

HASALMUN'24



Hellenic League

Study Guide

"Youth will shape the world"

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1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear delegates,

It is my utmost pleasure and honour to welcome you all to the 11th annual session of Hüseyin Avni Sözen Model United Nations Conference. I, Haktan Keskin, consider it a priceless and flattering opportunity to serve as the Secretary-General in HASALMUN'24, a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovative problem-solving on pressing global issues.

It is my desire to create an environment in which you will find the chance to put your negotiation and critical thinking abilities into action and have a greater awareness of societal issues. As we convene in the spirit of cooperation this May, I kindly urge each and every one of you to listen with an open heart and leave room for understanding while respecting differing viewpoints. I believe it is through constructive debate that we can work towards finding viable solutions to the challenges we are facing today. What will be expected of you is to exhibit an unmatched sense of collaboration, think outside the box, and step into the shoes of bureaucrats during the conference

I would like to express my most heartfelt gratitude to any and every one of you attending our conference. Finally, I wish you the best of luck in your committee, and I hope that we were successful in generating the finest possible conference for you. With our guidance and assistance, you will be expected to complete the work that we began.

Once again, I welcome you all to the 11th edition of Hüseyin Avni Sözen Model United Nations Conference. We cannot wait to meet you!

All the best,
Haktan Keskin

2. Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Most Esteemed Participants,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the Historical Crisis Committee of the HASALMUN'24. I am more than honored to have this opportunity as Under-Secretary General of the Hellenic League. I am dedicated to doing everything in my power to provide you with a well-planned committee.

The Hellenic League Committee takes place in a time very different from today. The series of events determined the future of Greece forever. It is only through understanding the history we can look at today with a different perspective. In this committee, the history will be rewritten, while understanding the past circumstances and through critical thinking. In this study guide, you will find everything you need to have an understanding of this committee.

I look forward to meeting you all and having a great committee. Until then, make sure you read the study guide and do further research if you feel like you need it. I wish you good luck on your journey at our HCC committee and may the best prevail!

Yours Sincerely,
Ayperı Dođular

3. Key Terms

Satrap: a provincial governor in the ancient Persian empire.

Tyrant: a cruel and oppressive ruler.

Vassal: a holder of land by feudal tenure on conditions of homage and allegiance.

Hoplites: were citizen-soldiers of Ancient Greek city-states who were primarily armed with spears and shields.

Aspis: was the heavy wooden shield used by the infantry in various periods of ancient Greece.

4. Introduction

The Greco-Persian Wars is a series of conflicts between the Greek States and the Persian Empire. The Greco-Persian Wars were a crucial event for Western civilization for the main reason of securing Greek Independence. The Greco-Persian Wars had the potential to destroy Greek culture and identity or to unify and strengthen it, according to the outcome. With this series of conflicts, the history of Greece was changed one way or another. The Persian Empire, significantly stronger compared to Greek states of the time, held the power to invade Greek lands. However, the Greek states united and opposed the Persian Empire against the odds.

The Greco-Persian Wars marked the solidification of Greek unity. The results of the Greco-Persian Wars contributed to the eventual decline of the Persian Empire. The war also inspired numerous works of art, literature, philosophy, and more. Even today, the Greco-Persian Wars are considered as an important milestone for Greek culture. Also, the battles that took place during the Greco-Persian Wars inspired many future military tacticians.

5. What had started the conflict?

The Persian Wars were sparked when Athens and Eretria sent aid to the Ionians in their revolt against Persia in 498 BCE. Persian anger was further stoked when Persian envoys demanding Greek submission to Persia were murdered by Athens and Sparta. The Ionian Revolt ended in 493 BCE. Three years later, the wars between Greece and Persia began.

6. The Ionian Greeks

The Ionian Greeks were a group of Greek city-states that inhabited the central and western coasts of Asia Minor, in present-day Turkey. They were considered to be Greeks, despite not being located on the Greek mainland because they shared a common culture and language with the mainland Greeks.

During the Greek Dark Age, Greeks from the mainland had migrated to western Asia Minor and intermingled with the local population, which is how the Ionian Greeks came to be.



Regions of Anatolia.

7. Ionian Revolt

The Ionian Revolt was a conflict that occurred between the years 499 and 493 BC between the Ionian Greeks and the Persians. The Ionians, who were located in western Asia Minor, had been conquered by the Persians a few years earlier. When the Persians began to levy heavy taxes on them, the Ionians revolted.

8. The Rise of Persia

The Persians were Iranian people who had conquered the Medes, another Iranian people. The Persian Empire was founded in 550 BC by Cyrus the Great. At its height, it extended from Egypt to India and included parts of Europe and Africa. Whenever the Persians conquered new regions, they appointed local rulers to govern on their behalf. These governors were usually Persian officials, known as *satraps*. The satraps were tasked with collecting taxes and maintaining order.

They were also required to send a portion of the taxes they collected back to the Persian king.

In 546 BC, Cyrus conquered the kingdom of Lydia, which was quickly followed by the conquest of the Ionian Greeks as well. The Persians were not particularly harsh rulers and allowed the Ionians to maintain their Greek culture.

However, they did levy heavy taxes on them. The satraps also appointed *tyrants* to govern the Ionian Greek cities on their behalf, ensuring that Persian laws and taxes were consistently administered. After the new Persian king, Darius I, came to power in 522 BC, he appointed his half-brother, Artaphrenes, as the satrap of Lydia and Ionia. Artaphrenes, met with the other Ionian leaders around 500 BC and made them promise not to fight one another after seeing that many of them wanted greater power and territory.

He recognized that internal conflict might lead to regional instability. Artaphrenes was approached by the tyrant of one of the richest Ionian cities, Miletus, called Aristagoras, who offered to conquer the island of Naxos for Persia if he would give him an army and navy to do so. With Darius' permission, Artaphrenes agreed.

Aristagoras launched the attack on Naxos in 499 BC. However, after a four-month siege, he had to admit defeat and returned to Miletus.

9. Aristagoras of Miletus

Fearing Darius' or Artaphrenes' judgment for wasting their resources and failing to provide the victory he had promised, Aristagoras looked for a way to hold on to power. He incited the other Ionian cities to rebel and overthrow Persian rule. Knowing Darius would respond soon, Aristagoras went to Sparta and asked King Cleomenes for aid. When the Spartan commander was informed of the length of time it would take his army to arrive and help the Ionians, he refused Aristagoras' request for assistance.

The Spartans were not willing to travel too far from Sparta in case their Helot slaves rose up in revolt. After Sparta's rejection of support, Aristagoras then turned to Athens. Athens was a powerful city-state with a large navy. He met with the Athenian leaders and convinced them to support the Ionian Revolt. In 499 BC, Athens sent 20 ships and some men to aid the Ionians in their revolt against Persia. The city-state of Eretria also sent 5 ships.

10. The Burning of Sardis

The Ionian Revolt had begun in 499 BC as different Ionian cities attacked Persian garrisons in their regions. The revolt quickly spread to other cities, including Smyrna, Ephesus, and Byzantium. In 498 BC, a combined Ionian force, with their Athenian and Eretrian allies, attacked Sardis, the capital of Lydia and one of the main Persian strongholds in the region.

The Persian defenders put up solid resistance but had to retreat to the central citadel of Sardis where the soldiers were able to hold off the Greek attackers. Knowing that they couldn't capture the citadel, the Ionian Greeks chose to burn down the city of Sardis instead. Artaphrenes survived the burning of the city and sent messengers to Darius, informing him of the Ionian rebellion and Sardis' destruction.

He also requested reinforcements to help quell the uprising. Darius was furious when he received the news and vowed to crush the rebels. He responded quickly to the uprising and sent his army to put down the rebellion.

11. The Persian Counterattack

In 498 BC, the Persians began their march on Ionia. The first city they attacked was Ephesus. The Ionians were no match for the Persian army and were quickly defeated. The Persians then continued their march, attacking and conquering several other Ionian cities that had revolted against their rule.

Despite the defeat at Ephesus, the revolt continued to spread to other Ionian cities. The Persians besieged and captured Miletus, the center of the revolt. The Persian army outnumbered the Greeks and quickly began to drive them back. The Greeks were forced to retreat to their

ships and sailed away. Aristagoras, the leader of the revolt, was forced to flee with them. The fall of Miletus effectively ended the Ionian revolt, even though parts of the region continued to hold out against the Persians until 494 BC.

