



FAMILY FEUDALISM: ANCIENT CHINA'S SPRING AND AUTUMN PERIOD

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 3rd Year studying Statistics and Political Science. He went to Wilton High School in the Connecticut town of Wilton. This is his third year involved with ChoMUN, and his second time chairing. Last year 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 XXII 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!



ANDY HATEM

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Andy Hatem is a fourth-year majoring in Public Policy and Political Science. He was born in New York, grew up in eastern France, and now splits his time between Chicago and Nairobi. This will be Andy's third ChoMUN; he was an AC for Eleanor Roosevelt's East Wing at ChoMUN XXI and an EAC for Joseph Pulitzer's New York World at ChoMUN XXII.

On campus, Andy puts out fires for UC Dems; moonlights as a nonprofit consultant with the Community Programs Accelerator; and serves as president of Linn-Mathews house. In his free time, he maintains a top-notch political ad playlist and a mediocre Twitter presence.

If you need to get in touch with Andy, e-mail any questions, concerns, movie recommendations, etc. to andyhatem@uchicago.edu. Please address any complaints to info@hnmun.org



NICHOLAS SWEENEY

CRISIS DIRECTOR

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

CHRISTIAN METIVIER, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL