

DELIAN LEAGUE

The Archidamian War, The Decelean War,
and Persian diplomacy



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Greetings, and welcome to GECMUN III. My name is Je Woo Han, and I will be your director (aka Head Chair) for the Delian League Committee. I am currently a Junior at KISJ, and I like to immerse myself in my school's theatre and MUN program. I sincerely want to be able to show you guys my genuine passion and interest in MUN, and I hope that you guys will similarly be able express your personality and common love for educated debate through this opportunity. This committee will be a very interesting one, you guys as the delegates can change history, for the better, or catastrophically. Serving as your Director, I hope to balance difficulty through interesting crisis updates that will hopefully drive you guys to cooperate and work together. I am really excited for this conference, and I promise you that it will be a memorable experience. Please email me, or my Chair Hyun Ji, any questions you have regarding anything to do with GECMUN III. Good luck on preparing for the conference, and see you all there!

Je Woo Han, Director (jwhan18@kis.ac)

Welcome fellow delegates to GECMUN III. This is your chair, HyunJi Kim. I am delighted to invite you to the Delian League Committee, where the delegates shall have the opportunity to rewind time and go back in the past to warp history. The committee is distinctive from other MUN committees, as the agendas are based upon real historical events. The crises, albeit somewhat fictitious, will facilitate the debate and challenge the delegates to cope with the unexpected incidents in an adroit manner. With my fellow director, Je Woo, I will strive hard to provide all the delegates with a unforgettable experience throughout the conference. I hope that, starting from participating in GECMUN III, you will step out of your comfort zone to voice interesting, innovative opinions. My greatest interest lies in civil education, which reflects my passion in peace, NGO activities, and human rights. I am also a dancer as well as actor whose stage persona has been developed through multiple stage and directing experiences. Charing MUN is my another big leap forward for me as a learner, and I am looking forward to meeting every single delegate. Feel free to approach me via email with any inquiries.

Now, the history is in your hands. Good Luck delegates!

Hyun Ji Kim, Chair (kimhyunji00975@branksome.asia)

INTRODUCTION

The Delian League was an alliance forged by Athens precluding the Peloponnesian war. It was a league created with motivations to create a more stable alliance between the citystates, in the case of another potential Persian invasion. It was also created to properly disperse the spoils of war brought by Persia's defeat in the GrecoPersian war, as evidenced by the Delian League being named after the holy island of Delos where the united treasury was established; additionally, the alliance was an attempt to unify all citystates economies to expand and grow in power together.

Headed by historian/general Thucydides and previously Pericles (until he passed away), the Delian League functioned through economic contributions by its patron/allied citystates, or military contributions that gave way to potential expansion. Delegates of the Delian League had the authority to decide tax rates, distribution of economic assets such as trade and resources, authorization of military expansion, and diplomacy with foreign nations.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

To understand the formation of the Delian League and the unstable political inequities that it led to, the GrecoPersian wars must be first considered as the prelude crisis that drove the citystates together. The GrecoPersian war was a war fought between the united Greek citystates against the Persian army led by Darius the Great. The reason the war initially broke out is quite elongated, beginning with Persia's previous ruler Cyrus the Great, 50 years ago. Cyrus the Great, during the era of massive military expansion by Persia, went and conquered Ionia.

Ionia was a Greek land where despite it being farther into the AsiaMinor, (and thus quite a ways away from the Greek mainland) the people living there retained undiluted Greek customs and tradition, including speaking Greek. When Cyrus the Great expanded Persian territory to engulf Ionia, he had great trouble administering and uniting the otherwise separated citystate lifestyle the people were used to. So, Cyrus promoted rulers to keep each citystate in check. They did this with harsh regulations and acts to sodomize the Greek culture and replace it with a Persian one. This was met with retaliation from the Ionians who were given military support from Athens, and they were ultimately successful in liberating Ionia from Persian influence. This initial revolt by the Ionians angered the later leader of Persia Darius the Great, (aka Darius I) he decided to sail across the Aegean for the sake of invading Greece as revenge for interfering in Persian expansion. This invasion was met with a shaky alliance of the Greek citystates out of desperation as Persian forces outnumbered the individual citystates, unity was the only option if they were to have a chance at defeating Persia. The first GrecoPersian war 'ended' with the death of Darius the Great, his son, Xerxes I immediately started the 'second' GrecoPersian war. Xerxes was adamant on conquering the whole of Greece, he mustered an even larger army and invaded Greece; and he successfully defeated the united Greeks on many fronts, even capturing and destroyed Athens for a while. Fortunately, in a decisive victory at Salamis, the Greeks were able to repel the Persian forces and stop the Persian offensive for good. In order to rebuild and prepare for another potential Persian invasion, Athens created the Delian League.

CURRENT SITUATION

In present time tensions are high, a list of problems still plague a war torn Greece such as; a destroyed Athens, retreated Persians still resiliently rebuilding power, Sparta (being the other dominant citystate during the GrecoPersian wars) demanding reparations for war contributions and reevaluation of citystate's sovereignty rights within the Delian League. After the war, Athenian redevelopment projects were looked unfavourably by other citystates. Pericles, being a general during the GrecoPersian Wars, proposed many extravagant architecture projects to recreate Athens even more grandiose than before. This included the construction of a huge wall surrounding Athens Piraeus, a port city crucial in Athenian naval operations.

This was seen as an violation to the thirtyyears peace treaty signed by all the participating Greek citystates after the Persians were driven out, despite the different delegations of the league Athens continued it's construction to completion. This naval pressure, that Athens made quite noticeable, can be further exemplified by Athenian naval interference in Corinthian expansion operations at the battle of Sybota. Corinth expressed its disapproval as Athens directly violated the thirtyyears peace treaty and requested changes made in the Delian League's member state's sovereignty rights, this was completely ignored by the Athenian council. Political tensions were also prevalent among the Delian League members. As the united Greek citystates governments dissipated back to their individual citystates, the previous civil battle of ruling ideology began again.

The Oligarchic Spartans and the democratic Athenian government had constant conflicts during decision making processes within the League. Due to the thirtyyears peace treaty binding both 'sides' against civil battle, Athenian expansion for resources and territory was done indirectly outside the breadth of the treaty, as to not provoke Spartan or other citystates confrontation; this lead to many controversies furthering skepticism from the other citystates on if really the profitable aspects of the treaties were mainly going towards Athens and not the other citystates that equally need it.

The Delian League runs on a tribute system, where citystates could either contribute military assets like soldiers, or contribute in the form of funding and resources such as ships and assistance through manpower. Some from other powerful citystates contributing to the cause of preparing against another potential Persian invasion, and the rest from indentured lands subjugated by a newly bolstered Athenian military that basically forced them into membership within the league. The reason that this form of tribute was so difficult on the smaller citystates was because that being considerably weaker in military might compared to Athens, they were disinclined to simply give away valuable troops, thus having to contribute through economic means. This lead to a vicious cycle where Athens would constantly reap benefits from the citystates never having enough surplus funding to build up a stronger military after the war, and because it could not give existing military assets instead of the funds, they had no way out. This was not a big problem to the bigger citystates, but the

fact that Athens was using all those 'tribute' funds to motivate its own expansion projects instead of rebuilding the economies of the Greek citystates was of concern. The Thasian revolt was an example of the breaking point within the Delian League where Thasos would attempt to break away from Delian League membership. The extensive taxation and tribute collection from the Athenian government and misappropriated use of those funds is likely what provoked the rebellion, this shows the extent in which Athens abused its leadership authority within the the Delian League. Recalling the fact that the Delian League treasury was located in the Athenian territory of Delos did not help support Athen's reputation.

Not all of the tribute funds were used for rebuilding =Athens and its powerful navy, infact most of the funds were actually attributed to the 'Delian League' counter attacking Persia. This counterinvasion was really for the sake of property expansion for Athens, where it could go along and 'liberate' citystates from Persian control and effectively create another proxy to siphon funding from. This rapid expansion was also for the purpose of reintegrating Ionia back to Greece, as exemplified with Athens starting with the expansion all the way to Mycale and eventually even the strategically located Byzantium (controlling the Black Sea and the communal straits) proved obvious to Sparta that Athens meant more than just to take back Greek territory further away from the homeland. This can be seen as the first rifts created between Sparta and Athens, because of this over-extension, Sparta dropped out of assisting Athens in further expansion into the Asianminor territory.

The climax of the continuing conflicts comes in the form of Sparta reimbursing the Peloponnesian league. In Greek history, the Peloponnesian league was created as a pseudosect within the united Greek citystates. Even before the GrecoPersian Wars, the two dominant forces were Athens and Sparta, both having respective allies; Sparta's alliance being called the Peloponnesian league. The reason the Peloponnesian league is especially significant in this time is because in light of growing Spartan (and allied citystates) concerns over Athen's aggressive expansion and selfish use of Delian League funds, it was put back into a place of prominence when such things like the thirtyyears peace treaty was active.

Within this committee; however, changes could be made. Whether the creation of the Peloponnesian league could be pacified immediately by making reformations to the Delian league, or through direct military confrontation in the form of an 'Peloponnesian War' is up to the delegates actions. The committee itself begins with Corinth (another larger citystate) openly expressing its grievances with Athenian actions and affiliating Corinth with Sparta's Peloponnesian League, thus if there even is a Peloponnesian War is highly dependant on the delegates actions.

The reason the committee begins in this specific time period, is due to the unpredictability of the newly reinvigorated Peloponnesian League. The Spartans leading the Peloponnesian may employ intricate strategies for the sake of defeating Athens and its allies, this is not limited too allying themselves with the Persians. The Persians would be very open to this appeal for collaboration, Athenian expansion further into the AsiaMinor

has taken more territory away from the Persians than what they started before invading the Greek mainland; more reasons to assist the Peloponnesians in destroying the Delian league.

Overall, the most important things to take away from the current situation can be summed up by the following:

1. Athens is in a powerful, but delicate relationship with other Greek citystates.
2. Previous Athenian actions against the wills of other citystates despite the 30 years peace treaty has put the integrity of the Delian League at risk.
3. Sparta has officially reimbursed the Peloponnesian league, could be a potential coalition against the Delian League.
4. Persia is always ready to cooperate with other citystates to destroy Athens, even if they may not be able to conquer all of Greece as they previously attempted.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

The Spartans will resort to any method necessary to defeat the Delian League, whether this be through political pressuring or direct military confrontations. The Peloponnesian league operates as a partnership, where in turn of Sparta leading the league and protecting the other states, they invest in Spartan operations. This is under the direct sovereignty of the Spartan oligarchy, and with it comes a huge amount of responsibility to the Spartans.

This is to the benefit of the investing 'partner' citystates as they could pressure the Spartan king's to somewhat conform to their agendas without having to face direct consequences if something goes wrong; however, this could be a potential exploitative point for the Delian League. The Athenian government is governed by democracy, this also applies to the Delian League where all member citystates share a certain amount of direct input on the Delian League's actions. Despite many cases of Athens ignoring the smaller 'tribute citystate's' votes, many smaller citystates are more inclined to participate in a league with direct representation. If the Spartans act out of line they are most likely to lose allies, while in the Delian League most citystates are alluded to believing that they still have some amount of input.

Athens could potentially utilize this as an attempt to disunify the Peloponnesian league. An example case would be appealing to other, smaller, citystates within the Peloponnesian league to change affiliation if Sparta is to collaborate with Persia. This form of political pressuring could easily alienate Sparta away from the rest of the Peloponnesian league, either getting more allies for the Delian League; or at least creating neutral citystates for the time being.

Currently as it stands, Sparta has the greatest military asset ever known to the Greek peninsula, Spartan hoplites. Sparta will no doubt be inclined to employ its military for landbased operations, thus The Delian League must come up with alternate solutions to dealing with their infantry prowess. When military skirmishes are inevitable, it is advisable that the Delian League invests in the equally powerful Athenian navy and avoid head-on infantry confrontation. Improving ports and funding further developments of naval assets could be crucial when it comes to defeating the Spartans.

One crucial flaw to this otherwise obvious tactic, is the fact that if Sparta is to be allied with the Persians, The Delian League's advantages are completely gone. Not only will Athens be outnumbered and outclassed on the field, but also on the sea. Overinvestment may lead to a complete disaster if The Delian League is to hold out against a united force of Persia and Sparta, in this case seeking alternative solutions and utilizing the funds differently is advisable.

Athens during this time of crisis must be wary, as true allies are hard to come by. Raising funds for Athenian development projects, or even actually appropriating such funds for the use of The Delian League must be done with caution. As it stands, the primary source of Delian League funding comes from Athens 'tribute citystates'. 'Honoring' them with a seat in the Delian League meetings, Athens has effectively siphoned their resources without necessarily considering any of their requests.

Another, more farfetched potential solution, could be attempting to prevent the war from happening in the first place. This could be done through changing Athenian policies when it comes to governing the Delian League. Some changes and actions may be satisfying the 30 years peace treaty, distributing reparations for Athens' misappropriation of Delian League funds, and stopping the expansion of Athenian territory through conquest into the Asia Minor.

These are legislative changes that will most likely be very difficult to universally agree to and carry out, because it will make all of Athens' selfstrengthening efforts to go to waste. As it stands, Athens has become very powerful due to profiting off of other citystates after the GrecoPersian war. It is also considerable that Athens and the Delian League are capable of sustaining another war, being powerful enough to even repel a Persian coalition with the Peloponnese.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In the light of another potential Persian invasion in alliance with Athens enemies, what resources would it take to fight another war right after fighting the GrecoPersian war?
2. Considering consequences of the GrecoPersian war, how will the Greek citystates disseminate the spoils of war?
3. Considering Athens' large role in provoking Persia to invade in the GrecoPersian war in the first place, how will the other citystates view the Athenian council during another potential time of crisis? (If what drove and united the Greek city states together originally was due to circumstance and not deliberate cooperation)
4. How much (As the Athenian council) should Athens prioritize improving its own infrastructure over offering support to its neighbouring citystates within the Delian League?
5. Is there the potential of the Peloponnesian war being prevented completely?
6. What are the Spartans motives for reimbursing the Peloponnesian league?
7. Is the Persian threat truly gone? If not, could they stand to be a problem united with the Peloponnesian league?

CITATIONS/ RESEARCH LINKS

<http://www.livius.org/articles/concept/peloponnesianleague/>

<https://ehistory.osu.edu/articles/ionianrevolt>

<http://scorpionsocialstudies.wikispaces.com/Peloponnesian+War>

http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/history/21h301theancientworldgreecefall2004/assignments/fin_pap_pwar_dne.pdf (well researched paper that helps organize the events of the Peloponnesian War)

http://www.ancient.eu/Peloponnesian_War/

<http://www.ancientgreece.com/s/PeloponnesianWar/>

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.04.0009%3Achapter%3D12>

<https://europeanhistory.boisestate.edu/westciv/peloponn/>