12. The Consequences of the Revolt

The Ionian Revolt had far-reaching consequences. It showed the Greeks that if they could work together, they could achieve genuine military success against the mighty Persian Empire. It also made the Persians more cautious in their dealings with the Greeks. The Ionian Revolt had begun with such promise but ultimately ended in failure. The Persians quelled the uprising and regained control of Ionia.

Darius punished those who had rebelled against him, including the city of Miletus. The Persians also instituted a new policy of tribute and taxes, which made it more difficult for the Greeks to rebel in the future. Darius was particularly enraged that Athens had supported the revolt and he vowed to take revenge.

In 490 BC, the Persians invaded Greece in an attempt to punish Athens for its role in the Ionian Revolt. This invasion would begin the Greco-Persian Wars.

13. 492 BCE: Mardonius' Campaign

Before Greece could be invaded directly, preparations had to be made in the surrounding areas. Darius' son-in-law, Mardonius, led this effort in 492 BCE. He re-invaded Thrace, which had thrown off the yoke of Persian control, and fully subjugated Macedon, which had been a *vassal* of Persia. Mardonius' fleet sailed to Thasos and subjugated the island, but disaster struck afterward, and the fleet was caught in a violent storm that destroyed many of the ships and drowned thousands of men.

Despite these problems as well as having trouble with a local Thracian tribe, the Brygians, the campaign was overall a success, as it had secured the strategic approaches to Greece

14. 491 BCE: Darius Tries Diplomacy

Before the Persians launched a full invasion of the Greek homeland, Darius wanted to secure allies in Greece. He sent diplomats to each of the city-states asking for “earth and water” — a traditional way of asking for submission. Many of the states, fearing the wrath of the Persians, accepted the offer. Athens put the diplomats on trial and had them executed, while the Spartans simply threw them down a well

15. 490 BCE: The Main Campaign

The second and main expedition set sail in 490 BCE and was under the command of a Mede named Datis and Artaphernes, the son of a powerful Satrap. The first target was the island of Rhodes, just off the southern coast of Ionia. The Persians attempted to besiege the city of Lindos but were unsuccessful.

Naxos to Eretria

The island of Naxos in the Cyclades was the first victim of the Persians. The settlements were burnt, and the population either fled into the mountains or was enslaved.

The next target was the island of Delos, but after demonstrating his power, Datis felt no need to raze the settlements. The fleet then island-hopped across the Cyclades, taking hostages and troops until they reached the city of Karystos in Euboea, mainland Greece. The city refused to surrender hostages and was ravaged until the leaders submitted to the Persians.

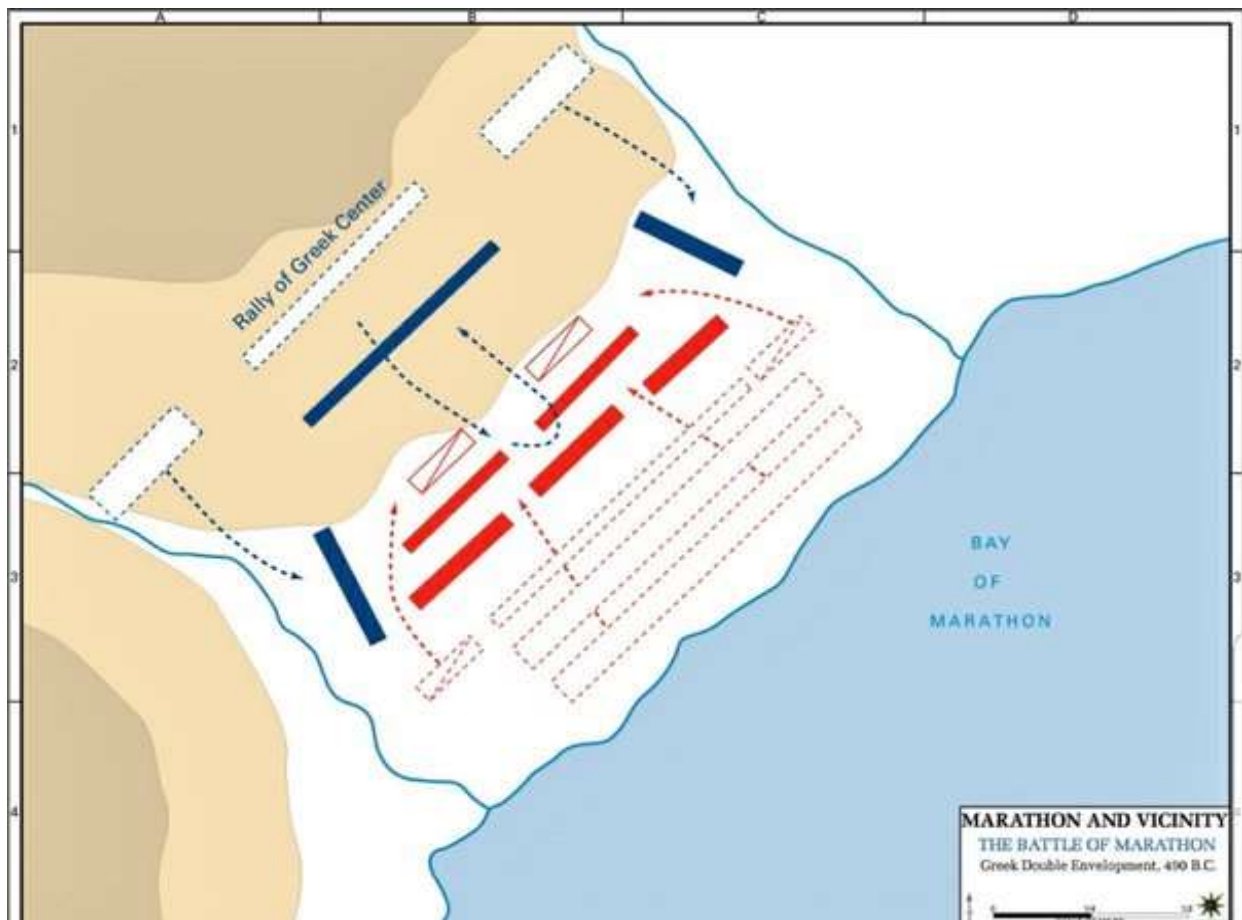
The first major city encountered by the Persians was Eretria which was besieged. After six (or seven) days, the city was captured, razed, and the population enslaved.



Map of Ancient Greece

16. The Battle of Marathon

The next Persian move was to land the army. They chose the beach at Marathon, where they were confronted by an army of Greeks, mainly from Athens. Five days of standoff ensued. Although outnumbering the Greeks by more than 2 to 1, the Persians decided to load their troops back onto their ships and pick another place to land. Once the cavalry had been loaded, however, the Greeks attacked, routing the Persian flanks before achieving a decisive victory and crushing any hopes the Persians had of continuing the campaign.



Battle of Marathon formations.

17. How did the Greeks win the battle?

The advantages that the Greeks had were superior weapons and brilliant commanders. The Persian army was equipped for fast battles on open plains. Their army was lightweight and speedy. Knowing this, the Greeks picked narrow and confined areas to take them on in combat. The Greek leaders knew their home land better than the Persian invaders and used it to their full advantage. Greeks were outnumbered almost 2 to 1 by the Persians in this battle yet prevailed by the use of the restricted terrain and their heavy armor. The Greeks daringly attacked the Persians before they could get their huge force of calvary off the ships.

18. Interbellum (490 – 480 BCE)

After the Persian defeat, it became clear that it would take a much bigger force of arms to be able to defeat the Greek city-states, especially if they united. Darius began building a huge army to take on this task. Darius, however, died in 486, and his son, Xerxes I, continued the buildup. By 481 BCE, the buildup was complete, and Xerxes began the march toward Greece.

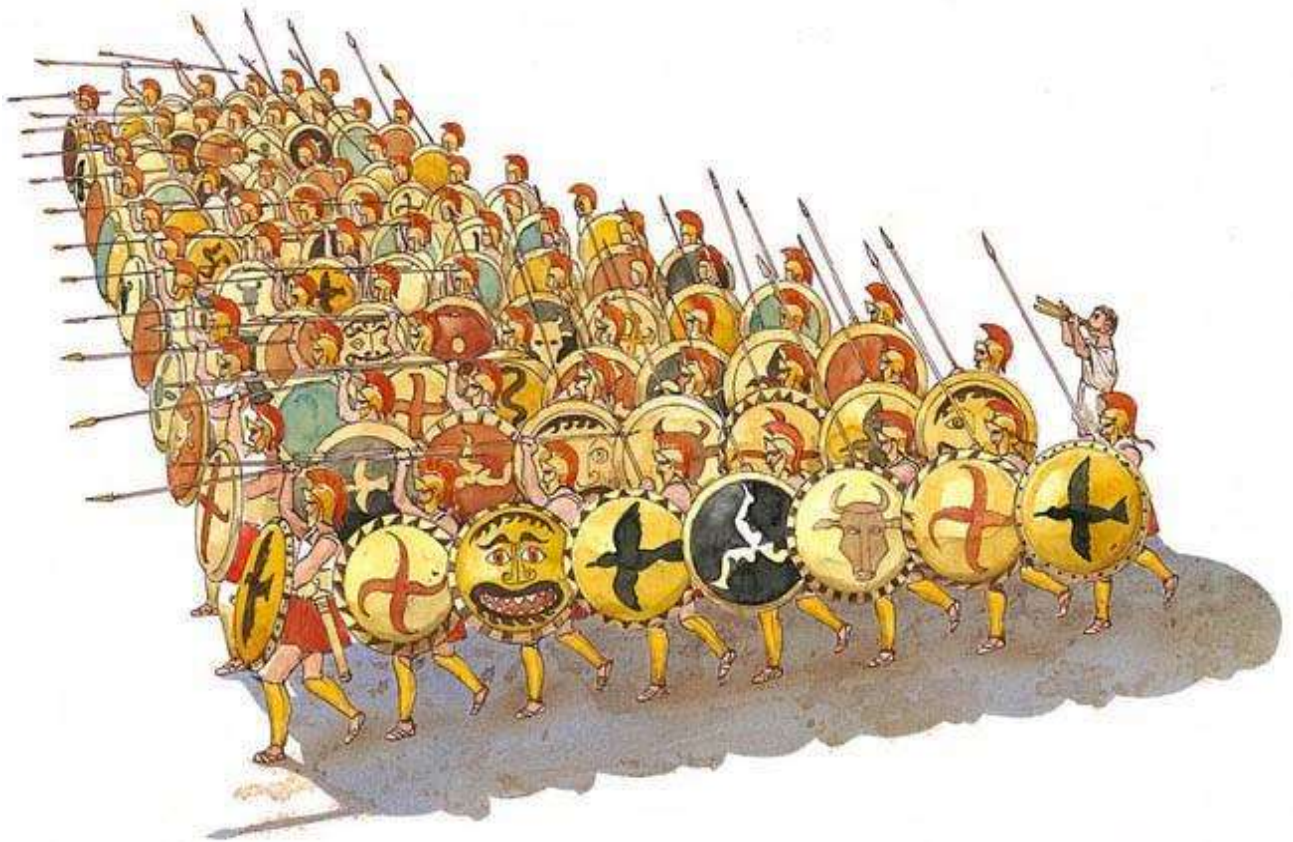
19. Ancient Greek War Tactic: Phalanx

A phalanx was a military formation used by the ancient Greeks from the 7th century BCE to the 4th century BCE.

It was composed of heavily armed infantry soldiers called *hoplites* who were organized in rows and files, with each soldier standing shoulder to shoulder and carrying a large, round shield called an *aspis*, a spear, and a short sword.

The phalanx was typically arranged in a rectangular shape, with the front line consisting of the most experienced and heavily armored soldiers, known as the "hoplite elite." The soldiers in the back ranks were typically less experienced and lightly armored.

This formation allowed the phalanx to present a solid wall of shields to the enemy, which made it difficult for attackers to penetrate.



What a typical hoplite phalanx looked like.

20. How did the phalanx work?

The shield wall: The soldiers in the front of the phalanx held their shields out in front of them, overlapping with the shields of the soldiers beside them. This created a solid wall of shields that was difficult for attackers to penetrate.

The phalanx push: Once the phalanx made contact with the enemy, the soldiers would push forward with their shields, using the weight of their bodies to push the enemy back. This tactic relied on the strength and discipline of the soldiers in the phalanx and could be incredibly effective.

The overhand thrust: Hoplites carried long spears called dorys, which they would hold overhand and thrust forward at the enemy. This allowed them to attack from behind the shield wall and keep the enemy at a distance.

The flanking maneuver: If the phalanx was able to break through the enemy's lines, the soldiers on the flanks would move to the sides and attack the enemy from behind. This was often a decisive maneuver that could turn the tide of a battle.



Hoplite.

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