

Roads to Rome

Background Guide

GWCIA XXXI

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Technology Policy — Crisis & Historical/Specialized

Using technology is prohibited in GWCIA historical/specialized and crisis committees, unless a delegate has an approved accommodation. GWCIA will provide delegates with one white legal pad and a pen that they may use to write notes if they wish. Delegates are free to bring their own additional notepads, staplers, pens, Post-Its, or other supplies, as these will not be provided.

Plagiarism, Pre-Writing & AI Policy

All pre-written, plagiarized, or AI-generated content, which can include working papers, draft resolutions, directives, or crisis notes, is strictly prohibited at GWCIA. Pre-writing constitutes any language or content that was written outside of unmoderated caucuses in general assemblies and outside of when debate is formally opened in crisis committees. This means that creating content before or after committee sessions or during moderated caucuses in assemblies & specialized committees is pre-writing. Writing during USG feedback or announcements or during guest speakers equally constitutes pre-writing. All dais members and undersecretaries general are specifically instructed to monitor for pre-writing by checking typed and written materials that delegates may have prepared before the conference if potential pre-writing is suspected. By participating in GWCIA, your delegation acknowledges that they understand this policy and the consequences if it is broken. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, verbatim or near-verbatim copying and pasting from academic sources or other websites. Any delegate found guilty of pre-writing, plagiarism, or flagrant AI usage will be immediately disqualified from any award in their committee. The GWCIA Secretariat reserves the right to search computers and laptops, notebooks and binders, USBs, and any form of electronics for Model UN specific documents in response to allegations. They additionally reserve the discretion to run any content through an AI detector. In order to report a case of substantive misconduct, please see the anonymous misconduct form on our Conduct Policies page or contact a member of the Secretariat.

Awards Policy

While GWCIA recognizes that the core value of participating in any Model UN committee is education in international affairs and the development of related skills such as productive collaboration, public speaking, and critical thinking, we also recognize the value of rewarding delegates who are exceptionally prepared and proficient in these skills. At GWCIA, we value delegates who can leverage creativity, diplomacy, substantive knowledge, and critical thinking skills to debate effectively, lead negotiations and blocs, and write comprehensive clauses. We especially look favorably towards delegates who individually develop meaningful solutions to the committee's main issues while keeping in mind the realistic diplomatic dynamics of our world, as well as those delegates who are able to advocate for their solutions and ideas to be adopted. The dais encourages delegates to lead in a manner that uplifts and respects their competitors while also introducing strong, unique solutions that consistently anchor their group's directive or working paper. On the other hand, attempts to undermine the goals of the committee without reason or acting without detailed thought of consequences are discouraged. Any rude, disrespectful, or demeaning conduct towards other delegates' ideas will not be tolerated.

Letter from the Chair & Crisis Director

Dear Delegates,

I am excited to welcome you to this year's GWCIA and specifically the Roman Historical Crisis committee. I am excited to serve as Chair for this year's conference. In this committee we will examine the late Roman republic and the role of factionalism and the want of power in times of Crisis. I look forward to getting to see how each and every one of you interpret these topics and learn about the need for cooperation in times of crisis. When thinking about why I chose to do this committee and the issues that may arise in tackling this topic, the interplay of personal gain and ego kept coming back to me. When looking at these historical figures and how they acted, the standout nature was their self-centeredness, as these people were led down the path they chose based on acting for themselves. I hope in choosing this topic as a committee we can see how a different play of events would have taken place with different people.

What I value most in the committee is the importance of diplomacy as well as working with one another. This is a topic that is meant to divide people and cause hostility. The topic debated is on other delegates' positions with people on offense and defensive. With a committee like this and a topic like this there will be front runners and people who take charge, but what I am looking for at the end of the day is what you can do with your lot. Some people are bigger players than others and will be more involved than others, but by working together and in coalitions, how can your voice be heard? From the example of Cicero, those who self-aggrandize aren't usually successful, but those who are rational and work the system from behind succeed.

All the Best,

Ethan Teich

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Reminder: Delegates must CC their advisor on any email sent to the Chair or Crisis Director.

Overview of Committee Procedure

Procedure

All Roads Lead to Rome: The Roman Senate, 44 BC uses a specialized crisis procedure that blends elements of both General Assembly and Crisis debate to create a dynamic, fast-paced committee experience. Instead of drafting one long resolution over the course of the conference, delegates will write multiple shorter directives. Once submitted to the dais and passed, these directives will affect the committee in real time and shape future crisis updates. Debate will include moderated caucuses, unmoderated caucuses, and round robins, like a Crisis front room. However, Specialized committees will not use a backroom, so delegates should not expect to send crisis notes. This format is designed to emphasize debate, encourage interaction between characters, and keep the committee grounded in its historical setting..

Introduction to the Committee

All Roads Lead to Rome: The Roman Senate, 44 BC is a historical crisis committee centered on the final years of the Roman Republic. The committee is focused around looking at the aftermath of the death of Caesar. What will become of the legislation he passed? What will happen to the people he appointed to political office? The goals of the two are either to restore the republic or let it crumble. A major looming issue is that the Roman military has not been paid for 30 years and is desperately in need of money. Rome is just coming out of famine and whether Caesar's grain reform will be passed weighs heavy on everyone's minds. Finally, who will oversee Caesar after his death. You take on the role of a Senator in the Late Republic Senate to solve this pressing matter under the leadership of the emergency elected Consuls** (your chairs) to engage in discussion and fast paced debate.

Committee Description

The Roman senate is the chief advising body of the Roman republic. Made up of the chief leaders from the Roman aristocratic families called the patricians, they are the wealthiest members of Roman societies. All members of the Roman senate are Roman citizens and either live within the city of Rome or on the Italian peninsula.

The Roman senate is one of the earliest and oldest institutions within the republic. The foundation of the Roman civilization was built around the senate. The Senate has predated the founding of the republic and existed previously under monarchy. The Senate was founded by Rome's founder and first king Romulus. He founded the senate as his personal advising body. It continued the role until the contemporary time of the committee. The Roman senate does not have the ability to pass laws. Rather, they advise the elected consuls on their viewpoints and current situation. In reality, at the time the committee is set, the ruling of the senate is considered law and is enacted as they prescribe. However, there is no power they have to overrule the law to hold the consul accountable to actions taken or not taken.

The senate had started off with an original 100 members as the aristocratic advising board. By the time of Caesar, the senate had been expanded to over 300 members. There are no fixed number of senators, and the senate is like a modern legislative branch. Many senators who were appointed never showed up or worked at the senate. There were two ways of being in the senate. For some families, they were given the privilege which followed them through the generations. For all other patricians, they were granted the ability after serving public office. The senate structure supposedly placed a cap on senate terms, but in reality there was no term limit and senators served for life. During the time of Caesar's consulship, years of civil war and fighting had left the number depleted since many of the people holding public office didn't make it to

retirement. The senate membership crisis led to Caesar making hundreds of new senators from personal loyalists. He granted positions and authorities they had not earned under the strict speaking hierarchy of the Roman senate.

The speaking hierarchy of the Roman senate was incredibly strict. Who could speak first was dictated based on family lineage and position within the social order, as well as what previous position the senators had held before they were in the senate. The order of speaking went as follows. The reigning consuls spoke first followed by the ex-consuls. The order went from the most recent serving consuls to least, but since the senate was a lifetime position, a consul who served 10 years ago was able to speak before most others. Then came the reigning praetors and ex-praetors in the same pattern as the consuls. Age was another important factor with the oldest members speaking first. Due to the crisis of senate membership and the Caesarian appointments, everyone was new and most people had been appointed to the position of ex-consul or ex-praetor. So, for this committee, this speaking order will not be followed.

