

# UCIMUN 2026 Specials



Background Guide

*Adventures of America*  
Armon Alemzadeh





## MODEL UNITED NATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

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Hello delegates,

It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you all to the 34th Annual High School Model United Nations Conference here at the University of California, Irvine! My name is Armon Alemzadeh, and I am your Director for this year's *Adventures of America* Crisis Committee. This will be my 8th year doing Model United Nations. Outside of Model United Nations, I am a second year student studying Psychology & Public Health Sciences, pursuing medical school. I am also serving as the Iranian Student Union's Secretary. And outside of school, I enjoy going to the beach, spending time with my family & friends, and overall just living life!

12-year-old me barely knew the ins-and-outs of giving speeches or how to communicate with other delegates in various consultation forms. But most importantly, I did not know the international impact that Model United Nations has on the world. Now after my years of experience and exactly 50 conferences under my belt, I have now truly started to appreciate the various topics & scenarios that were brought up in different Specials & Mains committees. The issues that we discuss in these committees are actual, or hypothetical simulations of on-going problems that thousands of people are being faced with today. And with the solutions that are drafted during these committees, there truly can be an international impact all for the better! On top of my conference attendances, I have also had the pleasure of helping to run three conferences held at my high school, once as an Assistant Director during my sophomore year, and twice as a Director during my junior & senior years. Simultaneously, I also served as one of the Chef du Cabinets during my junior year. These instances have not only helped me grow in my debate, public speaking & leadership skills, but have also grown my passion for Model United Nations, and were key reasons as to why I was extremely motivated to become a Director for this year's conference.

Moving away from introductions, in this topic synopsis, I will be going over the two topics that we will be discussing during our two days of conference. Topic A is going to begin with the pilgrims arriving to the new-found land, this being present day Cape Cod on the 19th of November in 1620. From there on, the committee will flow as a consistent discourse between the various Native American tribes and their interactions with the new settlers. Topic B will then have a time jump of 55 years or so, all the way to 1675, when King Philip's War began. I want to make it clear that I am not expecting the entire committee to actually flow out in this manner, nor do I expect 55 years to go by in the span of one day. Instead, I am providing these rough guidelines and dates in order to help you all with your research for your chosen characters. This is the beauty of a crisis committee, where I as a director will provide information on the topics, set you all up in a place where we can begin, and on the day of the conference, you will have the reins in seeing how this committee flows. Keep in mind that you will be expected to know that no matter your character, your actions are going to change the course and timeline of the committee directly, with some caveats. For instance, we will still have the first Thanksgiving on the first day of the committee. However, its exact details could very much change depending on what actually happens on the day of the conference.

Due to the niche and unique aspect of this topic and there being somewhat lesser known characters in this committee, you may realize that it might be a little bit hard to find information. However, I hope that after reading this topic synopsis, and you as the delegate doing thorough research and digging around to see what you can find, you will be able to come into committee fully prepared & ready to debate. Remember: you as the delegate have the power to change the course of action as the committee flows along through directives, alliances, betrayals and whatnot. The timeline lies in your hands! Do with that as you will...

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## Topic A: The Pilgrims Arrive at Cape Cod

### Introduction

To begin, a brief flashback to the famed King Henry VIII, not only known for having six wives throughout his lifetime, but more importantly for his tensions & feuds with the Catholic Church & all of Rome. The current pope, Pope Clement VII, believed that the English king was a horrible man, whose crimes went against the several Commandments & important teachings outlined in the Geneva Bible; These being basics that all good Christian men should follow. The crimes included specifics revolving around infantility & adultery, just to name a few. Yet instead of changing his ways, the king decided to break from Rome completely in the 1530s, establishing himself as the supreme head of the newly formed Church of England. This church, similar to the Catholic Church, had such vestiges such as hierarchical structure of bishops, liturgical garments & sacramental rituals, some of which were even rejected by the public & the Pope himself.

Those who rejected the King's new church commonly came to be known as the Separatists. Instead of viewing this in the same lens of King Henry VIII, in that this new English Reformation was an incredible transformation of the national church and bringing a new branch of Christianity to England , they viewed it as half-hearted political compromise, whose only interest was to truly fuel the ego of the pompous King, while simultaneously failing to actually carry out the true work of God. Whereas other reformers such as Martin Luther and John Calvin aimed to change Catholicism and Christianity through reformed doctrine and worship that went along with scripture alone, this newly formed branch merely replaced spontaneous spirituality & gave King Henry VII more power than he should have had. Participating in the Church of England, in the eyes of the Separatists, was to participate in a false church that had only changed its outer looks, but leaving the soul untouched by the one, true doctrine of the Catholic faith.



## Description

### *Elizabeth Takes the Crown*

With the country in never-ending religious disarray, the English people seemed at their wits end. That was, until Queen Elizabeth I ascended the throne in 1558. As the new Queen, Elizabeth attempted to introduce religious harmony via the Acts of Supremacy & Uniformity in 1559. These further outlined in the Elizabethan religious settlement, stated that attendance to all Anglican services of all kinds and sorts was mandatory by law. In order to further impose this enforcement, refusal to conform to these newly imposed rules lead to fines, imprisonments, or even worse, death in some extremities. Those who began to not only abide by these newly imposed laws, but also enforced them in various degrees, became known as the Puritans. In that they were most commonly known for abiding by Queen Elizabeth's law and trying to purify and cleanse the national church from within. Yet doing that, they only pressured the monarchy and parliament for reforms of doctrine, worship and governance. Seeing that this did not bring about any solutions to the English people, and only added fuel to the flame that was the Church of England, the Separatists concluded that the Church of England was beyond reform and beyond hope in becoming saved. Furthermore, they agreed that the church's head should be Christ himself, and not the monarch. More importantly, it was foundational that the true believers of the Church were not to be of the state's mandated parish or those who were forced to be in accordance with these laws out of fear. Instead, the Church of England had to be a true gathered congregation, whose participants voluntarily came together in faith. They pushed for a gathered church in which each congregation in and of itself was self governed, grounded in scripture, and free from any & all state interference, which unfortunately in the eyes of the Separatists, the Church of England simply was not or ever going to be. In opposition, the Act Against Puritans was put into order by decree of Parliament and the Monarchy in 1593. This stated that it was a crime to attend or organize any unauthorized religious meetings, while also granting the state a wide latitude to suppress dissenters & and those who went against the previous acts imposed by the Queen.



### *The Rise of the Pilgrims*

Due to the pushback from the Monarchy, the Separatists came to believe that staying in their homeland would mean to either compromise their own beliefs and conscience, or suffer the impending consequences of imprisonment and death. In order to not be faced with this dilemma, a group formed from these separatists known as the Pilgrims, who started to meet in the village of Scrooby, Nottinghamshire. In this tiny English village, the Pilgrims began to meet secretly and worship, modeling their church after true Christian patterns & traditions, where each member had the opportunity to partake in various decision makings and leadership based on actual spiritual gifts rather than an official ordination that was typically seen in the England or Catholic churches. Unfortunately, this was short lived, as discovery and punishment became imminent for the Pilgrims, and they made the fateful decision to flee into exile. During the early 1600s, specifically between 1607 and 1609, the group fled to Amsterdam & became scattered across the Dutch Republic. Here, they were able to find religious toleration, yet that was where their positives ended. Unfortunately, most of them worked tiresome jobs in the textile industry and lived in poverty. On top of that, the group was worried that their future generations and children were beginning to lose their English identity, and became too assimilated in Dutch culture. It seemed that for the pilgrims, keeping one's cultural identity was just as important as their religious ones. Yet with this in mind, now the Pilgrims were left with a dilemma; Were they to return back to England, where they would be punished for their crimes against the monarchy & the Church of England? Or do they stay in the Dutch Republic, continue to lose their English identities, all while living in impoverished conditions.

Refusing to take either of the unfavorable options, the congregation decided to look westward, specifically to the Americas. They hoped that by establishing a new community out West, they would be able to form a community entirely under the lordship of Jesus Christ himself. They prayed for a creation of a city upon a hill, separated from not only the tyranny and chaos that the European monarchs have brought to the group, the hypocritical clerical system of the Church of England, and the continued moral



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and doctrine role compromises. So in 1617, the Pilgrims decided to begin preparations to settle for an English colony in North America, specifically towards where today is most commonly known today as Virginia. Fortunately, they were able to secure financial banking from investors and a patent all from the Virginia Company and 3 years later in 1620, the Pilgrims were finally setting sail aboard the Mayflower. The ship not only had the Separatists themselves, but other English settlers seeking new opportunities & adventures that were awaiting them in the New World. Although Virginia was where the settlers had set their hearts on first, they landed far north of that in an area more commonly known today as Cape Cod. Here, the Pilgrims drafted the famed Mayflower Compact. This compact outlined an agreement rooted in both respect & harmony between the Separatists and various other settlers, as well as garnering an environment with an overall devotion to God. This began a new frontier where English Christians outside were able to begin lives outside the bonds & chains of a king or bishop. They were now able to create a sacred covenant & a Commonwealth of godly form. It was the culmination of decades of persecution, exile, but also one full of hope & manifestation for the future. Finally, the Pilgrims were free.

#### *Native Narrations*

Yet before the Pilgrims even set foot on the shores of Cape Cod, the Americas were the home of several Native American tribes and societies, each of which had their own distinct languages, systems concerning relationship & class, spiritual beliefs & religions, and political organizations. The six primary groups, those being the Wampanoag, Massachusetts, Narragansett, Pequot, Nipmuc & Nauset, lived in the Americas for centuries, harvesting various crops that included squash, beans and corn. This was done through a variety of agricultural & farming methods that included fishing, hunting and foraging, in accordance to the seasons of the year. The Natives believed that the land of which they lived on was a gift from God and not property that they themselves had owned. Instead, the land was a living force with which one could have a sacred and spiritual relationship with. And with the land, the chiefs, who were not only spiritual but also political leaders, aimed to lead their societies to prosperities, And by the 1530's the



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natives were flourishing and their ancestral lands. Unaware that a transformation of somewhat of an apocalyptic scale was just about to begin.

This apocalyptic scale was the first contact with Europe, as well as the beginning of trade. Starting in the early 16th century, when the first European ships finally began to make contact with the coastal people in the northeast, primarily through means of trade and fishing expeditions and adventures. It was specifically the French & Portuguese crews that began these endeavors, who would come ashore to trade with the Native Americans, in goods such as metal, cloth and beads for fur and foods. Fortunately, these early encounters were not met with hostility, and instead brought new transformative items into the Natives' economies that would not have so without this contact. Such items included iron knives, woven textiles and copper kettles. With these new items of trade, the trading dynamics of the Natives underwent a phenomenal change. The caveat to this, though, were the hundreds of diseases that the Europeans brought with them during these endeavors. Despite the brief encounters with minor direct contact, diseases such as smallpox, influenza and measles began to ripple through the native communities, as they had no prior immunity. These pathogens unfortunately struck with horrifying speed and mortality, to even having some extremities of wiping out entire villages and societies in a matter of weeks. Across the societies, the pathogens & diseases were named the "invisible arrows" or the "great dying". They believed that these were signs from the spirit world, in that something had entered their land that was not welcome.

Not only was this present, but there was also a great deal of problems & chaos that came in conjunction with the newly established trade. These primarily came around because the Natives attempted to engage with the European traders on their own terms. One such was that in exchange for items such as pelts or other necessities in the fur trade, the tribes wanted to receive not only items associated with the utilitarian needs, but also those that carried symbolic and diplomatic value, such as colored beads, brass kettles, etc. In doing so, this caused tensions to rise between the tribes, as it led to new hierarchies and rivalries, which also led to severe abductions, deceit and sporadic violence between the groups and chiefs who controlled the trade routes to several European countries. Unfortunately, it got to a point where the



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Europeans got involved and started to kidnap certain Native Americans who were causing chaos and trouble between the trade routes. Although they were eventually returned, it was a fact that there was a sense of betrayal and belittlement between the returned Natives and their chiefs, as it seemed that the chiefs simply allowed this to occur.

With this new trade also came the introduction of other extended problems, most notably including a wave of devastating epidemics that swept through the coastal Americas. Affecting the Wampanoag and Nasuchi people specifically, diseases such as leptospirosis, smallpox and hepatitis, that were brought over from the European ships had hit just about 90% of the Native population in the short span of 3 years, specifically from 1616 to 1619. Entire villages were left decimated, claiming them to be choked with the dead, leaving chiefs with empty villages without any people to serve & lead. Instead of attempting a medical approach, or trying to find a more statistical solution, the Natives turned to religion and thought that it was not the Europeans that brought the diseases, but the ancestors and the supernatural themselves who brought it to inflict a punishment on their people. In order to make sure this did not happen once more, the Wampanoag Confederacy was made, in order to remind the Native American tribes that it was because of their introduction of the Europeans into their land that the ancestors brought this great pain on their nation, and that in order to live in a post apocalyptic world, then they would have to be stronger together and be united as one.

### *Committee Begins*

So now you know the histories of the two main positions & groups that are present in our committee. There are the Pilgrims, who have gone through their own sets of struggles with religious persecution, as well as other harsh realities and instances put on them by the monarchies, all of which has culminated in them fleeing their home in search of new land. At the same time, there are the Native Americans, who for hundreds of years have already been dealing with problems of their own, such as



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inconsistencies with European trade & diseases, that have now only will grow because of the new influx of settlers who are now trying to make the land their own.

Keeping that in mind, the first day of the committee will begin on the 16th of November in 1620, when the Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower have finally reached the edges of Cape Cod. After months of travel filled with several problems in it of itself, they have arrived to new land in pursuit of finding a place where they can finally practice their own religion & be free of persecution they faced from the British monarchs. With the journey ending, it allows for the Settlers to start their life anew, with endless possibilities. At the same time, you have the Native Americans who are now set in a position where they are somewhat hesitant to make connections and begin an endeavor of interactions with the Settlers, as their past history with Europeans in general has not been the best, so to speak. So now with all of that in mind, you as delegates with your assigned characters can start to pave the way as to how the early interactions & beginnings of Plymouth Colony play about. Good luck and remember, it is up to you and your decisions as to how the committee will steer. Will it be in your favor? Only you can decide.

### **Bloc Positions**

Pilgrims: A combined group of English Settlers, Puritans & Separatists, the Pilgrims must now face the trials & tribulations of journeying a new life far different from what they know. Where there was once issues of religious conviction, social standing & outcasting by their own country, is now replaced with how to survive in a new territory, find basic necessities for survival & make sustainable and attainable decisions, as to not jeopardize their mission to be in vain. However the strenuous chaos of hunger, brutal winters & sickness, just to name a few, has become a magnifying cause as to questioning whether the journey was even worth doing so. The Pilgrims must come together & become one strong colony, with a self-sufficient government & trade systems with the "Indians" in order to keep their civilization afloat. For without these foundations & more, the world will never hear of the Pilgrims ever again.



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Native American Tribes: As members of tribes with past histories, tensions & chaos that has already happened in your history, it is now time to come together as one as see how life with the Settlers, will continue on. Already the Natives have been made aware of European presences in their land, which had brought disease, kidnapping & inconsistent trading, yet are now about to embark on a new endeavor: “Whitefolk” actually living on their land. Regional situations are already in a complicated state, with various tribes scouring to be on top, while concurrently asking the questions of sovereignty, obligations to one's tribes & ancestors, and most importantly: Should a relationship with the Settlers ever be considered in the first place? Should they abandon their traditions of being semi-independent from the Europeans & preserving their ancestral lands & instead adapt to new changes in their ways of life now that the Settlers have established themselves on their land?

### **Committee Goals**

- ★ Analyze the social, political, economical and cultural differences between the Natives and English Settlers before their early interactions, while cross referencing how these have changed since meeting.
- ★ Explore ways that even just the smallest of changes can have the biggest effects on the historical timeline, no matter what the character nor position they are, in committee.
- ★ Understand why there was tension to begin with, between the two blocs, and see how these tensions could have been eliminated had there been other practices implemented.
- ★ Collaborate with fellow characters as to how to navigate these new uncharted waters together, whether it be in peace or war.

### **Research Questions**

- How do you think the historical contexts of each respective bloc are going to guide your actions & pursuits in committee?



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- What is a major event during these early interactions that you wish to be played out in committee? How would you change it in order to benefit you & your bloc?
- How do you think the cultural, religious & social differences between the two blocs will affect how these early actions take place in committee?
- How do you think months at sea affected the Settlers once they actually arrived in Cape Cod? (I only barely scratched the surface of the Mayflower's journey). How did its harsh situations affect the Settlers in the current situations they were facing & those ahead?
- What could each side have done differently in order to reach a desired outcome? How would that affect the way the committee would begin?
- How will the actions that you aim to implement in committee affect how the rest of the conference will roll out? Are there any foreseeable positives or negatives that can come about your proposed actions?



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## Topic B: King Philip's War

### Introduction

Shortly after the Pilgrims arrived on Cape Cod, they began their early interactions with the Wampanoag people. When they landed on November 19th of 1620, they had intended to originally land in what is now present day Virginia. Instead, they had found themselves in sacred Native American territory. At this point, both the Natives and the Europeans wanted to keep somewhat of a distance between them. As the Native Americans already knew all too well, interacting with settlers will always end south, such as the 1616 -1619 epidemic, which destroyed nearly 90% of their population, which were as a result of interacting with past European settlers. So, the Natives had had their own reasons to be wary, yet at the same time, had strategic plans in place. With these plans, there was hope in finding new ways to approach these new “wave” of settlers, and how to act accordingly.

Throughout the initial winter of 1620 to early 1621, the Natives decided to take a wary approach towards the incoming Englishmen. Instead of taking a more head-on approach, the Natives decided to watch the settlers from a distance and instead would observe their actions, seeing how many they were in number and reporting all of this back to Chief Massasoit. Chief Massasoit took their advice to heed, and decided to launch initial contact. Starting in early December of 1620, this was known as the First Encounter Beach. This consisted of a brief, and somewhat of a skirmish, encounter that involved a small group of Nauset warriors firing arrows at the Pilgrims during an expedition of foraging. Seeing that the Nauset warriors had had prior experiences with the Europeans in the past, they were able to put up a good fight against the Pilgrims. Although the fight between the two was small, it was only the stepping stone of how the remainder of their interactions and further meetings would come to be. In all encompassing truths, the two groups had never had a formal meeting and this was their first. Because of that, it does give an insight as to even if there is a possibility of there being any interactions of peace and prosperity between the two, and if something positive can come of it. Yet as of right now, those hopes seem to be dwindling, as this initial interaction certainly was not a very good first impression.



### **The First Winter & Beginning Allegiances**

With winter on the horizon, differences had to be put aside. This came specifically into effect as the early days of Winter began in mid-December of 1620 till around February and March of 1621. Here, the Pilgrims faced one of their toughest challenges yet: The cold New England weather. The group was already unfamiliar with these new territories and climates, but they had already been wiped out to smaller numbers in degrees due to the grueling months at sea. As if their struggles weren't enough, they were now faced with losing nearly half of their population due to various diseases, exposure and starvation that came with the cold winter months. The future was looking grim for the early settlers. Yet with the help of Squanto and Samoset, two English-speaking Wampanoag people, they were able to act as mediators and supposedly save the Pilgrims from extinction. Squanto had previously been kidnapped by the English traders years earlier, and lived in both England and Spain, where he was able to learn English and Spanish a bit as well. Now back in the New Land, he offered his services as a translator, and because of his coordination with the pilgrims in March of 1621, the Pilgrims and Chief Massasoit were able to negotiate a Treaty of Mutual Protection. This treaty served as a political and military alliance that, at its core, tied both the survival of the Pilgrims to the Wampanoag's strategic interests.

This treaty also served as a mutual defense pact. This was primarily due to the differences between the native tribes, specifically that of the Wampanoag and Narragansett peoples. In these interactions, the Wampanoag were weakened by disease and threatened by their rivals, and hoped that by aligning themselves with the English, the Narragansett people would flee in terror of what the English could possibly do. At the same time, the English Pilgrims also found a deep need for this pact, as they were completely reliant and dependent on the Native Americans knowledge in agriculture, diplomacy and geography of their new home. Through this allegiance, Squanto also acted as a teacher, guiding the settlers on the basics of agriculture, which included how to plant corn with fish, harvest wild game and navigate the local politically and geographically foreign landscapes. This allegiance allowed for coexistence that was necessary and needed, not so much an all encompassing and perfect one.



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Even though this coexistence was present, it was not necessarily one without tension. The Pilgrims believed that the land they now lived on, could be simply purchased, occupied, deeded or owned privately. However, the Natives had differing opinions, and saw that land use was either in a means of seasonality, communalism, or sacrality. Due to these opposing views, there were oftentimes where the pilgrims began to acquire land through a series of “written deeds”, which were often misunderstood or simply incomprehensible by their Native sellers. While the chiefs of the Native tribes saw these sales as mere temporary arrangements, the Pilgrims saw these as permanent transfers of sovereignty only fueling the tension between the two sides. Fortunately though, tension was not the only thing that was between the settlers. Throughout the span of the 1620s, there were largely peaceful relations that were also present. A key example is the first Thanksgiving. Taking place in late September of 1621, the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag warriors celebrated their first harvest. Founded by new and familiar faces, as well as food to go around, the holiday was not so much of a religious celebration or an annual event; Instead, it was seen as a primary tactic to reinforce the allegiance between the two groups.

### **Conversion & Colonialism**

Moving forward in the historical timeline, the 1630s saw a significant turning point, with the arrival of the newcomer Puritans from Massachusetts Bay, down south in the new land, with John Winthrop and the Great Migration. Unlike the original Pilgrims, these Puritans arrived in much greater numbers, wealth and infrastructure. Due to their larger overall demeanor, their presence not only served as a powerful new presence in the area, but were also the driving factors of a newly established colonial expansion, which in tandem grew pressure on the Native American lands.

With this new found force of colonial expansion, the previous Plymouth colony, which was small and cautious, began to expand its agricultural foregrounds. First, they began to acquire more native land through a series of unorthodox corruption, opportunism and disproportionate diplomacy that ultimately ended up favoring and benefiting the Settlers severely more than the Native Americans. However, due to



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the continued weakened state of the Wampanoag, they often complied with the demands and deeds of the Settlers. In contrast, younger chiefs and warriors began to express their discontent with the elder chiefs who succumbed to the settlers. This discontent was often blown over as various missionary efforts were also increased and spread around the land. Pilgrims such as John Elliott began to evangelize the Massasoit and Nipmuc peoples. In fact, he went as far as forming "Praying Towns", where the Natives had their own settlements that the Pilgrims would forcibly instill their own cultural, traditional & religious beliefs, in order for the Natives to forcibly adopt English norms.

While some native tribes ended up converting to the Pilgrims' ways, many saw these inhumane efforts as a means of cultural erasure, which only led to more continued disputes. Such a dispute was none other than the Pequot War in 1637. This war consisted of the Puritan colonists aligned with the Mohegan and Narragansett forces in the Massachusetts Bay to completely annihilate the Pequot tribe. This was done through means of lynching, burning the villages, and massacring hundreds due to their abstaining of converting to Christianity. The settlers of Plymouth Colony were slightly indirectly involved in this predicament, yet the violence and aftermath shook the region violently. This is primarily due to the fact that it became very clear to the Native American population that the rise of English colonialism was no longer a slow and steady pace, but instead was a rising tsunami heading towards them at a drastically fast pace.

### **Overexpansion & Crossing Boundaries**

Moving on to the 1640s and 50s, there came a case of increased land occupation and continued colonial expansion by the Pilgrims and Puritans in the new land. Their colonial expansion also led to the Wampanoag continuously being weakened by disease and various internal disputes that divided them, regarding how to deal with the continued colonial threat. So, because of the irreparable tensions between the Natives, they kept selling the land in increasing numbers to English settlers under immense pressure, as a means of trying to deal with the impending problem. In fact, some leaders such as Edward and Josiah



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Winslow took it so far as to break the deals with some of these Native chiefs, in order to make sure that the settlers had full control, rein and sovereignty over the lands that they had “bought”. Such a change also brought debt and means of relieving it into their deals. These debts for the Native Americans were present not only at the individual, but also at the community level brought about by borrowing tools, trading goods or simply being fined in the billing courts and were forced to sell off more land in order to pay back their debt.

With the new land that the Pilgrims were able to occupy from the Native Americans, this also allowed for the chance of their livestock, such as their pig and cattle, to roam freely around. Now unfortunately due to the free reign, this led to damaging the Native corn fields, which not only were seen as a sign of disrespect towards the Native chiefs, but ultimately harmed the harvest and food production for the Native American tribes. On top of this, Pilgrim law became increasingly complex and replaced the previous Native justice systems, leading to various tribes being forced to appear in the Pilgrim courts, even for local disputes that may or may not have had anything to do with them. Through all of these and more, it had become clear to the Native American tribes, especially the son of Chief Massasoit, King Philip, that as long as they were to succumb to the Pilgrim ways and continue to live a life where the Pilgrims continuously ruled their land, the Natives & their ways of life would cease to exist. In fact, King Philip viewed the Pilgrims as aggressors of natural law and order, instead of a potential partner, similar to the views of previous chiefs. Although the king tried to keep in silence and hold his tongue, he and those in his inner circle of Native chiefs started to become deeply suspicious of the Pilgrims’ intentions. They were incredibly disgusted by the repeated humiliations on the Wampanoag sovereignty through ill mannered deeds and deals, the previous and continued religiously forced conversions, and more. It was only a matter of time before the Natives began to crack, and for the tension to evolve into utter chaos.

### **The Tip of the Iceberg**



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Moving well on into the 1660s, it had seemed that in no way, shape or form, was the relationship between Plymouth Colony and the Wampanoag Coalition steady or positive. As time went on, Plymouth Colony began to extend their borders much deeper into the territory of the Native Americans, leaving dozens of villages completely abandoned and hundreds of Native people reduced and forced into marginal labor, forced assimilation, or reduced to be slaves for the Pilgrims. Natives in the past who had become Christians, called "Praying Indians" by the Pilgrims, did not fare as well either. They had often faced alienation from both the Native Americans and the colonizers themselves, as they were considered too different in respect to each group, creating a "cultural no-man's-land".

King Philip had continued his resentment of the Pilgrims. In this resentment, there started a reflection of regal bearing and growing discomfort of power associated with King Philip that started to bring alarm to the Pilgrims. He was incredibly angered by the increasing demands on the people, which included but was not limited to, their submissions to the Pilgrim courts over any and all disputes, disarmament of any kind, and the continuous greed that the Pilgrims had in taking away more of their land. Due to this, the Pilgrims started to see King Philip as a dangerous and insolent individual, who if not taken care of properly, would lead to utterances of chaos and disorder throughout the land.

Throughout the remainder of the decade, the two groups simultaneously demanded loyalty oaths, land sales and pledges of peace between the two, if ever an attack were to surface. However, these meetings between the two officials only led the Natives to believe that the English were further and further into moving towards complete domination. As January of 1670 rolled around, whatever peace was left between the Natives and Settlers were completely gone. Between the Native leaders, secret counsels were held, alliances were considered, weapons were gathered, and grievances were aired. The Settlers and Natives were ready for war, and in a short five years time, the region began to build its way up towards the most bloody conflict that they had ever seen - King Philip's War.

### Committee Begins



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You are ready to begin your second day of committee, starting on January 1st, 1670. No matter how the previous day ends, Plymouth Colony will begin as a rejuvenated and established settlement, surrounded by various growing English towns and farms. Among this colony will also be the existence of a godlike community, but their success has come with a lot of problems. Despite their success, this may very much change depending on how the committee steers its course at the end of Day 1. Through destroying Native land and harvest, extraneous pushings of the ideas of colonialism and conquering of land, law increasingly imposing authority over the Native peoples, there has been an exceedingly grave addition of chaos and tension with the Native Americans. However, the Natives have not had their share of easy moments either, as their forces must face a completely different world than what their ancestors and even themselves are used to. King Philip has taken over the throne over Massasoit as the leader of the Wampanoag coalition, and is now faced with preserving the independence of the Native Americans, as well as preparing to face off the English expansion and colonial campaigns.

The balance of good and evil, entwined with the balance of stability and chaos has been thrown out the door. Any peace that has lasted for decades underneath Massasoit and the original Pilgrim settlers has lapsed, replaced by resentment and mistrust. In the eyes of the Pilgrims, the Native nations are a mere obstacle that continue to grow on their own prosperity and security. Yet in the eyes of the Native people, these pilgrims who were once considered peaceful individuals are no longer trusted allies, but instead intruders who continue to defy the order of nature and law, and instead take upon their lands, threaten to destroy their culture and ultimately undermine their sovereignty. Tensions between the two have reached an ultimate breaking point, and war is upon the two sides. With all of this, you now, as delegates, are able to decide how this story continues. Will King Philip's War come to fruition, or will there be a compromise and reconciliation to prevent the bloodshed of thousands? Sit tight and be wary of what your actions may do, for it may forever seal a committee's fate.

#### **Bloc Positions**



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Pilgrims - The collected group of the original English settlers, Puritans, Separatists, descendants and any other leaning characters are now faced with several challenges to try and sustain and protect the colony. Plymouth Colony has grown from a fragile outpost into a permanent and ultimately a strong force over the past 50 years. While they were once occupied with several obstacles with religious persecutions back in England, famine, disease and winters, their obstacles have now changed to the point of defeating the Native Americans entirely and completely wiping them of their land, religion, freedom and ultimately will to live. With this, the Native Americans have begun to be viewed as intruders, no longer as partners, even though there was peace in the beginning between Massasoit and the Wampanoag Coalition. However 50 years down the line, that peace is fractured and broken. With this broken peace, mistrust and resentment has begun to grow throughout the land. Because of which, the Pilgrims must now decide on how to act and move forward throughout their community in order to create balance and diplomacy with the Native neighbors. They also must protect themselves from the looming threat of conflict. If the Pilgrims do not act accordingly and fail to meet the middle ground of the Native Americans, the survival of Plymouth in all of New England will be thrown into jeopardy.

Native American Tribes - As a group of collected Wampanoag, Narragansett, Massasoit and other tribe and Native leading characters come together, in order to overcome the Pilgrims. The motley crew must find ways to work together, in order to thrive in the changing world of theirs due to the decades presence of the Europeans. Despite having prior authority of their land, religion and freedom, they are now faced with shifting allegiances, the rid of their sovereignty and on top of that, diseases and enslavement to the Englishman, who claimed that their captured land, courts, and religion are what should be known as the norm in the land. With King Philip now in charge of the Wampanoag coalition, disparities regarding tradition, identity and the utter sovereignty and freedom of the natives now lie in question. Will the natives try an approach and push for diplomacy, despite considerable losses, or act in defiance of the Pilgrims and take back what's theirs? Should the Natives try and adopt various English matters and succumb to what has been thrown onto them, or reject them entirely, not only to honor



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themselves, but their ancestors as well? With these questions in mind and more, the Native bloc must now come together as one and determine whether coexistence is still possible, or whether the time has come to rebuke and go against the Settlers once and for all.

#### **Committee Goals**

- ★ Examine any changes that might have been done in the the social, political, economical and cultural sectors between the Natives and English Settlers since their interactions have begun & how they may change once more as the two go towards war.
- ★ Understand how in a mere span of 50 years, tensions have blown through the roof between the two blocs, and see how these tensions may continue to rise if delegates do not act accordingly, as the committee is thrown into war.
- ★ Examine how, regardless of a committee member's position or character, even the smallest modifications can have the greatest impact on the historical chronology.
- ★ Work together with other characters to figure out how to travel through these unfamiliar, unexplored waters, whether conflict will now ensue after 50 years of chaos & tension.

#### **Research Questions**

- How does the chronological timeline of the Pilgrims & Natives Americans lead the two sides towards their struggles, while taking into account various diseases, losses & shifts of power across leadership in the two blocs? How will these changes affect the flow & ultimate streamline of the committee?
- What events during this 50 year timeline could have been done differently in order for war to not become an option? Or was that event inevitable, and were there consequential actions that could have propelled war even faster onto the blocs?



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- What impact do you believe the cultural, theological, and social distinctions between Native Americans and the Pilgrims—such as those pertaining to conversion, property ownership, and governance—will have on the course of your early committee decisions?
- What impact will the committee's decisions, whether to maintain peace, assert territorial claims, strengthen alliances, or get ready for conflict, have on the remainder of the conference? Based on these decisions, what possible advantages or disadvantages do you think your bloc may face?



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