



Peloponnesian War: 418 BCE Dossier

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Dear Delegates,

It is an honor to invite you to the 21st Virginia International Crisis Simulation, the University of Virginia's annual collegiate Model United Nations conference. VICs XXI will be held at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville from March 31 to April 3, 2016.

VICS offers nineteen innovative and interactive crisis committees, both historical and contemporary. We are committed to expanding the scope of what a crisis committee can do. As I write this letter in early November, our chairs are crafting their committees around topics ranging from the Space Race of the 1950s to a Summit of the American Gun Lobby. We are committed to expanding the scope of what a crisis committee can do, especially in our famous ad-hoc, the Secretary General's Good Offices, and in our pilot ad-hoc, the Directors General's Good Offices.

I can think of no better setting for the conference than the Grounds of the University of Virginia. VICs provides you with opportunities to interact with the University's rich history and with the many resources it has to offer. For example, on Friday morning, VICs encourages delegates to explore Charlottesville. VICs offers a series of tours of the city's attractions. These events extend discussion outside of committee and they give you the chance to meet members of the International Relations Organization and of the university community.

We also invite you to explore Charlottesville, one of the country's most exciting college towns. VICs hosts four social events in the city, which take you beyond a typical Model UN experience and provide opportunities to get to know delegates outside of committee.

I look forward to welcoming you to the University of Virginia and Charlottesville in March. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or the Chargé d'Affaires, Leah Day, at atvics.charge@gmail.com or by phone at (703) 344-4275.

Sincerely,
Michael Treves
Secretary General
VICs XXI

* indicates a placeholder name for the position due to lack of records indicating the actual names of these leaders. Rather than on the individual, please focus your research on the position geographically, politically, and historically.

1. **King of Sparta - Agis II**

The Eurypontid King of Sparta who took power in 427, acting as the military focused half of the dual kingship. He spent the majority of the Archidamian War (431 – 421) on raiding the territory of Attica surrounding Athens. In 419, Agis led campaigns around the Peloponnese without coming into direct contact with Athenian forces, but a recent alliance between Athens and Sparta's historical enemy Argos now brings the Peace of Nicias into danger of being broken. Though his militarist bent is ambitious, oftentimes he is accused of not fully backing strategies in the war, preferring to only somewhat commit himself.

2. **King of Sparta - Pleistoanax**

The Agiad King of Sparta who took power in 458 as a boy, right on the cusp of the First Peloponnesian War. Displayed unusually close ties and leniency with Athens, being successfully bribed by their leader Pericles to return to Sparta later in that war (resulting in exile until 426). Now, back in power for almost a decade, he continues to lean toward maintaining peace with Athens against the wishes of Sparta's allies and generals, while his enemies and more militaristic voices continue to accuse him of bribery and overt pacifism.

3. **Spartan General - Clearidas**

The spiritual successor to Brasidas' charismatic generalship, Clearidas took over for the legendary general following his death at the 422 Battle of Amphipolis. The militaristic bent of his predecessor carries over to Clearidas, who continues to act mostly independently of the Spartan government, expressed clearly in his hesitance to hand Amphipolis back to Athens due to Peace of Nicias' terms.

4. **Corinthian General - Alexarchus**

A high-level Corinthian general who is willing to go to great lengths to counter Athens' imperialist tendencies. He vividly remembers the Athenian betrayals of Corinthian trust at Corcyra in 433 and at Potidaea in 432, thus he came to power in the period of growing resentment in the city for the Athenian Empire. He vigorously supports the increasing of naval power against further Athenian threats to Corinth or its colonies.

5. **Corinthian General - Xenocleides**

A Corinthian general notable for his fight against the Corcyrans in 433 and his command of the 300 Corinthians sent to Ambracia in 425. Throughout the war,

Xenocleides has avoided direct confrontation with Athens, instead acting to secure Corinthian holdings across the Greek world and ensuring its power is maintained. With 300 troops to his name in Ambracia, Xenocleides wields a significant portion of Corinth's land power, but does not support Alexarchus' intensely militaristic attitude toward the war.

6. Theban General - Pagondas

The military genius of Thebes, whose tactics in the 424 Battle of Delium earned him much praise and support in the Peloponnesian League and his home city. Due to Thebes' power over the entirety of Boeotia, Pagondas' sway in the region most crucial to containing Athenian land power gives him considerable influence among his allies. Notable for his passionate oratory and wisdom coming from his old age, Pagondas has ambitions not just for Thebes' large presence in Boeotia and the Peloponnesian League, but for a leadership position in all of Greece.

7. Theban General - Coeratadas

A powerful Theban general under the shadow of Pagondas' military brilliance. Like Pagondas, Coeratadas is focused upon expanding the influence of Thebes in the Peloponnesian League while ensuring himself as an individual builds military honor. Because of Pagondas preeminence in land warfare in Boeotia and the Peloponnese, Coeratadas has exhibited interest in expanding his reach as a general into the frontiers of the Peloponnesian League's holdings, bringing him into military contact with the Delian League.

8. Epidauran Leader - Agapios*

A small polis located in a strategic position in between Corinth, Megara, and Argos. In the forming of an alliance between Athens, Elis, and Sparta's old enemy Argos, the city came under attack from the new coalition, potentially necessitating a breaking of the Peace of Nicias by Sparta. Epidauros will need to act to save itself from the assault by the powerful poleis by appealing to Sparta, or by aligning itself with other nearby cities.

9. Ambraciot Aristocrat - Sophron

An Olympic athlete and aristocrat whose city is most notable as the site of the Battle of Idomene against Athens, which Thucydides describes as, "The greatest disaster to strike a single city in an equal number of days in this war". In the 426 fight against Athens, Ambracia lost 1,000 men to the general Demosthenes while they were sleeping. Due to the danger of immediate Athenian overtaking of the city, the Ambraciots agreed to a 100 year peace treaty, but many in the city refuse to continue this further. Now, this athlete must bring back glory for his weakened city by

pleading Sparta to hunt down the Athenian general Demosthenes and not merely accept peace and Athens' imperialism.

10. Olympian Leader - Myron*

The site of the Olympic Games held between all of the Greek cities, held regardless of current state of war. Throughout the Peloponnesian War, these games have been used by each side as public displays of allegiance keeping or switching, as in Sparta's demanding that Mytilene declare its rebellion against Athens in 428. In 420 Sparta was shockingly vetoed by its former ally Elis to participate in the games due to debts incurred, thus now two years later Olympia is under immense pressure to prove itself a willing ally to the Peloponnesian League in its allowing of the psychological assault on Sparta to occur.

11. Potidaean Aristocrat - Demetrios*

A Corinthian colony and member of Athens' Delian League in the Chalcidice, of which one could easily say to have "started it all". Due to its bizarre alignment with both Peloponnesian and Delian Leagues, Potidaea was stuck in the middle of the encroaching war between its two mother cities come the late 430's. Athens went too far in pressuring Potidaea to forego any link to Corinth and thus the city rebelled against Athens, kicking off the Peloponnesian War as all interested parties sought to intervene. Now, over a decade later, Potidaea remains a geographically strategic city whose leaders must resolve to make up for their defeats in the past by fighting for the Peloponnesian League and reestablishing good ties with Corinth.

12. Melian Leader - Nereus*

An island-polis aligned with the Peloponnesian League, yet firmly within Athens' sphere of influence in the Aegean Sea. Starting in the early 410's, Athens has begun to put serious pressure on the polis to aid their cause, even with its stated neutrality. Melos now stands under potential invasion from Athens, unless they can convince Sparta and its allies that they are worth saving.

13. Syracusan General - Hermocrates

The most prominent general of Syracuse, the most powerful city of Sicily, which exerts its massive influence across the region and has established itself as one of the most powerful Greek cities in existence. In 415 BCE, Syracuse was ground zero for the Athenian-led Sicilian Expedition, engendering desperation and anger in the city. Hermocrates must choose how to deal with this massive invasion and the city's sudden involvement in the Peloponnesian War, potentially reaching out to foreign military aid.

14. Amphipolitan Leader - Hagnon

This former Athenian colony was the site of the conflict that brought upon the Peace of Nicias: The 422 Battle of Amphipolis wherein Cleon and Brasidas met their end. Now, the city has refused to go back over into Athenian hands, betraying the treaty's terms, pushing Sparta and Athens closer to conflict. Amphipolis acts as the psychological and military key to the North, but its radically anti-Athenian stance, having been under the yoke of its empire, has the potential to alienate the peace-favoring leadership of Sparta.

15. Macedonian King - Perdiccas II

The Macedonian King of ever-shifting allegiance, continually attempting to forge a steady grasp on his throne while countering foreign incursion. Macedon's strong military allows him much sway in the North. Following a failed military alliance between him and Sparta, Perdiccas joined Athens in 423. However, alliances between the two powers have broken down multiple times before, leaving Perdiccas standing as a powerful figure with potential to help Sparta secure the North, or drive them out entirely.

16. Athenian General - Alcibiades

Athenian aristocrat and general persecuted by his own countrymen for his vandalizing of holy statues. He instigated the Sicilian Expedition, but has abandoned it in order to escape arrest, joining his former enemy Sparta. His playboy attitude has quickly caused a stir in the city, especially in his flirtations with Agis' wife, while his true motivations and allegiance remain shrouded in mystery.

17. Thracian King - Seuthes I

The Thracian King who took power in 424 BCE. His newly acquired reign has been complicated by Greek fighting over nearby Amphipolis. His attitude is mysterious to his potential Peloponnesian allies, coming from his predecessor's alliance with Athens. However, Seuthes I seeks to further expand the power and land area of the Thracian Kingdom and thus comes into direct contact with Athens' loosely-held Northern colonies, indicating that Seuthes will not be content with his predecessor's chosen ally.

18. Persian Satrap of Lydia and Caria- Pissuthnes

The Persian satrap of Lydia in Asia Minor who has historically supported rebelling cities of the Athenian Empire (i.e. Samos in 440). Two years ago, Pissuthnes may have learned from his support of rebels and declared his own rebellion against the Persian King Darius II. Even though hunted by his own Empire, he nevertheless wields immense power in Asia Minor and has demonstrated his support of

destroying the Athenian Empire. Now, he is an enormous asset to Sparta in troops but stands as a potentially destabilizing force for the region as a whole.

19. Persian Satrap of Lydia and Caria - Tissaphernes

The Persian general and high-ranking noble sent in to take out the rebelling Pissuthnes by turning his Greek mercenaries against him, thus securing his execution by Darius II in 415. He was given the satrapy by Darius, but his conniving nature makes the King fear again for the accomplishment of his goals. One of these goals includes the regaining of power in the Aegean and retaking of the Ionian Coast cities. While Tissaphernes, like his predecessor, can provide the troops and money Sparta needs to finish the war, the price may be too much for the Peloponnesian Cities.

20. Elean Aristocrat - Xenias

A pro-Spartan noble of the now Athenian-allied city of Elis. After their alignment with Athens in 420, Elis has publically embarrassed Sparta at the Olympic Games, disallowing them to compete, and has taken a vast portion of the Peloponnese away from Spartan control. Xenias, a very wealthy man, remains within Elis and holds the support of many of the city's oligarchs, but must move sneakily and quickly in order to secure Spartan support of his risky endeavor to bring his city back from Athenian alliance.

21. Spartan General - Gylippus

Spartan general and half-helot (mothax) notable for his ruthless tactics and strong organizational skill. Though he exhibits independence, his loyalty to the Spartan cause is firm. He is able to engender support from disparate forces and acts as one of Sparta's primary militarist voices, though he is distrusted by some of his city's leaders. Due to his origin as only partly full Spartiate, he is always attempting to prove himself the hero of the war.

22. Arcadian Mercenary Captain - Xenias

Mercenary captain in service of Sparta, but rarely used due to the bias against mercenary warfare that the Peloponnesian League has. While Sparta is locked perpetually in the confines of traditional hoplite warfare, its more desperate allies may not be so assured of one single fighting style. Additionally, Persian satraps are always in need of mercenaries, thus Xenias may use his forces (~750) as a playing chip in negotiating an alliance between Persia and the Peloponnesian League.

23. Thucydides of Athens

An Athenian general exiled due to his inability to save Amphipolis in 422. Freed from the bonds of military service to Athens, he has been travelling among the

Peloponnesian League for years gathering information from disparate sources for a manuscript detailing the war. His mass of information about Athenian military and his ambitious

24. Mytilenean Aristocrat - Macareus*

The primary city of Lesbos, spared by Athens in the aftermath of its 427 revolt from the Delian League. Following the departure of Athenian presence in the city in the mid 420's, the oligarchic faction of the city's leaders began to once again plot against Athens. These oligarchs have access to a strong navy and a wealthy city, but an open alliance with Sparta could result in their decimation by Athens.

25. Spartan General - Lysander

The incredibly ambitious newcomer general of Sparta. Like Gylippus, he is a mothax and is thus intent on proving himself as being preeminent among Sparta's military leadership. Though as of yet he does not hold enormous power over the Peloponnesian League's navy, his increasing prominence in various battles has garnered him power and independence compared to Sparta's other generals.

26. Argive Aristocrat - Teuthras*

Argos, as Sparta's historical enemy, has recently aligned with Athens. However, some leaders believe Sparta's chances in the war eclipse that of Athens and have begun plotting against the democratic government of their city. As nobles, they have access to money and power within the community, but must act sneakily in order to dissuade the city into alliance with Sparta, overcoming two hundreds of years of enmity.

27. Argive Sculptor - Polykleitos

One of the preeminent sculptors of Classical Greece, bringing artistic glory to his native city of Argos. Due to his strong oligarchic leanings and bias toward classical Greek values, he supports Sparta in the Peloponnesian War even in his city's new alliance with Athens. Polykleitos is a powerful artist, and thus voice, throughout the Greek world and thus he potentially has the ability to spread his pro-Spartan leanings to many Greeks and even his own Argives.

28. Macedonian King - Archelaus I

The King of Macedon, taking power after Perdiccas II's death in 413 BCE. Like his father, his loyalty in the war wavers between both sides, but at his coronation he appears to be leaning toward Athens due to increasing pressures in his territory. Now, as Athens' power is weakened in the Sicilian Expedition, Archelaus I must convince the Peloponnesian League that his assistance is still necessary or else he may fully back Athens in hopes they will greatly reward him if they succeed.

29. Phlian Leader - Aristodemus*

A city of the Peloponnesian League situated near Corinth and Argos. Throughout the years, the city has been continually pressured to join Argos against Sparta, but it has held fast in its commitment to the Peloponnesian League. Now, as the Peace of Nicias has enraged many of Sparta's allies, it begins to be swayed toward the nearby Argos. Along with this, the city's democratic leanings make Corinth fearful of its proximity, therefore necessitating Phlius to prove itself true to the Peloponnesian League.

30. Lefkadan Leader - Odysseus*

An island polis and member of the Peloponnesian League. Due to its status as an island on the Western edge of Greece, it is uniquely in danger of Athenian incursion during its Sicilian Expedition. Lefkada has begun building a navy, and thus is quite the asset to Sparta's cause yet incurs Corinth's resentment due to its own matchless position of naval power among the League.

31. Corcyran Aristocrat - Aristaeus*

A colony of Corinth with the strongest navy in the Greek world outside of Athens. Due to its war with Corinth and siding with Athens in 433, the island polis is intimately opposed to the Peloponnesian League. Nevertheless, even after brutal crackdowns on oligarchic revolutions in 427 and 425, they are still adamant about turning the island back under Corinthian and thus Spartan control.

32. Tegean Leader - Proetus*

The first polis to ever join the Peloponnesian League, yet when it joined in 530 it was out of fear, not preference. Since then, this Arcadian city has been consistently wary of Sparta yet still maintains at least nominal loyalty towards the Peloponnesian League. Faced with pressure to align with the Peloponnesian League, Tegea has recently begun to push toward the Spartan line of maintaining peace in order to avoid potential Athenian incursion.

33. Megaran Leader - Orsippus*

A crucial city in the Peloponnesian League, located closest geographically to Athens. Additionally, it has access to the port city of Pagae, but is unable to enact too much independent military action due to its proximity to Athens. The city is famous for the Athenian economic sanctions against it in the 432 and the 424 Battle of Megara wherein the two sides of the war fought over control of the city. The city's leaders support strongly Corinth and Thebes in aggressively refusing the peace terms and instead continuing to fight Athens.

34. Kythirean Leader - Diagoras*

A small island polis located directly to the south of Sparta's territory of Laconia. Throughout the war, Athens' naval power has empowered it to take control of the island, enraging the denizens (especially the oligarchic factions). Due to its geographic location, Kythira is under constant danger of Athenian incursion and has thus taken to building up a strong navy and defenses.

35. Hermionoan Shipbuilder – Harmon*

This aristocrat has for years represented his polis well in the Greek world, expanding its capacity to distribute goods, especially through its illustrious potter community. Most importantly, Sparta and Corinth have come to watch Harmon's ships very closely, looking to use them in the raging Peloponnesian War. However, while Harmon is firmly on the side of Sparta, he nevertheless is consistently looking to further his business as well and thus may look into selling ships to Corinth as well. Material goods can easily cause rifts between allies, granted they are in a state of desperation.



CONTACT US

We would appreciate hearing your feedback about our conference. Please direct all inquiries and comments to our Secretary-General.

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