



HTM: EXAMPLE POSITION PAPER

*Note that the below position paper breaks WCMUN's recommended format by being longer than 1 page for **most** conferences and committees. The scenario which this paper was written for had no such restrictions. Furthermore, delegates should remember that all crises are different and will likely call for different optimal position paper formats.*

It must also be noted that this position paper has shortcomings and should not be seen as a "perfect" example. For a delegate's better understanding, they should see the [annotated version](#).

Argos Military Commander
HJCC Bloc 1
Model United Nations Enthusiasts School
Model UN Anonymous Enthusiast

Position Paper for the Historical Joint Crisis Committee

The topic before the HJCC is the Peloponnesian War

For centuries, Greece has been geographically and politically split between countless different city-states. United only by some common general culture, control or dominance of Greece has been sought after by every major Grecian power, those two currently now being Athens and Sparta. For a time, the two, alongside many other city-states, fought together against the foreign power of Persia, but that brief cultural diffusion and interaction of necessity ultimately served to only further highlight and show differences between Greece's various city-states rather than foster unity. Today, those differences have come to a head with the beginnings of conflict between the Delian League, led by Athens, and the Peloponnesian League, led by Sparta. The conflict will be determined by different factors on each side: Athenian diplomacy and finances against Sparta's sheer might, tact, and efficiency. Argos is caught in the middle.

Argos has had an intense rivalry with Sparta since the dawn of time. Being subject to part of Sparta's frequent raids on neighboring city-states and having had two of its provinces enslaved by them, it subsequently developed its own animosity and military strength towards Sparta. Despite this, Sparta's land dominance is indisputable. Argos' forces are reputable, but they reach nowhere near the level of Spartan soldiers. Given that however, Argos' troops are perhaps the Delian League's best hope of defeating Sparta in direct land combat given they've achieved victory against them in the past at the Battle of Hysiae (669 BC) and the Battle of the 300 Champions (546 BC). It has however, been many years since those victories. As such, it's doubtful whether Argos should participate in this conflict at all to maintain their own relatively independent strength and historical neutrality throughout crises such as the Greco-Persian wars.

Argos is currently part of the Delian League. This however, is more out of dislike for Sparta than love of Athens or the rest of Greece. As such, Argos must ultimately look out for its own prosperity and survival rather than outside powers. Although Argos' people, many of its brave soldiers, and some of its leading figures believe Argos' "position [to be] strategically



invulnerable (sic)", the truth is far from such. Although the Spartans and their allies may not currently be able to take Argos due to constant reactionary sallies from the Athenians, the Peloponnesian League otherwise has free reign over Argos' surrounding lands and fields – utter impunity to roam without fear of loss or defeat till an eventual tactical, political, or psychological error on Argos or Athens' part, more inevitable than probable, whereas the Spartans would crush Argos. Sparta's military dominance is once more unquestionable, and Argos' own strength might as well be a candle to a flame, Athens' wick often coming too late. Although it's possible the tide of the war might change during the time Argos holds out for the rest of the league, Argos' future would probably be better secured by following the Spartan proverb of "not trusting everything to Fortune". Therefore, though Argos harbors intense dislike towards Sparta, emotions and history had best be set aside in favor of reality and survival.

Neutrality is preferred: Argos, if it were to participate in this clash of giants, would likely come away bruised and battered without much benefit from either Athenian or Spartan victory. It would merely squander away its own resources, men, and influence, for the cause of alien city-state. However, as this is unlikely, as seen by the case of Thebes, it's most certainly necessary for Argos to throw in its lot with the Peloponnesian League. While in most cases resources and finance should trump a more experienced and equipped military in the long run, Athens' cause is simply too hampered by democratic inefficiencies and self-serving political maneuvering. Their military efforts are furthermore made exponentially more difficult due to their victory conditions requiring key military victories. In contrast, the Spartan's victory conditions again simply revolve around an inevitable, rather than possible, error on the part of the Delian League whereas the Delian League would begin an immediate decline towards defeat. At the end of the day, naval power and diplomacy don't take cities, Spartan spears do. No matter what unlikely victories the Delian League manages, they will always lose in direct land combat against Spartans and that point will always hamper any actions the Delian League takes as long as the Peloponnesian League acts with relative intelligence. Argos' joining of the Peloponnesian League wouldn't be a turning point in the war, but rather just a multiplier of Athens' and its empire's undoubted decline.

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