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Introduction

The year is 2016, the year following the destruction of Sokovia during the battle of Ultron. After these devastating events in Sokovia., public opinion of the Avengers has reached an all-time low. In 2015, the Avengers faced off against Ultron in Sokovia and decimated the country's capital city, Novi Grad. The resulting damage totaled 177 deaths, \$474 billion in fiscal damage, and a permanent hit to the Avengers' reputation. When a mission led by Captain Steve Rogers goes wrong in Lagos, Nigeria, resulting in the death of multiple Wakandan aid workers, the United Nations comes to the decision that the Avengers are too great of a risk to continue to operate privately. While Tony Stark agrees that the United Nations should form an oversight committee to ensure there are no further unnecessary losses due to the Avengers, Captain Rogers worries about a loss of freedom and threat of third-party infiltration, namely from HYDRA, whose goal is world domination. Leading up to the signing of the Sokovia Accords in Vienna, the official document to establish the international oversight panel, a bomb detonated by HYDRA exploded in the UN Building, injuring dozens and killing Wakanda's King T'Chaka. Captain Rogers, already worried about potential HYDRA infiltration, further opposes the Accords. The Avengers are further divided on this issue than ever and are facing more international pressure, especially after the bombing.

Structure and Role of the Committee

The Sokovia Accords convenes key nations, agencies, and superheroes with the goal of reconciling the sovereignty of nations, the security concerns of the international community, and the functionality of superheroes. This committee was organized by the United Nations to function as a linkage between these groups and to create guidelines for superhero interventions amidst heightened public concerns. The committee is supported by an international collaboration of intelligents, civilians impacted, and legal experts meant to provide context

regarding superhero history, testimony from eyewitnesses, and information regarding what the

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committee is capable of legislating. Their research poses questions to the committee, who must legislate solutions.

Each party will have a vote on all proposed resolutions. However, the votes of superheroes will be counted in a different pool, and a majority consent from the superhero delegation is required for legislation to pass. Once the superhero majority consent is achieved, typical MUN voting protocols will be followed — meaning that a superhero majority consent is not the only factor in passing legislation. Each delegation was selected for their unique positionality as paradigms of their field and experience relating to these issues. Thus, the Sokovia Accords committee (while not entirely) will be inclusive in terms of perspectives and appropriate in terms of authorities involved. **Countries and organizations that sign on to the resolutions will be expected to enforce the agreements.**

Glossary:

1. Attack on the IFID Headquarters: Also known as the Lagos Catastrophe, was a mission led by Captain Steve Rogers in Lagos, Nigeria, that resulted in the deaths of multiple aid workers from Wakanda. With public opinion increasingly divided following the Battle of Sokovia, the destruction in Lagos was deemed a public relations disaster. Several international politicians, among them Wakanda's ruler King T'Chaka, called for the United Nations to create a system of accountability.

2. The Avengers: A team of extraordinary individuals, with either superpowers or other special characteristics. Its purpose is to protect global stability from inner or extraterrestrial threats. Though primarily affiliated with the United States of America, they work with the peaceful interests of the whole world in mind rather than a specific country or organization.

3. Battle of Sokovia: A major battle between the Avengers and Ultron in Novi Grad, Sokovia in

2015. Much of the blame was placed on Tony Stark and more officials discussed the possibility of regulating superheroes.

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4. Battle at the Triskelion: The first open battle between HYDRA and S.H.I.E.L.D. in 2014. Public opinion of the Avengers continued to grow more negative after this battle.

5. HYDRA: An authoritarian paramilitary-subversive organization bent on world domination. Its most recent incarnation coming into existence was shortly after the rise of Nazism in Germany. There are still HYDRA agent's intent on destroying S.H.I.E.L.D and killing the Avengers with their most recent attack being the bombing of the UN Building in Vienna.

6. S.H.I.E.L.D: Acronym for the Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement, and Logistics Division. S.H.I.E.L.D. was run by Nick Fury and the World Security Council in the modern age, S.H.I.E.L.D. had to deal with the significant rise in enhanced individuals, dangerous advanced technology, and alien contact. All the problems S.H.I.E.L.D. had to solve eventually led to the formation of the Avengers. Davis Model United Nations Conference XVIII

7. Sokovia Accords: A proposed set of legal documents with the intention to regulate the activities of enhanced individuals, specifically those who work in governmental agencies, namely the Avengers. Following the bombing of the UN Building, the original copy of the Accords was destroyed and now will be rewritten by government officials and members of the Avengers.

8. Ultron: An Artificial Intelligence Peacekeeping Program created by Tony Stark. He turned on the Avengers and attacked Earth, the battle so destructive that it ultimately led to the drafting of the Sokovia Accords.

9. Wakanda: Officially known as the Kingdom of Wakanda, is a small isolationist landlocked country located in Africa, surrounded by mountain ranges and a thick forest. The Lagos mission resulted in the deaths of dozens of Wakandan aid workers. The bombing in Vienna killed their former king, T'Chaka, and their new king is T'Chaka's son, T'Challa.

10. World Security Council: An international council formed of politicians from some of the Earth's most powerful countries to function as oversight for S.H.I.E.L.D. It does not have the authority to oversee the Avengers, however, as the Avengers are its own private team within S.H.I.E.L.D

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Topic: Accountability of Superheroes

Topic History (Background of the Sokovia Accords):

After the Allied Powers victory in World War II, an American extra-governmental military counterterrorism and intelligence agency was founded. The Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement, and Logistics Department—better known as S.H.I.E.L.D.— was formed to maintain national and global security. In the 1990s, S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Nick Fury met Captain Marvel and was introduced to an intergalactic war. Fury realized that a group of extraordinary individuals would be needed to battle the growing forces that conventional military forces or S.H.I.E.L.D. would not be able to handle alone, much less defeat—leading Fury to start the Avengers Initiative. Under Fury's leadership, he recruited crucial Avengers members such as Tony Stark, aka Iron Man, and Steve Rogers, aka Captain America. However, the Avengers were not the perfect superhero team that the United States anticipated them to be. HYDRA infiltrated S.H.I.E.L.D., released the Winter Soldier to cause destruction, and caused devastating destruction across major international cities in an attempt to save humanity.

In the following years, the Avengers faltered in their service to the public. In 2015, Tony Stark discovered that Loki's Scepter could be used to replicate the neural function of a human brain, thereby serving an essential role in developing more advanced artificial intelligence. Stark and Bruce Banner introduced the Scepter's code into the Ultron Program, which aimed to create artificial intelligence capable of piloting Stark's Iron Legion. If successful, this project would have created a global defensive task force capable of replacing the Avengers. Unfortunately, Stark's vision failed catastrophically. Ultron believed that the best way to improve the world was not to protect it but to rid it of inefficiencies. To this end, he sought to engineer a mass human extinction event for the purpose of restarting Earth's evolutionary cycle. The devastation was presented to a world that now knew what it meant to live under a super-powered tyranny. Ultron reflected the worst of the Avengers. He was created out of fear and pride because Stark and

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Banner wanted to protect the world but let their genius precede their prudence. Ultron was more than an extinction threat created and stopped by the Avengers. He was also a warning of what a world led by the Avengers alone could look like.

After the bombing in Lagos, which preceded multiple other major battles, international leaders urged the United States and the United Nations to take legal action against the Avengers to prevent more destruction. **The United Nations proposed the Sokovia Accords to establish regulation of enhanced individuals, such as the Avengers.** However, HYDRA bombed the building where the Accords were being signed, killing the king of Wakanda, which scrapped the original Accords and now **a committee consisting of governmental officials and the Avengers will draft a new resolution.**

Current Situation

Before the bombing of the UN Building in Vienna occurred, the original draft of the Sokovia Accords had been approved by 117 different countries. Regulations within the original proposed draft of the Accords included the reveal of superheroes' legal names/identities to the United Nations, an oversight committee to police future actions made by the Avengers, and a power analysis to categorize how dangerous the superheroes are. Currently the original copy of the Sokovia Accords has been scrapped due to King T'Chaka's death and must be rewritten with the help of the Avengers themselves.

Questions to Consider

- Should superhero activity be monitored? If so, by who?

- Who, if anyone, can regulate superhero activity?

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- Should superheroes obtain governmental permission to act in a country where they don't hold any sovereign power?
- Should superheroes be held accountable for damages incurred during their interventions, specifically in Nigeria and Sokovia?
- What, if any, should be the repercussions for superheroes found to be at fault during interventions?
- Do the Avengers and other enhanced individuals have the right to a fair trial if arrested or to have been suspected of breaking the law?
- Do the Avengers have the right to privacy and personal freedom, despite the fact that they are enhanced individuals and could cause mass destruction?
- How should technology be regulated by the Accords?
- How can the Avengers be used for good while still minimizing collateral damage, especially civilian casualties?
- Should the consequences for enhanced individuals who do not sign the Accords be amended?
- Should the Avengers be incorporated into the United Nations, or remain a private group of superheroes?

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Positions (Characters/Country)

Disclaimer: Some positions are fictional Marvel characters but are not limited to the following list:

Steve Rogers (Captain America):

Steve Rogers is a World War II veteran, a founding member of the Avengers, and Earth's first

superhero. Rogers strongly opposes the Sokovia Accords because he feels that the Avengers are successful because they do not have a government to which they answered; deliberation of when to deploy the team would render the Avengers too slow to act in emergencies and prevent them from determining when and where to act. Rogers feels that the intervention of another party could have similar results to the S.H.I.E.L.D. infiltration by HYDRA.

Tony Stark (Iron Man):

Tony Stark is a billionaire industrialist, a founding member of the Avengers, and CEO of Stark Industries. Stark agrees that superheroes need to face the consequences of their actions, since he is responsible for Ultron's destruction, believing that the Avengers need to be regulated or they were no better than their enemies. Stark believes that if they refuse to come to an agreement, they will be forced to cooperate under the government with far graver circumstances.

Natasha Romanoff (Black Widow):

Natasha Romanoff is one of the most talented spies and assassins in the world and a founding member of the Avengers. Despite her close relationship with Steve Rogers, upon hearing of the Accords, she agrees with Tony Stark in that the Avengers must be regulated.

Sam Wilson (Falcon):

Sam Wilson is a former United States Air Force pararescue airman and is now a member of the Avengers, recruited by Steve Rogers. His close relationship with Rogers prompts him to oppose the Accords.

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James "Rhodey" Rhodes (War Machine):

"Rhodey" Rhodes is an officer with the United States Air Force and liaison between the military in the Department of Acquisitions and Stark Industries. Due to his role in the military and close relationship with Tony Stark, he supports the Accords.

James "Bucky" Barnes (Winter Soldier):

"Bucky" Barnes, is a World War II veteran, a former officer of the 107th Infantry Regiment and the best friend of Steve Rogers since childhood. Although he is recovering from decades of

brainwashing, he is still being monitored closely by S.H.I.E.L.D. and is still considered a threat to the world. He always supports Steve Rogers, as the two are extremely close.

King T'Challa (Black Panther):

T'Challa is the King of Wakanda and as the Wakandan monarch, he became the holder of the Black Panther mantle. The Wakandan government supports the Accords as they feel the Avengers could become a true risk to the safety of Wakanda and the rest of the world. T'Challa personally approves of regulations but the politics are something he is not fond of, exemplifying two people in a room can get more done than a hundred.

Wanda Maximoff (Scarlet Witch):

Wanda Maximoff is a native of Sokovia who has telekinesis and energy manipulation. She is one of the newest members of the Avengers and has sided with Steve Rogers in opposing the Accords.

Sharon Carter:

Sharon Carter is a former Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D., formerly tasked with watching over Steve Rogers. She left S.H.I.E.L.D. and now works for the CIA. Due to her history with Steve Rogers—and the fact her great aunt was Peggy Carter, Steve's first love— she opposes the Accords.

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Clint Barton (Hawkeye):

Clint Barton is a skilled marksman, a former special agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. and one of the founding members of the Avengers. He retired from the Avengers following the Battle of Sokovia but has since shown support of Steve Rogers by disagreeing with the Accords.

Scott Lang (Ant-Man):

Scott Lang is a former criminal who has taken the mantle of Ant-Man. After successfully entering the Quantum Realm, the Avengers took interest in him. By recommendation of Sam Wilson, Steve Rogers recruited Lang to oppose the Accords.

Vision:

Vision is an android who possesses a synthetic body made from vibranium created by Ultron. Vision sees the equations regarding the number of threats related to their actions as the reason for them to allow oversight of their actions, so he has openly sided with Tony Stark.

Peter Parker (Spider-Man):

Peter Parker is a high school student from New York with spider-like abilities, fighting local crimes under the alias of Spider-Man. After videos of him went viral, he was recruited by Tony Stark to help support the Accords. However, due to his young age, he is not an official Avenger, only being recruited to help with this specific issue alone.

Nick Fury:

Nick Fury is a world-renowned spy, Director of S.H.I.E.L.D. and founder of the Avengers. As he is the Director of S.H.I.E.L.D., Fury wants to cooperate with world leaders by any means necessary, even if it means establishing regulation for his team.

Maria Hill:

Maria Hill is the Deputy Director of S.H.I.E.L.D. and also held the title of “Commander”. She works closely with Nick Fury and also wants to cooperate with world leaders, whether that be establishing an oversight committee or not.

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Thaddeus Ross:

Thaddeus Ross is the former Lieutenant General of the United States Army who is now the Secretary of State of the United States. Facing pressure from not only the president but many other international leaders, Ross urges the Avengers to establish an oversight committee in the new Sokovia Accords.

Everett Ross:

Everett Ross is a CIA operative who works under Thaddeus Ross. He has been tasked to control and regulate the Avengers following the Battle of Sokovia and fully supports the Accords.

Dr. Strange:

Dr. Stephen Strange is a formerly renowned surgeon who now serves as the Sorcerer Supreme- Earth's foremost protector against magical and mystical threats

Baron Zemo

Baron Helmut Zemo is a Sokovian nobleman, a former Colonel of the Sokovian Armed Forces and a commander of EKO Scorpion. Following the Battle of Sokovia, Zemo then became a criminal mastermind who sought revenge against the world's enhanced individuals, such as the Avengers after losing his family and became obsessed with destroying them. Knowing he was no match against the Avengers, Zemo planned to have them all destroy themselves, by framing the Winter Soldier for killing T'Chaka (T'Challa's father).

Stark Industries:

Stark Industries is a multinational industrial company and the largest tech conglomerate in the world. They used to manufacture weapons and artillery. Their tech was found during the attacks in Sokovia.

HYDRA

Hydra is an authoritarian paramilitary-subversive terrorist organization bent on world domination. They are responsible for many battles against the Avengers which led to destruction of places and casualties across the world.

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Ten Rings

The Ten Rings is a clandestine criminal organization founded by Xu Wenwu in the Middle Ages. By the 21st Century, the Ten Rings became involved in terrorist activities across the globe. They are known to have used weapons from Stark Industries when committing some of their criminal activities.

Sokovia

A landlocked country in Central-Southeastern Europe, bordered by Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Its capital city was destroyed during the battle between Ultron and the Avengers and it resulted in a total of 177 fatalities, and a fiscal impact of \$474 billion in collateral damage. The country wants the Avengers to be held accountable for their actions

Nigeria

Nigeria, officially the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is a country located in West Africa. Its capital city Lagos, was the site for an incident in which an explosion of a floor building , massacring dozens and injuring thousands.

Madriipoor

Madriipoor is a small island nation located to the south of Singapore in the vicinity of Kepulauan Riau and Kepulauan Lingga in the Indonesian archipelago. Described as "A place for the very rich and the very poor." Madriipoor was once a haven for pirates, a tradition that had somewhat continued to present day with its lawless quality; the Principality did not allow other nations to extradite criminals

People's Republic of China

United States

United Kingdom

Russia

France

These countries in the U.N Security Council want to create a system of accountability to superheroes who due to their actions have caused collateral damage to nations. Hoping for a

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document that causes domestic tranquility and economic viability that establishes a point of compromise between the Avengers' superpowers and the regulation of the United Nations.

Resources:

Captain America: Civil War (film): Russo, Joe and Anthony Russo, directors. Captain America = Civil War. Marvel Studios, 2016.

Age of Ultron (film): Whedon, Josh, director. Marvels Avengers: Age of Ultron. Marvel

Studios, 2015.

The Sokovia Accords: Yehl, Joshua. "Read the Superhero Registration Act from Captain America: Civil War." IGN Boards, IGN, 1 Dec. 2015, www.ign.com/articles/2015/12/01/read-the-superhero-registration-act-from-captain-america-civil-war.

More information on the Sokovia Accords: "Sokovia Accords." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki, marvelcinematicuniverse.fandom.com/wiki/Sokovia_Accords.