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ŞEHREMINİMUN

25

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Letter From The Secretary General

The most esteemed participants,

It is an utmost pleasure and privilege to serve as the secretary general of ŞehreminiMUN'25 and it is most certainly an honor to extend you the welcome to our conference.

Our academic and organization teams have been working for countless months and hours, perfecting every detail and pouring their hearts out into shaping this enriching experience that is yet to come for you, proving that impossible is, in fact, nothing.

Throughout the conference days, you will step into the roles of diplomats and policymakers, tackling real-world problems and seeking real solutions. We wish to create an environment that encourages you to think critically, engage respectfully with diverse viewpoints, and expand your comprehension of our interconnected world.

Embrace this vision, for it is through such an approach that we create positive change. Acting is one of the greater strengths of people, born from duty and instinct, and we cannot be prouder to address ourselves as the organizing team of a conference which aims to bring that strength forth.

We hope this conference will be a fruitful and enjoyable experience, providing you with a fresh outlook on global issues and empowering you to become bringers of change. Once again, welcome to the second edition of ŞehreminiMUN.

Best Regards,
Secretary General of ŞehreminiMUN'25
Zeyal Türkoğlu

AGENDA ITEM:
LORD OF THE RINGS: WAR OF THE RING



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The Lord of the Rings franchise is one of, if not the, most detailed and refined pieces of high-fantasy fiction there is. The incredible world-building demonstrated by Tolkien is what makes the Lord of the Rings universe come together to become the legend it is today. While understanding the immense effort that went into creating this world is important, it's also worthy to acknowledge how it can sometimes be confusing. This study guide has been prepared with the intention of helping you understand Middle-Earth more thoroughly, regardless of your previous knowledge of the fandom.

If you have any questions regarding the committee, you can contact me via my e-mail "ceydaqursoy2224@gmail.com".

Map of Middle-Earth



3. Key Objects, Creatures, and Characters

a. The Rings of Power

The Rings of Power were twenty magical rings forged in the Second Age, seventeen of which were intended by Sauron to seduce the rulers of Middle-earth to evil.

Disguised as the benevolent entity Annatar, Sauron taught the Elf-smiths of Eregion, led by Celebrimbor, how to craft these rings. They crafted many lesser rings, all of varying but ultimately unworthy levels of power as a sort of training, but at the end nineteen Rings of Power were made: three rings for the Elves, seven rings for the Dwarves, and nine rings for Men. An additional ring, the One Ring, was forged by Sauron himself at Mount Doom. The nineteen lesser Rings were linked to the power of the One, and were dependent on it. Their wearers could be controlled by the wearer of the One, and if the One was destroyed, their own powers would fade with the power of the Rings under the One.

The three that were not forged to dominate were the Rings given to the Elves forged not by Sauron but by Celebrimbor, as they were not created as weapons of war or as a means to dominate others; but as tools to preserve the beautiful Elven domains where their bearers resided, and to aid in healing and resisting evil. However, they were still linked to the One Ring, and whoever wore the One could, with effort, see the thoughts of those who wore the Three. As such, these Rings were not used by the Elves so long as Sauron retained the One.

Most of the knowledge surrounding the Rings of Men and Dwarves were lost, but the details of the three Elven rings remained. They were called Narya (the Ring of Fire), Nenya (the Ring of Water/Adamant), and Vilya (the Ring of Air). Narya was first worn first by Gil-galad, who gave it to Círdan, and was lastly worn by Gandalf. Gil-galad also initially owned Vilya, before Elrond inherited it after the former's death. Nenya was worn only by Galadriel.

b. The One Ring

The One Ring, also known as the Ruling Ring, Master Ring, Ring of Power, and Isildur's Bane, was among the most powerful artifacts ever created in Middle-earth. It was crafted by the Dark Lord Sauron in the fire of Orodruin, also known as Mount Doom, in the Second Age. Sauron's intent was to enhance his own power and exercise control over the other Rings of Power, which had been made by Celebrimbor and the Gwaith-i-Mírdain with Sauron's assistance. In this way, Sauron hoped to gain lordship over the Elves and all other peoples of Middle-earth.

c. Narsil

Narsil was a longsword wielded by King Elendil during the War of the Last Alliance, and used by his son, Isildur, to cut the One Ring from Sauron's hand during the final battle of that war, being shattered in the process. It consequently was known as the Sword that was Broken.