Current Situation

Set in 44 BC after the Death of Julius Caesar, the committee focuses on the Roman senate and the decisions they make about how to handle the situation. For years previously, the Roman Republic had been in a series of civil wars between their leaders fighting for power. This has led to the senate increasingly giving up power to solo dictators. Within the republic, there have been a series of famine and epidemic leading to hunger and death among the people as well as series of displacements leading to overcrowding and high unemployment amongst Rome's poorest citizens. Julius Caesar and his reforms were highly popular with the lower classes of Rome, and he was a very well-liked figure. Many of the reforms of Caesar directly benefited the working classes and poor of Rome while hurting many of those in the ruling class. Roman senators are not elected officials and thus do not need to appeal to the general population; however the patrician class is small, and they are all now related which breeds fear from within.

The rule of Sulla, who was a military general very similar in power to Julius Caesar, used his power for tyranny. This tyrannical rule led to mass slayings called the proscriptions, generating historical anxiety within Rome. Many of the senators had families who were lost during the proscriptions, feeding fear of future killings. In 44 B.C., the vast majority of senators were supporters of Caesar, many of them being personally appointed and the first in their families to serve in the senate. On the other hand, Caesar's opposition comprised families with long histories in the senate and felt that their power was diminished by Caesar.

At the time of the Committee, Caesar's will will not be public knowledge – what is in there and who controls the spread of that information may be pivotal in any claim for power. Important note: Senators do not pass laws but rather propose, commentate, and vote bills which are acted on by the consuls.

Topic 1: The Aftermath of the Ides of March, What to Do With Conspirators?

CONSPIRATORS

The Conspirators had been granted temporary safety and peace under the then acting consul Mark Anthony, but the peace deal was on shaky grounds. Anthony took such action to keep peace within the city, but the conspirators have not been keeping a low profile and the city populace is enraged by their actions. The current agreement is no longer tenable and what will happen next is important.

GOVERNORSHIPS

Many of the people involved were in line to become a governor of a province, the regional executive of a specific region. Governorships come with fixed income and a number of standing legions within the territory. All senators are expected to take governorships, and they can't be held over from term to term. In the year 44 B.C.E., all governorships are getting reappointed with many of the senators expecting to fill them, while the current governors are being recalled back to the senate. Not all governorships are made equally. Some such as Cis-Alpine Gaul and Trans-Alpine Gaul are close to Rome, allowing the Governor to influence the senate, while others like Macedonia, Syria, and Asia Minor are wealthy with large incomes. Almost all of the conspirators had been granted the largest and best provinces; however, under the current situation that may not last.

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Many of the conspirators had been close personal friends of Caesar and were appointed to such positions specifically by him. Under the new situation, that is all in flux and the question on whether they should be there is important to mention. Under the previously noted peace agreement, in exchange for safety, all of Caesar's rulings were kept in place including his appointments. Changing such rulings would put the peace agreement into jeopardy.

CASE STUDY: TYRANNY RULING

Under Roman laws, the ruling of a person as a tyrant makes all of their personally passed legislation null and void. This includes laws, troop movements, and appointments. The ruling of tyranny also banishes them from the empire and strips them of all current and previously held positions.

The peace agreement was signed out of fear of a tyranny ruling against Caesar that would strip all his popular laws and reforms he passed. In doing this, it also kept his appointments in place. However, thought given to if the conspiracy was an act of tyranny could lead to those involved

being stripped of future governorship appointments. If stripped of future appointments, then new candidates could be selected, and any senator could gain a better governorship than previously had.

KEY ISSUES

1. How does the peace agreement get upheld when it is unpopular by everyone? Any change in institutional procedure will lead to the destabilization of the institutions of the republic. However, the agreement is on such shaky grounds that if it continues to be upheld, it may destabilize the empire.
2. Caesar's death is not yet publicly known to the entire empire, but word is quick to spread. The popularity of Caesar to the general public causes issues for any ruling. There may be destabilization if conspirators are appointed in governorships as the populace bucks under their rule. The empire is barely held together as it had years of internal conflict before. More may be a tipping point.
3. Rome is emerging from an unresolved civil war, and there are insurgent groups in the empire that hold vast amounts of territory. Internal tensions may lead to another war that Rome is unable to support given its lack of troops and military financing.

TOPICS TO CONSIDER

- How do we preserve the empire and the place that the conspirators hold within it?
- Who deserves what privileges?
- How does one keep the law of Caesar?
- How does one avoid internal conflict?
- Does the Senate have the ability to rule on such matters?

Topic 2: Caesar's Privileges, Who Will Gain the Positions That The Senators Once Held?

Upon the death of Julius Caesar, a major question for consideration was the future of the powers that were granted to him and the position he took within the senate. Caesar had been granted dictatorial power for life and on March 11th he was the acting consul of the Roman empire. After him, there was no man leading the empire. Both Mark Anthony and Tiberius Brutus have become front runners for their respective faction, but neither of them is fully in charge nor having the power. Caesar left many unfinished projects including paying the legions, the grain provisions, and the Romanizing of Gallic tribes. Whoever inherits his responsibilities will receive a large share of the bureaucracy's power.

ROMAN GAUL

Under the consulships of Caesar, the area of Gaul came under Roman control. The Gallic tribes had been given Roman citizenship and many of the tribal aristocrats had been appointed to the Senate. However, Gaul is still a very distant land compared to the Italian peninsula and the Romanization of the region is tenuous at best. Though considered Rome by the Romans, many of the tribes act indecently and as antagonistic towards Rome as they did before Caesar. Their integration under Rome was a personal project by Caesar, but now that he is gone, the fate of that project is up in the air. Roman Gaul is a wealthy province with many needed tax revenue streams to pay off Rome's debts, but taxation is almost impossible there.

GRAIN DOLE

During the late Roman republic, many of Rome's citizens relied on state provided and subsidized grain for feeding themselves. During the civil war, there were years of devastated grain harvest which led to mass famine and led to the Grain dole (the government grain subsidies) being inadequate. Caesar's domestic policy focused on the Grain dole and reforming it. Rome had begun a few decades earlier, heavily relying on imported Egyptian grain to meet their needs as their farms were unable to keep up with the demand. However, there is still not enough grain to fully go around and meet the needs of the people on the Grain dole. The list of people who were a part of the Grain Dole was supposed to be the poorest Roman citizens, but the list of people on the program had not been updated, leading to many of the people who were once on it now no longer qualifying for the program but still receiving aid. Even after Caesar's consulship, the list and aid program had not been updated and was a work in progress. A lot of this came from the fact that many of the Anti-Caesarians were against the Grain Dole even existing.

THE PAYING OF THE LEGIONS

The Roman legions had been in a series of conflicts for the last couple decades straight. They had not received the pay they were owed and many of the people on retirement were left destitute and flooded the City of Rome, unable to find work. Caesar had been working to pay his legions, but they were never finished. Rome doesn't have the money to pay them and many of the profits went to the expense of the Civil war which just finished. With the campaign in Syria, what will happen – will the legions choose to march?

KEY ISSUES

1. How can the projects of Caesar be carried out without creating a person as powerful as Caesar?
2. Will whoever becomes the person in charge of these projects become the next Caesar?
3. How can the power and responsibilities of Caesar be granted so that it won't create another civil war?

TOPICS TO CONSIDER

- Who will be in charge of Caesar's projects now?
- How will they be administered?
- What are the implications of giving the powers necessary for them to a single person?

CURRENT THEMES

The committee focuses on how to handle division in increasingly polarized times, as well as how actions affect the greater whole. One should be thinking about how cooperation can be fostered across ideological camps. Actions are important in times of crisis, and it is important to focus on the ramifications of actions and decisions made and how they can change the circumstance as time goes on.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR THE ENTIRE COMMITTEE

- Who is going to fill the power vacuum after Caesar?
- What actions if any should be taken against the conspirators?
- Should we prevent another Caesar from coming to power?
- How do we prevent another Civil war happening?
- Who will control the provinces once held by Caesar? What will happen to Cisalpine Gaul?

Character List

Disclaimer: Though all characters are real people and their character traits are based on real people, liberties have been taken and not all the people presented would have known each other or been in the senate with each other at this time. Though research into characters is absolutely appreciated and will greatly help with their portrayals, please base your character portrayals off of their character traits and not how they interacted with each other. This will make the committee more fun and dynamic for everyone.

** Notes on Mark Anthony
The committee understands and is fully aware of the fact that Mark Anthony at the time was Caesar's Co-Consul and took the role of singular consul after his death. However, for the ability to have a Model UN conference based on this time period, he has been demoted to the rank of Senator and two unrelated senators have been elected as consuls in his place (the chairs) in order to create an effective framing narrative.

Mark Anthony, Consul
Anthony was Caesar's right hand man and the most important man in Rome behind Caesar. He controlled part of Caesar's fortune, is deeply unpopular and is seen by some as a tyrant. Seen by the conservatives as not being able to run Rome. He is hoping to become governor of Caesar's former province Cisalpine-Gaul and carry on Caesar's project there.

Octavian, Caesar's adoptive son
He is Caesar's heir. He controls vast fortunes and is a newly appointed member of the Roman senate. No one knows who he is. Deeply loyal to Caesar but has no true allies within the senate. He has a complicated history with Mark Anthony as they both hope to be seen as the next Caesar. He is smart but is not a military man and has little previous experience within the Roman government. As one of the most popular politicians in Rome after just arriving, he wants to lay claim to Caesar's former glory and regain the provinces once owned by Caesar.

Cicero, the most senior senator
Cicero is an elder statesman, and one of the most famous men in Rome. He took down a tyrannical consul in his youth and is seen as a preserver of the Roman republic. He is a very pragmatic and centrist politician. He is deeply respected by the senators, but can be a contentious figure. He was a friend of Caesar and mentor of Octavian, but also a friend of the conspirators. He has been chosen as a representative of the conspirators. He cares little for either party but wants to protect the republic from another civil war.

Marcus Brutus, conspirator
A deeply loyal conspirator. He is the brother of Decimus. He cares for his brother and supports

him through the conspiracy though was not as close to Caesar as his brother, nor as big of a politician. He is hoping to become governor of the province of Macedonia.

Cassius, conspirator and Caesar's protégé
Cassius was one of the closest friends of Caesar. They met consistently and worked together. Caesar was Cassius' mentor before he started the conspiracy. Cassius is a military general and very hot headed. He is seen by others as unable to take charge of politics and be a negotiator but is still in charge of the conspirators.

Brutus Decimus, conspirator, former friend of Caesar
A friend of Caesar and one of the three leading the conspiracy. He is a calm and collected man who cares deeply for the republic. He was a well-known politician at the time and helped many political offices throughout his time. Decimus is the current governor of the province of Macedonia. Decimus is hoping that he can be given safety by the senate and take Cisalpine Gaul which he was hand appointed to by Caesar.

Laboe, conspirator
Laboe was a conspirator, and judge who was friends of the Brutus Brothers. He was an active recruiter for the conspiracy.

Gaius Trebonius, conspirator
Trebonius was a very close friend of both Caesar and Anthony. He directly worked under Caesar in his army. He was appointed to oversee Caesar's debt relief program in Rome. He met both Marcus Rufus and Peregrinus. He distracted Anthony on the Ides of March. He is deeply loyal to Marcus Brutus and Decimus. He is hoping to raise support from the military for their cause.

Tillius Cimber
Cimber is a close trusted friend of Caesar and military general under Caesar. He was a pivotal planner of the conspiracy. Cimber personally held a grudge against Caesar for not helping his brother in exile. He has a coarse personality who is often quick to anger and hold grudges.

