



BCHighMUN 30



Metacom's War: Native American Tribes

Chair: Alexander Church '22

Co-Chair: Alexander Blasberg '22

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Letter from the Chair

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to BC High's 30th annual Model UN conference! My name is Alexander Church, I am a senior, and this is my second year participating in Model UN. Outside of MUN rooms, I participate in Mock Trial and play violin.

This committee is intended for experienced delegates; you can be in any grade level, but you should have been in a handful of conferences before and done well. This can be your first crisis committee; if it is, there are some details about the unique procedure of a JCC in this document.

Please send your position papers to my email address below before the committee session starts. Especially given how nuanced this topic is and the many factors at play, it will be very helpful to articulate your position ahead of time, and the best paper receives an award.

I look forward to seeing you all at the conference on March 5th. This committee will be best if everyone is prepared, so I hope you all do your research and come ready to have a good time.

Regards,

Alexander Church '22

[they/them]

Director of External Affairs

Chair, Metacom's War: Native American Tribes

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Letter from the Co-Chair

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to BC High! My name is Alexander Blasberg, I am in my senior year here, and this is my first year participating in Model UN. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy playing baseball and soccer, as well as boating and movies. I hope to study computer engineering and finance in college next year.

This is my first time co-chairing a committee, and I hope to hear some lively debates and arguments from both sides today. This is obviously one of the more serious topics here, so take the complex nature of this issue into account while formulating your arguments.

I look forward to seeing you all in the committee, and I hope we will have some good conversations. Until then, do some research, get to know the issue, and most importantly, get excited.

Sincerely,

Alexander Blasberg '22

[he/him]

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Co-Chair, Metacom's War: Native American Tribes



JCC Committee

This committee is a **joint-crisis committee**. By the nature of this style of delegation, the committee will be fast-paced and will operate with directives rather than resolutions. Directives call for specific actions addressing a specific issue rather than solutions to a general problem. Like resolutions, they will involve the entire committee's attention and consideration. For example, in a warfare committee, one side of the JCC might pass a directive that calls for the preparation for war with a missile strike and 5000 troops.

Directives require a **50% simple majority** to pass. Furthermore, **2 sponsors and 3 signatories** will be required to present the directive.

In addition to general committee directives, there will also be **personal directives**. This means that you, as a delegate representing a character, can request for specific actions with the character's power. These are done as notes to crisis staff who will make periodic visits to the committee. These actions must be approved by the crisis staff and will not be considered legitimate without their approval. These personal directives remain confidential with the crisis staff and will not be shared with other delegates. If crisis staff approves, they will come into the room with "crisis updates" which will detail the effects of the personal directives and general committee directives.

Here is a hypothetical example, let us say you represented Josef Stalin. You may call for the imprisonment of a subordinate. However the crisis staff must approve of this personal directive for it to occur.

Note that both the English side and the Native Americans' side will not meet face to face. Rather, they will interact and respond to each other through their directives. Crisis updates will contain moves made from the Native Americans and any personal directives made from the English side.



Historical Information

Native Life Prior English Colonization

There were between 70,000 and 100,000 native people living in New England at the beginning of the 1600s. The New England Native Americans were all a part of the Algonquian ethnic group (they shared similar language and culture) but consisted of several different tribes. These included the Abenaki, Micmac, Pennacook, Pequot, Mohegan, Nauset, Narragansett, Nipmuc, Woronoco, and Wampanoag.

In southern New England, native life included small villages with men hunting and fishing and women farming corn, beans, and squash. In Northern New England, most survived off hunting, fishing, and gathering. Farming in the north was more difficult than the south due to harsh winters.

When a living area was depleted of nutrients, Native American villages often moved to nearby areas. This idea of being semipermanent contrasted with English ideas of defined territory and would cause conflict.



