

CRISIS
- The Trojan War -

~12th Century B.C.

Dearest Mortals,

A decade has passed since Paris, prince of Troy, chose Aphrodite as the fairest among the goddesses, consequently igniting the wrath and envy of Hera and Athena. The lives of all who dwell within Achaea and Troy have since then been inextricably imperiled by the scheming of gods and the whims of mortals alike. Helen, the face that launched a thousand ships, has been taken from her home, and kings, warriors, and all varieties of men have sworn heavenly deadly oaths.

We, the Olympian Council, see all. We, who dwell above and beyond the reach of mortal comprehension, observe your deliberations and actions with unwavering scrutiny. Your favour with the Olympian Gods and relative honorability will have a great impact on your fates and fortunes, so act wisely. At Olympus, we impose punishments as well as grant gifts. Athena can provide wisdom and strategy for valorous Greeks who honor her. Apollo's hand brings both plague and prophecy to those who defy Troy, while Aphrodite shelters the desires of mortals whose beliefs align with hers. Ares feeds the fires of chaos and battle, recognizing anger and ambition. Hera will observe divine order with ire, determine the weather, and shift the state of mind of her subjects.

You will begin your deliberations at a pivotal moment: the war has raged for nine years. The Achaeans grow weary while dissent spreads. Patroclus is currently on the edge of death, Achilles struggles with wounded honor, and the gods prepare to intervene. *Trojans*, your strength wanes beneath the siege. Your resources are thin and unrest stirs within your walls. *Greeks*, your distant battles are draining your homelands, and whispers of revolt float along the Styx. Whether or not this war can be held on either end is up to your jurisdiction.

Every debate and strategy now holds great consequences for heroes, armies, and all those in between. Know your Achilles' heels, master your tempers, all while confronting gods, monsters, and other men, and perhaps this war may yet end without further ruin.

Ερρωσο / Be strong,
The Olympian Council

Appendix I

Topic Overview

The Trojan War began with a quarrel among goddesses. After Eris hurled a Golden Apple marked “*For the Fairest*” into their midst, Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite demanded that Paris of Troy judge their beauty. Each offered him a bribe: wisdom, power, or the most beautiful woman in the world. Paris chose Aphrodite and in turn won Helen of Sparta, who was already married to King Menelaus.

Bound by an oath to defend Helen’s marriage, the Greeks united under Agamemnon and launched a massive expedition across the sea. After years of failed searches, sacrifices for godly aid, and countless skirmishes, they now encamp outside the city’s towering seven-gated walls. Now, nearly a decade into the conflict, the war has settled into a tense stalemate. The Greeks remain formidable, yet unable to breach the city’s defenses. Supplies are dwindling, morale has faltered, and grievances with King Priam’s leadership begin to arise.

Appendix II

Reading Sources

Delegates are encouraged to read from (and watch) these resources, including Homer’s *The Iliad*, to better understand the narratives and historical context on which this committee is based. However, since the committee does not adhere to a strict canonical structure, delegates should avoid treating *The Iliad* or other readings as definitive guides to their character’s fate.

- <https://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html>
 - Relevant portions include Books 3, 16, 17, and 20, as well as additional sections that may be particularly relevant to one’s assigned character.
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Trojan-War>
- <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/iliad/characters/>
- <https://www.maicar.com/GML/TrojanWar.html>;
<https://www.maicar.com/GML/AftermathTW.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMaahUJFb-Ry9aIFywgumVYUKLJAMKOdb>