

CRISIS COMMITTEE STUDY GUIDE

MARKMUN'23

AGENDA: NEGOTIATIONS ON THE
SOKOVIA ACCORDS

Esteemed Delegates,

A grand welcome to all of you to the crisis committee on behalf of your chairs.

This is Ammarah and Labibah, and once again, we have teamed up to provide you with an exciting and unforgettable (in a good way we hope) crisis experience. We are honoured to have been asked to chair this committee again and hope that it will be just as fun, if not more, as last year. Our crisis committee will be following the theme of the Marvel Cinematic Universe but with some exciting new twists this time around. As you will soon find out, the research and preparation for a crisis committee is different from the other UN-Committees. The best tip we can offer you is to come prepared with sharp wit, quick analysis skills and loads of crazy ideas. This year we will focus on following the major occurrences in the Marvel Cinematic Universe and to involve the nations of the world into the crisis, but we will still retain our freedom to reinterpret certain scenarios to fit the flow of the debate in the committee sessions. Although it is still mostly based on the Marvel Universe, we had to make some assumptions about certain characters' beliefs or motives, so if the google search on your character does not deliver the results you were expecting, do not panic. The information we will provide in our Study Guide will well prepare you for the crisis, however the most valuable research will be done by watching the Marvel Movies.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact us at:

labibah.ehsan03@gmail.com

ammarahaimel9876@gmail.com

With all this said, we can't wait to see you all at this year's MARKMUN'23!!

Kind regards,

Ammarah Aimel Tarar and Labibah Ehsan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction by Crisis Chairs----- 2

Table of Contents----- 3

Introduction----- 4

Background----- 5

Events Leading up to the Sokovia Accords----- 5

Introduction to Agenda----- 6

Regulations of the Sokovia Accords----- 7

Questions to be Addressed----- 9

Movies to be Referred to----- 10

Character Information----- 11

Documents written in Crisis Sessions----- 15

References----- 16

"Sokovia. He wanted to make a difference, I suppose. We won't know because we dropped a building on him while we were fighting. There's no decision-making process here. We need to be put in check! Whatever form that takes, I'm game. If we can't accept limitations, if we're boundary-less... we're no better than the bad guys."

—Tony Stark to the Avengers¹

INTRODUCTION:

Our committee is set in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. In the MCU, the Sokovia Accords is a resolution passed by the United Nations for the purpose of regulating superheroes and to minimise the damages caused by superheroes. In the MCU, Sokovia Accords are implemented without any input from the superheroes; however, in this committee the agenda item will mainly focus on the negotiation of the Sokovia Accords. The negotiation will involve the nations of the world and the superheroes. Delegates will be assigned countries, and since there is no information available on the stances of countries on this matter, the delegates are free to explore their imagination to create their countries' stance. A tip that the chairs recommend is looking into the country's current and past policies especially with regards to nuclear weapons. The delegates can take into consideration that nuclear weapons are possessed by very few of the nations just like how only very few individuals in the MCU possess skill sets that elevate them to superhero status. The MCU movies which pertain a lot to the committee's agenda time have been listed in the study guide, and it is highly recommended to watch those movies and have an understanding about the contents of those movies.

BACKGROUND:

The superheroes have protected Earth countless times from humans and extraterrestrial threats. In 2010, Tony Stark came forward and revealed himself as the superhero 'Iron Man'. In the years that followed, more and more superheroes emerged. The superheroes banded together under the name of the 'Avengers'. The Avengers are the most known team of superheroes that have on many occasions protected the peace and global security of Earth which was threatened due to attacks on Earth by other enhanced individuals such as Loki and Ultron. However, with each of the attacks stopped by the Avengers, massive amounts of destruction and loss of human life was left in their wake. The powers possessed by these individuals whether they be obtained by science, magical or mystical sources, evolutionary mutations, superior technology and/or due to an advanced skill set creates a division between the lay-man and these superheroes. The question now arises that do the same laws that apply to the citizens of the world also apply to these superheroes?

EVENTS LEADING UPTO THE SOKOVIA ACCORDS

1. Battle of New York:

In 2012, the Avengers fought the Chitauri aliens led by Loki as they invaded New York City. This battle claimed the lives of 74 bystanders and cost NYC \$18.8 billion in damages.¹ This was the first high profile incident that brought global attention to the Avengers.

2. Fall of S.H.I.E.L.D (Battle at the Triskelion):

In Captain America: The Winter Soldier, when Captain America with Falcon and Black Widow fought against the Helicarriers of HYDRA-infested S.H.I.E.LD in 2014, 23 individuals died, and the damages amounted to \$2.8 billion.¹ This incident was specifically cited by Thaddeus Ross during the drafting of the Sokovia Accords.

3. Battle of Sokovia:

In 2015, the Battle of Sokovia took place between the Avengers and Ultron. During this battle, a Tony Stark created robot lifted the whole of the city of Sokovia with the purpose of crashing it back into the Earth.

The majority of Sokovia's inhabitants, 60,000 people, were successfully evacuated by the Avengers. However, 177 individuals died, and the damages amounted to \$474 billion.²

4. Conflict in Lagos:

In Lagos, Nigeria, the Avengers appeared to stop an attempt of stealing biological weapons from the Institute of Infectious Diseases, chaos ensued. During the chaos, 26 civilians were killed which included 11 relief aid workers from Wakanda.¹

INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA:

Following several ventures of the Avengers that brought with them massive destruction, such as the Battle of New York, the attack of Sokovia, and the bombing in Lagos, many of the nations of the world realised the massive catastrophic chaos that ensued whenever the Avengers were given a free reign to carry out their superhero missions. The nations propose that whilst the actions of the Avengers were intended for the greater good of the world, their actions have dire consequences and collaborations with international governments should be established to prevent further destruction and loss of human life. The public opinion of the Avengers has reached an all-time low with only a few nations supporting them. After the proposal of the Accords, the Avengers are divided, with two sides forming in opposing opinions. While Tony Stark agrees with ratifying the Sokovia Accords, Captain Rogers worries about a loss of freedom and threat of third-party infiltration, namely from HYDRA, an organisation that rivals S.H.I.E.L.D., whose goal is world domination. As a result, the Avengers are

torn; should they listen to international leaders and agree to surveillance or do they keep their freedom?

The situation is further tensed by Russia's war of terror against Ukraine; most of the Avengers are prepared to come for the aid of Ukraine, however they can not take any action until the Sokovia Accords matter is dealt with. Russia highly supports ratifying the Sokovia Accords, however Ukraine is against it. The USA has maintained a strong stance of supporting the Sokovia Accords, but the USA has also maintained strong support for Ukraine's cause. Hence, the USA is open for negotiations for a solution that meets their best interests.

REGULATIONS OF THE SOKOVIA ACCORDS³:

- Any enhanced individuals who agree to sign must register with the United Nations and provide biometric data such as fingerprints and DNA samples.
 - Those with secret identities must reveal their legal names and true identities to the United Nations.
 - Those with innate powers must submit to a power analysis, which will categorise their threat level and determine potential health risks.
 - Those with innate powers must also wear tracking bracelets at all times.

- Any enhanced individuals who sign are prohibited from taking action in any country other than their own unless they are first given clearance by either that country's government or by a United Nations subcommittee.
 - Governments are forbidden from deploying enhanced individuals outside of their own national borders unless those individuals are given clearance as described above. The same rule also applies to non-government organisations that operate on a global scale (including S.H.I.E.L.D. and the Avengers).

- Any enhanced individuals who do not sign will not be allowed to take part in any police, military, or espionage activities, or to otherwise participate in any national or international conflict, even in their own country.
 - As a corollary, they will not be allowed to participate in any active missions undertaken by private or governmental law enforcement/military/intelligence organisations (such as S.H.I.E.L.D. and the Avengers).

- Any enhanced individuals who use their powers to break the law (including those who take part in extralegal vigilante activities), or are otherwise deemed to be a threat to the safety of the general public, may be detained indefinitely without trial.
 - If an enhanced individual violates the Accords, or obstructs the actions of those enforcing the Accords, they may likewise be arrested and detained indefinitely without trial.

- The use of technology to bestow individuals with innate superhuman capabilities is strictly regulated, as is the use and distribution of highly advanced technology (such as Asgardian and Chitauri weapons).
 - The creation of self-aware artificial intelligence is completely prohibited.

- The Avengers will no longer be a private organisation and will operate under the supervision of the United Nations. For the purposes of the Accords, an "enhanced individual" is defined as any person, human or otherwise, with superhuman capabilities. This includes individuals whose powers are an innate function of their biology as well as individuals who utilise the highly advanced technology to grant themselves superhuman capabilities.

Questions to be Addressed:

1. How can the U.N. ensure compliance with the Accords?
2. Are these Accords against the rights of the superheroes?
3. Should options to abstain from signing the Accords be introduced for some enhanced individuals?
4. What is the appropriate level of involvement by the U.N. in the dealings of superheroes, and what is the appropriate degree of autonomy that superheroes should possess?
5. Under what circumstances can clauses of the Accords be subject to change or amendments?
6. How can the Avengers regain public confidence in their organisation and minimise needless casualties and destruction?
7. How can the Avengers maintain the goals of their organisation while cooperating with the regulations that the U.N. wishes to impose?
8. What issues prevent the Avengers from compromising within their own organisation? What differences in perspective need to be resolved to unite them?
9. Who do the Accords affect directly and indirectly?
10. How will the world have to adapt if the Accords are brought into practice?

MOVIES TO BE REFERRED TO:

1. The Avengers (2012)
2. Avengers: Age of Ultron*
3. Avengers: Infinity War
4. Avengers: End game
5. Iron Man (2008)
6. Iron Man 2 (2011)
7. Iron Man (2013)
8. Captain America: The first Avenger
9. Captain America: The winter soldier
10. Captain America: Civil War*
11. Black Panther
12. Black Panther: Wakanda forever
13. Shang-Chi and the legend of the ten rings
14. Thor
15. Thor: The Dark World
16. Thor: Ragnarok
17. The Incredible Hulk
18. Doctor Strange
19. Doctor Strange in the multiverse of madness

CHARACTER INFORMATION

Pro Accords:

Tony Stark (Iron Man):

Tony made an armoured suit which he used to combat threats, earning him his reputation as “Iron Man”. With the help of Hulk, Stark created a peacekeeping Artificial Intelligence, known as Ultron, to protect the world. However, Ultron saw humanity as the greatest threat to the world and decided to extinguish humanity, leading to the aforementioned Battle of Sokovia. Feeling guilty over his role in the creation of Ultron and therefore feeling responsible for the massive destruction, Stark has become an adamant supporter of the Accords.

Vision:

Vision was created after Tony Stark’s A.I. J.A.R.V.I.S. was uploaded into an android and combined with the mind stone to create a new being. It was created to defeat Ultron. However, following the creation of the Sokovia Accords, Vision justifies the Accords as he sees the equations regarding the number of threats related to the actions of the Avengers and believes that they should allow oversight of their actions, causing a rift in the Avengers.

Loki:

Loki is the God of Mischief and half-brother of Thor. He has fought against the Avengers before and sees the accords as an opportunity to weaken them by reducing their autonomy. If the accords do pass, Loki can attempt to claim the planet for himself again. Being a villain who the team already knows about, Loki must tread carefully if he wants to achieve his goals successfully.

Thaddeus Ross:

Thaddeus Ross is a former Lieutenant General of the U.S. Army now the Secretary of State for President Matthew Ellis. Ross strongly approves of the Sokovia Accords as a means of controlling the actions of the Avengers due to their past actions. Due to Steve Rogers’ adamant disownment of the Accords and his active resistance, Ross instructs Iron Man to bring Rogers and his supporters into custody and attempts to ratify and enforce the Accords.

Anti Accords

Steve Rogers (Captain America):

He volunteered for Project Rebirth during World War II, he became the only recipient of the Super Soldier Serum which enhanced his physical abilities to a superhuman level. After the Battle of Sokovia, Rogers and Black Widow were left in charge of leading and training a new Avengers team and they initiated several missions, including the incident in Lagos, Nigeria which was used as justification to approve the Sokovia Accords. Rogers, however, believed that the Avengers deserved their right to choose how they should involve themselves in conflicts, justifying any damage caused by them as necessary for the greater good.

Sam Wilson (Falcon):

Sam Wilson is a former United States Air Force pararescue airman who operated under the callsign Falcon with the aid of an experimental military wingsuit. Wilson teamed up with Steve Captain America, in order to aid in the takedown of H.Y.D.R.A., a potent terrorist organisation.

After being recruited into the Avengers, Wilson was involved in the mission in Lagos, Nigeria, which resulted in the ratification of the Sokovia Accords. Siding with his ally Rogers, however, Wilson also refused to support the Accords.

Wanda Maximoff (The Scarlet Witch):

A Sokovian native with the ability to harness Chaos Magic, Wanda grew up deeply resentful towards Tony Stark due to his role in the bombings of Novi Grad (the capital of Sokovia) which killed her parents. Originally joining HYDRA during the Battle of Sokovia, she finally joined the side of the Avengers upon discovering Ultron's true intentions of eradicating humanity. Wanda felt guilty over her role in the events at Lagos, Nigeria, in which she destroyed a building and killed countless civilians while trying to contain an explosion. Ultimately, however, she agreed with Rogers in that the Avengers work for the greater good and decided to resist the signing.

Clint Barton (Hawkeye):

Clint Barton is an extremely skilled marksman known for the use of the bow and arrow as his primary weapon. He retired from the Avengers after the Battle of Sokovia due to a promise to his wife and kids. Despite this, he felt that he owed a debt to Wanda Maximoff, as her twin brother Pietro had sacrificed himself to save Hawkeye during the Battle of Sokovia. For this reason, when Steve Rogers called upon him to help free Wanda, he felt a debt to her and thus joined with Rogers in their resistance.

Scott Lang (Antman):

A former criminal, Antman would rather keep away from the government while working as a hero. He loosely opposes the Accords, more so taking his stance from his allegiance to Captain America and disdain towards Iron Man. Antman is one of the most recent recruits to the Avengers and is worried about the future of the team. He has the ability to shrink, condensing his strength into a tiny area, or to grow massive.

Bucky Barnes ("The Winter Soldier"):

Sergeant James Buchanan ("Bucky") Barnes is a World War II veteran and a former officer of the 107th Infantry Regiment. When his regiment was captured by HYDRA, he was given a variation of the Super Soldier Serum. When he was found by HYDRA and the Soviet Union, he was brainwashed into becoming a HYDRA operative for the next 50 years.

However, Barnes has been the best friend of Rogers since childhood. Recently, having come out of his holding and back into his sanity he stands with Captain America and opposes the accords.

Sharon Carter:

The great-niece of the S.H.I.E.L.D. founder and Director Peggy Carter and a former agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. herself (Agent 13), Sharon Carter is a C.I.A. agent who has close ties to Steve Rogers. After meeting with Rogers after her great aunt's funeral, Carter learns of Rogers' desire to not sign the Accords and expresses her support for him and his actions. As a close partner of Steve Rogers', Carter is willing to provide whatever assistance she is able to Rogers and his resistance, even if she has to disobey her C.I.A. regulations.

Neutral Parties

Natasha Romanoff (Black Widow):

A talented spy and assassin, as well as a founding member of the Avengers, Natasha Romanoff was recruited into S.H.I.E.L.D. by Hawkeye and has worked closely with Steve Rogers. She both agreed to the terms of the Accords and agreed to sign, joining Iron Man in his fight against Steve Rogers. However, Romanoff empathises with Rogers and is close with Hawkeye, both of whom lead the resistance. For this reason, Romanoff is not fully aligned with Stark's goals and has no desire to fight her allies and friends, wanting to avoid confrontation and even aid her friends if she can.

Peter Parker (Spider-Man):

Peter Parker is a high school student who gained spider-like abilities and fights crime across New York City as the superhero Spider-Man. Tony Stark noticed his potential and recruited him to join the fight against the resistance against the Accords. Parker, being just a friendly neighbourhood Spider Man, has no personal investment in this cause and actually considers Captain America to be his personal hero. However, Parker yearns to prove himself as a worthy hero in the eyes of Iron Man so that he can join the Avengers and so he fights on Stark's side against Rogers.

Bruce Banner ("Hulk"):

He is a renowned scientist and founding member of the Avengers. While working for Thaddeus Ross, Banner was exposed to dangerous levels of gamma radiation. As a result, whenever angered Banner's body and brain would transform into a creature known as Hulk. Banner is good friends with Tony Stark and aided him in the creation of Ultron. After the Battle of Sokovia, however, Hulk was enraged and entered a jet far away from the battle. Banner, being partly responsible for Ultron, feels a burden of responsibility and guilt. However, he has no love for Thaddeus Ross who had him participate in the project that exposed him to gamma radiation. Thus, his opinion on whether this new government regulation on enhanced individuals such as himself is sure to be complicated.

Documents to Write in Crisis Sessions:

1. Press releases

These are short documents written by the whole of the committee or individual delegates to inform “the public” about certain facts, or to spread information/misinformation about the ongoing crisis.

2. Public directives

They are written for the purpose of taking action, to respond to the crisis at hand and solve it. These are much more informal than resolutions, they are usually shorter, and are written much more frequently. They don't include preambulatory clauses, and instead jump straight in with operative clauses. We will require a main submitter and 10 sponsors to submit a public directive, and they need the majority of the committee's vote to pass.

In our committee we will write these directives in the form of clauses (clause 1, clause 2, clause 3....) and in the last committee session all of the clauses will be compiled into the form of a final public directive upon which the committee will vote on.

3. Personal Directives

These are written by individual delegates for the purpose of shaping a crisis situation or for bringing more involvement or prestige to themselves.

4. Communiques

They are a means of contacting parties which are not present in the committee to involve them in a crisis situation which affects them. They can be written by an individual delegate or as a committee.

Important Note: The chairs advise the delegates to search for and read examples of the above mentioned documents prior to attending the committee sessions.

REFERENCES:

1. MovieWeb. (2016).How Much Death and Destruction Have The Avengers Caused?.
<https://movieweb.com/avengers-captain-america-civilian-death-s-damages-costs/#:~:text=In%202012's%20Marvel's%20The%20Avengers,the%20lives%20of%2074%20bystanders.>
2. Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. (n.d.). Battle of Sokovia.
https://marvelcinematicuniverse.fandom.com/wiki/Battle_of_Sokovia#:~:text=The%20Battle%20of%20Sokovia%20caused,individuals%20such%20as%20the%20Avengers.
3. Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. (n.d.). Sokovia Accords.
https://marvelcinematicuniverse.fandom.com/wiki/Sokovia_Accords