Figure 1, Native American man Meets Mayflower, [National Geographic](#)



English Colonization

The first English settlement in New England was the Plymouth Colony in 1607; pilgrims from England sought religious freedom and agreed to send agricultural goods back to an English joint stock company if their trip to America was funded. They arrived on the famous Mayflower ship.

Many other English puritan settlers followed. In 1922, the Province of Maine was established. The next year, the New Hampshire colony was founded. In 1630, the Massachusetts Bay Colony was founded. In 1636, the Rhode Island and Connecticut colonies were founded. By 1750, four colonies remained and others were absorbed: the Province of Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island Colony, Connecticut Colony, Province of New Hampshire.



Figure 2, Map of New England Colonies Circa 1677, [National Geographic](#)



Rising Tensions/ Conflict

When the English first arrived in New England, Native Americans and Europeans engaged in peaceful trade. Natives traded beaver pelts for metals and textiles. Unfortunately, the English also brought deadly European disease with them, killing a large majority of the Native Americans. Seventy-five percent of Native Americans were killed by an epidemic in 1616.

As the Massachusetts Bay Puritans spread further into Connecticut, they came into conflict with the Pequot native tribe. In 1637, the native tribe killed 13 Englishmen. The English responded with a military force. The Pequot responded with 200 warriors and attacked a Connecticut settlement. In 1637, the Puritans conducted multiple attacks on the Pequot tribes and massacred most of the remaining native inhabitants. Most of the survivors were sold into slavery or were forced to join other New England tribes. After the incident, the Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut Colony, and New Haven Colony all allied to form the New England Confederation in 1643. This unity gave the English an advantage over the numerous, distinct Native tribes.

Colonists continued to encroach on Native lands. The Wampanoag chief Massasoit decided to negotiate a peace treaty, which had no effect on English actions. Wamsutta succeeded him in 1661 and the English arrested him on suspicion of plotting war the following year. During the “questioning,” Wamsutta died. King Metacom/Phillip came to power in 1662.

In 1675, a Christian Indian named John Sassamon warned the Plymouth Colony that the natives were planning an attack. The English disregarded his warning and Sassamon’s body was found dead later. Furious, the English found three of the native men guilty and hung them. As a result, Metacom’s grew angry and a growing thirst for vengeance emerged in the Wampanoag tribe. Tension grew between both the English and Wampanoag tribe. Both were prepared for war.



The Native American Perspective

This committee will take place immediately after the trial of John Sassamon. The English have just hung three Wampanoag men. The Native Americans are very angry, and they must find a way to protect their land and their culture against the growing control of English colonists. However, the English are much more powerful than any singular Native American tribe. In order to win a war, Native American tribes will need to ally themselves against the English.

Additionally, consider the other native tribes. The English colonies were all allied under the New England Confederation but the Native American tribes of New England were all separated. Historically speaking, the Nipmuck, Pocumtuck and Narragansett tribes all allied with Metacom and the Wampanoag tribe and the Mohegan and Mohawk tribes allied with the English. **Please be advised: this committee does not and will not follow historical accuracy.** The leaders of these tribes will start on the Native Tribes side. However, these five tribes can be persuaded to ally with the English.

The Native American tribes of New England and the English will communicate with each other through crisis staff. In other words, crisis staff will give updates of the committee's situation; the English will respond to the actions of the Native tribes and the Native tribes will respond to the actions of the English.

Questions to Consider

- 1. How should you respond to the death of Wamsutta?*
- 2. Can Native American tribes maintain their sovereignty?*
- 3. Is it possible to negotiate a treaty with the English, or certain colonies?*



Positions

Androscoggin Tribe

Kennebec Tribe

Mohawk Tribe

Mohegan Tribe

Narragansett Tribe

Nashaway Tribe

Nauset Tribe

Nipmuc Tribe

Pequawket Tribe

Penobscot Tribe

Pequot Tribe

Pocomtuc Tribe

Sakonnet Tribe

Wabanaki Confederacy

Wampanoag Tribe



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