It was later reforged into Andúril, and would become the sword of Aragorn II Elessar. After the Council of Elrond, the Elves of Rivendell reforged Narsil into a new sword, which Aragorn named Andúril. He carried it throughout the quest of the Fellowship of the Ring.

d. Palantir

The palantíri (singular palantír), also known as the Seven Seeing-stones, or the Seven Stones (numbered for those in Middle-earth), were spherical glass-like or translucent stone objects used for communication and intelligence gathering. There were eight distinguished ones in total, with seven in Middle-earth.

When Saruman used the Orthanc-stone, he communed with Sauron - who had the Ithil-stone - and was enticed by his promises of power. By way of the Seeing Stones, the Wizard was shaped into a two-faced puppet that desired, or no longer opposed, his new master's victory. Through the palantír, Saruman was often called by Sauron to receive and carry out instructions, or to be probed when he concealed information. After his defeat, the Wizard lost the Seeing Stone when his footman, Wormtongue, threw it out in an attempt to strike him or their adversaries. Coming into possession of said palantír, Gandalf ultimately guessed how Saruman had been compelled into Sauron's service.

e. Free Peoples of Middle-Earth

During the late Third Age, Sauron had many servants enslaved or allied under his dominion including Men of Darkness, Orcs, Trolls and other creatures. Because of this, the term "Free Peoples of the World" was generally used to unite those who opposed Sauron such as the Elves, Dwarves, Ents, Hobbits, High and Middle Men, as well as any other peoples who stood in opposition against Sauron.

i. Gandalf

Gandalf, known largely as the Grey and later, briefly, the White, and originally named Olórin (Quenya), was an Istar (Wizard), dispatched to Middle-earth in the Third Age to combat the threat of Sauron. He joined Thorin II and his company to reclaim the Lonely Mountain from Smaug, helped form the Fellowship of the Ring to destroy the One Ring, and led the Free Peoples of the World in the final campaign of the War of the Ring. As aforementioned, he is the bearer of Narya, the ring of fire.

ii. Elrond

Elrond was a mighty Half-elf ruler who dwelt in Middle-earth from the First Age to the beginning of the Fourth Age. He was the Lord of Rivendell and

father of Elladan, Elrohir, and Arwen Undómiel, the eventual wife of Aragorn II. He was given the epithet of Peredhel, Sindarin for Half-elven.

Near the end of the Second Age, Elrond rode beside Gil-galad in the Last Alliance of Elves and Men, which set out from Rivendell to Mordor in SA 3431. Elrond was Gil-galad's herald during the war against Sauron. The Alliance, which also included Elves from Lothlórien, Men from Arnor and Gondor, and Dwarves likely led by Durin IV, defeated Sauron's army at the Battle of Dagorlad and laid siege to Barad-dûr for seven years. Eventually, Sauron himself was defeated by Elendil and Gil-galad, allowing Isildur to cut the One Ring from Sauron's finger and claim it for himself.

In the later years, he was instrumental in harboring the heirs of Isildur while the line lasted, the most famous of these sons of men was Aragorn II, whom he took in and fostered as his own after his father Arathorn II died in TA 2933.

After Frodo's departure from the Shire with the One Ring, Elrond sent out riders to help guide him back to Rivendell. One of these, Glorfindel, successfully found Frodo and helped him reach Rivendell. On October 25, 3018 he held the Council at which it was decided to attempt to destroy the One Ring. He appeared to have selected the members of the Fellowship other than Frodo and Sam.

iii. **Galadriel**

Galadriel was the "Lady" of the woods of Lothlórien, which she ruled with Celeborn, her husband.

One of the greatest Elves in Middle-earth, she surpassed nearly all others in beauty, knowledge, and power. She bore Nenya, one of the three Elven rings of power.

Just prior to the War of the Ring, Galadriel hosted the Fellowship of the Ring after their escape from the mines of Moria.

Once in Caras Galadhon, Galadriel allowed Frodo Baggins and Samwise Gamgee to peer into the Mirror of Galadriel, enabling them to glimpse possible events of the future. She, in turn, was tested when Frodo later offered to place the One Ring in her keeping. To illustrate what would happen if she accepted, she presented an image of herself corrupted by the ring.

As the Fellowship departed, she gave each member a gift and an Elven cloak, and outfitted the party with boats and supplies. Gimli, in particular, was touched by Galadriel's nobility and beauty, and asked for one strand of her golden hair as an heirloom of his house; she generously gave him three (having refused the same request from Fëanor), which he later set in an impregnable crystal.

