



ANCIENT CHINA'S SPRING AND AUTUMN PERIOD, 770 BCE

For centuries, the Zhou dynasty, grounded in a web of alliances and underpinned by the Mandate of Heaven, maintained some measure of peace and stability in the heartland of China. Today, Zhou rule is no longer. In 771 BC, the Marquess of Shen joined forces with Zeng and Quanrong barbarians to sack the Zhou capital. With their sacking of the capital and the death of their ruler, the Zhou were driven east—abandoning their lucrative possessions in the Wei valley, and emerging from the turmoil with their power vastly diminished.

On paper, the Zhou continue to rule China from a new capital at Luoyang, though their power is more symbolic than actual. But new modes of social and political organization are eroding Zhou influence and control. As the vassal states assert their autonomy and pursue their own designs, the Zhou states are a plethora of moving parts. The actions of a small state may affect the designs of major powers hundreds of miles away, with consequences that reach years into the future. The ruling families of the major vassal states have considerable power to shape the course of events, but countless actors—from the Zhou ruler to the lowliest of peasants—may play a decisive role in shaping the political and social order that emerges from this chaos.

This committee brings together rulers, diplomats, and generals, but also merchants and inventors, artists and explorers, spies and bandits. In short, this committee brings together a constellation of actors who can chart a path forward for the Zhou states. It is up to you to find a way to coexist and build a civilization that will stand the test of time - or else plunge China into war and chaos until the next great dynasty rises from the ashes.

BACKGROUND GUIDE



RANDY RAMIREZ

CHAIR

Randolph Ramirez, who goes by Randy, is a 4th Year studying Statistics and Political Science. He went to Wilton High School in the Connecticut town of Wilton. This is his fourth year involved with ChoMUN, and his third time chairing. He chaired The Polisario Front of 1973, and in his first year he was AC for Citizens United.

In addition to ChoMUN, Randy is also a Chair for MUNUC, which is the high school MUN conference offered by UChicago. He also serves as President of the UChicago Archery Team, Training Coordinator for the UChicago Chapter of Lean on Me, and is Vice President of Linn-Mathews House. In his spare time, he can be found playing (probably too much) frisbee/smash, or volunteering at Doc Films.

Randy is dedicated to making ChoMUN XXIII the best it can be for delegates. You can contact him at rkramirez@uchicago.edu, with any questions regarding the committee, his taste in music, or anything of your choice!

WILL SCARBOROUGH

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Will Scarborough is a second-year majoring in Computer Science and Economics. He went to Holy Innocents' in Atlanta, GA. This will be Will's second ChoMUN. On campus, Will spends his time on the Archery team and in the other MUN organization on campus, MUNUC, where he serves as Deputy Director of Tech. Otherwise you'll find him locked in his room complaining about yet another CS assignment or wasting time playing video games in the Linn-Mathews lounge.

If you need to get in touch with Will, e-mail any questions, concerns, existential crises, etc. to wpscarborough@uchicago.edu.

NOAH KLOWDEN

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Noah Klowden is a 2nd year CS/Linguistics double major hailing from Culver City, California. This is his second year of ChoMUN and first year as an exec!

Outside of ChoMUN, Noah is an avid writer and film enthusiast. Heavily involved in Fire Escape Films and MaroonTV, he hopes to make a career in film writing. For fun, he loves to write fiction and is a huge player of Dungeons and Dragons. He is also a passionate member of the Snell-Hitchcock dorm, in which he loves to be involved in his house community.

You can reach Noah at his school email, noahklowden@uchicago.edu, for any questions you might have!

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

JOHN BUTERBAUGH, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL