



# QTMUN

SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES | 2014

GAME OF THRONES  
(LITERARY COMMITTEE)

Game of Thrones  
**Council of the Seven Kingdoms**

BACKGROUND GUIDE

**Director's Note**

Hello,

My name is Saad Khan and I will be serving as your Committee Director. I am very passionate about Game of Thrones and it is a great honor and privilege for me to be chairing this committee. As for a bit on myself: I am a first year student currently studying at the University of Toronto and plan on doing a double major in Human Biology and Chemistry. As for my Model UN experience; I started back in Grade 9 and have been involved with it ever since. I have also served as both an Assistant Committee Director and Director before. Additionally, our committee moderator, Katherine Zimmerman is also very experienced and has taken part in her fair share of Model UNs over the past few years. So rest assured; you are in good hands.

It is important for you to note that the committee is based on the novels and *not* on the T.V. show. However, bear in mind that you are not required to read all of the books. The committee is actually set a year before the events of the first novel; hence you are not required to know what happens in the series.

Yet, you will need to be familiar with some of the characters, the topics for discussion and the committee in general. For your convenience you will find below a timeline. The main purpose of the timeline is to provide a key summary of important events that occurred before George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire starts. Furthermore, I have included in this background guide small yet detailed summaries of each character present in this simulation. A portion of this background guide is also dedicated to the topics and key points of contention we would like you to work on as a committee. However you are welcome to raise of issues which you might want to discuss, but please remember I may rule anything inappropriate or unnecessary out of order.

Please remember that the information below is only to help you get started. Your research should not be limited to this background guide, in fact it should merely form the base of your research.

I look forward to meeting you all in person! Best of luck with your research!

Regards,

Saad Khan

Director, Game of Thrones: Council of the Seven Kingdoms

## Introduction to the Committee

Fifteen years have passed since the rebellion by King Robert Baratheon and his allies to seize the Iron Throne from the previously-ruling Targaryen dynasty. The year is currently 289 AL; a time of peace and harmony. The King, in celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> year of his rule, has called together a Council of the Seven Kingdoms, which will unite the nobles of the prominent houses together, for the purpose of discussing key issues which the King and his Hand deem important.

This the first time that such a council has been called together and reaching a viable solution for the problems the council faces will be something the council members will have to address. Delegates will be expected to come up with a treaty rather than the typical draft resolution. Details on the treaty have been provided below in a separate section.

Delegates of the Council will be asked to discuss these issues and reach a viable conclusion, while bearing in mind the needs of the Houses they represent.

Topics for debate are:

- 1) Ensuring the Baratheon Succession
- 2) The Prevention of Future Rebellions
- 3) Preparations for the end of Long Summer
- 4) Finding suitable marriages for the royal children

Delegates are allowed to debate over other issues during the duration of the committee. However, these topics must be serious, relevant to the committee, and subject to the prior approval of the Director. The director may rule out any topic for discussion which he feels is not relevant. For that very reason it is highly recommended that before formal debate, delegates go over their suggestions with the director to see whether or not the topic could be debated upon.

## Important Events in the Timeline

### **1 AL: The War of Conquest takes place:**

Led by Aegon I Targaryen, who as a result of the war was later commonly known as Aegon the Conqueror. This war resulted in House Targaryen, wielding three powerful dragons, gaining control over six of the seven kingdoms of Westeros. After the war was over, Aegon ordered that King's Landing be built, which has since its founding served as the capital city of the Seven Kingdoms. In



addition to his victory, Aegon forged the Iron Throne as a perpetual reminder of House Targaryen's victory. The swords used to forge the throne were those of Aegon's defeated foes.

**37 – 48 AL: The Faith Militant Uprising** was the first rebellion to take place during Targaryen rule. It was dealt with through harsh and extreme methods, ensuring the continuance of the Targaryen dynasty.

**129 AL – 131 AL: The Dance of The Dragons** takes place during this period and has been recorded to be the first ever civil war in the history of the Seven Kingdoms. Essentially the war was fought for the succession of the Iron Throne and resulted in deaths of many Targaryens and their allies. As dragon fought dragon only a few were able to survive. It was from this point that the Targaryen rule started to decline.



**137 AL: The Death of the Last Dragon.** Though eggs were left behind, they were unable to be hatched, leaving the dragons thought to be extinct.

**157 AL: Dorne is ‘conquered’.** The incorporation of the last independent kingdom in Westeros resulted in the Targaryens having dominion power over all Seven Kingdoms. It completed the conquest that was started in 1 AL by Aegon I Targaryen. However, this was accomplished through a strategic marriage rather than a military conquest.

**195 AL – 196 AL: The First Blackfyre Rebellion** takes place against the Targaryens. It has been recorded to chronologically be the second rebellion to take place after The Faith Militant Uprising. The Targaryens are able to keep their claim over the Iron Throne.

**212 AL: The Second Blackfyre Rebellion;** launched by the Blackfyre loyalists, it was dealt with swiftly and the conspirators were dealt with before any major battle could take place.

**259 AL: War of The Ninepenny Kings:** An attempt to take over the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros. It ended in favor of the Targaryens hence ensuring their succession.

**262 AL: The Mad King Aerys II’s rule over the Seven Kingdoms begins.**

**283 AL: King Robert’s Rebellion.** It was with this rebellion that the Targaryen rule was brought to an end. The war began after the abduction of Lyanna Stark, the intended wife of Robert Baratheon. The rebel forces were led by House Arryn, House Baratheon, and House Stark. All the Targaryens were brutally massacred and The Mad King was killed. However the youngest children of Rhaegar Targaryen were able to survive, fleeing across the Narrow Sea. This knowledge was kept a secret and was unknown to King Robert or his Hand Jon Arryn.



**289 AL: The Greyjoy Rebellion;** Balon Greyjoy declares the Iron Islands to be separate from the Seven Kingdoms and names himself the King of the Islands. The rebellion is swiftly dealt with and Balon is forced to surrender. His surrender is accepted but as a result his only surviving son Theon Greyjoy is taken hostage by Eddard Stark who makes him his ward.

## IMPORTANT MAPS

### Westeros and Essos

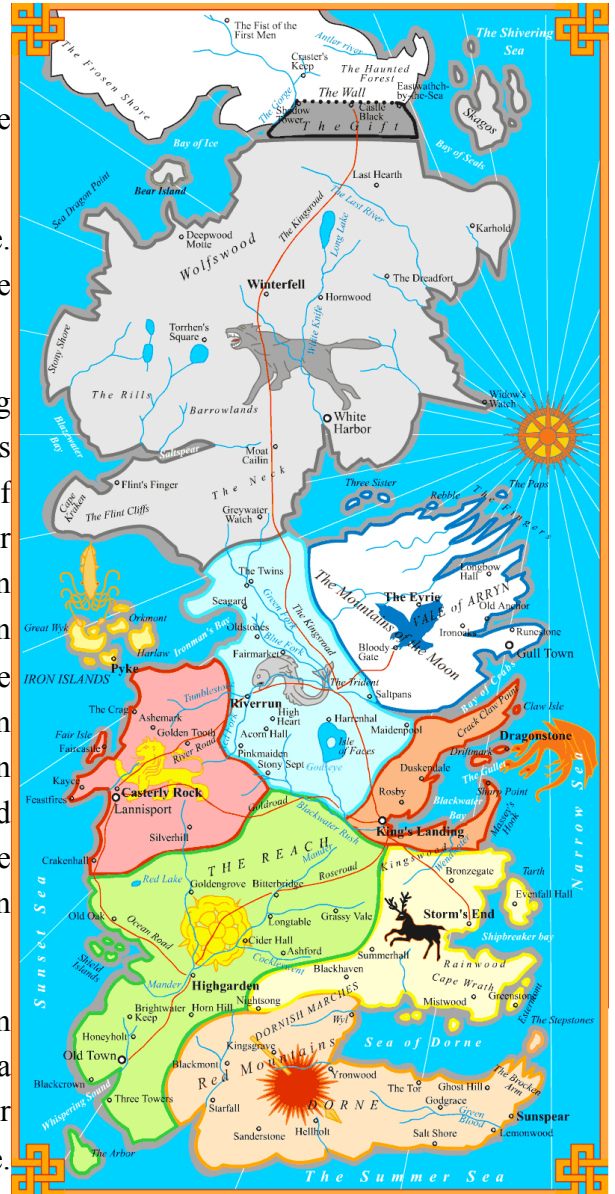
The left side of the map shown below shows the land of Westeros i.e. the Seven Kingdoms. It is the smaller of the two continents, the other being Essos, located on the right hand side of the map. Between Westeros and Essos lies the Narrow Sea. This sea separates the Eastern Continent, Essos, from the Western Continent. King Robert rules over all of Westeros south of the Wall. The western coastline of Essos contains a number of independent city states like Braavos and Myr while the central plains are home to the nomadic Dothraki. The Narrow Sea serves as a major trade thoroughfare between the two continents.



Members of the Council of the Seven Kingdoms will hence only represent houses located within Westeros.

On your right is a map of The Seven Kingdoms alone. Located at the extreme north is the Wall and at the extreme south is The Summer Sea.

The map is divided in to different colours, each delineating the domain of one of the major Houses. Westeros operates under a feudal system: King Robert holds the allegiance of each of the major Houses, each of whom in turn have smaller Houses under them. On this map, House Stark’s domain is in light grey, House Greyjoy’s in dark yellow, House Tully’s in light blue, House Arryn’s in dark blue and white, House Lannister’s in red, House Tyrell’s in green, House Baratheon in yellow, and House Martell in light orange. The section in black marks the territories gifted to the Night’s Watch around the Wall, while the dark orange section indicates the Crownlands, held personally by the King and centered on King’s Landing

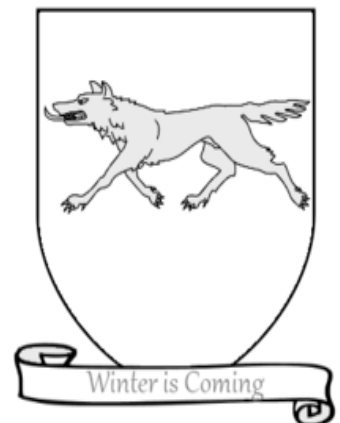


When making important decisions delegates must bear in mind geography. For example, getting across the Narrow Sea is easier to say than to actually carry out. Please remember that all decisions made have to be viable and feasible. Impractical suggestions may be ruled out of order by the chair. If ever in doubt, feel free to approach the director and clear your queries.

## Principle Houses

### 1) Stark

House Stark is the principle house in the cold North. Before Aegon I Targaryen’s conquest the Starks ruled over the North as an independent kingdom and their leader was known as the ‘King of the North’. However they surrendered to Aegon and as a reward were made powerful lords. Since then their seat has been at Winterfell. House Stark has maintained and taken pride in its



distinct Northern traditions, for example the continued worship of the Old Gods rather than the Seven. The Starks have recently been close allies of House Baratheon, House Tully and House Arryn. Yet their relationship with House Lannister is relatively strained.

## 2) Lannister

House Lannister is the principle house in the mountainous Westerlands. Before Aegon's conquest they ruled over the Westerlands as Kings of the Rock. Their seat has always been at Casterly Rock. Lannisters are known to be the richest out of all the principles house of Westeros because of their control over several gold mines. The Lannisters have established close relations with House Baratheon. However as seen by past experiences, their friendships are very volatile and thus many Houses do not prefer getting too close to them. Their unofficial motto is "A Lannister always pays his debts".



## 3) Baratheon

Rumors are that House Baratheon was formed by an illegitimate son of House Targaryen, causing them to be the youngest of the principle houses. They are the principle house in the rain-soaked Stormlands. This is the House of the King and hence the most formally respected one. However, there are tensions dwelling amongst its members and its real power compared with the other major Houses is only middling. Their closest allies are House Stark and House Arryn.



## 4) Greyjoy

House Greyjoy is the principle house of the Iron Islands. Its seat is on Pyke. They led an unsuccessful rebellion against King Robert Baratheon in 289 AL. As a result of the rebellion House Greyjoy was severely weakened. Consequently, they are not strongly allied with any of the other principle house. Like the Starks, House Greyjoy eschews the traditions of the mainland Houses, worshipping the Drowned God and holding that raiding and pillaging is morally superior to farming and production, as encapsulated in their words, 'we do not sow.'





## 5) Tully

House Tully is the principle house in the fertile Riverlands. Their seat is at Riverrun. House Tully is strongly allied to House Stark and House Arryn, as both daughters of House Tully were wed to the heads of both these houses, Eddard and Jon, respectively. Their central position within the Seven Kingdoms has made the domains of House Tully relatively vulnerable to attack, and indeed many of the wars have included major battles in the Riverlands.



## 6) Martell

House Martell is the principle house in Dorne. Their seat is at Sunspear. The Martells were strong allies of the Targaryens. Though they are currently at peace with the other principle houses of Westeros, they have not forgotten or forgiven the murder of Elia Martell at the hand of the rebel forces of King Robert Baratheon. However they have to date not truly expressed their feelings on the matter to those outside their House. Like the North and the Iron Islands, Dorne is fairly distinct from the other regions of the Kingdoms. A desert realm, it allows females equal inheritance rights.



## 7) Tyrell

House Tyrell is the principle house in the populous Reach. They are currently allied with the Baratheons. However, it was not always so. Initially they were allied with the Targaryens during Robert's Rebellion. Once the Targaryens were defeated and wiped out of the Seven Kingdoms, they surrendered. They were forgiven by Robert Baratheon, who accepted them as sworn vessels. The Tyrells are in a constant feud with House Martell over rival territorial claims. The Tyrells are highly ambitious, and indeed their House was only a minor one before being elevated by the Targaryens. House Tyrell is the second most wealthy house after House Lannister by virtue of their fertile lands and the large population under their rule.



## 8) Arryn

House Arryn is the principle house in the Vale. Their seat is at the Eyrie, a castle at the top of a mountain (which is considered to be impregnable). House Arryn is a strong ally of House Baratheon, House Stark and House Tully. Like House Stark, their relationship with House Lannister is also strained.



## 9) Targaryen

House Targaryen was one of the most powerful houses before King Robert's rebellion and they ruled the Seven Kingdoms for approximately 300 years. They were the only house to breed dragons giving them vast superiority over other houses. However, once the last dragon died their power began to decline and they were eventually wiped out by Robert Baratheon. All Targaryens are thought to be dead; however that is not the truth. Two children of the Mad King survived and were secretly taken to Essos.



## Council members

The following characters will be present at the Council, called by the King to represent the interests of their House in King's Landing. Note that not all council members are the heads of their respective Houses.

### Eddard of House Stark

Head of House Stark; Eddard is defined by his immovable sense of honor and justice. He serves as the Warden of the North and Lord of Winterfell. Though he may appear to be very cold and stern, he is known by many to have a very warm and kind heart, a fact that can be attested for by his close friends and family. Eddard 'Ned' Stark is known to be very loyal to his friends and family. His wife is Catelyn Stark, originally from House Tully. He was very close to King Robert Baratheon and Jon Arryn. However a wedge was drawn between his relation with the King when he heard that Robert had wiped out all Targaryens, regardless of their age and gender.



This shows that he can simply not tolerate any form of injustice, even if it is towards his enemies.

### **Tywin of House Lannister**

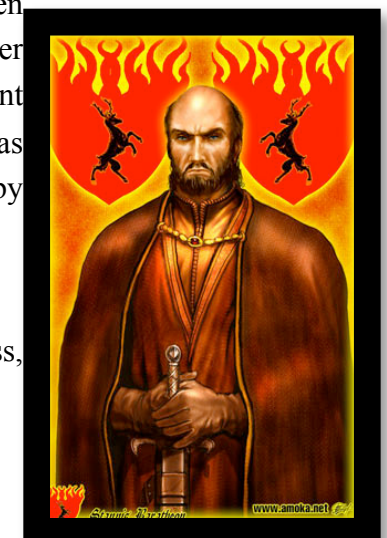
Head of House Lannister; Tywin is known for his ruthlessness and his cunning. He is the main reason the Lannisters are as strong and feared as they are today. When he inherited control of his House he restored the Lannister glory and brutally crushed all of his internal enemies. It was because of this that he attracted the Mad King's attention. He was appointed as Hand of the King, however there was friction between the two and Tywin soon resigned from his position. When his wife passed away his personality took a turn for the worst and he became a bitter and cold-hearted man. During the initial stages of King Robert's rebellion he kept a neutral stance. It was only when victory for rebels became evident that Tywin aided them by attacking King's Landing. It is for this very reason



that he is not at good terms with Eddard Stark, who believes Tywin had no initial intention of supporting the rebellion. Tywin was very well aware of this fact too, hence he slew the innocent Elia Targaryen, the princess (originally a Martell), and her two children and presented them to the new King to show that House Lannister had completely forsaken all alliances with House Targaryen. Eddard Stark could not tolerate how Tywin had killed innocents and as a result the two have almost always been at odds. This act also earned him the hatred of House Martell. Tywin Lannister believes the most effective way to rule is to be feared by others.

### **Jon of House Arryn: Hand of the King**

Jon Arryn serves as the Head of House Arryn, Defender of the Vale and Warden of the East. However his more important role is as the King's Hand. The King and Eddard Stark both grew up with Jon Arryn, which resulted in the trio being very close to one another. Jon tried healing the rift between King Robert and Eddard Stark but was unsuccessful. A rift was also created between Eddard and Jon regarding the fate of Jaime Lannister, 'The Kingslayer'. Eddard wanted Jaime to be sent to Wall as punishment for murdering the Mad King, even though he was in the Targaryen King's Kingsguard. However, the latter managed to convince King Robert to keep the Kingslayer in his current position. He is known to be a fair man and extremely loyal to his king. It has been thought by many that he is the source of most of the decisions made by King Robert, given the King's lack of interest in ruling wisely.



### **Stannis of House Baratheon; Master of Ships**

The elder brother of King Robert Baratheon is known for his sternness,

stubbornness, and religious zeal. However, two of his positive traits are determination and seriousness. He lacks the ability to forgive easily and to an extent shares the same sense of justice that Eddard Stark possesses. However, the main difference between the two is their ability to lead. Stannis' personality hinders his ability to be a successful leader, something which he does not understand. Stannis thoroughly supports and aids his brother, King Robert Baratheon, but has never been appreciated for it. He was however significantly displeased when Robert made him Lord of Dragonstone rather than Storm's End (which surpassed the former in terms of wealth).

### **Renly of House Baratheon; Master of Laws**

The youngest of the three Baratheon brothers, Renly is the least serious one. He is thought to be quite similar to a young Robert but unlike his elder brother he is not a heavy drinker. He lacks Stannis' determination and Robert's strength but is charismatic and very popular. He was made Lord of Storm's End, which made him much wealthier and powerful than his elder brother Stannis. Renly is loyal toward his family but is also extremely ambitious, unwilling to let his position as the youngest brother hold him back. He has a strong relationship with House Tyrell through his close friend and former-squire, Loras.

### **Hooster of House Tully**

Lord Hooster Tully is the aged Head of House Tully and Lord of Riverrun. He is the elderly father of Catelyn Stark and hence the father-in-law of Eddard Stark, as well as to Jon Arryn, through his other daughter Lysa. During Robert's rebellion he wed both his daughters to two of the three leaders of the rebellion, thus proving his loyalty towards the rebellion. He is a very wise man and is known for making careful and well-thought decisions. His health has slowly started to decline but nevertheless his ability to make good decisions still persists.

### **Cersei, Queen of the Seven Kingdoms**

She is the daughter of Tywin Lannister and wife of King Robert Baratheon. She likes to think that she is her father's daughter and that she possesses all of his strengths, which includes the ability to lead. She has on several occasions proven to be ambitious, cunning and ruthless. However unlike Tywin Lannister, she is hot-tempered, impatient and capable of, at times, making irrational decisions. She has a poisonous, spiteful relationship with her husband, the King, who tends to ignore her opinions. Despite this, Cersei deeply loves her children and does all she can to protect them. Moreover Cersei despises the Starks as she feels that Robert was never able to get over his love for Lyanna Stark, Eddard's deceased sister.



### **Balon of House Greyjoy**

Balon is the head of House Greyjoy and Lord of the Iron Islands. He is known for his rigid and unyielding personality. Like most Iron Islanders, he lives by a militant code of honour, taking what he wants by force or dying trying. He is known across the Seven Kingdoms to make decisions even if they may present potential harm to his own family. He is uncompromising in every aspect which goes hand in hand with his fearless personality. He was deeply troubled by the deaths of his elder sons. To make matters worse for him, his younger son Theon Greyjoy was taken hostage by Eddard Stark after his failed rebellion. Balon still harbors feelings against the King but lacks the allies to support him in yet another rebellion, though he would likely seize on any opportunity to do so again.

### **Oberyn of House Martell**

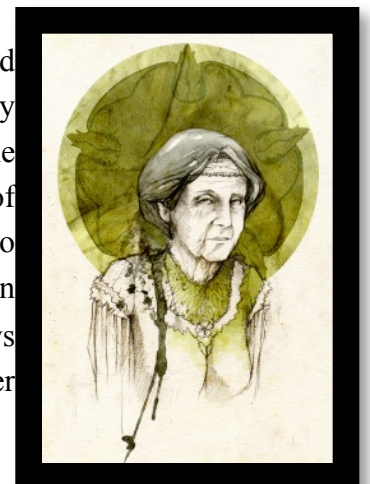
The younger brother of the Prince of Dorne, Oberyn is very cunning and hot-tempered. He is one who does not forgive easily. He had from the very start been very close to his sister Elia who was wed to the Crown Prince Rhaeger Targaryen during the rule of the Mad King. Oberyn was never able to forgive the Lannisters and Baratheons for having killed his sister and her children. Unknown to others he is still loyal to the Targaryens as he wishes to enact his vengeance on the Lannisters and Baratheons in any way possible. Additionally, he is directly responsible for the feud between the Martells and Tyrells as he was the reason Willas Tyrell was crippled.

### **Loras of House Tyrell**

Ser Loras Tyrell is known across the Seven Kingdoms for his exceedingly good looks. However, that does not undermine his ability as a knight and, despite the fact he is too young to have fought in a war, is highly skilled in jousting and combat. He is deeply loyal towards those who he cares about and strongly believes in honoring his family and House. He is also the favorite son of Mace Tyrell, Lord of Highgarden and Warden of the South.

### **Olenna Redwyne, ‘The Queen of Thorns.’**

Olenna Redwyne is the elderly mother of Mace Tyrell and widow of Lord Luthor Tyrell, the present and former heads of the House. She is politically savvy and makes her decisions with proper planning. However, at times she may be abrupt, rude, and sarcastic, giving rise to her nickname, the Queen of Thorns. She is known to be an equivalent of Lord Tywin’s when it comes to cunning. She has the ability to convince and manipulate others for her own personal benefit. However, she is still very loyal to House Tyrell and always puts its interests before all others. She is extremely ambitious on behalf of her House.



## **King Robert of House Baratheon**

In his youth Robert was an excellent warrior and a skilled commander. He has from the very start been somewhat brutal and has on several occasions expressed how eliminating each and every Targaryen was an absolute necessity. This eventually created a rift between him and his childhood friend Eddard Stark. He does not have exceptionally high morals such as Eddard Stark nor is he an exceptional strategist like Tywin Lannister. It is a known fact that currently Robert is not very serious about his role as King of the Seven Kingdoms, preferring to indulge himself in physical pleasures rather than making hard decisions. He despised the scheming and politics of his own court. It is only because of his Hand, Jon Arryn, that Robert makes sensible decisions. He is extremely impatient and brash. Many of the common people refer to him as a drunken fool.



## **Petyr “Littlefinger” Baelish, Master of Coins**

Petyr Baelish was originally born to an insignificant house but his lust for power and determination soon made him become something significantly greater than his birthright. Rising from a very minor lord to possessing a seat on the King’s Small Council, Baelish aspires to still greater heights and resents those who continue to judge him based on his meagre lineage. He is very witty and at the same time devious: a deadly combination. The biggest mistake his foes often make is to underestimate his capabilities. Though he is not a good swordsman or warrior he makes up for it with his mental capabilities. Petyr secretly despises Eddard Stark as he was in love with Eddard’s wife, Catelyn, from his very childhood. However, Catelyn only saw him as a brother and as a result Petyr was left forever heartbroken.

## **Lord Varys, Master of Whisperers**

Varys had early during his youth discovered that he possessed an outstanding ability of spying on others. A eunuch from across the Narrow Sea in Essos, he would otherwise have had very limited potential for power. He started training his own spy network and soon became very infamous, which resulted in him attracting the attention of the Targaryens. After King Robert’s Rebellion, Varys continued his position as the Master of Whisperers. However deep down Varys has been loyal to the Targaryens rather than Baratheons. He is known in court derisively as ‘The Spider.’

## **Topics for discussion**

Unlike regular Model UN simulations this committee will primarily differ in the way debate takes place. Council members (delegates) will immediately go into the secondary speakers list, skipping the entire process of selecting one topic as the agenda for primary debate.

Council members will be asked to debate on the four areas of contention listed below. We would appreciate it if the debate in the committee room will be mostly restricted to these four topics. However, delegates are more than welcome to suggest other topics which they deem are necessary for the Council to discuss.. However, please observe the following rules when doing so:

- 1) Events from the future cannot be discussed. *Whatever happens in the books not happened yet is thus unknown to the Council. Those are events of the future. No Council member has the power to predict the future or time travel.*
- 2) Topic for discussion must be relevant to the committee. This will be determined at the discretion of the chair.
- 3) Ensure that your topics and discussions are grounded within the political and geographic context of the books. *Try to refer to specific people and places, for example, rather than making vague statements. It is recommended that delegates bring with them a map of the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros for ease of reference.*

It is highly suggested that delegates before introducing new issues for debate, discuss it with the director either via e-mail or in person. The director is the foremost authority in the committee room and if he rules something out of order/rejects an idea the decision will be final. To save time we recommend that you discuss it with him before, rather than wasting time during formal debate.



Please observe that the following issues **must** be discussed:

### **1) Ensuring Baratheon Succession**

The King has learned from his spies that two Targaryen children who survived are starting to form their own army near the area of the Dothraki Sea. The female Targaryen, Danaerys, has wed a Dothraki leader giving her a fearsome army. The Dothraki are a brutal tribe who kill almost anything and everything that gets in the way of their goal.

The King worries that the two Targaryen siblings with their new alliance with the Dothraki might be planning an attack. To make matters worse it has been discovered that they also possess the three remaining dragon eggs. Though these eggs had not hatched for centuries the King is not willing to take any risk and wishes to see the threat eliminated immediately.

However there are many in the committee who believe such an act as is not necessary and that the Targaryen siblings are merely children. Those who adopt this stance are led by their strong sense of justice and high moral values. There are also those who wish to actually aid the Targaryens and doing so requires them to be very subtle in their arguments. Finally like House Baratheon many would want to see the Targaryen children eliminated immediately.

When debating over this pertinent issue delegates must keep in mind that they are representing their respective houses. Their statements should not contradict their character's personality or ideologies. If a delegate is required to be stubborn then he/she must do so. However, bear in mind a good delegate will be able to convince most people towards his side even if it is a neutral one.

For this issue the following questions could be raised:

- Should an army be sent to attack the Targaryens and the Dothraki?
- Should the defense of the Seven Kingdoms be improved?
- Should an assassin be sent?



- Should they be left alone?
- Should negotiations be made with the savage Dothraki?

## 2) Prevention of Future Rebellions

In light of the Greyjoy Rebellion and growing popular dissatisfaction with his rule, the King is worried that those professing loyalty to him may eventually rebel. His Hand worries too, as he knows that King Robert is not acting as a true ruler. However everyone lacks the courage to say that to the King so alternatives must be proposed and discussed in the council.

Some actually argue that the rights of nobles should be increased and so should their powers be. They should be given the same rights as their ancestors were as Kings of separate areas. This debate could potentially lead on by some Council Members arguing that they be made Kings of their separate areas of jurisdiction. However that is something which King Robert is not willing to accept as that may lead into a greater decline of his power and authority. The Houses from the most culturally distinct regions of Westeros – The Iron Islands, The North, and Dorne – tend to be the most in favour of such a proposal.

Instead the King and a few of his loyal allies propose that the government be completely centralized and that the powers of the major Houses should be greatly reduced. The power of Wardens should be reduced as well and all important decisions should be made from King's Landing. The King would possibly want to reduce the powers of most of the lords to such an extent that they barely have any armies of their own. However, to carry this out a proper plan has to be formulated. Some lords would actually be in favor of this plan provided that the King recognizes their submission and loyalty. In return they would want a reward from the King. What could that reward be?

At the end there would also be a neutral side which would want things to stay as they are. They would neither want neither a greater concentration of power in the hands of the King, nor for the granting of greater regional autonomy to the major Houses. These people prefer the status quo.

It is the responsibility of an individual delegate to determine what his/her respective character would most likely want. Proper research would show that some would actually value their alliance with the King more than their lust for power. However, some would have a completely opposite stance. Please be careful when making a decision.

In the midst of this commotion Balon Greyjoy has also demanded that his last son Theon be returned to him. Should he be kept hostage or should he be released?

The following are a few questions that delegates should consider over formal debate:

- Should the government be centralized?
- Should Lords be stripped of their titles and powers?
- Should the ancestral system of Kingship be restarted?
- What is to be done of Theon Greyjoy?

### **3) Preparation for the End of Long Summer**

At the current moment the citizens of the Seven Kingdoms are experiencing a long summer. Such a summer has never been experienced before and many fear that the end of this summer will bring a longer winter.

The winters are known to be severe and harsh. This causes the Hand to worry about the citizens of Westeros and he would like the council to debate on this issue significantly.

During the winter, crops will be destroyed easily and this could lead to possible starvation. The King looks upon the council for providing possible alternatives to prevent starvation from occurring. Could new farming techniques be practiced? Should the focus

be shifted more on meat? Should foodstuffs be stockpiled, and if so how are these to be requisitioned? How will the less fortunate citizens of Westeros be accommodated?

Though this may appear to be common sense but a harsher winter means a brutally cold weather. How will peasants be kept warm? Should the budget of the capital be focused on developing strong shelters for providing comfort and warmth during the months to come? Should more trees be cut down to provide enough wood for fire (as cutting trees during the winters will not be an easy task)?

It has also been rumored that if a long winter were to follow the sun would barely ever rise and it will be dark for most of the time. This may result in an increased proportion of thefts and attacks from bandits. It is up to the committee to come up with viable solutions to counteract this problem. Should the guard system be improved?

Additionally, the chances of having wildling attacks might increase. Should resources instead be allocated to the Wall and should more men be forced to join the Night's Watch?

The following are a few of the above mentioned problems:

- Destruction of crops and possible starvation
- Need for a better shelters
- Preventing crimes
- Improving defense system against Wildlings

#### **4) Finding suitable marriage partners for the royal children**

The Queen is worried about the future of her children and unlike her husband, wants to see them married to suitable partners. The reason behind this is actually quite political.

Who is to marry the Crown Prince, Joffrey? Evidently many would want to marry their daughters to him, but who would the royal family and their allies choose? This is actually more strategic than it appears to be, for the House whose daughter is chosen will gain great prestige and influence from having a future queen. Moreover, the royal family will have to ensure that their match is of high status and is powerful enough to make the marriage a mutually-beneficial political alliance.

Prince Tommen and Princess Myrcella, though younger than Joffrey, are also in need of betrothals. While neither will rule, barring the death of Joffrey, they too must be married to those of high status.

In the process marriage partners could be found for the sons and daughters of lords and ladies. Many would want to either improve their relations or build new ones.

Reaching a viable solution for this topic does not necessarily mean following whatever happens in the novels. Different decisions could be made by delegates as long as they do not contradict their characters' stances.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q – How will decisions be made in the committee?**

A – The normal procedure for Model United Nation Conferences will be followed. Delegates will start with Working Papers and work their way to Draft Resolutions. Each draft resolution will be voted on and if passed it will be added to The Treaty of Westeros as an individual clause. Each Draft Resolution is expected to address one problem. Delegates may pass any number of clauses they like, and this number will vary depending on whether they create a few large clauses or many smaller ones. The number of draft resolutions expected is relatively high; however, their size doesn't have to be of the usual length. Please refrain from however making exceedingly short or unnecessarily long draft resolutions. A draft resolution should be precise and concise. During the last session a motion to ratify the Treaty of Westeros will be entertained which will then determine the outcome of the Council of the Seven Kingdoms.

**Q- Can I bring my laptop to the committee?**

A – Yes, you can bring your laptop, but you cannot use it during formal debate. The only time the use of a laptop will be allowed will be during un-moderated caucuses and when outside the committee room. Remember, it will be taken against you if you are caught using social networks such as Facebook, Twitter etc during the committee.

**Q- Can I dress up according to my character?**

A – Although all delegates are required to be dressed in Western business attire an exemption can be made for this committee. So yes, you can wear costumes if you really want to. However, the only reason for you wearing one would be to better portray your character's personality and not for your own personal amusement. You are *by no means required* to dress in costume, however if you choose not to you are expected to wear Western business attire.

**Q- How would I communicate with my fellow delegates during the committee session?**

A – You will be allowed to pass chits as long as you do not disturb the rest of the committee. What you write on the chit paper must be strictly restricted to the issues regarding the council.