



Athenian War Council

November 20-22, 2015
Committee Background Guide



SSICSIM 2015
SECONDARY SCHOOL
INTERACTIVE CRISIS SIMULATION

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431 BCE
Athens, Greece

War surrounds us. It has, for the past three thousand years, played an integral role in the history of our species. Conflict has made rich countries poor, and poor countries rich. There is quarrel among all species, but none do it as well as humanity.

Sparta has declared war on us. Athenians, I say to you now, we face the struggle of our lifetime. Sparta and her allies control the strongest armies in all of Hellas. But do not be afraid, for we have the might of our navies, the wealth of Hellas, and our Long Walls. While Sparta is a great military power, they will not challenge us at sea.

Our main concerns, fellow Athenians, revolve around the war and the subsequent financing of the war. Where, when, and how are we to strike against the Spartans? Should we meet them in the field, or should we outlast them? However, before we consider any military action we must determine how we are to finance it! Should we raise the taxes of our citizens, or the tribute of the Delian League? And then, what should we spend our newfound wealth on? My fellow citizens, this is for you to decide.

Today, we begin the struggle for Hellas. No more shall Athens resign herself as the greatest among equals. Nay, that is not our destiny. If indeed we are to survive and to succeed, we must not look to Persia or to Sparta as inspiration. No, we Athenians, with the greatest intellectual might ever seen, shall create a new world order. One capable of standing the test of time.

We face an almighty fight with an almighty foe, but Athenians, I put it to you that we shall succeed. This war will determine the course of the Hellenes. With our powerful navy and huge treasury, not to mention our vast supply of intellectuals, we shall surely be victorious. Our ancestors were victorious against the Persian menace, it is now up to you to live up to their legacy.

Man is the measure of all things.

Henry Adlam & Shanzae Shehzad Khan
Speakers for the Ecclesia
Athenian War Council Directors

Committee Goals, Procedure, and Miscellaneous

As members of the Athenian War Council, you will be forced to address both the military and civil issues facing Athens. The ultimate goal of the council will be to ensure the security of Athens and the Delian League. Some members will pursue aggressive policies against Sparta, while other members will simply want to contain Spartan power. The Chair expects a wealth of substantive debate and responses to the crises that will occur as a result of: the decisions of the Council, Spartan actions, and other, nonaligned events. As a result, you will have to think fast and pass concise action directives.

Almost every member of the Council will have voting rights. All members with voting rights will have equal voting rights. The personal powers for each delegate, on the other hand, will vary widely with military commanders having direct control over armies, and statesmen having varied sets of skills and other advantages.

It is expected that delegates will do much further research into the Peloponnesian War and Greek history. While the background guide will give you a concise (and hopefully clear) tour of Greek history, it will not completely prepare you for this crisis. It is my hope that during your read of the background guide I have written you will ask yourself questions regarding Greek history, and through further research you will answer those questions. The delegates who will succeed in this committee will be the ones who have done further research.

In addition, after reading this background guide, you may be asking yourself: where are the topics that typically start debate? Well, delegates, if I were you, I would go back and read the letter the Speaker for the Ecclesia sent you.

Historical Background

Humble Beginnings

Greek written records first appeared in the 9th century BCE. Due to the hilly nature of Greek countryside, the political entities that evolved were largely small city-states, known as poleis, which were loosely unified by a shared culture and language.¹ For several centuries, there was no dominant city-state in Greece, with various different cities vying for hegemony. The expansion of several different city-states during this period was aided by the development of coinage in 680 BCE, and the rise of a bourgeoisie.² The emergence of the bourgeoisie coincided with trade becoming a prominent characteristic of the Greek world. City-states that adapted to a trade-based society were able to vastly increase the wealth of their city, which enabled them to achieve hegemony over neighboring city-states.

Athens, one of such cities, accumulated enormous amounts of wealth from which they were able to fund their navy. With a powerful navy, Athens was able to found and control more trade routes, protect merchant ships from pirates, and found new colonies, all of which earned Athens more money and resources.³ As a result, Athens was able to expand into Attica and most of the Aegean Sea. Other city-states, like Corinth and Thebes, also adjusted to a trade based society, however they did not compare to Athens, which had only one real rival.

Sparta became a Hellenic power not due to culture or trade – which were minimal – but due to its military might. Spartan power was truly recognized during the Messenian Wars in the second half of the 8th Century BCE, in which the Spartans conquered the Messenians and enslaved them.⁴ Renamed the Helots, the enslaved Messenians worked on the farms in Sparta, produced the agricultural output, and performed other menial tasks within Spartan society. This led to more Spartan men being given military training, which increased the power and the size of the Spartan army. Subsequently, Sparta focused on expanding, consolidating and fortifying their empire, training future soldiers and attempting to secure their position as the hegemon of Greece.

The Persian War

In 546 BCE, the Achaemenid Empire conquered the kingdom of Lydia, which was located in the West of Anatolia. This kingdom had been a boundary between the Ionian Greek city-states and the Persian Empire. Without this boundary, however, the city-states fell one after the other to the encroaching Persian army.⁵ In 500 BCE, these Ionian city-states revolted against the Persians in what came to be known as the Ionian revolt. Aided by mainland Greek city-states, the Ionian revolt lasted six years and was unsuccessful,⁶ however it did worsen relations between Greek city-states and the Achaemenids. The Achaemenid Emperor, Darius, invaded Greece in 492 BCE, but was defeated at the Battle of Marathon by a coalition of Greek city-states led by

¹ Holland, Mary, ed. *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Classical Sites*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1976.

² Ibid

³ Thucydides, Rex Warner, and M. I. Finley. 1972. *History of the Peloponnesian War*. Harmondsworth, Eng: Penguin Books.

⁴ Aristotle, Benjamin Jowett, and H. W. Carless Davis. 1920. *Aristotle's Politics*. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press.

⁵ *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Greco-Persian Wars," accessed July 6, 2015.

⁶ *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Greco-Persian Wars," accessed July 6, 2015.

Athens.⁷ Sparta was not represented at Marathon, however, because the Spartans were busy observing a religious festival. After the Greek victory at Marathon, a stalemate occurred until 482 BCE, when the new Emperor Xerxes returned with an even bigger army. The Greeks set up their defense with Athenian admirals given control of the combined navies of the Greek city-states, and Spartan generals given control of the combined armies of the Greek city-states.⁸ The Achaemenids were eventually repelled from Greece after the Battle of Plataea, but not before they had burned Athens to the ground. Athens continued to skirmish with the Achaemenid Empire for another 30 years, eventually wresting control of the Ionian city-states from the Achaemenids.⁹

The First Peloponnesian War

The First Peloponnesian War occurred during the latter stages of the Persian War. The conflict arose due to tensions rising between Corinth and Athens. One of the most powerful city-states in Greece at the time, Corinth wanted to expand its borders and its influence at the expense of its neighbours. Athens, however, created alliances between itself and Corinth's neighbours: Megara, Argos, and Thessaly. This increased the tensions between Athens and Corinth, and precipitated war between the two states.¹⁰ Sparta did not officially intervene on either side, however it did mobilize its forces occasionally, mostly when religious sanctuaries were threatened. The First Peloponnesian War ended with most of the territory conquered by either side being returned to the original owners.

The Thirty Years' Peace

The time in between the two Peloponnesian Wars was known as the Thirty Years' Peace. During this time, the Delian League created by Athens began to falter. The Delian League was, essentially, a massive alliance system between hundreds of different Greek city-states. At its inception, it was dominated by but not controlled by Athens, though this changed during the Thirty Years' Peace. Originally the headquarters of the League, and more importantly the treasury, was on the island of Delos (hence the name). However, Athens moved the treasury from Delos to Athens in 454 BCE.¹¹ In addition, Athens began to use the League's navy for its own gain. These actions alienated many of the members of the Delian League, and eventually resulted in revolts and rebellions against Athens, the most noteworthy being the revolt of Samos in 440 BCE.¹² Samos enlisted the help of Persian leaders, placing Athens in a precarious situation: to ensure the longevity of the Delian League Athens must quash the rebellion, however the resources necessary to do so would leave Attica open to Spartan invasion. Athens came to the conclusion that the longevity of the Delian League was paramount to national security, taking a gamble that Sparta would not attack. Luckily, the Peloponnesian League congressed and decided against war, with Corinth notably opposed due to its strong trade with Athens.¹³

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Thucydides, Rex Warner, and M. I. Finley. 1972. *History of the Peloponnesian War*. Harmondsworth, Eng: Penguin Books.

¹⁰ Thucydides, Rex Warner, and M. I. Finley. 1972. *History of the Peloponnesian War*. Harmondsworth, Eng: Penguin Books.

¹¹ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Delian League", accessed July 09, 2015

¹² Kagan, Donald. *Enter Athens*. New York, NY. The Viking Press, 2003

¹³ Ibid

Corinth saved Athens from Spartan invasion; however later Athenian actions would alienate Corinth. After the rebellion at Samos had been crushed, Athens turned its attention to Potidaea, a tributary of Athens and a Corinthian colony.¹⁴ Athens ordered Potidaea to remove its fortifications, refuse entry to Corinthian magistrates and sent hostages to Athens. As if this was not enough, Athens further antagonized Corinth by sending warships to defend Corcyra (modern-day Corfu) from Corinthian navies, hindering Corinthian expansion yet again. This led Corinth to make a request to Sparta to summon the members of the Peloponnesian League, with the intention to discuss various grievances with Athens. Corinth no longer impeded war with Athens, and as a result the congress voted to declare war on Athens. Thus began the Second Peloponnesian War.¹⁵

¹⁴ Thucydides, Rex Warner, and M. I. Finley. 1972. *History of the Peloponnesian War*. Harmondsworth, Eng: Penguin Books.

¹⁵ Ibid

General Background Information



Economics

Athens, in 431 BCE, is at the height of its economic power. After the defeat of the Persian Empire in 480, Athens became a center of commerce for Greece and the Mediterranean world.¹⁶ Athens has the largest population of the Greek cities, and while most of the population are craftsmen and farmers, it also has a large concentration of wealthy merchants and landowners. Athens receives most of its revenue from the tribute levied on members of the Delian League, who control the majority of trade in Greek world. Other sources of Athenian wealth include extensive foreign trade, as well as natural resources from Attica and Athenian colonies (consider the silver mines near Macedon). Most of Athenian revenue goes towards the maintenance of the navy.

Athens, as the headquarters of the Delian League, houses the treasury of the League and therefore has incredible financial clout. The annual tribute that each Delian League member must pay is taken in money (not service or natural resources). This bolsters Athenian financial might even further.

Athens, through trade, has access to almost every available resource on the Mediterranean Sea via extensive trade networks and its unrivalled navy. This makes Athens rich and powerful during times of peace, but if the Athenian economy suffers during warfare its

¹⁶ A. H. M. Jones, "The Economic Basis of the Athenian Democracy," *Past and Present* 1 (Feb. 1952): 13-31

access to resources will decrease exponentially. The city is certainly wealthy enough to garner large sources of money from income taxes, however this will make the population unhappy, especially if the tax is continued indefinitely. In order to maintain its income, Athens must continue to dominate the Delian League and its extensive trade routes, which requires the maintenance and expansion of the navy.

Domestic Policy and Society

Relevant history of Athens begins in the early 6th century BCE, when reforms made by the Athenian statesman Solon introduce democratic principles that countered the tyrannical localized oligarchies that existed in the region.¹⁷ Solon divided the population into property classes to define a minimum property qualification for citizenship, instituted regular Assemblies for citizens, and drafted a law code for the city. Cleisthenes, a nobleman, later created an official democratic constitution for Athens in 508 BCE, establishing a council of 500 to meet more frequently than the assembly and manage the day-to-day governance of the city.¹⁸ At this stage, the political system in Athens was highly democratic (considering ancient Greek standards): it encouraged its citizens to participate in government (although a *citizen* meant a property owning Athenian native). Only citizens could vote, however the property threshold set by Solon was relatively low, therefore allowing even poor farmers to count themselves as citizens.

All magistrates and members of political bodies above the Assembly, such as the Council, were either elected by the Assembly or chosen by lottery, and were never directly appointed by a dictator or magistrate. Therefore members of such committees face removal or failure to be re-elected if they do not adequately fulfill their duties. Normally, the Assembly has the power to discuss and make decisions on political issues, elect the magistrates, and approve or reject treaties and decisions for war; although at present the emergency War Council has assumed these powers. The council of 500 (an extension of the Assembly), is divided into many specialized committees and usually manages the details of governance and external affairs, however in the current crisis the War Council has assumed these duties as well.

There remains significant political competition between the democratic and oligarchic factions in Athens. Many of Athenian's wealthiest men are supporters of the Democratic faction, although they tend to be 'new' money, men who gained their wealth through commercial ventures instead of wealth from ancestral lands. Major domestic political issues of the time included definitions of citizenship, methods of appointing political leaders, the practice of slavery, and the use of Athens' finances on public works projects.

Athenian Foreign Policy

Athens' foreign policy is centered around the affairs of the Delian League, which was founded as an alliance network with Athens at its head, but is currently an Athenian empire. Its precursor was the pan-Hellenic alliance that fought together in the Persian War. After the liberation of Byzantium, the Spartans withdrew from the Alliance, having decided that the war's aims had been accomplished. Athens, however, repudiated this, and decided to fight to reclaim

¹⁷ Waterfield, Robin. *Athens: A History*. New York: Perseus Books Group 2004. 51-53

¹⁸ Waterfield, 60

the Ionian cities that had not yet been liberated from Persia.¹⁹ A new alliance was proposed during a meeting at Delos, which bound each member state to an agreement that they would either provide military forces or pay a tax to the League's treasury.²⁰ The original goal of the Delian League was to kick the Persians out of Ionia and divide the spoils of war. However, as time progressed, Athenian power greatly eclipsed any other member state, and thus began an age of Athenian hegemony over the League. Thucydides writes:

“Of all the causes of defection, that connected with arrears of tribute and vessels, and with failure of service, was the chief; for Athenians were very severe and exacting, and made themselves offensive by applying the screw of necessity to men who were not used to and in fact not disposed for any continuous labour. In some other respects the Athenians were not the old popular rulers they had been at first and if they had more than their fair share of service, it was correspondingly easy for them to reduce any that tried to leave the confederacy. The Athenians also arranged for the other members of the league to pay its share of the expense in money instead of in ships and men, and for this the subject city states had themselves to blame, their wish to get out of giving service making most leave their homes. Thus while Athens was increasing her navy with the funds they contributed, a revolt always found itself without enough resources or experienced leaders for war.”²¹

After the fall of the Athenian statesman Cimon from power, democrats such as Pericles and Ephialtes gained control of policymaking. Breaking off relations with Sparta's Peloponnesian League, they allied with Argos and Thessaly (Spartan enemies). The subsequent acquisition of Megara allowed the construction of a defensive line of walls along the isthmus of Corinth, the land bridge between the Peloponnese and the rest of Greece. The democrats' predominance has also been characterized by increasingly dominant relationships with the members of the Delian League, as described previously. Some of the oligarchic faction supports aggression and imperialism, but most are keen to remain at peace with Sparta, which they see has a source of stability in the Greek world.

Military

Like all classical Greek armies, the Athenian army was primarily composed of citizen soldiers known as hoplites, named for the *hoplon* they carried (the distinctive shield). These hoplites fought in formations called phalanxes. Athens, with its large population²² could deploy an army of over 10,000 hoplites at a time, in addition to the troops supplied by allied cities. Athens also deployed a cavalry corps, known as *hippeis*, recruited from the wealthiest of Athenian citizens, that numbered roughly 1200 men.²³ Poorer citizens or non-citizens served as archers, slingers, and javelin-men and, for the poorest of the poor, rowers.²⁴

¹⁹ Waterfield 125

²⁰ Thucydides, 96

²¹ Thucydides, 98

²² Thucydides, 24

²³ Thucydides, 26

²⁴ Ibid

Athens' main strength, however, was its navy, widely regarded as classical Greece's preeminent navy. After saving Athens and devastating the Persian navy at the Battle of Salamis, it served as the guarantor of the city's prosperity during its Golden Age. Athens' economic livelihood depended on the trade brought in by its numerous seafaring vessels, and the ability of its navy to protect them from rival states and pirates enabled trade to flow uninterrupted. Furthermore, most rebellions from the various Delian League members were put down thanks to the Athenian navy and its ability to blockade cities and deploy troops quickly. Like other Greek navies, the combat vessels within the Athenian navy consisted of triremes. Their crews were usually composed of freemen. All crewmembers trained during times of peace, further ensuring Athenian naval supremacy in the Aegean. Typically, Athenian fleets relied on their ships' advantages in speed and maneuverability, honed by their crews' superior training, to ram and sink enemy vessels, whereas other fleets relied more on boarding actions.²⁵

Athens' navy also had the potential to continue to supply the city of Athens in the event of defeat on land. The city was surrounded by walls after it was rebuilt after the Persian War, and it was eventually connected to Piraeus, its harbor five miles away, by walls known as the 'Long Walls.' Provided Athens' navy maintains dominance of the seas, it can continue to trade with its colonies and neutral cities, thus providing grain and other necessities. The city can be supplied from the sea even if Sparta occupies all of Attica.

Naval Warfare

The combat vessels within a Greek navy consisted mainly of triremes: long, slim galleys rowed by three banks of oarsmen and fitted with a ram jutting out from the bow. Greek triremes were constructed to fit a balance between speed, durability, and flexibility. Most tactics of ancient naval warfare revolved around boarding and ramming enemy ships.²⁶ Due to the maneuverability and speed of triremes, the Greeks became experts at ramming. However, triremes were not perfect. They could become waterlogged if kept at sea too long, and thus had to be beached when not in use. Constant upkeep was necessary to keep the vessels oceangoing. Practically all equipment had to be replaced regularly during campaigns.²⁷ This meant that owning and maintaining a navy was extremely expensive for Greek cities, requiring continuous manpower, professional expertise, and funds.



²⁵ Thucydides, 48

²⁶ John Coates, "The Naval Architecture and Oar Systems of Ancient Galleys" in the Age of the Galley

²⁷ Ibid

Ground Warfare

The main components of Hellenic armies were the hoplites and their formation, the phalanx. Hoplites were heavily armoured infantry kitted with shields and armour. Hoplites were usually free citizens who bought their own armour.²⁸ Hoplites were armed with a spear about 7-9 feet long. Hoplites also carried short swords to use in close quarters or in case their spear broke. The evolution of hoplite armour reflected the need to balance mobility with protection.²⁹ As the Classical Age progressed, the need for more mobility saw more hoplites turning towards lighter forms of chest armour, which offered less protection but more mobility. Hoplites also carried a shield, called a *hoplon*, which was a large, heavy circular shield slightly larger than 3 feet in diameter.

This equipment was designed to function in a phalanx. A single phalanx was a rectangular mass of hoplites, about twenty men wide and eight deep. The hoplites formed an interlocking shield wall, with spears protruding in front. This formation was a great success for the Greeks against the Persians, allowing smaller Hellenic armies to inflict defeats on the larger Persian armies.³⁰ Hoplite phalanxes, however, had their weaknesses. In battles between Greek cities, combat usually bogged down as the phalanxes were so equally matched. Eventually one would manage to break the line of the other, which resulted in a victory that did little to the enemy apart from damage their morale. Phalanxes were also susceptible to attacks from the rear and the flanks. Supporting units like cavalry and auxiliaries could do severe damage to a phalanx.

Non-hoplite supporting troops comprised a smaller part of Hellenic armies. Cavalry were armed with spears or javelins, and mainly used to flank their opponents or pursue defeat enemies. Light troops and auxiliaries consisted mostly of mercenaries or the poorer citizens of a city. Cavalry and light troops were rarely decisive in Greek battles, with the exception being a battle fought on uneven terrain or being utilized after breaking the opponents phalanx.

Hellenic tactics were usually focused on the clash between phalanxes. Phalanxes typically lined up in the center of the army, while cavalry and skirmishers were posted to the flanks.³¹ The two sets of phalanxes would meet each other in the middle of the battlefield. Commanders could use the depth of the phalanxes to defeat the enemy's phalanxes head to head, punching holes into the enemy's line, or attempt to use the length of their line to outflank their opponent and attack his phalanxes from the side. Terrain also played an important role in tactics, as a phalanx that held the high ground or the right side of a river had more room to maneuver, thus giving said phalanx an advantage. If all else was equal, the battle was decided by which army's hoplites had more experience and motivation, and were able to hold their formation longer.³²

²⁸ Azar Gat, *War in Human Civilization* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

²⁹ *Ibid*

³⁰ Thucydides, 10

³¹ Raaflaub

³² Thucydides, 156

Committee Members

Pericles (PEAR-i-CLEES)

The most prominent statesmen in Athens, admired to such an extent that he is nicknamed “the first citizen of Athens.” Pericles holds strong anti-aristocratic view, befitting the head of the democratic party of Athens. An adept politician, Pericles holds sway over the voting populace through his impressive oratory skills and cunning machinations. To boot, Pericles is an accomplished general, but he is not known for great victories but instead highly planned strategies. Most of his experience comes from naval forays, and rarely does he advocate battle unless he is sure of winning. Pericles is also a known patron of the arts, having refurbished the Parthenon. Finally, Pericles is a resolute imperialist, and views Athens as the pearl of Greece and thus desires Athenian hegemony over all of Hellas.

Demosthenes (DEM-OS-THE-NEES)

A commanding orator and a demagogue³³, Demosthenes delivered his first judicial orations at twenty, where he successfully sued his guardians for the remainder of his familial inheritance. Demosthenes is known for his inflammatory and inspiring style of oration, as well as his wealth of knowledge regarding Athenian laws and politics. While his style of oration was often considered crude by higher society because it was self-taught, most agree that Demosthenes more than makes up for this disadvantage with his passion for politics. Due to his humble upbringing, Demosthenes is a democrat, although he does not hate the aristocracy.

Alcibiades (AI-CI-BI-A-DEES)

Alcibiades is a prominent statesman, orator and general. He is a member of the aristocracy, the most recent of his mother’s family. He is an aggressive supporter of imperialism and war with Sparta, yet he does not have clear allegiances towards either democratic or oligarchic factions. Regardless, he is known for his political ambition and is willing to do anything to gain prestige and glory. Alcibiades is an extremely competent commander, though many are skeptical of his tactical abilities. A demagogue, Alcibiades is primarily motivated through self-interest and has gained a reputation for being a warmonger.

Cleon (CLEI-ON)

A general and politician from the commercial class, Cleon is highly opposed to Pericles and thus often finds himself allied with the aristocracy. Cleon was highly divisive: to his friends he was an adept orator and dedicated statesman, to his enemies a warmonger and demagogue. Cleon has been known to resort to roguish tactics like smear campaigns in order to defeat his enemies, the fabrication of false evidence for charges, and even resorting to the use of spies to defeat his political opponents. Cleon supports an expansionist and imperialistic course for Athens.

³³ A political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular desires and prejudices rather than by using rational argument – Merriam-Webster

Nicias (NICK-Y-AS)

A general and high-ranking aristocrat, Nicias ranks highly within the political scene of Athens. Nicias is wealthy, having inherited a fortune and silver mines near Mt. Larium in Attica from his father. Staunchly opposed to the democrat's imperialistic agenda, Nicias is a moderate who believes in peace, negotiation and coexistence with Sparta. A competent general, Nicias does not have any glorious victories to his name and is mainly known for his negotiation abilities. Nevertheless, the people of Athens trust Nicias highly in regards to war-time decisions.

Thucydides (THU-CI-DI-DEES)

Thucydides is a general in Athens, but also a prominent historian, known for his strict standards of information gathering. Though not a member of the aristocracy, Thucydides is often at odds with the democrats. Thucydides is a trusted and able general in Athens, but receives criticism for his refusal to admit divine intervention in daily life or on the battlefield. Thucydides believes in coexistence with Sparta, however he also believes in some of Athens' imperialistic ambitions.

Perdiccas of Macedon (PER-DI-CASS)

The King of Macedon, Perdiccas is primarily interested in furthering the strength and influence of his Kingdom. At the beginning of the War, he was nominally allied with Athens, however, this could change should the Peloponnese offer him a better deal.

Socrates (SOCK-RA-TEES)

A prominent philosopher and a friend to Alcibiades, Socrates often plays the devil's advocate, and thus usually opposes whatever someone is arguing on principle. Socrates is fundamentally loyal to Athens, and is known as the conscience of the State.

Axiochus (AXI-OH-CHUS)

Axiochus is Alcibiades' uncle and has an excessive character. He is very loud and boisterous, often supports Alcibiades with extreme arguments, and is a member of the aristocracy.

Aristophenes (AH-RIS-TO-PHA-NEES)

A comic playwright who acts as a critic to Athenian society, Aristophenes acts as another devil's advocate, however he is less biased than Socrates (who tends to favour Alcibiades' arguments) and thus should be opposed to every argument that is put forward on principle.

Lamechus (LA-ME-CHUS)

A general with a fiery reputation, Lamechus is a courageous risk taker with a high military skill. He is also poor and as such is looked down upon by most of the other members of the war council and by other generals. Lamechus is most concerned with Athens' position in the war and

is not risk-averse. He favours overwhelming assaults against enemies he sees as being unprepared. He is an advocate of a hawkish foreign policy.

Laches (LAC-HEEZ)

A capable general, Laches is also a military man and thus uninterested in the hierarchy of Athenian politics. He is a conservative general who knows the limits of his army, and is unlike Lamechus in the sense that he opposes motions that would put his forces in situations of unnecessary risk.

Peithias of Corcyra (PAY-THI-AS)

A Corcyran who supports Athenian imperialism, Peithias wants the best for Corcyra and believes that the way he can achieve it is if he throws his lot in with Athens. Corcyra has a powerful navy and a moderately-sized army, and is against moderation.

Aspasia (AS-PAYS-I-A)

A female immigrant who is an outsider to Athens, Aspasia is the lover of Pericles and as such has his support. This gives her power, and, as an outsider, is able to see things that the Athenian aristocracy are blind to. Please note that since this is a female character (due to the time period) they are unable to vote on Directives, unless the committee chooses to amend this.

Thrasybulus (TH-RAS-I-BU-LUS)

An Athenian general and orator, Thrasybulus is a prominent member of the democratic party of Athens. While not known for his military abilities, his strategies are craft and well planned. He is staunchly patriotic, which makes him opposed to any kind of threat to Athens. This leads him to hate the aristocracy, who he perceives to be a threat to Athens. Thrasybulus, like most democrats in Athens, believes in a highly imperialistic policy in order to further Athenian power.

Theramenes (THEIR-A-MEN-ES)

The leader of the moderate oligarchs, Theramenes is in favour of extending power to a council of 5000 instead of the current 400. This does not mean he supports democracy, however, and indeed has grown suspicious of the current political system in Athens. He holds sway with many of his fellow oligarchs, as well as is well supported by the common folk. Theramenes is determined to use his base of support to maintain the middle ground between democrats and the aristocracy.

Eurymedon (YURI-ME-DON)

A general and admiral who currently commands the Athenian fleet in Corcyra, Eurymedon is a strong democrat. Eurymedon also has contacts with democrats in other cities, principally in Corcyra. Eurymedon is not entirely hawkish, however, and also has talents in negotiation.

Aristocrates (A-RIS-TO-CRA-TEES)

An Athenian politician allied with Theramenes and a fellow leader of the oligarchs, Aristocrates is also in favour of extending power from 400 to 5000, and is staunchly opposed to any settlement that would deprive Athens of its regional hegemony. Like Theramenes, he is happy to take decisive action to maintain his position against democrats and the more radical oligarchs, and has the support of the people of Athens. Aristocrates also has experience in warfare.

Isthmonicus (ISTH-MON-I-CHUS)

An Athenian statesman and politician, Isthmonicus supports maintaining peaceful relations with Sparta and moderately supports the oligarchs. He himself is a wealthy commercial aristocrat who made his money trading agricultural produce. He owns a vast country estate as well as property within Athens.

Byzantium (BIS-ANT-E-UM), Leader of Byzantium

As the bridge between the Black Sea and the Aegean, Byzantium holds a strategic position that allows it to dominate all trade to and from the Black Sea. Not only does it play an important role in trade but Byzantium also possesses a large agricultural base with hugely fertile land, making it one of the principle sources of food for the Delian League. While Byzantium is crucially important as a source of food and as a strategic trading post, and while Byzantium has a large population, it remains a vulnerable target as it does not possess a large or trained army, nor strong fortifications. Because of its crucial location, Byzantium could well be a target for the Spartans. The delegate from Byzantium must make clear his city's importance to the League in order to keep it safe from Spartan attack. The delegate from Byzantium is able to speak, draft, and present directives, but cannot vote unless given the power to do so by the War Council.

Diodotus (DIE-O-DOE-TUS)

Throughout Athens, Diodotus is seen as the voice of reason in Athenian politics. As a leader of a more moderate faction, Diodotus has considerable influence over the military commander in Athens. While Diodotus has relatively little military power, he has vast amounts of influence over the passing of legislation in the Delian League, and has an ample spy network spread over different factions in both Athens and in Greater Greece.

Rhodes (ROADS), Delegation from the Dodecanese

Mainly representing Rhodes, the delegation from the Dodecanese holds sway over the southern Delian League by controlling the southern navy. Thus the Dodecanese can violate the policies made by the Delian League because they have the ability to protect themselves, and because they

hold leverage: their fleet might tip the balance in the Delian League's favour. However, the Dodecanese cities are constantly mindful of the Persian menace, and thus must be careful in committing soldiers or the navy to actions far from Rhodes. The tributes in the Dodecanese are high, and thus popular opinion has started to sway towards independence from Athens, or at the very least a reorganization of the structure of the Delian League. The delegate from the Dodecanese is able to speak, and draft and present directives, but is unable to vote unless the power structure in the Delian League is changed.

Aetion (AY-TI-ON), Persian Representative

A representative of the Persian Empire, Aetion gained renown as a soldier fighting against the Greeks, but switched sides when it became apparent that Persia was going to lose. This being said, due to his exploits prior to his change in loyalties, he remains a respected figure in the court of Artaxerxes I, Emperor of Persia. The Persians had identified Athens as the principle center of Greek resistance against Persia, and as a result the Persians tried to weaken the Athenians by supporting their enemies in Greece. With this being said, the Persians maintained a diplomatic representative in Athens: Aetion. Aetion, however, has his own loyalties and maintains a large fleet of pirates which could be hired as privateers. This gives him leverage over the Athenians, as his fleet could seriously aid or hinder the Athenian war effort. Aetion is able to speak and draft resolutions, however he is not able to vote or present draft resolutions unless the Council decides to grant him that power.

Eretria (ER-E-TRAY-AH), Leader of Eretria

The City of Eretria is one of the more important cities of the Delian League. It is wealthy and holds hegemony over the other cities in Euboea. Unfortunately, at 431 BCE its power is in decline, thus it is always looking for avenues to expand its power. The City's wealth is derived from agricultural production as well as trade with the Northern Delian League. The city also houses impressive pottery workshops and other artisanal stores. While Eretria may not have the most impressive defenses, it must only maintain a fortress on the land bridge between Euboea and Attica to maintain peace in the region. Despite its relative strength, the average Eretrian believes that the tribute demanded by Athens has been draining the region of its wealth. Thus Eretria is in favour of a reform of the tribute system, and should this go unheeded the people of Eretria may revolt against the Delian League. The delegate from Eretria will be able to speak, and draft and present directives, but will not be able to vote on said directives unless the power structure in the Delian League is changed.

Conon (CO-NON)

An Athenian general and man of the people, Conon is an individual dedicated to greater democracy in Athens. He believes that the real power of Athens rests in its people and to truly tap in to it Athens must return to its greater democratic roots. Conon grew up in poverty and usually follows the will of the common people, even if that sets him apart from the rest of the council. Conon is a good military commander, and possesses the best engineers in the Delian League, however he is likely to be overlooked for command of important missions because of his poor background.

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Recommended Readings

- Thucydides: The History of the Peloponnesian War
- Encyclopedia Britannica: <http://www.britannica.com/event/Peloponnesian-War>
- Herodotus: Histories – *This text helps to set the scene before the Peloponnesian Wars, Greco-Persian Wars, and etcetera.*
- Aristophanes: Lysistrata – *This text is a comedy detailing one woman’s mission to end the Peloponnesian War.*
- Ancient History Encyclopedia – Peloponnesian War Entry:
http://www.ancient.eu/Peloponnesian_War/
- The following books written by Donald Kagan are great resources to check out:
 - The Outbreak of the Peloponnesian War.
 - The Archidamian War
 - The Peace of Nicias and the Sicilian Expedition
 - The Fall of the Athenian Empire
 - The Peloponnesian War