



323 BC

Death of Alexander the Great

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## **Introductions from your Death of Alexander the Great Dais**

Salutations delegates!

My name is Madhavi Tiruchelvam, and I am delighted to be your chair for this committee. I'm a current junior at Stuyvesant, and I've been a part of Model UN for the past three years. Although I started out my MUN career during virtual learning, I have been privileged enough to attend several conferences, and my love of the club has only grown now that we're back in person. In addition to Model UN, I'm very passionate about designing costumes for my school's theater costumes crew. In my spare time, I like to write poetry in the park, bake brownies, and watch horror movies.

The Death of Alexander the Great committee will be run following standard crisis procedure, and I encourage you to take advantage of the broadness of the topic when running crisis arcs. There are so many complex aspects to this conflict, from the cultural and philosophical divides between the various individuals involved to the economic and political separations between them. This committee truly encapsulates everything I love about Model UN, giving you the opportunity to learn about history, politics, and what makes up a nation, as well as allowing for creative expression in your solutions and approaches to the issues.

This committee is one of the first in-person MUN experiences we've been able to have all year, and I'm so excited to meet you all! That being said, I understand that you may have some questions so feel free to email me if you have any concerns about parliamentary procedure or just the committee in general. I know it's been a while, and I cannot wait to see you all at MiniMUNC 2022!

Best of Luck,  
Madhavi Tiruchelvam,  
mtiruchelvam40@stuy.edu

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Honorable Delegates,

Hello! My name is Kapil (Ty) Anant, and I'm excited to be your committee director for the Death of Alexander the Great Crisis Committee. I'm a junior at Stuy and have participated in Model UN at Stuyvesant for 2 years now, as well as two years in middle school. Outside of MUN, I play basketball and guitar, as well as write for the Spectator, particularly the sports department. I also take pride in my work to help people in harder situations, and try to do this wherever I can. I've always been a bit of a nerd (but then everyone in Model UN is). I enjoy traveling, and my family is from India, so I travel there a lot.

Model UN has been a constant for me through some of the strangest and most turbulent years of my life. It's been a place that provides lessons that put into perspective the events of the world and causes me to think differently and expand my views in everything I do. However, it's also a place where I can relax and joke around in a community that always contains some of my favorite people.

This dual nature is the biggest thing I want you to take into MiniMUNC 2022. While the topics of Model UN can often feel overwhelming and even depressing, it's important to find purpose and excitement in the discourse and process. For me, I've always had a soft spot for ancient history, so I'm excited to bring you the Death of Alexander the Great. This is a committee where the most important things will be making an impression and putting yourself out there, so do your research and try to have fun!

Good Luck,  
Kapil Anant  
kanant40@stuy.edu

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Hi Delegates,

I'm Seth and I'm so excited to be your Crisis Director for the Minimunc 2022 Death Of Alexander The Great committee. I'm a Sophomore at Stuy and I joined MUN at the beginning of my Freshman year. I also did MUN a bit throughout middle school. Despite lasting fears about COVID limiting the number of conferences we had, I was still able to attend quite a few, all of which I found incredibly interesting. Outside of Model UN I'm part of Policy Debate and play Chess. When I have free time, I love to play DND, watch anime and read fantasy. My favorite books include The Royal Ranger and pretty much the entire Red Rising series.

I've always been super interested in the complex economic and political situations that happen when empires or countries splinter, especially when it's caused by the death of a leader the populus is fanatically devoted to. As such, the shattering of Alexander The Great's empire after his death has always really interested me. I'm so excited to see what you guys do when given the power to fight for your stake in this globally important empire.

We understand this may be some of your first crisis committees so feel free to email me if you have any questions about crisis procedure. Even if it's not your first committee, feel totally free to email me with any questions you may have. I can't wait to meet you all at Minimunc 2022!

Thanks so much for coming,  
Seth Fenton,  
sfenton50@stuy.edu

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## Committee Information

Hello and welcome, distinguished representatives to this emergency committee to decide the future of our magnificent empire! Unlike past crises of succession, there is no clear heir to the throne, as Emperor Alexander had no able male relations. As such, this committee has now been tasked to determine the successor, whether it be through peace or through war. This committee will be taking place in the year 323 BC, and although much of your research should be based on actual historical events, in the spirit of Model UN creativity we will leave the fate of the Empire up to you delegates.

Though this committee session is quite unexpected, we will follow **standard parliamentary procedure** like all Model UN committees, including both moderated and unmoderated caucuses, and monitored debate. The dais will be impartial and will not serve as actual figures in history.

Given that this is a **Crisis committee**, we will be using various protocols exclusively for this type. Any sort of committee action will be determined by **directives** submitted by delegates, which are written documents to be voted on (requiring a **simple**

**majority** to pass). Delegates can also give the back room **crisis notes**, which are unilateral actions dependent on the delegate's given capabilities. Other types of notes such as **communiques**, letters to individuals outside the committee, and **press releases**, official statements directed for public release, are greatly encouraged. Such actions can entirely alter the flow of committee, as well as constant **crisis updates**, which can entirely alter the flow of committee and the delegates themselves. Your individual portfolios are attached at the end of the document for your reference to see your stance, position, and abilities.

Although MiniMUNC **will not require** position papers, we strongly encourage the submission of one to the dais' emails for feedback by **Sunday, October 16th**. Any relevant questions should also be addressed via email.

Feel free to let your creative engines spark to make this a memorable, and even more unexpected committee. The fate of the people, the country, and the world, ultimately lies on your shoulders.

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## Committee Background

Over the course of his thirteen year reign, Alexander the Great conquered and held control over 2 million square miles. His influence made its way into currency, religious beliefs and the names of cities as far as 3000 miles from his birthplace. As such, his unexpected death shook his empire's political structure to its core.

### *Succession Struggles*

Alexander never officially declared a successor (simply saying the 'strongest' would succeed him), creating a power struggle at the very top of the Macedonian empire. His death, at the hands of a mundane illness, left many to believe that without its powerful figurehead, the Macedonian empire would fall apart. This belief furthered the desires of many leaders of the nations that Alexander had conquered to consider rebellion. Many parts of the empire had only recently been conquered, with little reason to stay content under Macedonian rule if the empire were to falter.

This political power struggle was further complicated by Alexander's relatives. Both his half brother and his unborn son had semi-legitimate claims for the throne and therefore became figureheads for various nobles to throw their support behind while trying to snatch power. His wife Roxana (who was

carrying his unborn son) and his mother Olympia were also both alive, and exerted a powerful influence over the proceedings, although the patriarchal nature of Macedonian succession prevented them from being strongly considered for the actual throne.

### *Expansive Empire*

The fragmentation that followed Alexander's death was different in each region of the empire. Some areas, particularly in the East, remained relatively stable, as their ruling structure was kept mostly intact. Meanwhile, the leaders of The West, who tended to have major influence over the empire's ruling class, fought amongst themselves for control.

In addition to the confusion about his potential heirs, Alexander left his subordinates and the nobles of his court in a much more powerful position than previous generations. Many of the high-ranking officials of his empire were not of Macedonian origin, which meant there was a greater range of possible successors. In the past, significant contenders for the throne tended to be fairly limited, and most of them were already present in the capital at the time of the king's death. Due to the immense expanse of Alexander's empire, many

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significant figures who were vying for the throne weren't even physically present in Babylon when Alexander died, which left them at a disadvantage.

### ***Macedon***

For the brief time it was fully united, Macedon was the undisputed global superpower. The nation facilitated an enormous amount of trade between the East and the West, profiting immensely and developing engineering capabilities and a military capacity that were significantly higher than any other nation at the time. Alexander utilized these resources to their fullest throughout his tenure as emperor.

One pertinent example was Alexander's fight to conquer Tyre. During the siege, he successfully managed to build and quickly outfit naval ships with catapults by integrating the technology of conquered peoples, in a typical example of the Macedonian capability that allowed them to achieve such an incredible gulf of power.

### ***Greece***

A significant chunk of the Greek city states (many of which were left generally self-governing) resented Macedonian rule, believing Macedon to be an impostor Greek state. One of the main things that kept them in line was fear of Alexander, with his seemingly divine nature and tactical brilliance. With his death and the obvious

destabilization of his empire, these fears were alleviated, and the desire for rebellion has intensified amongst Greek rulers.

### ***Persia***

When Alexander the Great conquered Persia, he left a great deal of the original political structure in place, allowing the Persian king Darius to continue ruling as his subordinate. This meant his death had less of an impact on Persia's stability, and there wasn't a significant risk of rebellion; there was little specific hatred for Alexander or Macedon. The people of Persia were so far removed from the empire's seat of power, they had barely anything to do with imperial politics.

Prior to Alexander's conquests, Persia was the largest Empire in the world, and their military system was part of what gave the Macedonian Empire such incredible military capability. Macedon almost completely lacked a navy and therefore had very little ability to utilize artillery based in the sea. Their integration with the Persian empire provided them with nearly five times the ships and significantly higher naval technology.

### ***Egypt***

Egypt was absorbed into the Macedonian Empire as part of Persia, but maintained a separate governing structure. They declared Alexander their



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Pharaoh, and an oracle supposedly said he was the son of Zeus, which furthered his image and made him generally popular amongst Egyptians.

After Alexander captured the Egyptian Satrapy from the Persians, he decided to build a large port city to link Greece and the rich Nile Valley, giving him access to the waterways of the Nile for trade and military purposes. The city, which eventually bore his name, became one of the centers of Hellenistic civilization, and the Alexandrian Lighthouse was known as one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

### ***Basic Timeline of Committee***

Alexander the Great died in June of 323 BCE. At this point in time, his wife Roxana was six months pregnant, so the sex of his child was still to be determined. His generals and various officials of the court were spread across the empire, so it took time for the news of his death to spread. As such, this committee is set a little bit after his actual death, to give time for all parties involved to have convened. No clear plan for succession has been established, although the various parties involved have started gathering around possible successors such as Perdiccas, Arrhidaeus, and potentially Alexander's heir by Roxana.

### ***Questions to Consider***

Now that you have some brief background on the history of the region and its peoples, we encourage you to brainstorm some creative solutions to the struggle to successfully transition from the rule of one of the greatest leaders of all time. To aid this process, here are some important questions to keep in mind while researching and preparing for committee.

#### **1. Macedonian Hegemony:**

- a. Should Macedon continue to exert control over the entirety of Greece?
- b. Should the Greek states seek independence?
- c. Is it important that Alexander's successor be Macedonian?

#### **2. Succession**

- a. Who do you believe is Alexander's heir?
- b. Should the decision be made before or after Roxana's child is born?
- c. Must Alexander's successor be someone directly related to him, or merely someone he trusted/potentially supported?
- d. Who would you want as regent if the ruler was unable to rule at the time

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## Committee Positions

### *Historical Titles*

A **satrap** was essentially the governor of a province. They reported to the king/emperor, but still enjoyed a considerable amount of autonomy over their provinces.

The **somatophylakes (somatophylax)** were bodyguards to the highest officials of the Hellenistic period.

**Basileus** is a Greek term signifying king or monarch.

### *Antigenes*

Antigenes was the Satrap of Susiana. He served under Alexander's father, Phillip II of Macedonia, and rose to the rank of general under Alexander's reign. He commanded the **Argyraspides**, who were an elite unit of Alexander's army that carried silver-plated shields, giving them their name.

### *Antigonus*

Antigonus was a Macedonian noble and one of Alexander's generals. Alexander detached Antigonus from the main army in 333 to become the new satrap of the partially conquered Persian satrapy of Phrygia. He was thus separated from most of the goings on at court, which left him at a disadvantage when it came to succession.

### *Antipater*

Antipater was a Macedonian General. He served as Philip II's regent in Macedonia during his campaign to extend Macedonian control. He aided Alexander in securing the throne after his father's death and was left as regent during Alexander's subsequent campaigns. During this time, he managed to quell a bloody rebellion from the King of Sparta, creating a large force with the alliance of other Greek leaders and earning Alexander's jealousy. Prior to his death, Alexander appointed Craterus to replace Antipater as regent, but during the chaos of succession Antipater was able to forestall the replacement. He was also father to Cassander.

### *Arrhidaeus Philip III*

Arrhidaeus was Alexander's elder half-brother. Due to his mild learning disability, he was considered unfit to rule as king. There was still speculation amongst certain nobles such as Meleager who believed that Arrhidaeus should rule as sovereign while the gender of Roxana's unborn child was still to be determined.

### *Atropates*

Atropates was a Persian nobleman who served as the Satrap of Media, where he eventually founded an

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independent kingdom. He originally fought under King Darius of Persia against Alexander, but after Darius' death, he surrendered to the Macedonians and was eventually reinstated as Satrap of Media. His daughter was married to Alexander's general Perdiccas in 324 BCE, giving him more leverage over the throne.

### ***Cassander***

Cassander was a relative newcomer to the court, although he studied alongside Alexander and some of his prominent generals. He arrived in Babylon at the behest of his father, Antipater, in a bid to increase the former's standing in Macedon.

### ***Craterus***

Loyal to Alexander until his death, Craterus served as his Chief Lieutenant and accompanied him in glory on his conquests of India and Asia.

### ***Eumenes***

Eumenes served under both Philip II and his son Alexander as personal secretary, in addition to being one of Alexander's battlefield commanders. He fought on the side of Alexander's unborn son in the battle for succession.

### ***Hypereides***

Hypereides was an Athenian politician who strongly opposed

Macedonian hegemony over Greece. He was renowned for being one of the greatest orators of his time, having studied with Plato and Isocrates. He advocated for anti-Macedonian leaders in Greece such as Demosthenes and is one of the few delegates who was not a trained military official.

### ***Laomedon***

Laomedon was a Greek military commander and close confidant of Alexander's before Philip II's death. He accompanied Alexander throughout Asia, and his Persian language skills gave him a special connection to the province of Syria.

### ***Leonnatus***

Leonnatus was a Macedonian officer and Alexander's close companion. He was one of Alexander's somatophylakes and a fierce military commander. He had a lot of influence in Alexander's court - one distinctive example was when he bargained with Alexander following the **Battle of Issus** to secure the safety of King Darius of Persia's family in captivity.

### ***Leosthenes***

Leosthenes was a Greek army officer and strong opponent of Macedonian rule. Not much is known about his exploits prior to Alexander's death, but he was quick to act after

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Alexander died to work for Greek independence from Macedonian rule.

### ***Lysimachus***

Lysimachus was a Thessalian officer, whose father Agathocles was a close companion of Philip II. He was likely a somatophylax, and served as one of Alexander's immediate bodyguards during his campaigns across Asia.

### ***Meleager***

Meleager was a Macedonian officer and one of the most experienced of Alexander's generals. He took part in a number of campaigns across Alexander's empire, but was never promoted to higher positions, leading many to speculate that the two did not get along. He was adamant in maintaining Macedonian hegemony, and wanted to install Arrhidaeus as ruler to prevent a successor who might have loyalties outside of Macedon.

### ***Neoptolemus***

Neoptolemus was a Macedonian officer who served in the royal guards, distinguishing himself during Alexander's campaigns. He was known for being restless and sympathized with Antipater and Cassander in their bids for power.

### ***Peithon***

Peithon was a Macedonian somatophylax, and was renowned as one

of Alexander's foremost guards. After Alexander's death, he was given control of the large satrapy of Media.

### ***Perdiccas***

Perdiccas was a Macedonian general who commanded a battalion of the Macedonian phalanx and thus held an important position in Alexander's campaigns in Asia. He married the daughter of the satrap of Media during the great nuptials of Susa. He also commanded the Companion cavalry, one of the most powerful units in Alexander's military. On his deathbed, Alexander gave Perdiccas his signet ring, which led some to believe that Alexander intended him to be successor.

### ***Polyperchon***

Polyperchon was a Macedonian general who served under both Philip II and Alexander. He commanded the Tymphaeon battalion and was meant to return to Macedon with Craterus in 323 before Alexander died. In the event Craterus was unable to succeed Antipater, Polyperchon was next in line to become the Macedonian regent.

### ***Ptolemy I Soter***

Ptolemy I was a Macedonian General and one of Alexander's closest companions. He served with Alexander from his first campaigns, and was also one of his somatophylakes. He retrieved Alexander's body en route to Macedon,

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storing it in Memphis before it was eventually buried in Alexandria. He had a strong rivalry against Perdiccas, and was determined to prevent him from gaining the throne.

***Seleucus I Nicator***

Seleucus was a Macedonian Greek general who originally supported Perdiccas in the

immediate struggles for succession. He led the shield-bearing infantry unit during Alexander's Persian campaigns and participated in the great marriage ceremony at Susa in 324, where many of Alexander's officers (and Alexander himself) took on Persian wives and consorts to cement the ties of Alexander's empire.

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