



THE EMPEROR'S NEW KOREA: GOJONG'S CABINET, 1897

The year is 1897 and King Gojong just declared himself as Emperor of the new Korean Empire, setting a new era in motion. The proclamation of the Empire ended its subordination of Qing China as a tributary state. From then on, the Empire aimed to become a strong and independent nation for the powerful surrounding nations to see. With strong influence from Russia and Japan amidst the Russo-Japanese War occurring in Korean soil, as well as the establishment of domestic reforms such as in land ownership and commerce, delegates will be faced with creating and maintaining a strong reputation for the Empire in both international and domestic affairs. All in all, by the end of conference, delegates will be responsible for shaping the unique Korean identity in an imperialist world.

BACKGROUND GUIDE

IRENE RYU

CHAIR

Irene is a second year studying Math and Economics with a specialization in data science. Graduating high school in Korea, Irene is excited to introduce the modern history of Korea through this unique experience. During quarantine, Irene has failed several attempts at baking banana bread and has developed an unhealthy obsession in cooking/baking. She is quite passionate about food and can give you some authentic recommendations when it comes to Korean food/culture. On any given day, Irene is probably in one of the many wonderful libraries at the college toiling over her math problem set. On campus Irene is involved in the mathematics REU program and the Model UN travel team. Previously, Irene prepared as an Assistant Chair to the Shah of Iran's Cabinet, 1945 for ChoMUN XXIII. The wonderful experience in helping create a committee inspired her to share part of her culture through this year's conference. Please do not hesitate to reach out to jhryu@uchicago.edu with any questions or concerns!

EMILY GAMBOA

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Emily is a second year in the College on the pre-med trek and pursuing a B.S. in the Biological Sciences with a specialization in Cancer Biology. Born and raised in Chicago, Emily can give you directions anywhere in the city in a breeze because she has memorized all of the bus and train lines in the city. Previously, she was an AC for the American Red Cross committee for ChoMUN XXIII with her lovely MUNtor Shayna as CD! After feeling inspired from her East Asian Civ class, Emily grew passionate to share the story of the impact of imperialism and Westernization on the recently found Korean Empire to the circuit. As CD, Emily hopes that delegates will grow more appreciative towards this unique perspective of imperialist history, considering it is one that is rarely heard of in a typical American history class. Emily also competes on UChicago's traveling team and outside of MUN, she participates in the Chamber Music Program and volunteers at UChicago Medicine's Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she provides patients and their families the best experience possible at the Center. Beyond these commitments, she enjoys collecting vinyl records of all sorts of genres, petting Nestor the Midway Cat whenever he stops by Burton-Judson, making milk tea, and finding the time on a Saturday night to hang out with her friends with a very competitive game of Monopoly! If you have any questions regarding the committee or would like to chat about cancer biology or exchange milk tea recipes, feel free to reach out to Emily at egamboa1@uchicago.edu!

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

SHAYNA COHEN, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL