To the Esteemed Delegates,

It is first of all my pleasure to welcome you to DMUNC XV and the Punic Wars Joint Crisis Committee. I hope you will find your experience at once a fun one, as well as rewarding and challenging.

My name is Nicholas Archibald, and I will be one of the head chairs presiding over this committee. I am a second-year History and Political Science double major, as well as a second-year member of Davis Model United Nations. One of the best parts of MUN for me was the ability to develop skills that are more than applicable in both my college career and my goals beyond my education. Skills such as leadership, public speaking, confidence, and diplomacy have all been parts of MUN that have helped me improve immensely. Davis Model United Nations has also been the place where I have met many of my closest friends who share my interest in global politics and method behind the madness of the workings of our complex world.

The Punic Wars, coined by Roman historians recognizing their Carthaginian opponents of Phoenician descent, were a series of three wars that lasted almost a century. Two once friendly states found themselves in a struggle for dominance. Triggered largely by an inflammatory proxy conflict, the two dominant powers of the region, the Roman Empire superior fighters on land and the Carthaginians, masters of the sea, would decide the fate of their empires in an age of conflict. In this Joint Crisis Committee, delegates will work to rewrite history facing an opponent more cunning than the Crisis Director alone, a second committee structured similarly to their own representing the opposition. Fast paced and smart decision making will be key in
deciding the conflict in favor of either Rome or Carthage. I wish you the best of luck and a wonderful experience during your time with us.

If you have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact me at dmunc.punic@davismun.org, and I will attempt to respond promptly.

Best,

Nicholas Archibald
Head Chair, Punic Wars: Carthage, DMUNC XV
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Dear delegates,

I am a fourth-year International Relations and Economic major with an emphasis on peace and security and Africa/Middle East. I am also studying Arabic and have a long interest in international politics, history and enjoy discussing world events. This is my third year doing MUN both as a delegate and staffing Aggie MUN. I am originally from the Bay Area, although on weekends I enjoy visiting the Sierra Nevada’s in order to go kayaking and hiking. In addition to kayaking and hiking, I enjoy distance running through the hills around my hometown, Walnut Creek. When I have free time, I love movies, reading, and meeting new people. I look forward to a great conference and meeting you all at DMUNC 2017!

Even by modern standards, the Punic Wars were truly immense conflicts that raged across the Mediterranean involving hundreds of thousands of combatants from hundreds of cities and dozens of tribes. It remains a fascinating event in history that was extremely important in the development of Rome. The Carthaginians were one of the only Mediterranean states that ever amassed the power to truly pose an alternative to early Roman rule of the Mediterranean. It will be up to your actions as to whether history shall repeat itself, or if there is a new superpower in the Mediterranean.

Best,

Peter Mills
Crisis Director, Punic Wars JCC, DMUNC XV
peter.mills@davismun.org
About the Committee

Introduction

Before 260 BCE, the Italian state of Rome and the North African State of Carthage each rose to dominance within their separate spheres of living. While Rome had asserted control over most of the Italian Peninsula, Carthage had become a dominant naval power and enjoyed the wealth that came with trade and collecting tribute from smaller, less powerful states. The extent of this power was near absolute as no other seafaring power, nor the Romans could challenge Carthage’s hold on the Mediterranean. While Rome kept to the land beyond the Tiber River and Carthage remained dominant at sea, the two powers coexisted peacefully, even traded amongst one another.

However, as empires have historically been wont to do, the Romans desired to expand their control onto the island of Sicily, unfortunately partly controlled by the Carthaginians. When a dispute among city states ropes the two empires into a proxy conflict, tensions quickly rose to critical levels, driving resent for one another on both sides.

Role of the Dias

The dias, comprised of the Head Chair, Vice Chair, and Legal will take on the role of moderators during the debate. The Head Chair will keep the flow of debate in smooth motion, ensuring parliamentary procedure is observed and that all motions and directives are passed in a legitimate matter. The Vice Chair will provide assistance to the Head Chair in the carrying out

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of these duties and may temporarily assume them if the moderator is not present or is needed for
discussion with the conference staff. The Legal assists in assuring parliamentary procedure is
observed in keeping time for speeches, ensuring the legitimacy of submitted directives, counting
votes, etc. Largely, the actions and the flow of events are to be decided by the delegates, and it is
highly encouraged to provide unique and creative ideas and solutions within the bounds of
procedure.

**What to Expect in Committee**

Committee is to begin and end promptly at the times set by the conference staff. This
information will be provided to you. Though delegates arriving late to committee will be
admitted, I encourage delegates to arrive at committee with all necessary materials a few minutes
eyearly as to cause the least disruption and provide maximum time for debate. I also encourage
delegates to have completed research and have informed themselves to their satisfaction before
debate. Delegates are expected to be dressed professionally in Western Business Attire while
committee is in session. All discussion, both oration and written correspondence with the dias,
crisis staff, and among fellow delegates are to be conducted in English and are expected to
remain appropriate in nature. The chair and dias may read passed notes at their discussion to
ensure civility and propriety are being observed.

Decorum will be enforced at all times during committee sessions. Delegates are
expected to behave professionally and courteously while practicing diplomacy with their words
and actions. Personal attacks or offensive behavior will not be tolerated by the chair and
penalties will be assessed at the chair’s discretion. Any delegate experiencing issues such as
harassment or misconduct from a fellow delegate may inform the dias via a note addressed to the chair and the issue will be resolved promptly.

At no time while committee is in session are delegates allowed access to any web enabled electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, etc. Devices are to be powered off as to not cause disruption. The use of these devices during committee will incur a penalty decided at the chair’s discretion. Any devices such as hearing aids, or other assistive devices are permitted in committee provided the dias is aware of their presence.

Concerning the flow of debate, I encourage delegates to be creative in their solutions and to embrace their roles within the bounds of decorum. The direction of debate will mostly be left for the delegates to decide as they receive new information and incorporate it into the discussion and the content of directives. While I reserve the right to encourage delegates to move the flow of debate in a new direction, or change the direction, I largely hope to keep mostly to moderating. I believe in the dias interfering as little as possible in the substance of debate and keeping the committee mostly driven by the delegates. However, in the spirit of crisis, I expect the flow of debate to remain a brisker pace and due attention paid to new developments as to solve problems as they arise. In this instance, at my discretion I reserve the right to block motions that cause debate to stagnate. Most importantly, I hope for the committee to be a challenging and rewarding test of delegates’ critical thinking and a time to bond with delegates from other schools and better themselves in a civil and encouraging environment.

Flow of Committee and Debate

This section of the topic guide will elaborate on the flow of debate and the workings of crisis pertaining to the committee. For those who have never competed in a crisis
committee, I hope you find this useful. For those delegates already experienced, I hope this is a refreshing review that shouldn't be too bothersome to skim through.

How Crisis Will Work

The best way to explain crisis is as a modified General Assembly that moves at a faster pace. Procedure is almost identical to General Assemblies but it has several unique characteristics and twists. The main difference is that you have greater power to interact with and change events in crisis. Your actions as a whole or a collective have considerable power in shaping the goings on of the committee. The ever evolving element of crisis is where quick thinking and creativity come into play. That being said, time passes in crisis ranging from days, to months, or even years over protracted conflicts. The passage of time is what gives crisis committees the ability to evolve and take forms that are completely unexpected. Delegates also possess the power to interact with "crisis", which will be explained below. Crisis is a group of people who are not in committee room who occasionally come in and give updates on how the committee situation has changed. There is a crisis director and crisis staff who decide how events unfold based on the actions of delegates and the committee as a whole. While Crisis monitors and affects the changes in committee, they are more a responsive body and require creative action from delegates to create a good story.  

The committee will begin with roll call and basic procedure (opening debate, etc.) and immediately launch into a crisis update. Crisis updates are times when Crisis, usually in the form of the Crisis Director will enter the committee room and give an update on the situation the committee faces as well as notable effects of the committee's actions. Crisis updates will occur

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on a frequent basis as a slight interruption to debate. Most often, the Crisis Director's appearance signals a significant change in committee and provides valuable information. Most often times after the update, the Crisis Director will take a finite number of questions which he/she will announce and answer before leaving the room. As stated before, the committee will progress through time as events unfold, bringing new and evolving situations that you as delegates will face and attempt to resolve in the best possible way.

As mentioned before, delegates have the ability to interact with Crisis and staff, specifically through crisis notes. This is the primary way in which delegates interact with crisis. Delegates write notes on pieces of paper that are then collected and sent to crisis staff. You will often see a runner entering the committee room and picking up notes as well as returning those that were answered. Remember, use the powers given to you based on your role creatively. Like Congress has used the elastic clause to expand on their enumerated powers, you too can think of ways to do the same. Half of the battle in crisis is coming up with creative and powerful solutions to problems at hand. The staff will write replies to those notes talking about how the action requested went. For example, if a delegate wrote "Send 500 troops to attack Bunker Hill and report back" crisis might reply "the attack succeeded with the loss of 100 troops and you now occupy the hill". Specificity is VERY IMPORTANT when writing crisis notes. Details and clear direction are almost always better. Notes should typically range in length from a paragraph to a full page. Do NOT write notes on torn off scraps of paper if it is at all possible, try to use either full pages, or a notepad. If the Crisis Director has any special instructions or limitations on your ability to write crisis notes, he/she will make it clear at the beginning of the committee. Response time and effectiveness are a two-way street. If your notes are clear and concise with a straightforward objective, crisis will be able to answer your notes faster and may lead to more
success. Crisis notes can be written by one delegate or they can be co-signed by multiple
delegates who want to do the same thing. Generally, the more people who sign, the more likely it
is to succeed. These types of Joint-Crisis Notes will be required if you wish to take action
outside the scope of your powers. For example, if an army officer wants bombardment from an
airstrike, he/she will have to obtain the signature of the air force commander to take that action.
Combining powers in unique ways make your actions more powerful, and the effect on
committee far greater.  

Besides crisis notes, the committee will also work with directives, which are similar to
resolutions, though a more efficient version. Unlike resolutions in a GA that require working
papers and take longer to pass, directives will lay out a plan of action inasmuch as a full page or
as little as a paragraph. You will still be required to obtain sponsors (those who usually help
write the directive) and signatories (supporters). The rules depend upon the size and nature of
the committee depending on how many of each you will need. The head chair will clarify the
exact requirements in committee. Directives pass in much the same way as in GA through a
standard voting bloc procedure. Passed directives carry far more weight than individual crisis
notes and will have a greater impact on committee than individual actions alone.

A Brief Note on Joint Crisis Committees

As this committee is different in being a Joint Crisis Committee, a brief explanation on
the difference from the average crisis committee is in order. In a normal Crisis Committee, the
delegates and Crisis are the only players interacting with one another as the situation evolves and
delegates attempt to adapt and solve the crises at hand. However, in a Joint Crisis Committee,
two committees will be running at the same time, on two sides of the issue and linked through

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Crisis. The actions of one committee can have great impact on the situation facing the other committee. In this case, there will be a committee representing the Roman Empire, and a second representing Carthage. A committee similarly structured to yours is an opponent that is as fast thinking and creative as your committee. The advantage will go to whichever committee thinks quickly and is able to take command of the situation through creative interaction with Crisis.

That being said, I wish you all the best of luck in committee and hope you all enjoy the challenging and rewarding experience of DMUNC 2017. What will follow is the list of characters in each committee with brief bios to orient you in your research and preparation. Best of luck delegates!
Historical Background (A Tale of Two Cities)

The then city state of Rome was founded around 753 BCE. The legend surrounding the founding spoke of two brothers, Romulus and Remus, sons of the God of War Mars who were left to drown by the King of Alba Longa. According to mythology, Lupa, the she-wolf rescued the twins and raised them, until Romulus killed his brother in a power struggle and founded the city of Rome. Before Rome was a strong empire, it began as a weaker city state on the banks of the Tiber River, being ruled by a dynasty of Etruscan Kings. The Republic of Rome we are more familiar with did not begin for another almost two and half centuries when rebellion displaced the monarch. Although the cause was unknown, the apparently tyrannical King Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, seventh king of Rome was deposed by his subjects which declared the beginning of the republic around 509 BCE.

While transitioning from a monarchy, democracy as we know it today did not become the norm of government. Two popularly elected consuls assumed control of the city, leading the Roman Senate, made of the lower plebeians and the patricians descended from ancient nobility. Several successful campaigns led to a rapid expansion of Roman influence on the Italian peninsula after the sacking of Rome by the Gauls in 390 BCE and rebound under general Camillus. By 264 BCE, Rome controlled mostly the entirety of the Italian Peninsula and soon found itself in conflict with Carthage, an enemy in the way of Roman expansion.

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Carthage, though founded in legend by Queen Elissa of the Phoenicians in 813 BCE actually came to prominence after Alexander the Great’s pacification of Tyre and Babylon around 332 BCE.\textsuperscript{10} Many displaced by the military expedition came to settle in the coastal city, some well moneyed families and slowly began building the city into a powerful trade hub. Slowly, Carthage colonized or made tribute states out of the surrounding governments and expanded their navy to create a broad, lucrative Mediterranean trade network.\textsuperscript{11} As a further testament to the naval superiority of Carthage, a treaty with Rome signed in 509 BCE limited the Romans ability to trade and sail the Mediterranean, which the Carthaginians ruthlessly enforced\textsuperscript{12}

\textbf{The First Punic War (264- 241 BCE)}

Both Rome and Carthage, though eying one another tensely from across the sea initially had no direct interest in military conflict. It was only when allies to both empires found themselves at odds, the larger powers were drawn into the war. In Sicily, the city states of Syracuse and Messina found themselves at odds around 264 BCE, prompting the latter power to enlist the aid of Carthage’s navy to gain an advantage.\textsuperscript{13} Messina, alarmed at potentially falling to Carthage entreating Rome to aid them, which resulted in the legion garrisoned in Messina. Carthage responded by backing Syracuse and the two world powers themselves came to blows.\textsuperscript{14} With Carthage displaying mastery at sea, and the Romans on land, the two found themselves in a balanced contest.

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The Battles of Agrigentum, Lipari Islands, and Roman Innovation

As previously stated before, the Roman legions were largely dominant in land engagements while Carthage enjoyed naval superiority. Though at first both Rome and Carthage seemed content to make peace and avoid conflict, the rising tensions with the arrival of the Roman Consuls and several legions raised tensions considerably. Carthage made the first move, attacking the Romans harvesting crops, causing the picket guard and civilians to flee. As the fortified city of Agrigentum proved too difficult a challenge, the Romans in 262 BCE laid siege to the city for five months, almost forcing Hannibal, the commanding officer of the Carthaginian main forces and state leader to concede due to disease and privation. Carthage responded to increasingly desperate requests for help from Hannibal Gisco, sending Hanno the Great, a second general with supplies and a large contingent of troops, cutting off Roman supply lines from Syracuse. The following battles pitched by both sides were standoffish in nature, both Rome and Carthage attempting to avoid battle and let lack of supplies defeat their opponent. Most accounts were scarce, but in a final battle after the six month of the campaign, the Romans broke the Carthaginian lines and were able to decisively route the army. The inhabitants of Agrigentum were not so fortunate, all being sold into slavery while many Carthaginians escaped unharmed.

While the contest of Agrigentum was decided in the Romans’ favor, Carthage’s navy made up for losses on land. In 260 BCE, the Romans decide to branch out at sea in an attempt to

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wrest the Mediterranean from Carthage. Consul Scipio Asina, the fleet commander, sailed to the Lipara garrison to attempt to take it, having word it may defect toward the Romans. Carthage surprised the commander, capturing the consul and his fleet, humiliating the empire.\textsuperscript{18} Rome was then spurred to drill and expand its navy to more than 300 ships in just a period of two months. While Rome lost many sea battles, their innovation soon began to tip the scales. With the invention of the corvus, a swinging bridge that attaches itself to an enemy ship allowed the Romans to more effectively board Carthaginian vessels and destroy their crews.\textsuperscript{19} The Roman upswing in momentum continued for almost twenty years until Carthage was forced to concede and sign a peace treaty in 241 BCE.

**Purpose of the Committee**

As the leaders of Rome or Carthage, your purpose is clear. Each power poses a significant threat to the other’s ability to both expand, and become the dominant influence of the surrounding city states. As shown in the first Punic War, resources and land are becoming limited. If you are to control these limited resources, the issue at hand must be resolved. Each nation faces unique challenges, both internal and external as well as well as the looming threat of war. As times change, the gradual ebb and flow of tension between the two great empires is becoming tense.

Though the defeated Carthaginian empire may face more uphill challenges, the potential for the committee’s action is just as vast. After its surprising defeat at the hands of Rome, Carthage faces the issue of paying a war indemnity to the victorious Romans and settling a

tumultuous political environment. With renewed efforts to colonize further in Hispania (the Iberian Peninsula) as well as a financial system of questionable integrity, the committee has much work to be done. The purpose of the Carthaginian committee is to navigate a path to regaining their once dominant power relationship they held with Rome, as well as their near exclusive control of the Mediterranean Sea. Ultimately, the longevity and growth of the Carthaginian empire is paramount, as well as ensuring the end of any potential conflict with Rome.

**Scope of the Committees’ Powers**

As a committee, delegates from either Rome and Carthage will have the power to make collective decisions for their empires via directives. A brief explanation of directives will be found later in the guide. For now, think of these as resolutions more intended to be quickly made and passed to resolve a situation at hand. Each committee will have the potential to make decisions regarding the military, economic, foreign, and domestic policy of either Rome and Carthage to respond to the crises at hand. Committee directives will have greater power in influencing the situation and will carry significant weight concerning the arc the committee follows. Delegates will also have the power to influence the committee, as well as the crises at hand through unilateral or multilateral action among themselves via crisis notes. Again, more will be found on these later in the topic guide. Delegates are encouraged to explore all their avenues for action and bettering theirs and their committee’s situation, though will achieve greater influence working at the committee level.

**Limitations of Powers**

On the committee level, delegates will be limited based on the capabilities of their own empire’s resources. For example, delegates cannot order troop movements of units they do not
possess, nor may they order in a directive to make financial agreements the committee is unable to keep. Though the committee’s potential amount of directions it may take are numerous, delegates must be sure to tackle the particulars effectively to make the action a reality. As Sun Tzu said, “the line between chaos and order lies in logistics!” On the personal level, delegates’ individual abilities to influence their committees and take action will be limited to his/her specific portfolio powers. Based on their character and position, each delegate will receive a list of resources and actions available to them which they may access via notes to crisis. Delegates are encouraged to attempt to creatively expand their powers beyond those enumerated, though should consider the bounds of reason. The determination of the validity of a delegate’s actions will ultimately be made by crisis.

The Committee’s Ultimate Goal

Ultimately, Carthage seeks to regain its once dominant influence alongside territorial expansion and greater wealth. After being humiliated at the hands of the Roman Empire, and the loss of Sicily, the empire is in need of a revolutionary change in direction. Not only must Carthage retake what was stolen, but also must reduce the Roman Empire to the previous state of relations. In essence, Carthage must return to the offensive, and become the world power setting the terms.

Questions to Consider

1. What are the key threats posed to your empire by a strong Carthage?
2. What are the disadvantages/advantages each state has over the other?
3. Could a better agreement be reached diplomatically than through warfare?
Problems Facing Your Committees

After the conclusion of any military conflict, it is usually never the defeated alone that suffer setbacks and problems once the dust has settled. Conquerors must consider the fates of the defeated, to the wounded and widowed on the home front. The conquered, if not subjects of a foreign ruler must find the way to rebuild and move on. Both Rome and Carthage faced many pressures after the conclusion of their first conflict. Though each faced the common struggle of moving forward after a bloody war, each empire was subject to unique challenges as well.

The major problems facing the Carthaginian Empire are tied with their defeat at the hands of the Romans. As stated before, your refusal to hand over Roman deserters has angered the Empire, partially to blame to the Roman Senate’s wariness of accepting peace. Due to the clause stipulating the necessity of the Senate’s consent, the empire of Carthage finds itself on the edge of uneasy relations. Turning to the Carthaginian side of the issue, besides the refusal to hand over Roman criminals, the Senate has rejected the peace treaty and increased the indemnity of silver that is owed to the victors. Amidst this, Carthage now finds itself in financial trouble following the costly defeat. Facing problems of liquidity, or the ability to circulate currency, large mercenary based regiments of Carthage’s army are growing impatient for their pay. To complicate matters more, the Libyan natives on the island of Sicily appear sympathetic to the mercenary soldiers, raising tensions. Lastly, political strife also consumes the empire with dueling conservative and old guard factions led by Hano the Great and Hamilcar Barca.

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respectively.\textsuperscript{22} The punchline to take away is that post war, the state of Carthage is in shambles on most fronts. The main challenge will be to rebalance the economy and retool Carthage to again become strong. While the threat of Roman aggression looms large, a weak Carthage does not stand a chance to defend itself.

With pressure on all sides constricting both empires, skillful use of force, diplomacy, and statecraft will be integral in deciding the conflict. Remember delegates, time is a factor that exacerbates all problems, so quick action is a must to be most effective. With the fate of these empires in your hands, I wish you luck delegates and hope you find this perfect storm rewarding and a fun experience.

**Questions to Consider**

1. What issues are most pressing? What issues demand less pressure to react quickly? Can the questions debated be prioritized?

2. What needs to be done to strengthen the forces of Rome?

3. What actions other than military can be taken to gain an advantage?

Character list

Hannibal Barca
Hasdrubal Barca
Mago Barca
Hasdrubal Gisco
Syphax
Hanno the Elder
Hasdrubal the Bald
Hampsicora
Maharbal
Naravas
Philip V
Hanno the Great
Xanthippus
Hilemus
Indibilis
Mandonius
Himilco
Bibliography


