



JHUMUNC

THE JOHNS HOPKINS MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS: CIVIL WAR (2016)

Chaired by Spencer Abrohms

Session XXII

Marvel's the Avengers: Civil War (2016)

Topic A: The Sokovia Accords

Topic B: The Fate of the Marvel Cinematic Universe

Committee Overview

This committee begins following the events of Avengers: Age of Ultron. After the emergence of Iron Man in 2008, countless new superheroes have become public figures. While many of these heroes initially captured the public's adoration and support, the glow surrounding these rogue vigilantes is starting to fade. From the Battle of New York, to the carnage in Washington D.C., and the Battle of Sokovia, wherever these heroes turn up, destruction seems to follow. This negative perception came to a head after a recent mission in Lagos went awry and left many civilians dead, including 11 Wakandan aid workers. Now, the United Nations is drafting the Sokovia accords, legislation that will require all superheroes to register with the government and put their duties under external control.

This committee, made up of Avengers, former SHIELD agents, and other local heroes, must debate how to handle these regulations. Should each hero sign to gain the trust of the people and government or should they not give up control to make their choices? Additionally, while planning how to handle the accords, Earthly and galactic villains are waiting for their moment to strike. Can Earth's

mightiest Heroes stay together, or will the accords force them to divide?

Parliamentary Procedure

The Parliamentary Procedure used in this committee will be uniform throughout the entire conference, although because it is a crisis committee, sometimes parliamentary procedure may be overlooked to keep the fast pace of the committee. In the event of crises, differences regarding parliamentary procedure will be left to the discretion of the chair and dais staff.



Delegate Biographies

Steve Rogers

Captain America

Born in 1918, Steve Rogers is the MCU's first superhero. After Rogers was rejected several times when trying to enlist to fight for the United States in World War II, he was chosen by Abraham Erskine to participate in Project Rebirth, due to his selflessness and determination. This project made Steve Rogers into Captain America, a hero with enhanced strength, speed, senses, and intelligence. During World War II, Rogers commandeers a bomber plane heading for New York and has no choice but to down it in the ocean to prevent casualties. Rogers is found in the 21st century and becomes a founding member of the Avengers.¹

James Buchanan "Bucky" Barnes

The Winter Soldier

Born in 1917, James Buchanan "Bucky" Barnes was Steve Rogers' best friend. During childhood, he often acted as Steve's protector away from bullies. He was enlisted in the 107th Infantry Regiment in WWII. After being captured by HYDRA and rescued by Rogers, he joined the Howling Commandos as a sniper. On the final mission to infiltrate the HYDRA train, he fell from the train and supposedly died, but he was in fact captured by HYDRA. In HYDRA, he was brainwashed, armed with a bionic arm, and operated under the name "Winter Soldier".²

Tony Stark

Iron Man

Tony Stark is the first of the modern-day MCU superheroes to emerge. Tony Stark is the son of genius billionaire Howard Stark, and Tony inherited his fortune, company, and intelligence. When in Afghanistan to present Stark Industries' latest weapon, Stark and the base were attacked, leaving Stark severely injured and taken hostage. Ho Yinsen, another hostage, used a car battery to keep the shrapnel from the explosion from reaching his heart and killing him. Stark then used the materials the terrorists wanted him to use to make a weapon to create the arc reactor which keeps him alive, as well as the original Iron Man suit. Upon returning home, Stark decided to stop selling weapons and focus on the good of the world. He was the first hero recruited to join the Avengers and after the fall of SHIELD, provides the capital for further Avengers activities.¹¹

Sharon Carter

Former SHIELD Agent

Sharon Carter is a former SHIELD agent. Carter is the great-niece of SHIELD founder Peggy Carter, and worked under Nick Fury to keep an eye on Steve Rogers when he was living in Brooklyn. After the downfall of SHIELD, Carter joined the CIA.¹²

¹ "Captain America." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 19, 2018. http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Captain_America.

² "Winter Soldier." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 19, 2018. http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Winter_Soldier

¹¹ "Tony Stark (film)." Iron Man Wiki. Accessed October 12, 2018. [http://ironman.wikia.com/wiki/Tony_Stark_\(film\)](http://ironman.wikia.com/wiki/Tony_Stark_(film))

¹² "Sharon Carter." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 8, 2018. http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Sharon_Carter.

Sam Wilson

Falcon

Sam Wilson was a former pararescueman in the United States Air Force. During his time in the Air Force, he was a test pilot for the EXO-7 Falcon, an experimental winged harness which eventually became the Falcon suit. After Wilson left the air force, he befriended Steve Rogers and recovered his old wings to help him fight HYDRA. After Sokovia, Wilson became a member of the new iteration of the Avengers.³

Natalia A. "Natasha" Romanoff

Black Widow

Natasha Romanoff was recruited into the KGB at a young age where she endured a brutal education program that made her one of the most successful spies in the world. Clint Barton and Nick Fury, recognizing her skill, convinced Natasha to defect and join SHIELD where she became a key asset. Romanoff was a founding member of the Avengers.⁴

T'Challa

Black Panther

T'Challa is the prince of the African nation Wakanda. As the future monarch, T'Challa serves as the nation's protector by upholding the mantle of the Black Panther. T'Challa consumed the heart-shaped orb which gives him super strength, durability, and speed. Additionally, his suit is made of and powered by vibranium, an incredibly durable element.⁵

Colonel James Rhodes

War Machine

Colonel James Rhodes is an Air Force pilot, liaison between Stark Industries and the United States military, and Tony Stark's best friend. After the military demanded control of the Iron Man armor, Rhodes donned a suit as War Machine. This title was later rebranded to Iron Patriot to be more appealing to the public. After Sokovia, Rhodes joined the Avengers on a permanent basis.¹³

Clint Barton

Hawkeye

Clint Barton is a retired Avenger and SHIELD agent. Barton is incredibly talented with a bow and arrow and worked directly under SHIELD director Nick Fury, as one of his most talented agents. Barton was an original member of the Avengers, although he retired after Sokovia in order to spend more time with his wife and children.¹⁴

Nick Fury

Leader Emeritus of SHIELD

Nick Fury was the former leader of SHIELD who had previously served in the United States Army, as well as the CIA. Fury was a key figure in the Avengers Initiative and had personally recruited several of the Avengers. After a failed assassination attempt by HYDRA, Fury faked his death and went underground where he still supports the Avengers today.¹⁵

³ "Falcon." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018. <http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Falcon>.

⁴ "Black Widow." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 20, 2018. http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Black_Widow.

⁵ "Black Panther." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018. http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Black_Panther.

¹³ "War Machine." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 14, 2018. http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/War_Machine.

¹⁴ "Hawkeye." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 15, 2018. <http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Hawkeye>.

¹⁵ "Nick Fury." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018. http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Nick_Fury.

King T'Chaka

King of Wakanda

T'Chaka is the current king of Wakanda and a former Black Panther. T'Chaka is a strong proponent of his country's isolationist policies, especially after Ulysses Klaue stole vibranium. The Sokovia Accords are very important to T'Chaka as several Wakandans were among those killed in Lagos.⁶

Wanda Maximoff

Scarlet Witch

Wanda Maximoff is a native of Sokovia who grew up with her twin brother Pietro. Having grown up impoverished, the twins agreed to be experimented on by Wolfgang von Strucker, a member of HYDRA. These experiments used Loki's scepter, which contained the Mind Stone, to give the twins extraordinary abilities. The stone gave Maximoff the powers of energy manipulation, telekinesis, and telepathy. Because a Stark Industries weapon was responsible for killing her parents, Maximoff harbored extreme ill will toward Tony Stark and the Avengers at large, causing her to initially join Ultron. However, after learning of his genocidal plan, Maximoff and her brother joined the Avengers to help take down Ultron and after the battle, in which her brother perished, she joined them full time.⁷

Peter Parker

Spiderman

Peter Parker is a teenager who, after being bitten by a radioactive spider, developed spider-like abilities which he uses to fight crime under the alter ego Spiderman.¹⁶ Parker is an orphan who lives with his Aunt May. His uncle recently died as well. He is highly intelligent and attends the Midtown School of Science and Technology. Parker is one of the few heroes who keeps his powers a secret and neither his Aunt May nor his best friend, Ned, know of his vigilantism.¹⁷

Scott Lang

Ant-Man

Scott Lang is a former criminal who was originally imprisoned for a heist against Vistacorp, a corporation that was overcharging its customers. After Scott was released, he attempted to get a job to win the ability to see his daughter, but a lack of options caused him to decide to commit another heist. This return heist was against genius inventor Hank Pym, who later revealed that he had organized the heist as an audition for Scott. After the audition, Pym convinces Lang to use the Ant-Man costume to help keep the technology from falling into the wrong hands. This costume gives him the ability of size manipulation, or the ability to become extremely large or small, as well as the super strength that comes with it.¹⁸

⁶ "T'Chaka." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 16, 2018. <http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/T'Chaka>.

⁷ "Scarlet Witch." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 05, 2018. http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Scarlet_Witch.

¹⁶ Stan Lee, *Origin of Marvel Comics*, (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1974).

¹⁷ "Spider-Man." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018. <http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Spider-Man>.

¹⁸ "Ant-Man." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 1, 2018. <http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Ant-Man>.

Melinda May

Former Member of SHIELD

Melinda May was a veteran member of SHIELD who returned at the behest of Nick Fury to keep an eye on Phil Coulson after his resurrection. While May was very loyal to her team, distrust between them developed when they discovered that May had been spying on them for Fury. However, she was accepted once more after discovering the truth of Coulson's resurrection and helping to battle HYDRA.⁸

Hope Van Dyne

The Wasp

Hope Van Dyne is the daughter of Hank Pym and recently took the mantle of the Wasp. Incredibly talented in combat and with the suit, Van Dyne was angry at her father for not letting her use Scott's suit for their first mission. Pym had lost his wife due to the technology so was attempting to protect her, though he ultimately recognized her talent and now allows her to wear the suit, which has the size changing abilities of the Ant-man suit but can also fly and has stingers.⁹

Danny Rand

Iron Fist

Danny Rand trained under monks in the mystical city K'un-lun and became the Iron Fist. As the Iron Fist, Rand has improved manipulation of his Chi, making him a skilled and powerful fighter. The orphaned son of the billionaire owners of Rand Enterprises, Rand lost his parents in a plane crash before he began his training under the monks who saved his life. After his training, Rand went to New York City to fight the Hand and eventually joins the Defenders.¹⁰

Matthew Murdock

Daredevil

Matthew Murdock was blinded by a radioactive substance as a child, which heightened his other senses. After mobsters kill his father, Murdock decides to work to fight crime in New York City, particularly in his neighborhood, Hell's Kitchen. Murdock received training from Stick, a member of the mythical martial arts group, the Hand. Murdock is an undercover hero who serves as a lawyer by day, and hero by night. Murdock is a member of the New York City crime fighting team, The Defenders.¹⁹

Luke Cage

Luke Cage, born Carl Lucas, was a policeman from Georgia who was wrongly imprisoned for a crime he never committed.²⁰ In prison, Noah Burstein experimented on Cage so as to save his life after other prisoners attempted to kill him. This experiment gave Cage superhuman strength and unbreakable skin. After leaving prison, Cage moved to Harlem and tried to live a quiet life. However, after he was blamed for a murder, Cage was forced to clear his name. He later joined the Defenders.²¹

Jessica Jones

Private Investigator

Jessica Jones is a private investigator in New York City. After a car crash left her orphaned, she realized she had developed superhuman speed and strength. As a young adult, Jones had her mind controlled by supervillain Kilgrave, and she developed PTSD from the encounter. Jones was eventually able to defeat Kilgrave and became a member of the Defenders.²²

⁸ "Melinda May." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018.

http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Melinda_May.

⁹ "Wasp." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018. <http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Wasp>.

¹⁰ "Iron Fist." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 03, 2018. http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Iron_Fist.

¹⁹ "Daredevil." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018. <http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Daredevil>.

²⁰ Alex Abel-Santos, "Marvel's Luke Cage season 1 review." Vox. Accessed September 05, 2018.

<https://www.vox.com/2016/10/2/13138192/luke-cage-season-1-review-netflix-marvel>

²¹ "Luke Cage." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 01, 2018. http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Luke_Cage.

²² "Jessica Jones." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 05, 2018.

http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Jessica_Jones.

Daisy Johnson

Quake

Daisy Johnson is an Inhuman who serves as a SHIELD operative. Quake's mother was seemingly killed when Quake was a child, and she grew up as an orphan. She became a hacker and joined the conspiracy hacktivist group, Rising Tide, adopting the moniker Skye. Due to her work, Phil Coulson recruited her for his team. After the fall of SHIELD, Quake helped to battle HYDRA and discovered her Inhuman origins. She has the power of vibration enhancement, allowing her to create earthquakes and other impacts.²³

Phil Coulson

Former SHIELD Director

Phil Coulson was a previous director of SHIELD. Coulson worked closely with Nick Fury and was an integral proponent of the Avenger's Initiative. During Loki's invasion which preceded the battle of New York, Agent Coulson was seemingly killed. His death served as the unifying force which allowed the Avengers to overcome their differences and prosper.²⁴ However, unbeknownst to most outside of SHIELD, Coulson was brought to a secret facility and revived as part of Project T.A.H.I.T.I. Coulson reclaimed his mantle as a key member of SHIELD until SHIELD fell. Coulson currently leads a group of loyal former SHIELD members in the battle against HYDRA.

²⁵

Vision

Artificial Intelligence, née J.A.R.V.I.S.

Vision is an android who is powered by the Mind Stone, one of the six ultra-powered Infinity Stones. After Tony Stark's artificial intelligence creation, Ultron, went rogue, Ultron attempted to use the Mind Stone to further his evolution by creating an unstoppable body. The Avengers were able to intercept the body before Ultron had fully uploaded his mind into the body. Instead of destroying it, Tony Stark convinced Bruce Banner to help upload Tony's other AI, J.A.R.V.I.S., into the body. Vision has proved to be friendly and became a member of the Avengers. Vision is incredibly powerful and is the only other being known to be able to wield Thor's hammer.

Thaddeus 'Thunderbolt' Ross

Secretary of State

Thaddeus Ross is a former United States Army Lieutenant General in charge of the task force attempting to re-create the Super Soldier Serum, the serum responsible for the creation of Captain America.²⁶ This task force's actions were directly responsible for the creation of the Hulk and ultimately led to Secretary Ross' retirement from the Army. He is later appointed Secretary of State and is the one who initially informs the Avengers of the passage of the Sokovia Accords through the United Nations. Secretary Ross fosters resentment toward the Avengers, particularly Captain America, for their actions which have brought significant harm to the United States.²⁷

²³ "Quake." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 08, 2018. <http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Quake>.

²⁴ Peter Travers, "The Avengers." The Rolling Stone. Accessed September 08, 2018.

<https://www.rollingstone.com/movies/movie-reviews/the-avengers-118986/>

²⁵ "Phil Coulson." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018.

http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Phil_Coulson.

²⁶ "Thaddeus Ross." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed December 05, 2018.

http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Thaddeus_Ross.

²⁷ Ibid.



Topic A:

The Sokovia Accords

Introduction

While Superheroes and supervillains have always been present in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, the modern explosion of superheroes is a new phenomenon. Previously, although Captain America was an icon and there were rumors regarding Hank Pym going on missions in a suit that allowed him to change size, heroes and aliens were not a regular presence. This began to change in 2008 when Tony Stark announced that he was Iron Man. Since then, over 20 superheroes have entered the public consciousness. However, each of these superheroes has arisen in conjunction with a supervillain. Of even greater concern for the public and politicians is the loss of life and billions of dollars in property damage which have accompanied these heroic endeavors. Although Daredevil fighting Fisk in New York, Iron Man fighting at the Stark Expo, and Thor fighting Loki's enchanted henchman were all destructive and highly public spectacles, the following are several of the key events which led to the drafting of the Sokovia Accords.

Historical Background

Battle of New York

In 2012, Loki attempted to conquer Earth. Loki is from Asgard and is the brother of Thor, a founding member of the Avengers. Two days before the titular battle, Loki arrived on Earth and stole the Tesseract. The Tesseract is a magical cube

that holds the Space Stone, one of the all-powerful Infinity Stones, and gives its user incredible power and the ability to manipulate space by opening portals. Loki used his scepter, powered by the Mind Stone, another Infinity Stone, to break into a SHIELD base and steal the cube. He later used this cube to open a wormhole and bring in the Chitauri to invade New York City. The Chitauri are a hive mind species that obey Thanos unwaveringly. Thanos offered them to Loki to conquer Earth. The recently formed Avengers teamed up and ultimately redirected a nuclear missile headed for the city and used it to destroy the Chitauri's mothership and end the battle. Loki was sent back to Asgard to serve time in prison for his misdeeds.

Although the Avengers succeeded in defeating Loki, the battle brought incredible destruction to the city and led to 74 casualties and damages that cost 160 billion dollars to repair.²⁸ After the battle, the public had to grapple with the realization that Earth was not alone in the universe. While many were grateful for the Avengers and treated them like celebrities, some like Senator Boynton called for regulation. The fact that an Avenger's brother was the one inflicting the damage was also devastating to the Avengers' image, as both appeared to be dangerous aliens to the average person. Additionally, the economic strains from this invasion caused many areas of New York to become

²⁸"Battle of New York." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018.

vulnerable to crime. Hell's Kitchen, in particular, was negatively impacted.²⁹

The Battle at the Triskelion

In 2014, HYDRA reemerged and revealed that it had been growing inside of SHIELD. HYDRA took control of SHIELD's Project Insight to create a program that would use three helicarriers to locate and kill targets they deemed to be dangerous. The initial attack would kill over 700,000 targets, although the plan was to eventually kill over 20 million people.³⁰ HYDRA's algorithm determined targets that could potentially be a threat to HYDRA's goal of world domination. During the battle Captain America, Black Widow, Falcon, and un-corrupted SHIELD agents succeeded in downing the helicarriers before they could kill anyone. Unfortunately, the battle still resulted in 23 deaths and over 208 billion dollars in damage to Washington D.C.³¹

After the attack, SHIELD was labeled a terrorist organization and was dissolved. Public trials were held to question Black Widow and Maria Hill, although neither were convicted. However, due to the dissolution of SHIELD, Stark Industries, Tony Stark's company, preceded to bankroll most of the Avenger's activities. The Avengers became privatized and their individual power to make decisions grew substantially.³²

²⁹ "Battle of New York." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018.

http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Battle_of_New_York.

³⁰ Hannah Shaw-Williams, "Captain America: The Winter Soldier is Set Two Years After 'The Avengers'." Screen Rant. Accessed September 05, 2018.

<https://screenrant.com/captain-america-2-winter-soldier-set-two-years-after-avengers/>

³¹ "Battle at the Triskelion." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 05, 2018.

http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Battle_at_the_Triskelion.

³² "Battle at the Triskelion." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 05, 2018.

Battle of Sokovia

The Battle of Sokovia took place in 2014 and is the namesake of the accords due to the direct culpability of the Avengers and the massive scale of the destruction. After acquiring Loki's scepter from a HYDRA base, Tony Stark decides to use the Infinity Stone inside it to create a peacekeeping program. Especially after the Battle of New York, Stark wanted a way to protect the Earth from the galactic threats he believed to be returning. Stark, however, did not fully understand the scepter's power. Stark and Bruce Banner spent three days constructing the supposed peacekeeping AI, Ultron. Shortly upon creation, it went rogue and attacked Stark's AI, J.A.R.V.I.S. Ultron assumed a body and an army of robots, and then enacted a plan to destroy humanity. The Avenger's located Ultron in an Eastern European city of Novi Grad, Sokovia, where they began to fight before Ultron lifted the city. He planned to drop it from a high altitude and its impact would cause the extinction of all life on Earth. The Avengers fought Ultron and eventually defeated him and managed to evacuate many of the cities' residents and prevent the city from making an impact.

This battle resulted in 177 civilian deaths and 474 billion dollars worth of property damage.³³ Many public figures believed that the whole ordeal was Tony Stark's fault and this battle caused the most significant shift in public opinion.³⁴

http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Battle_at_the_Triskelion.

³³ "Battle of Sokovia." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 23, 2018.

http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Battle_of_Sokovia.

³⁴ "Battle of Sokovia." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 23, 2018.

http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Battle_of_Sokovia.

Lagos

After HYDRA reemerged, Brock Rumlow took up the name Crossbones and went to the Institute for Infectious Diseases in Lagos, Nigeria to steal a biological weapon.³⁵ The Avengers had anticipated the attack and were already present in Lagos. Crossbones and his mercenaries managed to steal the weapon, but were confronted by the Avengers, who were able to apprehend it. Captain America ended up in a hand-to-hand battle with Crossbones, before the latter activated a suicide bomb, with the aim of taking revenge on Captain America. Scarlet Witch contained the explosion and tried to move the blast away from bystanders, but she accidentally moved it too close to a building. Numerous civilians and 11 Wakandan aid workers were killed.³⁶ This event is considered to be the direct impetus for the accords.³⁷

The Content of the Sokovia Accords

The primary goal of the Sokovia Accords is to regulate the actions of enhanced individuals. What follows are the current main tenants of the accords which will soon be ratified by the United Nations in Vienna.

1. The key requirement of the regulation is that those who sign are required to register with the UN. The enhanced individuals must provide their legal names, submit to a power analysis, wear a tracking bracelet, and provide DNA samples.

2. Additionally, those who sign can no longer operate outside of their country's borders without permission from that country's government or the UN. This rule applies to governments, and NGOs alike who are no longer allowed to use these individuals outside of their country of origin.
3. This regulation will also affect those who do not sign. Those countries will not be allowed to take part in any national or international conflict inside or outside of their country, including work with organizations like SHIELD or the Avengers.
4. If enhanced individuals do use their powers to break the law, which will now include any unregistered intervention, they can be detained indefinitely without trial. Anyone who interferes with those enforcing the accords can also be detained without trial.
5. In terms of technology, the accords regulate technology that provides superhuman technology, the dispersal of Asgardian and Chitauri tech, and the creation of AI.
6. Most pertinent to this committee, the Avengers will now operate under the direction of the United Nations instead of as a private organization.³⁸

³⁵ Justin Chang, "'Captain America: Civil War' Review." *Variety*. Accessed October 06, 2018. <https://variety.com/2016/film/reviews/captain-america-civil-war-review-1201752643/>

³⁶ Lagos." *Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki*. Accessed October 05, 2018. <http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Lagos>.

³⁷ "Lagos." *Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki*. Accessed October 05, 2018. <http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Lagos>.

³⁸ "Sokovia Accords." *Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki*. Accessed October 05, 2018. http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Sokovia_Accords.

Questions to Consider

1. *Should the Avengers support the Sokovia Accords? Should members sign it?*
Each Avenger must ask themselves whether the group is too dangerous without a check on their power, or whether their autonomy is the most effective means to maintain security, among other considerations.
2. *Can the UN and government be trusted?*
Whether or not one supports the principles of the Accords, given HYDRA's past infiltration of SHIELD, the UN and government may also be vulnerable. If this is true, then perhaps it would be better for the Avengers to maintain their autonomy. That being said, the Avengers must also ask themselves whether even they alone can be trusted with their powers.
3. *How can heroes maintain public approval?*
Backlash against the Avengers resulted in the Sokovia Accords. Some may believe that signing the Accords is essential to demonstrating that the Avengers can be trusted. However, if the Avengers become less effective as a result, perhaps their public approval will go down no matter what.
4. *Are any regulations just?*
While many of the Avengers are already public figures, street fighters may worry that revealing their identities will make them and their families vulnerable to attack. Beyond these considerations, one may wonder whether any individual should have as much of their autonomy removed as the Accords call for. However, given the damages caused by the Avengers, most civilians may benefit from more thoughtful use of the Avengers' destructive power.
5. *How can powers be used to comply with or oppose the Accords?*
Even if the Avengers decide to oppose the Accords, the entire international community, including the American government, will use all of their powers to capture and detain the Avengers. If the Avengers are split on whether to sign the Accords, it must also be considered how to convince others to their side so as to create a united front.

Concluding Remarks

As heroes, you must decide how to proceed. While punching your way out of situations may have worked in the past, this is one time where that will no longer be sufficient. Legislation, alliances, and debate are the only ways to truly further your interests. The accords have yet to be ratified so there is still time to attempt to sway the drafters to change their minds or to modify the current proposal. However, the ultimate question which each hero must grapple with is if the accords are worth signing. On the one hand, maintaining public approval is very important and the accords can help prevent future poor decision making. On the other hand, can the Avengers really trust the United Nations to pick the appropriate times for them to act and are the rules even necessary in the first place? Regardless, each hero must pick a side.

■



Topic B:

The Fate of the Marvel Cinematic Universe

Introduction

Although the Sokovia Accords is the major topic of the moment, every member of this committee has fought in the past to protect their communities, cities, or planets, and just because politicians are busy does not mean these dangers have stopped as well. In the Marvel Cinematic Universe, there are countless threats which put the balance of the Earth, and the universe at large, at risk. As heroes, it is important to ensure that just because you are arguing amongst yourself that you do not disregard your mission of defending the greater good. When fighting to protect the Earth, it is important to remember that these topics are deeply connected and that how you respond to situations when protecting the world will influence how the public at large and government views heroes.

The Winter Soldier

One of the major unresolved issues on the world stage is what to do about the Winter Soldier. The Winter Soldier is the name given to the brainwashed enhanced HYDRA operative Bucky Barnes.³⁹ Barnes has a personal connection to this committee, as he was Steve Rogers' childhood best friend. Barnes fought with the Howling Commandos, Captain

America's combat unit during World War II.⁴⁰ Early in the war, Barnes was captured by HYDRA agents and was subject to experimentation prior to Captain America rescuing him and other prisoners of war. These experiments allowed him to later survive a fall from the edge of an elevated train. After this fall, Barnes was presumed dead, but he was actually discovered by the Soviets who gave him back to HYDRA.⁴¹ Bucky was kept as a prisoner until Arnim Zola, the HYDRA scientist who conducted experiments on him originally, was released from custody.

Zola resumed his experiments on Barnes and used him as the first subject of the Winter Soldier Program. Zola gave Barnes, who had severed his arm in the fall, an enhanced prosthetic replacement. Additionally, Barnes was brainwashed to forget his former self and became a HYDRA assassin. For decades, Barnes took out countless HYDRA targets, and, in the interim, was put into cryogenic sleep to preserve his power. Barnes was a key antagonist during the Battle at the Triskellion, but since then he has disappeared and his current whereabouts are unknown. Government agencies around the world are currently on high alert for the Winter Soldier and he is one of the most wanted men in the world.⁴²

³⁹ Ann Hornaday, "'Captain America: The Winter Soldier' review: Maybe the most grown up Avengers movie yet." *The Washington Post*. Accessed October 05, 2018.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/movies/captain-america-the-winter-soldier-review-maybe-the-most-grown-up-avengers-movie-yet/2014/04/03/89bad3d8-ba60-11e3-9a05-c739f29ccb08_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.c07aee044c1a

⁴⁰ J. Richard Stevens, *Captain America, Masculinity and Violence: The Evolution of a National Icon*, (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2015), 29-30.

⁴¹ J. Richard Stevens, *Captain America, Masculinity and Violence: The Evolution of a National Icon*, (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2015), 79.

⁴² "Winter Soldier." *Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki*. Accessed October 05, 2018.

HYDRA and the Fall of SHIELD

HYDRA and SHIELD are two entities whose legacies have their roots in World War II. HYDRA evolved out of an ancient cult whose goal was world domination. This cult adopted the HYDRA moniker during World War II when it became the Nazi's scientific division, led by Captain America's rival, Johann Schmidt.⁴³ HYDRA largely diverted from the Nazi's plans to focus their own interests, and was ultimately stopped by Captain America in 1945. After HYDRA's defeat, it was believed to have died out. However, this later proved to not be the case.

SHIELD, the Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement, and Logistics Division, was founded shortly after World War II as the successor to the allied Strategic Scientific Reserve, which battled HYDRA during the war. SHIELD served as an intelligence agency with the purpose of ensuring global safety from possible threats. In the modern era, SHIELD was run by Nick Fury and the World Security Council, a group of some of the world's most important leaders. SHIELD was responsible for the original Avengers Initiative that created the Avengers team. The agency was covert but became publicly known after the Battle of New York.⁴⁴

The two agencies secret connection was outed in 2014 when HYDRA revealed that they never ceased to function, but rather had infiltrated and operated from

within SHIELD. HYDRA was covertly active during the remainder of the twentieth century and was responsible for overthrowing governments and causing global threats in line with their interests. In 2014, HYDRA commandeered Project Insight, attempted to assassinate Nick Fury, and waged an open attack on SHIELD. While Project Insight failed at the Battle of Triskellion, all of SHIELD's classified documents were put on the Internet. The resulting scandals that surrounded what was in these documents caused SHIELD to be disavowed on the world stage.⁴⁵

While SHIELD was severely damaged, Agent Phil Coulson's team continues to operate and fight against HYDRA. There have been several major battles between the two organizations, and although it was not ordered by SHIELD, the Lagos incident was made to thwart a HYDRA attack.

Cosmic Threats

While SHIELD has known about potential cosmic threats for years, the notion of alien threats have become a more important consideration now that their existence has become common knowledge since the Battle of New York. One of the galactic threats that face the Earth is the existence of the Nine Realms, nine worlds which are protected by Asgard. Asgardians have made their presence on Earth known in the past and were worshipped as the Norse gods. While the Asgardians, namely Thor, have been helpful, Loki was an Asgardian, and the ancient battle between the Asgardians and the Frost Giants has involved Earth in recent years. In particular, the Convergence, an event that aligns all nine realms every 5,000 years,

http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Winter_Soldier

⁴³ Ann Hornaday, "'Captain America: The Winter Soldier' review: Maybe the most grown up Avengers movie yet." The Washington Post. Accessed October 05, 2018.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/movies/captain-america-the-winter-soldier-review-maybe-the-most-grown-up-avengers-movie-yet/2014/04/03/89bad3d8-ba60-11e3-9a05-c739f29ccb08_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.c07aee044c1a

⁴⁴ "S.H.I.E.L.D." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018.

<http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/S.H.I.E.L.D.>

⁴⁵ "HYDRA." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed September 05, 2018.

<http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/HYDRA>.

brought a battle between Thor and a Dark Elf named Malekith back to the Earth. While the Asgardians can be trusted, for the most part, they're issues often cross over to the Earth.⁴⁶

Additionally, the existence and location of the Infinity Stones have massive implications for the Earth. Our Earthly heroes learned of the Infinity Stones after Thor visited the Waters of Sight and received a vision of the stones. The Infinity Stones are extraordinarily powerful objects that formed from six singularities during the formation of the universe. The stones include (1) the Space Stone, which provides control over space and allows the user to open portals, (2) the Reality Stone which allows its user to alter reality on a universal scale, (3) the Power Stone which can manipulate large amounts of energy, (4) the Soul Stone which offers the right to decide who lives or dies, (5) the Mind Stone which gives its user control over the minds of others, and (6) the Time Stone which allows manipulation of time itself. Due to the amazing power of each stone, only extremely powerful beings have the power to wield them, as others can die or become sick.

The stones have become of large importance in recent years, as many of them have shown up on Earth. The Space Stone has had a presence on Earth since the 1940s where it was placed in the Tesseract and used by Johann Schmidt to create weapons for HYDRA.⁴⁷ The Tesseract reemerged in the lead up to the Battle of New York, as Loki used the space stone to open the portal and let in the Chitauri army. This stone was taken back to Asgard with Loki. Additionally, Thor's love interest Jane Foster stumbled upon the Reality Stone, which was placed inside the Aether. Malekith was attempting to use this stone to put the whole world in darkness, though he was stopped and the Aether was given to the alien named the Collector. Finally, the Mind Stone was what powered Loki's scepter and gave him mind control abilities. This stone was what provided Scarlet Witch and her brother with their powers and is now in Vision's head providing him life.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ "Asgard." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 05, 2018.
<http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Asgard>.

⁴⁷ Stan Lee, *Origin of Marvel Comics*, (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1974).

⁴⁸ "Infinity Stones." Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. Accessed October 2, 2018.
http://marvelcinematicuniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Infinity_Stones.

Questions to Consider

1. *What are the greatest threats to Earth?*

The Avengers have limited resources to trying to find and control the Winter Soldier, stop HYDRA, and fight threats beyond Earth. Given this, some decisions must be made on what to prioritize.

2. *How should the remnants of HYDRA be dealt with?*

HYDRA continues to lurk in the background. HYDRA has proven itself quite good at resurrecting itself and operating in the shadows. Unfortunately, with only their interests in mind and no cares as to who may get in the way, this organization must be dealt with.

3. *What is the best way to prepare for galactic threats?*

While Thor may be tending to some of these galactic threats away from Earth, for now, it is only inevitable that these threats will return to Earth. The Avengers must decide how to prepare, or whether it is even possible.

4. *How will these actions affect public approval?*

Given the shaky public image of the Avengers currently, public approval of the goals of the group should perhaps be considered along with other considerations.

5. *Who is best equipped to deal with these issues?*

Certain Avengers have better skills than others in addressing these issues. That being said, some Avengers that may be well-equipped to address these issues may also hold biases that make them vulnerable to poor decision making.

Concluding Remarks

These threats and the countless other possibilities cannot simply be sidelined while discussing the Accords. Much of the distrust for our heroes stems from the close relationships they have with the villains (Winter Soldier and Loki) and you must decide if personal relationships are worth the trust of the people. Additionally, the dissolution of SHIELD created large issues by getting rid of oversight for the Avengers and while battling HYDRA is important this committee must decide who they can trust going forward as SHIELD proved to be untrustworthy. Finally, galactic threats were the reason that Ultron was created, leading to the disaster at Sokovia, so the committee must decide what the best way to handle future threats is, as they are unlikely to abet. You must be prepared to protect the Earth, but realize that this protection can have huge implications for the Accords.

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