

THE AGE OF TITANS

BACKGROUND GUIDE
Olympians (O) and Titans (T)

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Throughout this committee, delegates will be engaging in complex debates and discussions covering a wide array of topics. As SSICsim seeks to provide an enriching educational experience that facilitates understanding of the implications of real-world issues, the content of our committees may involve sensitive or controversial subject matter for the purposes of academia and accuracy.

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This Background Guide presents topics that may be distressing to some Delegates, including but not limited to:

- War
- Mentions of Violence
- Mentions of Gore

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DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EQUITY AFFAIRS

LETTER FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to “The Age of Titans!” Long before Pandora released evils unto Earth and Icarus plummeted to his doom, a raging war between the old and new Gods consumed the world. The most common knowledge surrounding Greek mythology is that of the Olympian Gods how they lived and ruled over Earth. However, the Olympians were the last generation to be born, and how they came to be the primary rulers of Ancient Greece is a story equally worth telling.

A prophecy had foretold that Cronus, ruler of the Titans, would one day be defeated and overthrown by his son. To prevent this, Cronus ate all of his children with the exception of Zeus, who managed to survive thanks to his mother’s assistance. After growing up, Zeus rescued his siblings and was determined to overthrow the old generation of Gods, beginning the war known as the Titanomachy.

The stories of Greek mythology are inconsistent. For example, some sources say that Zeus was the oldest child amongst his siblings, while others say the opposite. While preparing for this committee, it is crucial for delegates to read this background guide thoroughly and follow our version of events.

Delegates will have creative liberty when it comes to their actions and use of powers, as long as it aligns with the character guides that we have provided. Greek mythology does not contain much information about some characters beyond their name and appearance. For these characters, we have written personalities and motivations using our own imagination.

We encourage delegates to build off the given character descriptions and use them to their advantage.

In this joint-crisis committee, one team will take up the position of the Olympians and their supporters, and another will take up the position of the Titans. All that is left is to marvel at the wit and power of those who take up the mantle of the victors! Let it be known that those who fight prophecy are most likely to succumb to it.

Good luck!



SANYA TAHER (SHE/HER)
CO-DIRECTOR FOR AGE OF TITANS



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INTRODUCTION

For *The Age of Titans*

“The Theogony”, produced in 700 BCE, was written by the poet, Hesiod. It details how the universe and gods came to be and we will be using this poem as the basis for our committee. Unfortunately, the many stories of Greek mythology have been lost and altered over time.

Therefore, what delegates find in external sources may contradict the information cited in this background guide. When conducting research in preparation for this committee, delegates may also find alternative spellings for character names. We ask that delegates review this background guide carefully, and follow the lore and spelling mentioned.

Within this background guide, you will find the early mythical origins of the universe and its inhabitants. Many of the characters in this delegation are not involved in known myths but don't be bogged down by a lack of information on your character!

We encourage delegates to use their creative liberty to expand on the character guides that we have provided. By reading this document, you will understand the foundation of Greek mythology and you will be fully equipped to tackle the impending challenges facing your delegation.

DEFINITIONS

For *The Age of Titans*

Titan

Children of Uranus and Gaea. There are twelve original Titans, all of whom are delegates in this committee.

Olympian

The newer generation of gods. There are twelve major Olympians, but not all of them are delegates in this committee.

Titanomachy

The war between the Titans and the Olympians. This is the conflict that our committee is set around.

Hecatoncheires

Children of Uranus and Gaea. Three powerful giants with fifty heads each.

Cyclopes

Children of Uranus and Gaea. Three strong one-eyed giants and craftsmen.

Tartarus

A deity and place in the Underworld. It is often used as a prison.

Khaos

The first Primordial god, essentially air.

HISTORY/CONTEXT

The Beginning of Everything

Before the Olympians and the world as we know it, there was Khaos. Khaos was not a person, nor a god, nor even a being, but simply a vast space from which the first elements were created. To understand the beginning of Greek mythology, it is important to first understand how they viewed the Earth and the elements around them. Ancient Greek people did not understand the basic elements through the lens of science, but rather as the basic items that were the foundation of the physical world.

Gaea was the elemental earth. The mother of everything, she was among the first generation of gods. She gave birth to three children on her own: Uranus, Ourea, and Pontus; then took her oldest son, Uranus, as a husband. The two gave birth to eighteen children. A list of their children is outlined below, but the birth order is debated.

The Hecatoncheires → Cottus, Briareos, and Gyges

The Cyclopes → Brontes, Steropes, and Arges

The Titans → Theia, Rhea, Themis, Mnemosyne, Phoebe, Tethys, Oceanus, Coeus, Crius, Hyperion, Iapetus, and Cronus

The Rule of Uranus

Uranus was the first ruler of the universe, and it wasn't long until he angered his wife. Almost as soon as they were born, the Hecatoncheires and the Cyclopes were locked away in Tartarus—a ghastly prison beneath the Earth. Uranus believed them to be grotesque-looking and imperfect. Therefore, he deemed them unworthy of existing and growing up alongside him. Gaea disagreed, sorrowful over their fate. Feeling Uranus wronged her, she was reluctant to conceive more children with him.

Eventually breaking her resolve, Gaea birthed the Titans with Uranus, who more closely matched the vision of perfection he craved. However, Gaea's remorse quickly turned into anger and a desire for revenge. She urged the Titans to turn on their father and crafted a weapon, a flint sickle, for this purpose. Cronus, sympathizing with his mother, was the only one who chose to take up the task.

Together they made a plan to overthrow Uranus. He was castrated, the blood from which created several sets of children, including the Gigantes, the Erinyes, the Meliae, and Aphrodite. Cronus took over as ruler of the universe and all seemed blissful. However, before his downfall, Uranus had prophesized that as Cronus betrayed him, he too would have a son that would one day betray and overthrow him.

The Rule of Cronus

Tortured with the knowledge of his impending doom, Cronus became paranoid and tyrannical as he sought to remain in power. He became all that he had once despised in his father, even going so far as to put his brothers, the Cyclopes and Hecatoncheires, back in the depths of Tartarus.

Rhea, his wife, gave him a total of six children, five of which Cronus consumed soon after their birth. Although Rhea was unable to protect Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades, and Poseidon from her husband's cruelty, she was determined to save her final son, Zeus. When Cronus arrived to claim Zeus, Rhea tricked him by instead feeding him a rock wrapped in the baby's clothes. A fooled Cronus consumed the rock, believing he had staved off the prophecy a while longer. Rhea then smuggled Zeus to the island of Crete, hiding him in a cave to be raised by a goat, Amalthea. After growing up and learning the truth of his heritage, Zeus made plans for revenge. He returned to Cronus' home disguised as a cupbearer. A fellow Titan, Metis, was in love with Zeus and helped him poison his father with mustard mixed into his wine. Cronus vomited all of his children, one by one.

PRESENT ISSUES

After being emitted from Cronus' stomach, the six Olympians find themselves in the home of their feared father. With his immense strength, Cronus strikes Poseidon and Demeter. The two sustain severe injuries and require the help of their siblings to escape. Before their father could bestow another blow, the siblings narrowly escape the palace walls. However, with no other place to call home, Zeus takes his siblings to the island of Crete, where he had been raised. In doing so, Zeus is reunited with his adored goat, Amalthea.

On Crete's Mount Dikte, the Olympians question their next move. Knowing that they are outnumbered and need help and allies, the six siblings devise a plan to free the Cyclopes and Hecatoncheires. Locked up by Cronus, the siblings travel to Tartarus to free them, convincing them to join the Olympians and fight for their cause, thereby evening out the playing field. Despite this, the Olympians question how useful the Cyclopes and Hecatoncheires will truly be, seeing how they have been locked up not just once, but twice, at both the hands of Uranus and Cronus.

The Titans, on the other hand, have yet to make any moves toward the Olympians. They are aware that the Cyclopes and Hecatoncheires have been freed and have joined Zeus, but have not come to a united decision about how to proceed. They are both unsure as to what the Olympians plan to do, whether they will join the Titans or decide to go against them. Both parties still have to decide on next steps, neither being united in what to do. War is, of course, the most obvious and most painful option. A potentially peaceful resolution is less obvious, but likely equally painful. While a conclusion must be reached, it is imperative that each immortal decide for themselves, and that each party be a united front when combatting the other. Remember, a decision must be reached quickly for if one party does not make a decision for themselves, the other may make it for them.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

The Pending War

After freeing his siblings from Cronus and releasing the Cyclopes and Hecatonchires, Zeus relocated everyone to the island of Crete to plan their next move. Zeus is determined to deliver justice to the Titans, removing them from their seats of power and taking his rightful place as ruler of the gods. Zeus wants to go to war with the Titans, and he is steadfast in this decision. However, he needs the support of the other Olympians alongside their allies in order to see this vision through.

The remaining Olympians alongside Zeus's other allies must decide whether they wish to be a part of the plan for war and revenge or if they would rather forge a different path. There is a possibility for civil contact with the Titans to begin the journey to a peaceful resolution, but that requires a desire for peace from both sides. Thus, the Titans too must make the same decision.

Cronus, still driven by the fateful prophecy, does not believe in a peaceful resolution. He is furious at the actions of his youngest son and cannot let the betrayal from his brethren go without retribution. However, he is not the only Titan, and he cannot take the Olympians on by himself. Thus, similarly to Zeus' allies, Cronus' allies must also decide their fate.

It is important to consider that a war would leave only one ruling party, but that peace would require harmony, compromise, and changes in current ruling methods and policies. Each immortal's decision must take into consideration their place in this world, and how peace or war may affect that. Deciding to sue for peace may mean that domains for each immortal become smaller. Immortals must also consider the probability of exclusion from the main ruling party. The immortals' importance may be diminished; thus, they must choose carefully.

Nonetheless, pursuing peace would also avoid a war, allowing the gods a chance to meet and bond with their ancestors. Should this path be pursued, future generations would be able to exist in an age of peace and prosperity.

Ultimately, while each immortal must make their own decision, the decision of the group will decide the fate of this imminent war. So, while each being is deciding for themselves, they must also work to convince others of their point of view. Remember, if one delegation is unable to come up with a decision in a timely manner, it is possible that the other will make it for them.

Questions to Consider:

1. Should the Titans and the Olympians go to war? Can both sides live harmoniously?
2. In the event that a war does not take place, how should realms and power be divided?
3. In the event that war does take place, how should the delegation prepare?

Gaining Allies

As with any other Model UN committee, you will have to rely on your fellow delegates to execute your plans. Accordingly, determining who will be your friend and who will be your foe is critical to your committee's success. Although your committee consists of roughly a dozen delegates on each side, characters outside of the two delegations exist and can be used to your advantage. Convincing these characters to join your cause may just lead you to victory.

Prometheus and Epimetheus

According to Greek mythology, the brothers Prometheus and Epimetheus were the only Titans that fought on the side of Zeus. However, in our committee, the brothers Prometheus and Themis have not yet sided with either delegation. They will be portrayed by our Crisis analysts. Prometheus' name is taken from the word "forethought", while his brother Epimetheus means "afterthought." The former was known for his cunning nature and intellect, while the latter was considered a fool. The brothers share a strong bond and it is likely that if you were to convince one to join your cause, the other would follow suit.

Carefully consider whether or not having Prometheus' strengths are worth Epimetheus' weaknesses.

Family Trees

The Gods of Greek mythology are entangled in a large family tree which can be confusing and inconsistent. The following link will also provide you with a comprehensive overview of all external characters: <https://www.theoi.com/TreeHesiodLatin.html>.

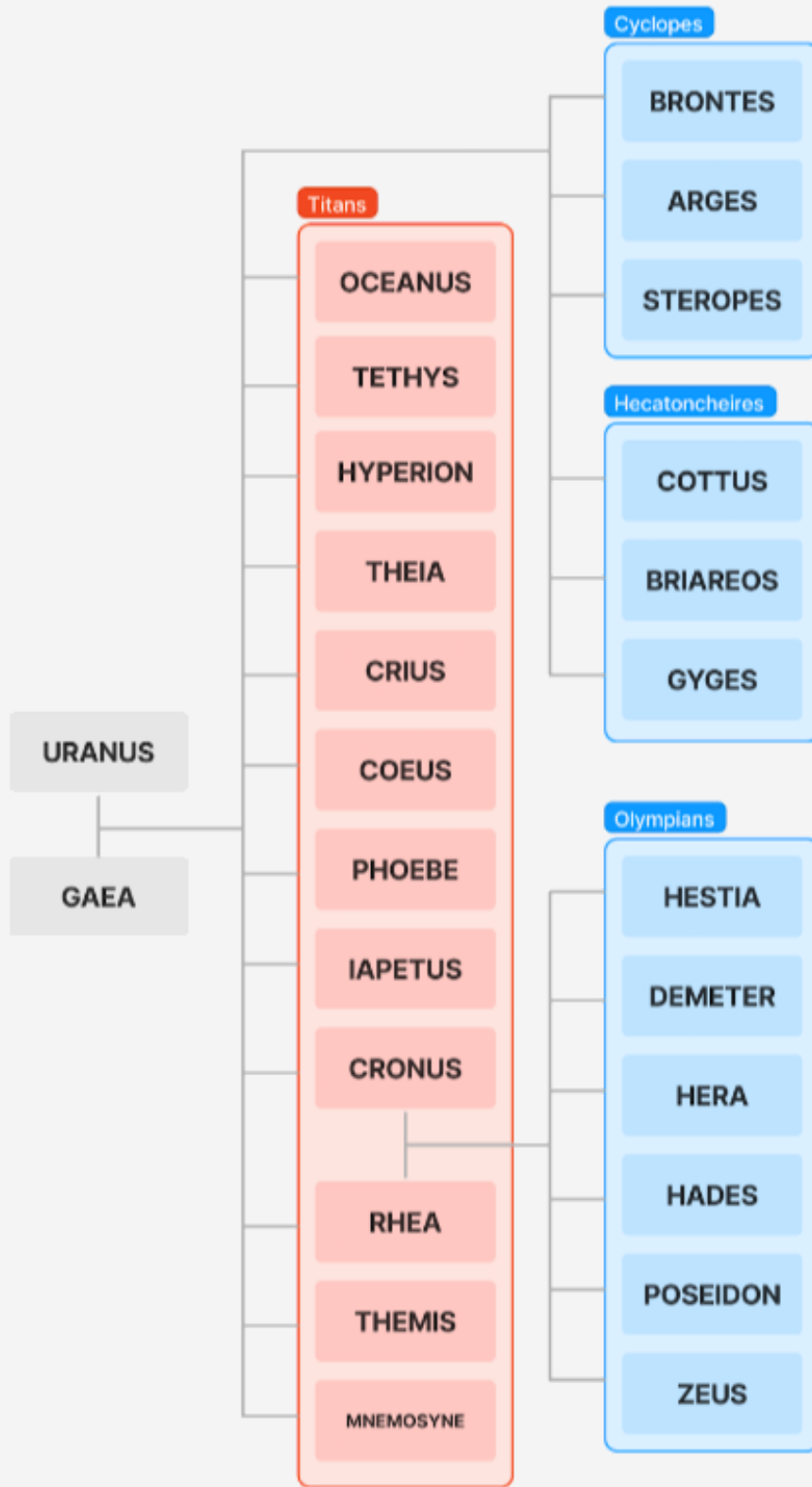
As of now, most of the characters from columns A to D can be contacted via crisis notes. Note that most characters from columns E to G have not been born yet, but may be introduced as the committee progresses.

Delegates are encouraged to contact whoever they deem important to their cause. Please refer to the following simplified family tree on the next page to understand how internal characters (delegates within your committee) are related.

The characters highlighted in red are on the Titan side; the characters highlighted in blue are on the Olympian side.

Questions to Consider:

1. Which external characters can you contact to aid in your war efforts?
2. How will you convince others to join your cause?
3. What should be done about Prometheus and Epimetheus? Are they worth allying with?



The Creation of Humankind

What is the point of a ruling party without subjects to rule? How can it be true that the gods are the most important and powerful beings if there are no weaker and less powerful counterparts to prove it? More importantly, how useful could it be to have a host of creatures that are subservient, loyal, and dedicated to the gods above all else? Or, is it the gods' responsibility solely to protect the Earth and live harmoniously with it? Is it enough to protect the creatures that already exist, and ensure that they always have a place in the gods' world?

The idea of creating mankind has been circling the minds of the gods for some time now, but no definite decision has been reached. It is up to this delegation to decide whether or not they will create humans, and what exactly their place will be in this world. Remember, if humans are created, they will have free will, and the choice to live their lives as they please. They will be unpredictable both in their lives and their interactions with the gods, so it is important to be prepared for that and have plans in place to ensure they fulfill the gods' vision.

The Battleground

Below, you will find a simplified map of Greek mythology. Use this map to plan defensive and offensive efforts, as well as human civilization (Enlarged on next page):





Questions to Consider:

1. How will humans be formed? What abilities and skills will they be given?
2. How much, if any, intelligence and knowledge will they receive?
3. Can humans be used to fight proxy wars on the delegations' behalf?

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