



OF KIWIS AND IWIS: THE MAORI KING MOVEMENT, 1857

The Māori have lived free on the islands of Aotearoa (New Zealand) for 500 years - and should our struggle be successful, they will live here free for 500 more. To assert sovereignty and reclaim the land from unscrupulous British settlers, the Māori leaders of the North Island came together in 1857 with a monumental task: to unite iwi (tribes) from all over the island despite high internal strife, to prepare to take on the British and the New Zealand Company, and - most of all - to elect a King of all Māori. To succeed, the Māori will need unprecedented unity, possible alliances with France and other British rivals, and the creation of a new, stable government and laws for the King's national confederation. They will also need to defeat the military of the world's most powerful empire - the United Kingdom and its merchant company henchmen. Manaakitia mai Aotearoa - God defend New Zealand!

BACKGROUND GUIDE

JACK VOTAVA

CHAIR

Jack is a fourth-year student pursuing a dual study program with an MA in Sociology and BA in Economics and Law, Letters, and Society. A native of Madison, Wisconsin, this is Jack's 4th year of collegiate MUN as both a competitor and a host. As Director of Research at the Paul Douglas Institute, Jack spends much of his time researching local government policy. The rest of Jack's time is divided between hiking, biking, cooking, D&D, videogames, and an alarming amount of Netflix. Jack is incredibly excited to explore the fascinating story of the Maori together at ChoMUN, and imagine new histories of (de)colonization.

GREGORY WONG

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Gregory is a fourth year in the College completing his Bachelor's in East Asian Languages and Civilizations and his Master's in Sociology. Gregory is from Hong Kong, and reminds folks constantly of that fact when he mentions once again that Hyde Park is a suburb, not a city neighborhood. This will be Gregory's fourth and final ChoMUN, previously being an Administrative Staffer for ChoMUNs XXI and XXII, and the Chief of Staff of ChoMUN XXIII. As he needs to maintain his sanity, he dabbles with the Chicago Debate Society to engage in that superior, purer form of debate. Gregory is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Sino-American Affairs and the Producer of the UC3P Just China Podcast (shameless plug, do check them both out here and here!). When not doing any of these things, he can be found crafting the perfect Dungeons and Dragons campaign that will never come to life. Gregory is thrilled to make this committee and conference the best it's ever been. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to him at gregorygwong@uchicago.edu.

LUCY LI

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Lucy is a third-year majoring in Computer Science from Stockton, California. After Assistant Chairing for Bell Labs at ChoMUN XXII, she is excited to be a Co-Crisis Director along with Gregory, and work alongside Jack, her original ChoMUN mentor. Outside of ChoMUN and schoolwork, Lucy is involved with Pi Beta Phi, compileHer, is VP of the UChicago E-Sports Club, and doing research in the CS field. When she has free time, she likes to explore the city of Chicago, try new foods, and fit in a League game here and there. She also has a wide variety of t-shirts which she cannot resist purchasing as memorabilia wherever she goes. She is excited to welcome delegates to the world of New Zealand and to bring them through the history of the Māori King Movement, and hopes everyone has a wonderful weekend in Chicago!

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

JOHN BUTERBAUGH, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL