

## **Greco-Persian War:**

### **Introduction:**

Welcome to the Capistrano Valley Model United Nations Conference for 2024. You are in the Greco-Persian War Crisis Committee where you will work with or against fellow delegates to solve this issue.

Hi, my name is Rodin Rashidian! This is my second year at MUN. My favorite subjects are history, biology, and technology. Outside of school, I enjoy hanging out with friends, skiing, and hockey. I play video games, but only on the PC that I built and designed. I like to use Steam and Opera GX. I am looking forward to co-chairing your committee and seeing your creative solutions!

### **General Background:**

As delegates part of the Greco-Persian war, it is your duty to navigate tensions within Ancient Greece between city-states, Sparta, Athens, and Corinth, while engaging in conflict with Ancient Persia. You will be placed in the year 490 BCE, following the battle of Marathon: the first invasion of Greece by Persia. Delegates, you will utilize your character's position and role in society to influence the future of Ancient Greece. We trust that your research and knowledge of your character will be able to lead you to support the agenda of Greece and your individual city-state. It is important that your character stays true to their city-state's political values as conflict may arise between city-states.

Remember, history after the Battle of Marathon in 490 BCE does not exist yet. Changes to history in this committee will be in the form of personal directives and group directives. Personal directives will push for the agenda of your individual character within their city-state (each with its own political interests). Group directives are formed from all delegates of Greece

arriving at a consensus and submitting a directive to the Crisis Gods. Both personal and group directives will have a direct influence on the war. Please note that not all directives can and will pass, and we will not be creating resolutions in this committee -only directives. Be creative (including out-of-the-box directives). We look forward to an exciting day of debate!

Instigated by economic burdens and disappointment in the Persian Empire, an Ionian revolt was supported by Athens, resulting in the destruction of a Persian capital city, Sardis. In 492 BCE, the Persian army, led by Darius I, invaded Greece in an attempt to punish the city-states of Eretria and Athens for its support of the Ionian revolt against Persian rule. This invasion resulted in Persian victory in Thrace and Macedon, but failure to capture Athens, encouraging a further damaged relationship between Persia and Greece, and decimating possibilities of an early resolution. In September 490 BCE, a battle fought on the Marathon plain of northeastern Attica forced a combined force of Greek hoplites to defend Greece from another persistent Persian invasion.

While venturing deep into Greek territory, the Persians destroyed one of their biggest enemies, the Eretrians, but when moving to attack Athens at the bay of Marathon, the Greeks successfully defended their territory and pushed Persian armies back to Asia. Delegates, from the result of the Battle of Marathon and the retreat of Persia will you continue to resolve this conflict and support Greece? As Persia prepares for a new strike into Greece, prepare to meet the looming armed land and naval conflict while representing Grecian prominent figures with contradicting personal agendas.

### **Positions/Individuals**

#### **Athens:**

- Themistocles

<https://www.livius.org/articles/person/themistocles/>

- Ephialtes

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ephialtes-Greek-politician>

- Pericles

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pericles-Athenian-statesman>

- Cimon

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cimon>

- Miltiades

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Miltiades-the-Younger>

- Pheidippides

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pheidippides>

- Aristides

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Aristotle>

- Cleisthenes

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cleisthenes-of-Athens>

### **Sparta:**

- Protagoras

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/protagoras/>

- Leonidas I

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Leonidas-king-of-Sparta>

- Xanthippus

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.04.0104%3Aentry%3Dxanthippus-bio-3>

- Cleomenes I

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cleomenes-I>

- Gorgo

<https://www.greekboston.com/culture/ancient-history/gorgo/>

- Gorgias

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/early-greek-political-thought-from-homer-to-the-sophists/gorgias/275C9972174E1A64C3F001E655B66F98>

- Aristodemus

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Aristodemus>

- Pausanias the Regent

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pausanias-Greek-military-officer>

### **Corinth:**

- Adeimantus

<https://www.hellenicaworld.com/Greece/Person/en/Adeimantos.html>

- Euclid of Megara

<https://www.hellenicaworld.com/Greece/Person/en/EuclidOfMegara.html>

### **Questions to Consider**

1. What was the turning point of the Greco-Persian Wars before 480 BCE/what points signified a turning era of the war?

2. What other solutions can be closely similar to the actions of Xerxes I in 480 BCE?
3. What does your character closely believe on the issue and side they're connected to, and to what extent do their ideas form useful solutions, what are they?