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SCIMUNC III

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Science

AVENGERS CRISIS

Background Guide 2018

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Letter from the Chair

Hello Delegates, welcome to the Marvel Crisis Committee! You will take on the roles of the mighty Avengers and their friends, collaborating to create a resolution and set guidelines for the Avengers and all other superheroes. Superheroes often act without government permission and leave collateral damage behind. Very rarely do these “heroes” take responsibility for their actions. On the other hand, they have saved the world countless times, putting the needs of the others over their own lives. In this committee, your goal is to outline the heroes’ jurisdiction when intervening in a disastrous situation. You will try to find a "middle point" between the Avengers' desire to secure world peace and the international community's concern over the repercussions of the Avengers' actions, in essence creating your own version of the Sokovia accords.

In your position paper, please include:

- Your character’s stance
- Their history with the Avengers
- If their stance has been different in the past/what may have prompted a switch to the other side
- Previously attempted solutions and potential future solutions
- Actions you will take during committee

Delegates, be aware that in the Marvel Cinematic timeline, this crisis will take place before the signing of the accords. Also, keep in mind your character’s specific viewpoint or opinion regarding the fate of the superhero narrative (watch *Captain America: Civil War* for who/how your character would show allegiance). Above all, this is in relation to the Cinematic world, and not entirely in accordance with the original comics.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email SCIMUNC with “AVENGERS” in the subject line.

I can’t wait to take on the MCU with all of you!

Yours truly,
Madee Sadozai

Avengers Background Information

“Your ancestors called it magic, but you call it science. I come from a land where they are one and the same.” - Thor

The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), a motion-picture adaptation of the Marvel comics details the history of enhanced individuals, government organizations, and extraterrestrial conflict. Headed by Nick Fury, S.H.I.E.L.D. became specialized in dealing with enhanced individuals in the United States. In 2012, in response to an extraterrestrial threat posed by Loki and the invading Chitauri aliens, Nick Fury assembled a group of highly specialized enhanced individuals known as the Avengers. The was group originally comprised of Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, the Hulk, Black Widow, and Hawkeye. In a series of events that leaves S.H.I.E.L.D. crippled and branded as a terrorist group, the public loses faith in S.H.I.E.L.D. and forces the remaining loyal agents to go into hiding. Meanwhile, Tony Stark (Iron Man), in an attempt to build an AI robot capable of protecting the world from all future threats, creates Ultron. Instead of protecting humanity, however, Ultron develops a plot to end all human life, and the Avengers are forced to reassemble and destroy Stark’s creation. The episode culminates in Sokovia, where massive civilian casualties result from the Avengers’ efforts. The public loses faith in the Avengers’ ability to protect the world.

In the years that superheroes have been open in sharing their powers and abilities with the world, both the number of enhanced persons and potentially world-ending events have increased tremendously. The question is whether superheroes created super villains or if super villains created superheroes. The avengers have gone from being saviors to being a private organization composed of a number of enhanced individuals; previously have protected planet earth from a number of internal and extraterrestrial threats; known for acting internationally and with disregard for national sovereignty and civilian life.

President Matthew Ellis, Secretary of State Thaddeus Ross, and UN member nations want more control over the erratic actions of the Avengers. Prompted by disasters in both Sokovia and Lagos where hundreds of innocent people died in crossfire between the Avengers and various villains, this committee will decide the limitations that enhanced persons should have and where they should be allowed to act in free will.

Members of the Avengers who support restrictions on their powers and instances where they need to protect include:

- Tony Stark (Iron Man)
- T’Challa (Black Panther)
- Vision
- Natasha Romanova (Black Widow)
- Peter Parker (Spiderman)
- Jim Rhodes (War Machine)

Members of the Avengers who want freedom to protect and serve the greater universe:

- Steve Rogers (Captain America)
- Bucky Barnes (Winter Soldier)
- Sam Wilson (Falcon)
- Scott Lang (Ant-Man)
- Wanda Maximoff (Scarlet Witch)
- Clint Barton (Hawkeye)

Questions To Consider:

- How should enhanced individuals or mutants be defined under standard human law? Should humans who take on super-abilities be above or defined by the established laws?
- Are superheroes to be addressed under an entirely new set of laws, above or equal to the common man?
- Should superheroes face punishments for the harm they sometimes cause? If so, what degree of punishment and for how long?
- Should a registry be enacted to document superheroes, specifically those not of a human nature? If so, how should this database be formatted so it does not compromise or exploit any one hero?
- Should the specific classifications or strengths of each superhero be taken into account when reviewing a way of harnessing their powers? Why or why not?
- Can the Avengers trust organizations, like the United Nations, to have their best interest in mind, and vice versa?
- Is it ethical for a small number of civilians to die in order to prevent the deaths of many more individuals? Whose decision would this be and who should be accountable for the negative aftermath?
- Who would defend against enhanced threats if not for groups such as the Avengers?
- Do the Avengers have the right to go against government organizations in which they see blatant misuse of power?
- If the Avengers are on a government-assigned mission and mass destruction ensues, who is to take the blame?