



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2012

The Hunger Games: The Rebellion

Dear Delegates,

Firstly, I would like to welcome all of you to The Hunger Games Committee and to this year's UTMUN! Also, I would like to emphasize that if you haven't already read the Hunger Games Trilogy already, you do so immediately! Moreover, it is also essential that you read this entire background guide so that you are well-versed with the topics of this committee and able to keep up with the flow of debate.

With that out of the way, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself before we plunge into Panem. I am Shivani Karani and I am in my first year of Actuarial Sciences with a minor in French at the University of Toronto. I have had 3 years of experience in Model United Nations and in my free time, I enjoy playing the piano and swimming.

Now, let us hasten to Panem and the situation which lies before us; a situation of starvation, oppression and bitterness. It is our job to correct this situation using all the resources available to us. But we must operate with caution; the slightest mistake could bring Capitol's troops upon us, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives. In addition, we must also think about the bright and shining future that could possibly lie before us. This future could easily be stained by the implications of political unrest and chaos should we fail to decide upon an appropriate political structure for a Panem free from the Capitol's clutches.

I hope your experience this year at UTMUN is exciting and memorable! Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any queries or concerns.

Best wishes,

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BACKGROUND

Years and years ago, a crisis rocked the land formerly known as North America. Floods and storms purged the land, leaving behind only meager remains of civilization. And from these ruins rose the land we now call Panem and it was controlled by the Capitol, the richest part of Panem.



However, rebellion was inevitable during such oppression. This rebellion is now referred to as the 'Dark Days' and, sadly enough, our ancestors failed to seize power from the Capitol. Instead, the Capitol emerged strong as always and even more authoritarian while the rest of the districts were yet again under their control and District 13 almost obliterated (or were they?). From here followed the Treaty of Treason, one clause of which was the introduction of the Hunger Games as a punishment for the Districts' uprising.

"In penance for their uprising, each district shall offer up a male and a female between the ages of 12 and 18 at a public "Reaping". These tributes shall be delivered to the custody of the Capitol, and then transferred to a public arena, where they will fight to the death until a lone victor remains. Henceforth and forevermore this pageant shall be known as "The Hunger Games"."



The Hunger Games are a form of reality television arranged by the Capitol once a year to remind us they are the ones in control. Each of the Districts are required to send 2 tributes, 1 male 1 female, to the Hunger Games arena, where only one winner will emerge. The tributes are chosen by a lottery and are between 12 and 18 years of age. Then, they are taken to a huge outdoor arena where they will fight to the death in any atmosphere the Capitol can come up with, ranging from desserts to rainforests with various monsters and genetic mutations of animals.

But it's not our job as Districts to sacrifice children for the entertainment of those at the Capitol. And why should we remain in starvation while those at the Capitol hurl what they have eaten so they can eat more delicacies? Clearly there seems to be relative abundance of food, at least for them. Therefore, with Katniss Everdeen having ignited the flame of rebellion within Panem, it will be your job to kindle this fire and ensure that Katniss' actions do not go in vain. It will be your job firstly to form an alliance between all the districts, and then to formulate a strategy to overthrow the Capitol.

Each district has resources which are crucial towards the success of the revolution. Therefore, trade and co-operation between the districts themselves must be established before we can even dream of success. But some districts may be harder than others to recruit; therefore we cannot adopt a one-size-fits-all policy and must come up with more clever means of uniting the districts.



TOPIC ONE: REVOLUTION; OVERTHROWING THE CAPITOL

THE DISTRICTS

As part of our strategy formation, let us now look at the main industries of various districts as well as anything else we may know about them that would help in their recruitment for our revolution.

District 1- Luxury goods

District 1 produces luxury goods such as jewelry and furs. After the Capitol, they are considered to be the richest District in Panem. Also, they are a Career district, i.e., children are trained illegally from an early age to take part in the Hunger Games. They are located close to the Capitol and also have manpower for our armies; an asset clearly lacking in District 13 where the numbers are sadly scarce. The potential-tributes, as well as many other District 1 citizens, are well-trained in combat and being one of the career districts who have had many victors, they are also well nourished thanks to the gifts of food and such rewarded to the winning districts.

However, shown by their obvious indulgence in the Hunger Games, they clearly favor some of the Capitol's customs. Katniss has also killed 3 of their tributes; Glimmer (by trackerjackers), Marvel (after killing Rue) and Gloss. And there is also the impact of Peeta's betrayal towards them to consider whilst planning our strategy.

District 2- Masonry

District 2 is portrayed to be mainly involved in stone carving and mining but we know that they also produce weapons. They would be invaluable as an ally for various reasons. To name a few, they are located very close to the Capitol; having an ally in such a location would naturally make the Capitol vulnerable. Furthermore, they provide both weapons and Peacekeepers to the Capitol; if we can cut off the supply of weapons to the Capitol our job would be much easier. But District 2 is yet another 'Career' district and their tribute Cato was killed by Katniss. So they may not be too welcoming towards us, her fellow 'Mockingjays' if you please. To further complicate the situation, District 2 is in fact pretty loyal to the Capitol. They could possibly be one of the most difficult districts to recruit and must be dealt with cleverly.

District 3- Technology

This district mainly engages in the production of various electronics. As we have seen in previous games, the tributes from this region tend to be adept engineers and creative mechanics. As seen from previous games, both Wiress and Beetee proved themselves both intelligent and



resourceful in terms of their creativity combined with their survival skills. And even though the male tribute from this district was seen as otherwise insignificant during the 74th Hunger Games, his expertise shined through when he managed to use the otherwise useless inactive landmines to their advantage. The expertise of this district clearly has a lot of utility; ranging from the production of creative firearms to the hacking of various technological systems within the Capitol. We could attack the Capitol from inside and out with the help of this district. The fact that Katniss was allied with both the tributes from this district would clearly be advantageous to focus on. The Capitol has also not been particularly kind to them so they have faced the hardships of starvation and will be able to relate to our cause.

District 4 – Fishing

Another Career district, the people of this district are especially good at using nets and tridents, both of which are useful skills in the war. Furthermore, they are also good at fishing, clearly since this is their expertise, which would help in the long run to feed the citizens of a free Panem. The tributes of the 3rd Quarter Quell, Mags and Finnick, were also close allies of Katniss and Finnick is still on our side. He is clearly a symbol of hope to the people of this district, having survived two Hunger Games and he would most definitely be useful in the recruitment of this district.

District 5 – Power, District 6 – Transportation

These are 2 districts associated with infrastructure. With power from District 5, coal from District 12 and nuclear energy from District 13, the rebuilding of a free Panem would be much easier after the war. Also, if we can cut off the electricity in the Capitol it would disable them in an unprecedented way; some of their weapons would be declared redundant as would their communication systems. Such paralysis would be invaluable in a war.

District 6, on the other hand, is responsible for the transportation within Panem. So they could obviously help us transport our weapons and other supplies more efficiently towards the Capitol. Furthermore it has been rumored that this district has quite a bit of morphling in circulation, which could be used to ease the suffering of war victims.

District 7 – Lumber, District 8 – Textiles

Those of District 7 have been taught to handle lumber and are usually comfortable with tree-cutting tools such as axes and hatchets. Such people would make good soldiers. As for District 8, we have been made aware that there is a factory that makes Peacekeeper uniforms. We should check if it has been destroyed. But what we know for sure is that the revolutionary leader Paylor



is both capable and popular in District 8. She has been able to secure for herself an admirable army with soldiers who are loyal and is already quite active in the revolution.

District 9 – Grain, District 10- Livestock, District 11- Agriculture

These districts are all involved in the production of food, and we know how essential it is to get these districts in our favor. The good news is that we have on our plate (forgive the pun) some very bitter citizens who have watched the products of their sweat and blood taken from under their noses while they were left to starve. These citizens most definitely deserve to be taken out of the clutches of the Capitol and they would likely agree with us on it.

Furthermore, the citizens of District 11 are particularly sympathetic towards Katniss because of both her relationship with Rue, a tribute of their own, as well as her heartfelt speech when she did her Victory Tour. Also, the spark of revolution has already been struck in this district thanks to Katniss so our work will be minimal here.

District 12- Coal, District 13 – Graphite, Nuclear

Need I say much about our very own districts?

After the destruction that was released upon District 12, the survivors were quickly moved to District 13. District 13 has been the ‘underground’ opposition of the Capitol since the Dark Days, perhaps even before, and they have been planning a revolution ever since. What we know for sure is that District 13’s vast nuclear weaponry will ensure that the Capitol does not launch any of their nuclear devices at us, so that is one of their weapons we need not worry about. Furthermore, District 13 has had a research team solely for the development of new weapons for quite some time now so that is definitely an asset for the revolution. And ever since District 12 also joined this cause, the manpower in terms of soldiers and other forms of revolutionaries has also increased.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

These are some of the facts about the districts which you can take into consideration as you decide upon a recruitment strategy for each of the districts. You could also include any specific order of recruiting the districts if it will be more effective that way. Keep in mind that you also have Katniss Everdeen, who is symbolic in different ways to each district, and her portrayal could imply victory or defeat not only in terms of recruitment, but for the revolution as a whole.



In addition to recruiting each of the districts, we as a committee must also decide upon a revolution design. This would involve how and to what purpose you intend on using the resources available to us from all the district (including manpower), various forms of propaganda, how you intend on infiltrating the Capitol and overthrowing President Snow, how you feel the various responsibilities should be divided up among our soldiers, and any other considerations. Our main concern should, of course, be recruiting the districts but other subsidiary matters should also be considered if we hope to be successful.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- What is the optimal strategy for recruiting the districts?
- After the aforementioned recruitment, how do we plan on using the resources available in the revolution?
- How should we plan the revolution to have minimum casualties and so it is achieved in the least amount of time?



TOPIC TWO: REBUILDING PANEM'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

If we are to work towards a Panem free from the Capitol's clutches, we must also consider its future in terms of a political structure. Otherwise we will simply move from one state of chaos to another; from starvation to anarchy and lawlessness. We know that our ancestors had a political system very different from the one we now have, perhaps we should too. So I will provide some basic knowledge about a few different forms of government and leave it up to you to choose one that is appropriate.

AUTOCRACY

This is our form of government currently; whereby supreme political power and the authority to make economic and political decisions are in the hands of one powerful leader. His/her decisions are undisputable and final. There are no forms of elections and they are more of a self-appointed leader who do not allow any form of opposition through the imposition of strict regimes and control over the armed forces who maintain civility in some cases. However, there are 2 variations of autocracy; namely authoritarianism and totalitarianism. The main difference between the two is that under authoritarianism there exist organizations and institutions which are not under the control of the government while in a more totalitarian form of autocracy the government strives to maintain control over every part of the citizens' lives. Currently we have a more totalitarian form of government.

An autocratic form of government allows for laws and socio-economic decisions to be made without a lot of preliminary discussion and so, the judiciary system has little power compared to that of the autocrat. But this form of control leads to more swift and efficient decision-making, especially in times of emergency, which can be useful given that the leader is both capable and qualified to have such responsibility. And it also allows for resources to be better allocated towards economic progress rather than unproductive propaganda since, unlike democracy and communism, the autocrat has no need to vie for power or national support.

On the other hand, the basic nature of such sovereignty allows for arbitrary reductions in liberties and freedoms. This is exactly what happened in the past as with the case of President Snow and his predecessors. Furthermore it can lead to very corrupt regimes which focus more on gains for



the individual in power and his accomplices rather than collective benefits for everyone. And just by the nature of this style of government, it becomes difficult for the citizens to be able to correct such a situation since by definition, ultimate sovereignty rests in the hands of one individual. In fact, such a situation may lead to yet another rebellion and this would most definitely be a situation to be avoided at all costs. Such relentless violence would compromise human sustenance.

COMMUNISM

Communism aims to promote equality fairness among everyone. This is achieved through state control of all and any means of production of goods and services. Since there is no private ownership there are also no social classes and the benefits of said production are spread among everyone in society to promote relatively equal wealth distribution. The principle of collectivism is also applied whereby all economic activities are undertaken for the common good versus the benefit of an individual. The most dominant class is the working class whereby the only political party is that of labour and the leader of that party is who governs the state. Moreover, all resources such as food and healthcare are shared among everyone and there is no private ownership of assets since by definition everything is owned by the state.

If successfully implemented it could mean that nobody would go hungry again. There would be equality and fairness among all and the fruits of labour, that is, any profits would be shared among the workers that created that profit as opposed to the previous regime whereby people toiled and slaved to produce goods for the Capitol to enjoy. Meanwhile, those from the other districts were given little to nothing for the fruits of their labour, under the autocratic form of government. Another positive implication could be efficient allocation of resources such that everyone receives what they need for survival, which in fact is much like the system that is in place in District 13 and so far they have been quite successful with their regime. In fact, it is as a result of such regulation and organization that they were able to survive both the bombings and the epidemic which almost destroyed sustenance.

However, similar to autocracy, communism also allows for reductions in freedoms and liberties if it is believed to be appropriate for the greater good of society as a whole. Furthermore, in the past this form of governance has led to economic stagnation because production plants that were previously privately owned were given over to the State. This reduced the incentives to be efficient and promote economic activity firstly because they would not get to keep all the profits



of this activity and secondly, even when they were unemployed the State would still provide them with basic necessities. On the contrary, the reason this policy may be more effective in the case of Panem could be that people do not have owned assets since everything was owned and controlled by the Capitol. So such disincentives may be avoided and the problems of communism minimized.

LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

Liberal democracy is a form of government where all the citizens of a region have the right to vote for their government, such that sovereignty lies with the people as opposed to an individual or a group of people. Furthermore, everyone has civil liberties such as the freedoms of expression and association and the freedom from torture, among others. Each vote has the same weight and so this can be interpreted as a form of equality, although there is private ownership of assets as a market mechanism. As a result, state interference with economic activity is relatively lower than compared to a communist regime. This form of governance is based on the principles of liberalism. In addition, there is active law enforcement and any individual is equal before the law. The combination of this law enforcement along with the right to vote motivates fairness.

While this was the most common form of government for our ancestors, its suitability for our circumstances can be questionable. At this moment in time our people are not concerned with who leads Panem but more with whether or not they will get a full meal tonight. With this on their minds, would they be able to make an objective decision about who would lead them best? Furthermore, such governance may create inequality such that a few people with power and ownership of resources live lavish lives while the rest are left to languish in poverty. This would be analogous to the current situation between the people of the Capitol and those of the other Districts.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

As the committee responsible for determining the political future of Panem, it is up to you to analyze and decide upon the optimal political structure of Panem. In making this decision, you must be objective with your analysis of each form of governance as well as any other concerns you feel should be considered. Also, this is just a basic introduction to each of the forms of governance and it is nowhere near exhaustive. Therefore, if necessary you may include



additional features of the government you would like to have rule over Panem, including any combination of the 3 aforementioned types which you feel may be appropriate.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What kind of government would you like to be enforced once Panem is free?
- What are the features of this government?
- Why is this form of government more optimal than any other?

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