

UCIMUN 2026 Specials



Background Guide

Star Wars
Joseph Martinez





Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to the 34th Annual High School Conference at UCIMUN! My name is Joseph Martinez, and I will be your Director for this year's Star Wars Committee. Model UN has provided me with a unique opportunity to delve into critical global issues from a creative perspective, allowing me to analyze some of the most pressing topics both in history and in today's world. Here at UCI, I am a 4th-year student, double-majoring in Psychological Science and Criminal/Law & Society. After graduation, I would like to attend Law School and later pursue a PhD in Cognitive Science. I aim to utilize my degrees to work as a practicing attorney specializing in intellectual property and AI regulations. Ultimately, I aspire to conduct my own research and teach as a professor in the fields of law, cognition, and AI ethics. Outside of Model UN, I am a part of other pre-law organizations as well as conduct research looking into schizophrenia-spectrum disorders. I also love to listen to music, watch movies, try different ramen spots, and eat Pho.

Now, for our committee, we will be following the Star Wars cinematic timeline of the show *Andor* and the movie *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. Specifically, in Topic A, we will follow events that occurred in *Andor* and that will immediately lead into Topic B, which follows the events outlined in *Rogue One*. To go into more detail, Topic A (5 BBY to 2 BBY) will proceed during day one of the conference, and will journey through the scattered efforts of rebel factions throughout the galaxy as the early rebellion movement attempts to fight against the authoritarian rule of the Galactic Empire. We will be critically examining the foundations of an early liberation movement and deliberate on how the differing ideologies about power, peace, and freedom feed into the narratives on the morality of violence for both sides of a civil war. In Topic B (2 BBY to 0 BBY), during day two of the conference, we will witness the formal unification of the Rebel Alliance as they stand on a united front and work towards stealing the plans to the Death Star. All of you will tackle the challenges that come with orchestrating a unified rebellion against an ever-growing oppressive force, and you will have to make tough decisions that will lay the foundations for a new government.

All of you will need to understand your chosen character's personal history, ideology/philosophy, and the stance of the specific rebel cell your character belongs to. As the committee progresses, unexpected events will occur and inevitably pit characters against one another, creating a circle of mistrust and possible betrayal. It is up to each of you to develop thought-out character positions based on these dynamic circumstances. I also want to preface that it is perfectly okay if you have zero prior knowledge of Star Wars! But I will provide a warning: you all will be experts in Rebel Alliance lore when our two-day adventure is completed. I encourage all of you to use this topic synopsis as a guide while you are researching for your position papers. Remember to have fun with it, make connections to real-life historical liberation movements and civil wars, and continue to think outside of the box as you conduct your research! May the force be with you all.

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****DISCLAIMER:** While much of the committee will aim to follow the Star Wars canon timeline, some events, characters, and rebel cells may not be completely accurate to the timeline. This was to ensure fairness during delegate preparations and to make sure the committee runs as smoothly as possible.

Topic A: The Early Rebellion (5 BBY - 2 BBY)

Introduction

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, the Galactic Republic was generally known as a peaceful democratic government that ruled the galaxy for almost 30,000 years. Political members of the vast coalition of star systems were represented under the Galactic Senate that ran on a system of diplomacy, cooperation, and freedom. However, like any ruling power throughout human history, the end of the Republic's reign was met by centuries of political stagnation and corruption that slowly destroyed the very ideals that laid the Republic's foundations. This left a majority of the star systems unrepresented and confused as the Galactic Senate lost its bureaucratic effectiveness. This soon led to the Separatist Crisis, as thousands of systems followed the leadership of Count Dooku in a movement that believed the Republic could no longer serve in the best interests of the galaxy ("Imperial Era", n.d.).

The years 22-19 BBY (Before the Battle of Yavin) were marked by the Clone Wars between both the Republic and the Separatists. Chancellor Sheev Palpatine (secretly the Sith Lord Darth Sidious) was silently controlling the war to ensure that he was able to take leadership once the war subsided. The Sith Lords were trained in the dark side of the Force, energy that exists within and around all living things, and yearned to take control of the galaxy by spreading fear amongst its subordinates. On the other hand, the Jedi Order lived life embodying the light side of the Force, and were known as peacekeepers during the Republic era.



Through careful manipulation, Palpatine was able to direct the establishment of a clone army that would weaken the Senate's rule and would militarize the government. As the Clone Wars progressed, Palpatine utilized wartime emergencies to successfully pass executive powers that centralized power under his office and positioned himself as the Republic's "sole protector". In 19 BBY, Palpatine falsely claimed that the Jedi had attempted a coup against the Republic. As a consequence, Palpatine enacted Order 66 that commanded the clone army to execute their Jedi generals ("Imperial Era", n.d.). This devastating executive order effectively eliminated almost all living Jedi and ended the millennia-old line of peacekeepers that maintained balance within the Republic. The end of the war was officially marked by Palpatine declaring himself as the Emperor of the new Galactic Empire. With the Senate exhausted from the Clone Wars, they became easily deceived by propaganda in which they welcomed this transition of power.

The Republic had officially transformed into an authoritarian regime, which began the Imperial Era (19 BBY-5 BBY) defined by oppression, fear, and control. The Galactic Empire began to rapidly expand its influence to all star systems by installing Imperial governors (Moffs) and aimed to suppress dissent. Worlds along the Outer Rim of the galaxy were subject to heavy taxation and forced labor to exploit planets' natural resources in order to fund the Empire's massive military projects to ensure complete obedience. The Empire heavily relied on its internal intelligence and security agency, the Imperial Security Bureau (ISB), to maintain loyalty and crush any resistance ("Imperial Security Bureau", n.d.). ISB agents were tasked with monitoring civilian and Imperial officer loyalty through constant surveillance and psychological manipulation to ensure the Empire's totalitarian state.



Even in the face of the overwhelming control of the Empire, small-scale uprisings began to take place; the birth of a rebellion was imminent. This period of scattered uprisings became known as the early Rebellion. Rebel cells (i.e., separate rebel groups/factions) not only juggled militaristic conflicts against the Imperial army, but also had to decide why they were fighting for freedom. Aligned with many historical real-world liberation movements, the rebels had to justify fighting violence with violence to protect their emerging ideals that would form the New Republic. Throughout Topic A, we will explore how scattered acts of defiance evolve into a movement for liberation. What does it mean when ordinary individuals are forced to define what freedom truly is, and what that may demand in return?

Description

Aldhani Heist

One of these notable rebel cells during the early days of the Rebellion was the Axis Network. Headquartered on the planet of Coruscant, it was formed in 15 BBY during the Imperial Era and led by Commanding Officer Luthen Rael. The Axis Network was an underground rebellion network that was informally a part of the early Rebellion and was a key contact of collaboration with Imperial Senator Mon Mothma who had an established rebel network of her own (“Aldhani Heist”, n.d.). In 5 BBY, Luthen Rael and his Axis Network conducted a heist on Aldhani with the goal of stealing Imperial payroll of more than 80 million credits. Rael formed a six-member infiltration team and placed them in a temporary camp on Aldhani to prepare for the heist.



An Imperial double agent, Lieutenant Gorn, provided the team with critical intel on Aldhani's dam that would allow them to infiltrate the facility. The six-member team would act as a protection squad for the base's commandant during a local festival (i.e., Eye of Aldhani) to provide natural cover for the heist. However, a couple days before the heist they realized they were missing one more member to complete an in-disguise four-person team. Additionally, the team didn't account for a modification on their getaway vehicle that would have stopped them from escaping. Rael then recruited the mercenary "Clem", who was actually Cassian Andor (Andor plays a major role in the rebellion). Andor filled the role of the seventh member and helped solve the issue with their getaway vehicle. The following day, pilgrims attending the local festival began to arrive which prompted the rebels to begin their plans. Andor helped make up the four-member team that wore Imperial Army disguises to gain access into the facility where the credits were stored. At the same time, two of the squad members took positions outside of the facility to place scrambling charges that disrupted Imperial communication signals. The two members then entered the building right as the rest of the team got into a standoff the led to an Imperial commander being gunned down. The rest of the facility technicians, as well as the Imperial commander's family were held as hostages to help load credits from the facility vault into the rebels' getaway vehicle ("Adlhani Heist", n.d.).

While the rebels took credits from the vault, an Imperial communications technician was able to access their comlink frequency and overhear rebel plans. The technician met the rebel forces with Imperial security leading to a shootout and the dispatching of three TIE fighters (i.e., ion-powered spacecraft). Following additional Imperial and rebel personnel deaths from the shootout, Andor was able to successfully launch the getaway vehicle and jump into



hyperspace. The remaining rebel team traveled to the moon, Frezno, to have injuries treated that were sustained as they escaped Aldhani. Arvel Skeen, one of the rebel members of the heist, suggested that they take the credits for themselves and betray the Axis Network and the rest of the early rebellion. Andor shot and killed Skeen, then collected his share of the stolen credits and returned to his home planet which was occupied by the Empire. Andor tried to persuade his mother to run away with him; however, he was unsuccessful in his attempt. Vel Sartha (i.e., cousin to Senator Mon Mothma and one of the original coordinators of the Aldhani Heist) hid the getaway vehicle and securely deposited the credits to Rael.

In the aftermath of the heist, Rael secretly met with Mon Mothma and explained that the primary goal of the heist was successful ("Aldhani Heist", n.d.). Stealing the Imperial payroll was only a secondary objective to the primary objective of successfully provoking a large-scale Imperial crackdown to gain more anti-Imperial sentiment across the galaxy. In response to the rebel attack, the Empire imposed a tribute tax on all regions that maintained anti-Imperial activity as well as utilized the Public Order Resentencing Directive that dramatically increased prison sentences for all crimes committed against the Empire.

The Partisans & Rael

Shortly after the events on Aldhani, the Partisans (i.e., a rebel cell utilizing brutal and extreme tactics against the Empire) and their commander Saw Gerrera met with Luthen Rael at their base on Segra Milo. Rael wanted Gerrera to meet with Anto Kreegyr and his group to establish a planned attack on an Imperial power hub known as Spellhaus. At first, Gerrera refused to meet with Kreegyr as he used to be a part of the Separatists during the Clone Wars.



This illustrates both Saw's and the Partisans' isolationist ideology and demonstrates how the rebellion is not only physically divided but also politically and morally. Eventually, Gerrera struck a deal with Rael and would support the efforts of the attack. However, plans were thwarted as the ISB received intel of the attack further confirming the increased Imperial intelligence ("Partisans", n.d.).

Ferrix Riot

The year is now 5 BBY, and the Ferrix Riot will make its mark on rebel history as a major uprising during the early days of the rebellion. Following the success of the Axis Network and the Aldhani Heist, the Empire established new laws to crack down on rebellion activity and bring more power to the ISB. These new and harsh imperial laws, such as the Imperial Emergency Act and the Public Order Resentencing Directive, left places such as Ferrix feeling powerless as a result of ISB surveillance. Ferrix was subject to direct military occupation, as Andor killed two corporate officers of the Preox-Morlana Corporation and effectively exposed a critical weakness in corporate policing. Supervisor Dedra Meero of the ISB, established their headquarters in a main hotel located on Rix Road in Ferrix. Rix Road was originally known for commercial activities, but became a center for ISB surveillance as anti-Imperial sentiment began to grow. Enforcers of the Empire, stormtroopers, carried out curfews on Ferrix citizens and held public executions in the face of opposition.

The adoptive mother of Cassian Andor, Maarva Andor, was a previous president of the Daughters of Ferrix and was a revered member of her community ("Maarva Carassi Andor", n.d.). Even being sick, Maarva Andor continued to be outspoken in opposition to the tyrannical



rule of the Empire. The Empire approved of a public funeral for her; however, ISB agents were strategically disguised as mourners during the funeral to maintain surveillance of any unusual anti-Imperial activity. On the day of the funeral, Ferrix's citizens filled Rix Road. A marching band attended, along with members of the Daughters of Ferrix. However, Wilmon Paak was hidden in the large crowd and carried a homemade explosive device to extract revenge on Imperial troops who executed his father. Unknown to the Empire and the ISB, Maarva's droid projected a pre-recorded hologram of Maarva where she publicly denounced the Empire and called upon Ferrix to "wake up and fight" ("Ferrix Riot", n.d.). The Imperial troops attempted to turn off the broadcast; however, Maarva sparked a flame in the hearts of Ferrix citizens that wouldn't be so easy to extinguish. Paak threw the explosive device toward the Imperial hotel which killed numerous soldiers and left a pile of debris. Instead of running, the citizens of Ferrix began a full-scale rebellion against the Imperial troops. In a panic, stormtroopers armed themselves and took aim on the crowd of civilians that resulted in the deaths of dozens of people. Cassian Andor was then able to slip into the hotel to save Bix Caleen who was being tortured for rebel intel by the ISB. ISB Supervisor Meero just slightly escaped death as rebels continued to apply frontline pressure. Also hidden among the chaos, Luthen Rael got to witness the spark of a rebellion that he and the Axis Network have worked desperately to ignite.

In the aftermath of the Ferrix Riot, civilians and Imperial troopers were killed in action and the city of Ferrix was left in ruins. Eventually, the ISB did reestablish control; however, the story of the Ferrix Riot gained momentum and spread across the galaxy to serve as a symbol of hope. Of course, the ISB responded in even more violent crackdowns on anti-Imperial security



and surveillance but the people of Ferrix showed that the courage of the powerless can break the illusion of control.

Ghorman Massacre

Through multiple years of Imperial planning, the Ghorman Massacre was a result of violent events that came together as collateral damage a part of the Imperials' desire for the planet's kalkite deposits to fuel a top secret "Energy Project". This "Energy Project" would later be linked to the plans of an Imperial superweapon. In the year 4 BBY, the Imperial Military's Advanced Weapons Research planned to destroy the planet Ghorman to take their kalkite deposits. ISB supervisor Dedra Meero was eventually placed in charge of the project after she proposed to purposefully cause a civilian insurgency that would give the Empire reason to violently suppress the planet to take control of the planet's kalkite. Syril Karn, later identified as a hidden ISB asset, was assigned to Ghorman local institutions to make sure the public tensions continued to rise around the year 3 BBY ("Ghorman Massacre", n.d.). This careful planning of the Empire would soon be realized to be a major mistake and would eventually give the scattered rebel cells an opportunity to formally unite against the Empire.

Ghorman's capital, Palmo, witnessed heavy Imperial oversight as Imperial personnel began to increasingly occupy the planet. According to plan, Imperial forces moved large mining rigs and TIE fighters to occupy Palmo Plaza; all with the goal to make sure that large civilian crowds would be drawn to the plaza. Imperial troops were even stationed in residential areas and office buildings to stir up anti-Imperial activity. The Ghorman Front, a civilian advocacy and liberation movement on Ghorman, led the resistance against the Imperial mining project



(“Ghorman Front”, n.d.). Saw Gerrera and the Partisans had conflicting rebel ideologies, where they believed that the Ghorman Front was lost in their journey on effectively resisting Empire influence. Specifically, the Ghorman Front encouraged peaceful protests and would regularly petition the Imperial Senate through hearings called the Ghorman Debates. The Ghorman Debates were met by support from Senator Mon Mothma and aimed to bring to the light the clear human-rights violations produced by the atrocities of the Empire. Unfortunately, the ISB was one step ahead and created fake evidence that the Front was responsible for sabotage to Imperial activity on Ghorman and tried to convince Palpatine’s government that Ghorman required Imperial interference. Supervisor Dedra Meero continued to purposely rile up civilians on the planet so they have a lawful excuse for Imperial violence (“Ghorman Massacre”, n.d.).

In 2 BBY, approximately thousands of citizens came together in Palmo Plaza to protest Imperial occupation. Citizens were chanting and holding up banners in solidarity with Ghorman sovereignty. Suddenly, an Imperial sniper took a shot into the crowd signaling the authorization of legal engagement to put down the protestors. Stormtroopers, TIE fighters, and KX-series security droids were put in place to close off any escape routes as unarmed civilians attempted to run to safety but were either shot down or trampled upon as panic grew. Cassian Andor attempted to save as many people as he could, while also trying to broadcast the events of the massacre to the rest of the galaxy. In the aftermath of the Ghorman Massacre, Palmo Plaza was turned into a grave site with the blood of thousands of civilians etched into the streets of the city. The ISB scrambled to destroy any record that would expose the truth of the Ghorman Program and relied on Imperial propaganda to label these unfortunate events as the consequence of an anti-Imperial riot.



Notable political figures who spoke out about the events on Ghorman were met by mass arrests conducted by the Empire. The Ministry of Information began to censor targeted broadcasts and painted Ghorman as a planet of terrorists and extremists. One of these political figures was Senator Mon Mothma who officially denounced Emperor Palpatine on the Senate floor and called him a “lying executioner” (“Ghorman Massacre”, n.d.). After resigning from her position as Senator, she fled into exile and was labeled as a traitor to the Empire. The rebel group, known as the Spectres and the Gold Squadron, picked up Mon Mothma in what is known as Operation Handoff led by Senator Bail Organa (“Operation Handoff”, n.d.). The Spectres and Gold Squadron were able to successfully bring her to the planet Dantooine, which would become a temporary rebel base.

Committee Begins

We will begin committee in the year 5 BBY. During this time, disparate rebel cells are spread throughout the galaxy conducting their own insurgencies against the Galactic Empire. No formal or secure way of communicating rebel intel with each other has yet to be established. Only a select few of these rebel cells do maintain communication with one another and have informal networks established. At the start of committee, Luthen Rael and the Axis Network are drawing up plans to undergo the Aldhani Heist. In secret collaboration with Imperial Senator Mon Mothma, the Axis Network is tasked with networking and intelligence gathering. Tensions remain high as the Galactic Empire and the ISB continue to tighten their grip on planetary regions.



Even though the Partisans and Saw Gerrera were not directly involved in the Aldhani Heist, it is important to note the deep ideological rifts that began to form during the early rebellion. The Partisans role throughout Topic A will be mainly limited to a political role by providing philosophical “counseling” to the Axis Network, as they establish a crossroad between “idealists” and “realists”.

Bloc Positions

The Axis Network: Led by Luthen Rael, the Axis Network is tasked with carrying out dangerous espionage-type missions that are focused on dismantling Imperial facilities from the shadows. Data extractions, heists, and infiltrating Imperial ranks are a specialty of this bloc. Members of the Axis Network are able to commit morally gray acts in the name of resistance.

The Phoenix Cell: Under the courageous leadership of Jun Sato and Hera Syndulla, the Phoenix Cell demonstrates that with effective coordination the defeat of the Empire can be within their grasp. They champion the unity of the scattered rebel cells and want shared communication/purpose that will be the foundation of the resistance. But still, the leaders of the Phoenix Cell struggle to strike a balance between violent attacks and peaceful modes of opposition that may or may not mold them into the very people they are fighting against.

The Massassi Group: This was one of the largest rebel groups to fight against the Galactic Empire and contained former Imperial military members and strategists among their ranks. They



believed in order, unity, and discipline; however, their support for a hierarchical style of leadership brought parallels to the authoritarian rule of the Empire.

Bail Organa's Resistance Movement: With the leadership of Senator Bail Organa, his rebel network was the moral compass of the Rebellion and focused on using Alderaan's abundant resources to carry out humanitarian aid missions and utilized diplomacy through the Imperial Senate. They relied on rule of law and was in complete opposition to those who blurred the lines between rebellion and terrorist acts.

The Partisans: Under the extreme leadership of Saw Gerrera, the Partisans supported Imperial opposition through total war and went to military extremes to ensure violence was fought with violence. While their methods of resistance, such as assassination and torture, were effective in pushing back Imperial forces it also tended to alienate themselves as a rebel group and scared off potential allies. The Partisans bring up one of the committee's most daunting questions: if liberation demands blood, can the Rebellion still call itself a righteous movement for the betterment of all?

Committee Goals

** For both Topic A and B, delegates must have a firm understanding of their character's ideology, background, and any existing moral code that defines their decision-making. Delegates must also understand the philosophy and available resources of the rebel cell their character belongs to, and what stance they may have on power as well as the justification of violence.



- ❖ Establish secure communications and coordinate with disparate rebel cells.
- ❖ Debate and attempt to define any moral boundaries of a liberation movement.
- ❖ Determine if the Rebellion should come together under centralized leadership or remain a scattered resistance movement.
- ❖ Analyze the role that information and propaganda play in defining what the truth is and how that coincides with creating a unified galaxy.
- ❖ Define the Rebellion's guiding purpose: liberation, vengeance, or restoration.

Research Questions

- ❖ What separates the rebels' espionage-style attacks from the extreme measures taken by the Empire? Who may define that boundary?
- ❖ How may a character's moral compromise shape the identity of the rebellion they belong to?
- ❖ Look into the ways the Galactic Empire has utilized propaganda to sway favorable public opinions. What role do information and the spread of propaganda play in building legitimacy and support for a given cause?
- ❖ Is the unification of the rebel cells sacrificing their own independent visions of a rebellion movement, or is unity and the establishment of formal leadership a necessity for a successful rebellion?
- ❖ Put yourself in your character's shoes. If they were a high-ranking Imperial Officer with all the job securities and benefits that come from conquering an entire galaxy, would they be able to recognize the crimes of the Empire? Or would they remain complacent in their position of power?



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Topic B: The Rebel Alliance & Project Star Dust (2 BBY - 0 BBY)

Introduction

After the atrocities of the Ghorman Massacre in 2 BBY, Imperial Senator Mon Mothma publicly denounced Emperor Palpatine and his government. Effectively, this made Mon Mothma a traitor to the Galactic Empire. The ISB was assigned to hunt her down and capture her; however, the Axis Network and Cassian Andor answered the call to action. Andor helped Mon Mothma escape off-planet, while ISB agents traveled to the planet Coruscant and interviewed Leia Organa (i.e., the adopted princess of Senator Bail Organa). With Bail Organa's swift response the Ghost (i.e., a light freighter), owned by the Spectres of the Phoenix Cell, and the Gold Squadron of the Massassi Group rendezvoused to escort Mon Mothma to safety.

However, they were soon ambushed by Imperial forces and were forced to travel an alternative route through the Archeon Pass. A second ambush by Imperial forces further pushed the rebels off course, into the Archeon Nebula, resulting in the rebels being able to evade their Imperial pursuers but leaving some of the rebel squadrons separated. Unexpectedly, two Imperial I-Class Star Destroyers exited hyperspace. Two rebel bombers strategically launched proton torpedoes at the Archeon Nebula, releasing a wave of energy that damaged the Star Destroyers, allowing Mon Mothma and the other ships to escape.

Now safely aboard the Ghost, Mon Mothma and the Spectres exited hyperspace and were docked above the Outer Rim world of Dantooine. Everyone aboard the Ghost gathered around Mon Mothma, awaiting for a moment that would surely define the early rebellion as more than just scattered efforts of resistance. They were now in the eye of the storm, catching their breath but with the utmost awareness of what was to come next. Up until this point, the rebels lacked



cohesion and consistent communication across most existing rebel cells at the time. But the crimes of the Empire and their leader, Sith Lord Darth Sidious (aka Emperor Palpatine), were far too much to ignore. Topic B will dive deep into the coordinated efforts of a proper resistance movement and will bring about strategic wartime planning. But now, various rebel cells with differing ideologies will find themselves facing internal conflict as they decide how the rebellion should respond to Imperial action. With the birth of a new Republic just right around the corner, how will debates around the organization of leadership and government affect the future of the rebellion? Will the rebellion succeed in creating a new galactic order or succumb to internal threats and a disorganized government built upon conflicting political morals?

Description

Declaration of the Rebel Alliance

Aboard the Ghost, Mon Mothma began her speech officially announcing the formal unification of the Rebel Alliance to end the reign of the Empire and bring about the restoration of the Republic. Her speech was broadcast to all rebels and to trillions of beings across the galaxy. Below is a segment of Mon Mothma's speech to the galaxy.

“ Following is the address I will make within the hour. It will go out across all Alliance comm channels and will be inserted into the public holonet wherever we have a satellite splice. Trillions of beings will soon hear my voice. This is a galaxy-wide call to arms. We can no



longer fight in isolation. Today is the first day of the Rebel Alliance. Together, we will restore the Republic. “

— Declaration written by Mon Mothma

Following the broadcast, the Alliance to Restore the Republic (i.e., the Rebel Alliance) was established. Within the Alliance, it was further divided into two main sections namely the Alliance Civil Government and the Alliance High Command, both headed by Mon Mothma as its Chancellor. The sub-units of the Alliance Civil Government were composed of the Alliance Cabinet and the Propaganda Bureau, both of which were made up of civilians. The Alliance Military was also nested into the Alliance Civil Government (“Declaration of the Rebel Alliance”, n.d.). The Alliance High Command was the main center of leadership for the Rebel Alliance and was responsible for coordinating Rebel operations against the Empire. An official document titled “The Declaration of Rebellion” was released to Emperor Palpatine to openly declare a Galactic Civil War between the Rebel Alliance and the Galactic Empire.

Jedha City

The year is now 0 BBY, and the Alliance to Restore the Republic has been operating for roughly two years. Under the Alliance, Captain Cassian Andor received orders to figure out why the Galactic Empire has been transporting large amounts of Kyber crystals. Andor’s mission took him to the Ring of Kafrene, where he heard word of a defected Imperial cargo pilot by the name of Bodhi Rook on the moon Jedha. Bodhi Rook supposedly brought valuable intel with him to the Partisans from scientist Galen Erso regarding an Imperial superweapon. After receiving



confirmation from Alliance High Command, a mission was undertaken to retrieve Jyn Erso (i.e., Galen Erso's daughter) to assist in Operation Fracture. Objectives of Operation Fracture were to identify Galen Erso, receive more intel about the supposed superweapon, and eventually the capture of Galen Erso into Rebel Alliance custody.

The Alliance entrusted Captain Andor and Jyn Erso to make sure that Bodhi Rook's claims about an Imperial superweapon were true. The team traveled to Jedha City, but were "captured" by the Partisans and brought to Saw Gerrera where he gave Jyn the message about the superweapon from her father. Jyn learned that the name of the superweapon was the Death Star, a moon-sized battle station that had the ability to destroy entire planets with its equipped superlaser ("Death Star", n.d.). More importantly, Galen had placed a critical weakness within the Death Star. However, at the same time Imperial personnel by the name of Grand Moff Wilhuff Tarkin and Director Orson Krennic witnessed the completion of the Death Star. They decided it would be a grand idea to test the weapon on Jedha City, as they were aware of a defector within the city. After issuing Protocol 13, all Imperial forces were evacuated from the city which is when Director Krennic began the destruction of the city ("Destruction of Jedha City", n.d.). A bright green superlaser came down onto the city, and within seconds, the city was destroyed.

