



## THE LION OF JUDAH

### THE CABINET OF EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE I, 1935

The year is 1934. A mere century ago, Africa was free - affected by the informal hegemony of the European powers, yes, but its myriad nations still possessed self-rule and independence. Now those days are long past; as Europe recovers from the Great War, the African continent reels from falling under nearly complete colonial subjugation. And Ethiopia - one of the last free states - is now under threat.

The European powers to which we would normally turn to for aid in shaping international relations have fallen silent under the spell of Italian appeasement. Despite Italy's clear violations of the principles of self-determination and diplomacy, the League of Nations has abandoned all it stands for and waits on our aggressor hand and foot. We may appeal their decision all we like, but their inaction does nothing to stop the hordes of Italian troops gathering by the Somaliland: They yearn to seize our homeland and the last wholly independent state of Africa. God and history will remember their judgement, and we will continue to demand its change.

As His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, the Emperor of Ethiopia, I stand at the ready to listen to the judgment of my council and command our troops to protect what we hold dear. It is the fate of our country that is at stake, and for this, we will fight.

#### BACKGROUND GUIDE



CAMILLE CARDENAS

CHAIR

Camille Cardenas is a second year from San Antonio, Texas, majoring in Biology and aspiring towards medical school. In her spare time, Camille enjoys reading classical literature, studying jellyfish in the on-campus lab she works for, and arguing with Reema about whether the mitochondria has agency (no). After serving as an assistant chair at ChoMUN XX on the committee Come and Take It: Texas 1835, Camille is excited to see what becomes of Ethiopia while serving as chair for the Cabinet of Haile Selassie in the coming conference. In addition to chairing for ChoMUN XXI, Camille is (at the time of writing) the chair of the United Nations Environmental Programme for MUNUC 30, the University's high school conference. If you would like to discuss matters related to the committee, jellyfish, how great the Spurs are, Homer, or anything else, please feel free to reach out by emailing Camille at [jccardenas@uchicago.edu](mailto:jccardenas@uchicago.edu).



REEMA SALEH

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Reema is a second year in the College currently convinced that it's a fantastic idea to double major in Public Policy and Creative Writing. She is excited to be crisis directing along with her committee executives for ChoMUN XXI because it's giving her a legitimate reason to neglect her schoolwork and obsessively research East African history while thwarting European imperialism against her parents' home country (they'll be so proud). Reema has staffed in the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) of 1908 for ChoMUN XX and in the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for MUNUC 29, where she respectively watched militant British suffragettes accidentally achieve Irish independence and helped delegates create resolutions for localized disaster relief responses. Outside of MUN, you can usually catch her volunteering with the Partnership for Advancement of Refugee Rights on campus, scrawling out short story drafts, or trying to rank all the coffee shops within a five-mile radius. Feel free to reach out with questions about committee or anything else at [reemasaleh20@uchicago.edu](mailto:reemasaleh20@uchicago.edu).



JAKE WALSH

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Jake is a second year in the college, definitely majoring in chemistry yet constantly trying to figure out what he wants to do with it. He has a bad habit of claiming to be from Philadelphia even though he actually hails from a suburb in New Jersey (a fact Reema is always eager to remind him of). Last year, Jake was an assistant chair for Guerrillas and Governors: El Frente Sandinista. When not plotting against the forces of Western imperialism for ChoMUN, he mainly spends his time writing exams for Science Olympiad tournaments, reading too much Camus, and hiding from his responsibilities in a music practice room. He is happy to answer any of your burning questions at [jakewalsh@uchicago.edu](mailto:jakewalsh@uchicago.edu), whether they're about committee, the Absurd, or where to find the best Philly cheesesteak.

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