Apart from the strands of hair given to Gimli, she gave a Mallorn seed and a small box of earth from her garden to Samwise Gamgee; a green Elfstone set

in silver to Aragorn, along with a scabbard for his sword Andúril; and a belt each to Boromir, Merry, and Pippin. To Legolas she gave a long, stout bow of the Galadhrim. To Frodo, she gave a magical phial which captured the light of Eärendil's star.

iv. Bilbo Baggins

Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit of the Shire in the Third Age. He was hired by Gandalf to aid Thorin and Company in the Quest of Erebor, over the course of which he became a bearer of the One Ring and fought in the Battle of Five Armies. Upon his return home, he wrote of most of his adventures in a book he called *There and Back Again*, and garnered great fame among hobbits and across Middle-earth.

In his later years, Bilbo took in his second-cousin-once-removed/adoptive nephew, Frodo Baggins, to be his heir, and eventually left the Shire to live with the elves. At Gandalf's behest, he left Frodo the One Ring.

v. Frodo Baggins

Frodo Baggins was a hobbit of the Shire in the late Third Age. He was a key figure in the Quest of the Ring, in which he bore the One Ring to Mount Doom, where it was destroyed. He was a Ring-bearer, best friend to his gardener, Samwise Gamgee, and was one of three hobbits who sailed from Middle-earth to the Uttermost West at the end of the Third Age.

vi. Aragorn

Aragorn II, son of Arathorn II and Gilraen, also known as Strider and Elessar, was the 16th and last Chieftain of the Dúnedain of the North. He was raised by Elrond among the Elves of Rivendell. He was a direct descendant of Isildur, and was the rightful heir to the throne of Gondor and Arnor. He was the leader of the Fellowship

vii. Legolas

Legolas was a Sindar Elf who joined the Fellowship of the Ring in the Third Age. Son of the Elvenking Thranduil of Mirkwood, Legolas was Mirkwood's prince, a messenger, and a master archer.

Legolas came to the Council of Elrond in Rivendell, the great meeting held by the Elf lord Elrond, as a messenger from his father to discuss the escape of Gollum. When the council was choosing the "Nine Walkers" to pit against the "Nine Riders," Legolas volunteered to represent the Elves, and to become one of the members of the Fellowship that would set out to destroy the One Ring.

viii. Gimli

Gimli, son of Glóin, was a Dwarf of the House of Durin and a member of the Fellowship of the Ring. Unlike other Dwarves, he readily fought alongside Elves in the War of the Ring against Sauron at the end of the Third Age.

ix. Éomer

Éomer, born in TA 2991, of the House of Eorl, was the son of Éomund, the Lord of Aldburg and descendant of Éofor, and of Théodwyn, sister of King Théoden. In TA 3002, when Éomer was eleven, Éomund was slain in battle with Orcs. Théodwyn died of grief shortly afterward. Éomund also had a daughter named Éowyn, Éomer's sister. After they were orphaned Théoden adopted them as his own children.

x. Éowyn

Éowyn was a shieldmaiden of Rohan, daughter of Éomund and Théodwyn, younger sister of Éomer and niece of King Théoden. Prior to the War of the Ring, Éowyn was forced to stay in Meduseld and care for her declining uncle for several years, as he was weakened by the influence of Saruman and Gríma Wormtongue.

xi. Boromir & Faramir

Boromir was a valiant warrior of Gondor, renowned for his prowess in combat and skill on the battlefield. He was the eldest son of Denethor II, who was Steward of Gondor during the War of the Ring, and his wife Finduilas. Even the people of Rohan admired him, particularly Éomer. He was the older brother of Faramir.

Boromir disliked the idea of destroying the One Ring, as he believed that it could be used to defeat Sauron once and for all, to save Gondor, and return it to its former glory; he tried to convince Frodo to give him the Ring. When Frodo refused, Boromir tried to take it by force but the hobbit put it on and fled.

The rest of the fellowship

Faramir was the second son of Denethor II and younger brother of Boromir. He was Captain of the Rangers of Ithilien and Captain of the White Tower upon his brother's death.

xii. Samwise Gamgee, Merry Brandybuck and Peregrin Took

Samwise Gamgee, known as Sam, was a hobbit of the Shire. He was Frodo Baggins' gardener and best friend. Sam proved himself to be Frodo's closest and most dependable companion, the most loyal of the Fellowship of the Ring, and played a critical role in protecting Frodo and the Fellowship.

Meriadoc "Merry" Brandybuck was a Hobbit of the Shire and one of Frodo Baggins' cousins and closest friends. He loved boats and ponies and had a great interest in the maps of Middle-earth. He was also one of the nine companions of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Peregrin Took, more commonly known as Pippin, was a hobbit of the the Shire, and one of Frodo Baggins' youngest and closest friends. He was a member of the Fellowship of the Ring.

f. The Union of the Two Towers:

i. Sauron

Sauron (Quenya; ['saʊron] or ['θaʊron]), the eponymous Lord of the Rings, was the greatest fallen Maia, maker of the One Ring, renowned disciple of Aulë, and chief agent of Morgoth in the Elder Days. After Morgoth's ousting by the Valar, Sauron became the second Dark Lord and sought to conquer Middle-earth as his former master had.

At the end of the Second Age, Sauron caused the Downfall of Númenor, but was subsequently defeated during the War of the Last Alliance of Elves and Men united under Gil-galad and Elendil. In the final battle, Isildur managed to cut the One Ring from his hand, destroying his corporeal form and robbing him of much of his power. After centuries of lying dormant and rebuilding his strength, Sauron returned to power late in the Third Age and again strove to dominate Middle-earth.

ii. Saruman

Saruman, also known as Saruman the White, was first of the Istari (Wizards), the emissaries of the Valar sent to Middle-earth in the Third Age to help the Free Peoples of the World counter the returned Sauron. He was originally the Istari's chief, and was head of the White Council that for a time opposed the Dark Lord.

But by the late Third Age, Saruman was overcome by lust for power and swore fealty to Sauron, becoming one of his greatest servants and betraying his allies. The Wizard, however, then plotted to betray his "new master"[2] and usurp his place as ruler of Middle-earth, or at least stand at his right hand. In the War of the Ring, Saruman marshalled an army at Isengard to both conquer Rohan at Sauron's behest and try claim the One Ring for himself.

iii. Nazgul

Nazgul (also known as Ring-Wraiths) are the eventual form of the 9 ring-bearers of men. They are the most powerful servants of Sauron, and are the key to his plans of finding and retrieving the One Ring.

1. The Witch-King of Angmar

The Witch-king of Angmar, or Lord of the Nazgûl, was the leader of the Nazgûl (Ringwraiths) and Sauron's deadliest servant during the Second and Third Ages of Middle-earth.

2. Khamul the Easterling

Khamûl was one of the nine Ringwraiths second to the Witch-king, in Middle-earth. During the Third Age, he held Dol Guldur as Sauron's lieutenant. After the Witch-king was slain, he became the Lord of Nazgûl for a short period.

iv. Grima Wormtongue

Gríma, called Wormtongue, was the chief counsellor at the court of King Théoden of Rohan. Bought by the corrupted Wizard Saruman, Gríma became his mole in the Edoras court and worked to weaken the Rohirrim. It is likely that Saruman had promised him Éowyn, the king's niece, as a reward for his services.

v. Lurtz

Lurtz was the first and the largest of Saruman's Uruk-hai to be bred, choking the first Orc he saw to death within seconds of his birth. He became Saruman's second-in-command, and led the first battalion of Uruk-hai into battle.

4. Important Neutral/Influenceable Characters

a. Gollum

Gollum, originally named Sméagol, was once a Hobbit, but after prolonged exposure to the effects of the One Ring, he was consumed and maddened by its dark magic and became a pitiful creature.

Gollum met and started following the Fellowship of the Ring in Moria, and was spotted and heard by Frodo on several occasions. On January 15, 3019, the Fellowship was divided when Gandalf disappeared while fighting a Balrog (though he later returned). Gollum continued trailing the remaining members.

b. King Theoden

Théoden, son of Thengel and Morwen Steelsheen, was the seventeenth King of Rohan, last of the Second Line of the royal House of Eorl. Towards the end of his rule, Theoden had become distraught and distant, and could not tell the difference between friend and foe due to Grima's constant manipulations.

c. Denethor

Denethor II was the twenty-sixth and last Ruling Steward of Gondor. Denethor secretly used a palantír to probe Sauron's strength, using it at the top of the White Tower in a secret chamber above the throne room. The effort aged him prematurely, and although Sauron was not able to bend him to his will as he had Saruman, he was able to influence Denethor to think putting up a defense against Sauron was useless. The news of the death of his favorite son Boromir drove Denethor further into despair and hopelessness.

d. The Ents

The Ents were tree-like creatures that were created to herd trees. They were always sentient, though they did not know how to speak until the Elves taught them. They

protected some forests, for example the Fangorn Forest, from Orcs. They contain great physical power, though they are considerably slow.

e. Shelob

Shelob was a great spider that lived along the borders of Mordor.

f. The Eagles of Manwë

The Great Eagles were sent from Valinor to Middle-earth to keep an eye on the exiled Ñoldor, and also upon their foe the evil Vala Morgoth, and later upon Sauron. They could be called upon to aid in times of need.

5. Timeline of Events Leading to the War of the Ring

a. War of the Last Alliance

The Last Alliance was the largest military union of the Free Peoples of the world, and the only large-scale war fought until the climax of the War of the Ring an age later. This war marked the end of the Second Age. After this war, the Elves of Middle-earth could never muster a force of this strength again.

During this war Sauron's forces and his physical form were destroyed, and the Last Alliance was about to destroy Sauron once and for all through destroying the One Ring in the fires of Mount Doom, but at the end of the battle Isildur's will wavered and he took the One Ring for himself, thus allowing Sauron's spirit to live on.

b. Finding of the One Ring

After Isildur took the One Ring for himself the Ring passed out of all knowledge.

Isildur died, but the Ring wasn't on his corpse. The Ring was finally recovered by Deagol on a riverbank in the Shire, but Smeagol (who later became Gollum) choked his own cousin Deagol to death the moment he saw the Ring and its power. He took the Ring and went into hiding in the caves under the Misty Mountains.

Then, during Thorin Oakenshield's quest to reclaim Erebor, the Ring was "stolen" from Gollum by Bilbo Baggins and was used to aid him several times during said quest. After the quest, the Ring stayed with Bilbo Baggins and granted him prolonged life until he was convinced by Gandalf to leave the Ring to his nephew, Frodo.

c. Elrond's Council

The Council of Elrond was a secret meeting held by Elrond in Rivendell on October 25, 3018 of the Third Age, in order to determine the fate of the One Ring.

Those present at this council represented the three free races of Middle-earth: Men, Elves, and Dwarves. The attendees of the Council were:

Elrond - Half-elf conveyor, member of the White Council and Lord of Rivendell.

Erestor - An Elf-lord, advisor, and the chief of the House of Elrond.

Gandalf the Grey - A Wizard, one of the Istari, and member of the White Council.

Aragorn - A Ranger, heir of Isildur, and Chieftain of the Dúnedain in the North.

Frodo Baggins - A Hobbit of the Shire, the Ring-bearer.

Bilbo Baggins - A Hobbit of the Shire, former Ring-bearer, uncle of Frodo and long resident in Rivendell.

Boromir of Gondor - Son and heir of Denethor II, the Ruling Steward of Gondor.

Glóin of the Lonely Mountain - Representative of the King under the Mountain, Dáin II Ironfoot of the Dwarves.

Gimli - Son of Glóin and a Dwarf of the Lonely Mountain.

Legolas - A Sindar Elf of the Woodland Realm (Mirkwood), son of Thranduil the Elvenking.

Glorfindel - An Elf-lord of Rivendell, rescuer of Frodo and his company from the Nine.

Galdor of the Havens - Messenger from Círdan of the Grey Havens.

d. Betrayal of Saruman

Sauron, who had returned to Mordor using the Ithil-stone, which had since become known as Minas Morgul, established contact with Saruman's Orthanc-stone. Daunted with threats and lured with promises of power, Saruman submitted to Sauron.

Betraying the White Council, the Wizard became one of the Dark Lord's chief agents, desiring or no longer opposing his victory. Though the Wise were suspicious of Saruman's designs regarding the Ring, they were not aware he was now "an ally, or servant, of Sauron". But Saruman was, in truth, a faithless subordinate, who sought the Ring for himself. The Wizard's endgame was to usurp his "new master" as Lord of the Rings over Middle-earth. If that gamble failed, Saruman's fawning and usefulness would still see him rise at Sauron's side, in time becoming the true power behind his throne.

e. Death of Gandalf the Grey

After the Fellowship encountered Durin's Bane in the mines of Moria, Gandalf the Grey fought the Balrog for 10 days while allowing the rest of the Fellowship to escape. At the end of the battle, both the Balrog and Gandalf the Grey died. But Gandalf's spirit did not depart Middle-earth forever at this time. As the only one of the five Istari to stay true to his errand, Gandalf was sent back to mortal lands by Eru, and he became Gandalf once again. Yet, as he was now the sole emissary of the Valar to Middle-earth, he was granted the power to "reveal" more of his inner Maiar strength. This naked power that lay within him was seldom used during the remainder of his time in Middle-earth, as his mission was essentially the same: to support and succor those who opposed Sauron. Nevertheless, when Gandalf's wrath was kindled his "unveiled" strength was such that few of Sauron's servants could withstand him.