Andor, Jyn, Bodhi Rook, and most of the Partisans were able to escape; however, Gerrera was not met by such luck and died from the shockwaves of the laser. At this point, Director Krennic and Grand Moff Tarkin were on their way to the planet Eadu to eliminate all contacts of the Imperial defector at the Kyber refinery. At the same time, Captain Andor and his



team were also on their way to Eadu to carry out the completion of Operation Fracture to apprehend Galen for his crimes against the Rebel Alliance.

Mission to Eadu

Without Jyn's knowledge, Andor was given secret orders by the head of Alliance Intelligence to assassinate Galen on sight as they feared he was involved too much in the situation at hand. Upon reaching Eadu, the ship carrying the team crashed landed due to a heavy rainstorm. Soon after, Andor left Jyn and the rest of the team in the ship to find a vantage point to shoot Erso with a sniper rifle. However, due to the crash the head of Alliance Intelligence lost contact with the team and decided to deploy Blue Squadron to complete a bombing run on the Kyber refinery ensuring the termination of Galen. Eventually, Jyn was able to figure out the secret mission objective and left the ship to make contact with her father.

Director Krennic and a unit of Death Troopers, arrived at the landing platform of the refinery and ordered all scientists to come out for interrogation regarding the leaking of the Death Star plans. Galen stepped forward and admitted he was responsible for the leaked intel; and yet, Krennic still had the rest of the scientists executed anyways. As Andor was about to take fire on Galen, he noticed Jyn had reached the landing platform and immediately tried to call off the bombing run. By that time, the Blue Squadron had already engaged fire with Eadu defenses and dropped one bomb at the gates killing a number of stormtroopers. Jyn managed to rush to her father, but was too late and was met by another bombing run that ended up gravely injuring Galen leading to his death.



Final Briefing on Yavin 4

Shortly after the events on Eadu, Captain Andor and Jyn brought Galen's message before the Alliance High Command on the moon Yavin 4. Yavin 4 became the new headquarters of the Rebel Alliance a little after 2 BBY and serves as the main headquarters of the Alliance for the rest of Topic B. In the message, it was again revealed that the Death Star was completely operational but had a major weakness engineered by Galen before his death. Galen also provided instructions for the rebels to locate Project Stardust (i.e., the codename of the Death Star plans) stored on the planet Scarif in the Citadel Tower. The briefing was led by Chancellor Mon Mothma, Bail Organa, General Jan Dodonna, and other high-ranking officials.

Plans to attack the Imperial data vault on Scarif was met by extreme opposition from Alliance High Command, as the previous Ghorman Massacre and destruction of Jedha City left them balancing the risk of outright war. They have already witnessed the destructive capacity that the Empire was ready to impose on them if they were to reveal themselves in an aggressive manner. Much of the council also doubted that Jyn's claims about the Death Star were credible. On top of this, any direct attack on the empire could expose the location of their base on Yavin 4. The meeting ended with no consensus being reached, effectively denying approval of a direct assault on the Scarif's Citadel Tower.

Despite this opposition, Captain Andor called upon Jyn Erso and a small group of volunteers who were willing to carry out this dangerous mission. Without sanctioned departure, this rag-tag group of rebels, with the callsign "Rogue One", left Yavin 4 and headed for Scarif. Eventually, word reached Mon Mothma but instead of calling them back she allowed the mission to unfold, illustrating her quiet approval for Rogue One and the extraction of Project Stardust.



Battle of Scarif

In a stolen Zeta-class Heavy Cargo Shuttle, Rogue One was able to infiltrate Scarif's planetary shield and began to attack the outskirts of the Citadel through a guerrilla-style assault. With Imperial forces occupied Andor, Jyn, and the droid K-2SO were able to gain access to the tower. Rebel signals intelligence intercepted an Imperial transmission panicking over the direct attack by Rogue One. This prompted Mon Mothma and decorated rebel, Admiral Raddus, to mobilize fighter aircraft immediately and head to Scarif. Director Krennic made attempts to stall Andor and Jyn; however, the Alliance Fleet suddenly exited hyperspace to provide support to the rebel ground forces below. The Alliance Fleet kept the Imperial Star Destroyers occupied while also attempting to take down the shield gates that were protecting the planet. Blue Squadron was able to make it through the planet's shields and provided aerial support through X-wings and U-wings. Gold Squadron was to stick with the main fleet above the planet to protect the larger aircraft from Imperial assaults.

The battle continued to rage on with both sides suffering major casualties. Andor and Jyn continued to press on and eventually made their way to the data vault. Due to the sheer size of Project Stardust's data files, the planetary shield needed to be destroyed in order for transmission to the rebel fleet. Met by Director Krennic and two Death Troopers, Andor was knocked unconscious while Jyn made her way to the top of the Citadel tower. Krennic attempted to stop Jyn, but was shot down by Andor, who regained consciousness. Admiral Raddus commanded his fleet to cause a forced collision of two Star Destroyers that crashed into the orbital docking



station that controlled the deflector shields. With the shields disabled, Jyn and Andor were able to successfully transmit Project Stardust to the rebel fleet.

Immediately after the transmission, the Death Star came out of hyperspace and fired its superlaser at the Scarif base. Everyone at the base, including Imperial personnel, was vaporized by the blast. Jyn and Andor came down from the tower to take in their last moments as the impending shockwave came their way. The remaining Alliance Fleet attempted to escape into hyperspace, but was met by the Devastator (i.e., an Imperial I-Class Star Destroyer known as the flagship to the Dark Lord of the Sith, Darth Vader). Rogue One demonstrated the ultimate sacrifice for a chance at bringing about a new hope for the galaxy, and was the embodiment of the struggle for freedom through risk and restraint.

Committee Begins

We will begin Topic B in the year 2 BBY, right after the events of the Ghorman Massacre. Former Imperial Senator Mon Mothma has just publicly denounced the Galactic Empire and Emperor Palpatine. The Declaration of Rebellion has begun the Galactic Civil War and has officially created the Alliance to Restore the Republic. Even though the Rebellion is moving towards unity, the very political and militaristic ideologies the rebellion is built on is fragile. Some of the members of the Alliance criticized Mon Mothma and the Alliance High Command for running the rebellion as a government and not a coordinated military resistance. It is clear that each rebel cell that has joined the Alliance are bringing their own motives and visions for a new Republic. Will it be better to maintain a decentralized network to avoid detection from the Empire, or keep power consolidated under formal branches of leadership?



How will differing ideologies bordering on extremity to pacifism be balanced during a crucial time of resistance? The fate and future of the galaxy is in your hands.

Bloc Positions

The Axis Network: Even though they are only partially absorbed into the greater Alliance, characters from the original network do not hesitate to plan secret operations (e.g., Rogue One) and operate outside of direct orders from Alliance High Command. They remain masters of espionage and sabotage, but it can cause friction among the leading rebellion council.

The Phoenix Cell: This group has evolved into the foundations of the Alliance Fleet as they control air combat and critical intelligence operations. The Alliance continues to grow into the skeleton of an organized government, where Phoenix Cell leaders must navigate their orders. Members of this bloc continue to push for victory and morality.

The Massassi Group: The Massassi Group is stationed on Yavin 4, where they provide great military strength and strategy to the Alliance. They remain a vital defensive force and continue to support structure within the Alliance. With their growing power, other rebel personnel might fear the formation of a permanent standing army.

Bail Organa's Resistance Movement: Bail Organa continues to play a key role in the Alliance High Command, where his greater rebellion network on Alderaan and beyond has been absorbed into the Alliance Civil Government. Members of this bloc continue to base their beliefs on lawful



conduct and put morality before destruction. Their vast resources are influential to the Rebel Alliance, but it is unclear if their idealistic point of view slows down progress towards freedom.

The Partisans: They remain very untrustworthy of the bureaucratic makeup of the new Alliance, as they do not align with Partisan beliefs. Even though relationships are not strong with Alliance High Command, they continue to conduct their own independent strikes on Imperial facilities. Characters that are a part of this bloc define rebellion through brutal tactics of war and torture, and provide a fine line between extremity and key reminders of why the Rebellion began.

Committee Goals

- ❖ Notice that even though the Rebellion stands for different objectives, its use of violence parallels the actions of the Empire.
- ❖ Understand that each character and their unique rebel cells bring new motives to a common cause that can completely redefine what “liberation” and “freedom” truly mean.
- ❖ Explore the development of a unified coalition of rebel freedom fighters and observe the complexities that propaganda, military actions, and personal strife play during wartime decision-making.

Research Questions

- ❖ Is it possible for a rebel movement to balance all the interests and motives of its active members?
- ❖ What forms of diplomatic strategies were attempted leading up to the formal declaration of a Galactic Civil War? Was it possible for total war to be prevented?



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- ❖ Why was the Empire so successful in spreading fear and terror across the Galaxy? What characters could have put a stop to this spread of fear, but remained in hiding? Were they justified in staying hidden and out of conflict?
- ❖ Go back in time, what were some of the major mistakes of the Old Republic that led to the eventual downfall of a relatively peaceful era? How can the Rebellion movement learn from those mistakes and establish a new Republic founded on trust without complacency?



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