Minucius Basilus, former Caesarean conspirator
A former supporter of Caesar. He was once loyal, but now against them. He is a friend of Cicero having written to him often and tells him of the conspiracy. He is a member of the conservative faction of the senate. A supporter of Cato.

Quintus Ligarius, former Pompean
Ligarius is a supporter of Pompey who became an anti-Caesarean in the Senate. His vocal and strong dislike of the reforms of Caesar has made him a strong enemy within the Caesarean faction.

Aquilla
Aquilla was a conspirator who supported Decimus and Cassius. He was a former supporter of Pompey during the civil war and a long-time antagonist of Caesar. He is a hard liner against Caesar and Anthony and won't easily give in to cooperation with them.

Cato, conspirator
Cato is the head of the conservative faction within the Roman senate. He was against Caesar's policies for a long time. He is a vocal advocate for the conspiracy. He is an antagonist to Caesar, Anthony, and Octavian.

Lucceius, centrist
Lucceius is a close friend of Caesar as well as Cicero. Lucceius was a pragmatic centrist politician who was committed to neither party.

Gaius Marius, Caesarean
Marius is Caesar's uncle by marriage and a very close companion and supporter of Caesar. Though not an important senator, his proximity to Caesar and his personal connection make him an influential player.

Lepidus, Caesarean
Caesar's close friend and lead general around Rome. He is a critical support of Caesar and holds large amounts of power by controlling the only forces in Rome. Lepidus is one of the most senior senators in the senate along with Cicero. Through appointment from Anthony Lepidus is the chief priest of Rome as well. He is way beyond retirement and is hoping for a governorship from the senate. The best governorship he could get would be Cisalpine Gaul.

Gaius Oppius, Caesarean
A loyal Caesarian and secretary of Caesar. Manages his personal affairs and has contact with his records. Little of Caesar's personal affairs went through him.

Gaius Antonius, Caesarean
Mark Anthony's younger brother is a strong supporter of his brother and of Caesar. He wants with his brother's help to get appointed the governor of Macedonia.

Peregrinus, anti-Caesarean
Peregrinus is a politician who had campaigned against Caesar and Caesar's reforms, though he was not in on the conspiracy. He was personally brought to financial ruin by Caesar's reforms and wished for them to be erased and the Caesarean party to be gone.

Marcus Rufus, Caesarian
He is a popular orator and politician. He comes from humble Equestrian ancestry. He is hoping

to use the crisis for his own political ambition. He is a supporter of neither side but will use whatever way he can to gain popularity and amass power for himself.

Calpurnia, Caesarean
Caesar's widow, now the most important woman in Rome. She holds the power of acknowledging whoever Caesar's successor will be. She is now the one in possession of Caesar's belongings. The most personal information and papers of Caesar she will have access to. She is hoping to protect the legacy of her husband and protect her safety for herself. Close friend and aunt through the marriage of Anthony, as well as Octavian's now adoptive mother.

Pompeius, Caesarean
Son of General Pompey and nephew of Caesar. A friend of neither side. He is hoping to reclaim the name Pompey. Pompeius is a naval commander and controls the port of Rome. Any food or news hoping to come to Rome by sea must pass through him.

Balbust, Caesarean
Caesar's uncle through marriage, as well as his close friend and confidant. A wealthy landowner outside Rome has personal legions in his name.

Aulus Hirtius, Caesarean
A military commander under Caesar. He is hoping that after he is done with his generalship, he will be able to become governor of Asia Minor, one of the wealthiest provinces in the republic.

Lucius Pinarius Scarpus, Caesarean
A lesser military commander under Caesar. Caesar appointed him as senator.

Quintus Pedius, Caesarean
Gallus, named as one of Caesar's secondary heirs, controls a large amount of his fortune. Close ally to Anthony and Octavian.

Gaius Cornelius Gallus, Caesarean
Gallus, named as one of Caesar's secondary heirs, controls a large amount of his fortune. Close ally to Anthony and Octavian.

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