progress?
4. To what extent should policymakers prioritize the welfare and rights of experimental subjects in the development and implementation of genetic engineering technologies?
5. How do genetic enhancements impact social dynamics and power structures within ape society, and what are the potential risks and benefits associated with these advancements?
6. What ethical responsibilities do scientists and policymakers have in ensuring transparency, informed consent, and accountability in genetic research and experimentation?

7. How can the principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice be applied to navigate the ethical complexities of genetic engineering in the "Planet of the Apes" universe?
8. What role do cultural, religious, and philosophical beliefs play in shaping attitudes toward genetic engineering and scientific progress among apes and humans?
9. How can ethical dilemmas arising from genetic enhancements be addressed through interdisciplinary collaboration, dialogue, and stakeholder engagement?
10. What lessons can be learned from historical and contemporary debates surrounding the ethical implications of scientific advancements, and how can they inform decision-making in the context of ape-led governance?

Character Guides

Caesar - Leader of the Ape Civilization

As the charismatic and visionary leader of the ape civilization, Caesar commands respect and loyalty from his fellow apes. He is known for his wisdom, courage, and unwavering commitment to the ideals of peace and coexistence with humans.

Dr. Zaius - Orangutan Politician and Traditionalist

Dr. Zaius is a prominent orangutan politician who serves as the keeper of ape traditions and values. He is deeply skeptical of human influence and advocates for maintaining strict control over scientific advancements, particularly in the realm of genetic engineering.

Cornelius and Zira - Chimpanzee Scientists and Reformists

Cornelius and Zira are pioneering chimpanzee scientists who advocate for progressive reforms within ape society. They are proponents of scientific inquiry and strive to bridge the gap between apes and humans through diplomacy and cooperation.

General Ursus - Militaristic Gorilla Leader

General Ursus is a formidable gorilla leader known for his militaristic approach to governance. He believes in the superiority of apes and advocates for aggressive expansionist policies to secure ape dominance over the planet.

Nova - Human Rights Advocate and Activist

Nova is a courageous human rights advocate who seeks to empower marginalized human communities within an ape-dominated society. She campaigns for equal rights, dignity, and freedom for all sentient beings, regardless of species.

Maurice - Wise Orangutan Educator and Mentor

Maurice is a wise and compassionate orangutan educator who serves as a mentor to young apes and humans alike. He values knowledge, empathy, and understanding, and strives to foster harmony and cooperation among all beings.

Koba - Radicalized Chimpanzee Rebel

Koba is a radicalized chimpanzee rebel who harbours deep-seated resentment towards humans and advocates for violent resistance against ape oppressors. His extremist views pose a significant challenge to Caesar's vision of peace and reconciliation.

Bright Eyes - Symbol of Hope for Human Liberation

Bright Eyes is a courageous human who defies ape oppression and becomes a symbol of hope for human liberation. She inspires others to resist tyranny and fight for freedom, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

Rocket - Loyal Gorilla Lieutenant and Peacemaker

Rocket is a loyal gorilla lieutenant who serves as a trusted advisor to Caesar and advocates for peaceful coexistence between apes and humans. He seeks to bridge the divide between the two species through dialogue and diplomacy.

Kira - Chimpanzee Diplomat and Negotiator

Kira is a skilled chimpanzee diplomat who specializes in negotiating treaties and resolving conflicts between ape factions and human enclaves. She advocates for diplomacy, compromise, and mutual understanding as the keys to lasting peace.

Blue Eyes and Ash - Young Ape Activists and Idealists

Blue Eyes and Ash are young ape activists who embody the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice. They are passionate advocates for social reform and strive to challenge the status quo by promoting inclusivity and diversity within ape society.

Malcolm - Human Ambassador and Peacemaker

Malcolm is a human ambassador who seeks to build bridges between humans and apes through dialogue and diplomacy. He advocates for mutual respect, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence as the foundation for a better future for all beings.

Nova's Tribe - Human Resistance Fighters

Nova's tribe is a group of human resistance fighters who defy ape oppression and fight for the liberation of their people. They are resourceful, resilient, and determined to reclaim their freedom, no matter the cost.

Koba's Faction - Radical Chimpanzee Extremists

Koba's faction is a group of radical chimpanzee extremists who reject Caesar's leadership and advocate for a violent uprising against human oppressors. They are driven by anger, fear, and a desire for vengeance, posing a significant threat to peace and stability.

Ari - Chimpanzee Intellectual and Reformer

Ari is a forward-thinking chimpanzee intellectual who challenges traditional ape norms and advocates for progressive reforms. She believes in the power of education, empathy, and dialogue to overcome prejudice and promote social justice.

Thade - Gorilla Warlord and Conqueror

Thade is a ruthless gorilla warlord who seeks to expand his territory and establish dominance over rival ape factions and human enclaves. He is driven by ambition, greed, and a thirst for power, willing to resort to violence to achieve his goals.

Ellie - Human Scientist and Advocate for Peaceful Coexistence

Ellie is a human scientist who dedicates her research to promoting understanding and cooperation between humans and apes. She advocates for scientific collaboration, cultural exchange, and empathy as the keys to building a brighter future for both species.

Milo - Chimpanzee Revolutionary and Freedom Fighter

Milo is a charismatic chimpanzee revolutionary who leads a grassroots movement for freedom and equality within ape society. He inspires apes and humans alike to challenge oppressive regimes and strive for a world where all beings are treated with dignity and respect.

Attar - Gorilla Commander and Loyalist to Traditional Ape Values

Attar is a loyal gorilla commander who staunchly defends traditional ape values and customs. He believes in the superiority of apes and is willing to do whatever it takes to uphold the status quo, even if it means suppressing dissent and enforcing strict conformity.

Lisa - Orangutan Philosopher and Advocate for Ethical Leadership

Lisa is an orangutan philosopher who explores the ethical dimensions of leadership and governance within ape society. She advocates for principles of justice, integrity, and compassion as essential qualities for effective leadership, inspiring others to strive for ethical excellence in their endeavours.

References

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