

**iMUNC 2023**

Background Guide

# iGreed

Carnegie Steel Company: Homestead Strike of

1892

Chairs: Hudson Chou, Solomiia Samofalova

Crisis Directors: Leo Godsberg, Jack Rimel

Hello Delegates,

My name is Hudson Chou, and I will be one of your co-chairs for iGreed. I am a senior here at the NYC iSchool, and this will be my first time chairing for iMUNC and my fifth year in model UN. I really enjoy crisis committees, and more so when everyone is having fun and involved, and generating unique and interesting ideas. I hope that all of you will bring your sense of community and fun with you to iGreed, and look forward to exploring all 1892 Pennsylvania has to offer! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email listed below.

Hudson Chou

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Greetings Delegates,

I am Leo Godsberg, one of your crisis directors for iGreed. I am a senior at the NYC iSchool and have been participating in Model UN since my freshman year. This is my second year staffing iMUNC and my first year on crisis staff! Throughout my years of competing in Model UN, I have found that collaboration and creativity are what allow committees to be exciting, everchanging, and fun for everyone. I encourage you to become invested in your characters and this alternate timeline that you are now a part of. Although everyone on the committee has self-interests and wants to be heard, please remain respectful to every delegate. I'm dying to see the detailed and unique crisis arcs that will be central to this committee! If you have any questions make sure to email me.

See you soon,

Leo Godsberg

[leo.godsberg23@nycischool.org](mailto:leo.godsberg23@nycischool.org)

Hi Delegates!

My name is Solomiia Samofalova and I will be your co-chair for iGreed. I am a sophomore at the NYC iSchool, and became passionate about Model UN at the end of my freshman year.

Therefore this is my first time chairing and staffing iMUNC. I also enjoy debating, as it is my second year in the Debate Club. What I love the most about Model UN is the friendships you make, the collaboration, and decision making. I really like crisis committees, and think they are the funnest of all, so I sincerely hope you get the thrill of the path of this committee, as it is full of surprises and you are all the main characters, and ones who will build the story. I am excited to see you all and what you come up with. Make sure to email if you have any questions or concerns.

Solomiia,

[solomiia.samofalova25@nycischool.org](mailto:solomiia.samofalova25@nycischool.org)

Dear Delegates,

I am Jack Rimel, one of the crisis directors for iGreed. I am currently a senior and have been participating in MUN since I've been a freshman. This is my first year staffing iMUNC and my first year on crisis staff. Through participating in MUN for many years, I have come to enjoy crisis committees and hope to convince you (if you aren't already) that crisis committees are the best way to MUN. I encourage you all to read your character descriptions very carefully, to uncover some hidden abilities. As this is a crisis it will get a little hectic at times, so have fun;

make chaos, friends, and foes; and most importantly collaborate. If you have any questions, especially about your characters, send me an email.

Looking forward to seeing what you'll all do,

Jack Rimel

[jack.rimel23@nycischool.org](mailto:jack.rimel23@nycischool.org)

## **Secretariat Notes**

Hello everyone, thank you all for coming to iMUNC 2023! My name is Caroline Mulcahy, I am a senior at the iSchool and the Co-Secretary general of iMUNC. I've been in Model UN here for all four years of my time at iSchool. I joined and stayed because MUN provided an outlet for creativity and the foundation for many friendships. We are so excited to have you all and we are working to make this the best experience possible for all of you. If you have any questions about the logistics of this conference please don't hesitate to reach out at [ischoolmunc@gmail.com](mailto:ischoolmunc@gmail.com)

Thank you,

Caroline Mulcahy

Hello all, I would like to personally like to thank you all for coming to iMUNC 2023! My name is Trent Ford, I am a Junior at the iSchool and the other Co-Secretary general and Director of Content for iMUNC. I've been doing Model UN since freshman year when we had to do it over Zoom. I joined originally, because I was forced to go to my school's club fair and Model UN was the only club that really spoke out to me. The reason I stayed in Model UN was because of

iMUNC 2021, so the fact that I am now running the conference is like a dream come true. I am beyond excited to have you all here and we are working to make this the best possible experience for you. If you have any questions about the conference or just want to tell us that you are excited, please reach out at [ischoolmunc@gmail.com](mailto:ischoolmunc@gmail.com).

See you soon,

Trent Ford

## **Accepted Documents**

### **Crisis Note**

This is a direct action taken by you as a delegate. They should be written as notes to the chair and must have three core pieces: what you want to do, how you are going to achieve it or what means you will use, and why you are trying to do it. This will help your chairs effectively build crisis narratives for you and will make more of what you want to happen come true. Notes can be written directly to the chair, or in character as the person/delegation you are representing.

### **Directive**

This is an action taken by the whole committee, either collective action by each delegate or using a power vested in the whole committee. They have sponsors (who wrote it), signatories (who want to see it voted on—not necessarily supporting it), and operative clauses that specify what actions are being taken. Directives must be voted on, passed, and then will be implemented by the crisis team.

### **Press Release**

A press release is an announcement from the committee to the public at large. It's a useful way to generate public sentiment, and some parties may demand them in the name of transparency at certain points.

## **Background**

### **The Birth of The Gilded Age**

The Gilded Age was a period in United States history that marked unprecedented economic growth, particularly in the context of industry and capitalism. This period extended from roughly 1870 to 1890, and saw a rapid growth in wages in the United States compared to that of Europe and the rest of the world. This industrialization heralded a need for skilled and unskilled workers, hence a massive influx of European immigrants. While wages grew at a rapid clip, (about 48% over this period) they did little to combat rampant poverty, particularly among immigrants, leading to a massive concentration of wealth in the United States. A fantastic example of this can be demonstrated in the railroads, which were in a period of massive expansion during this time — Captains of industry, well known for their immense wealth and control over many sectors of American society and economy, were crucial in this expansion. While the owners of railroads, steel works and banks thrived, the people doing the manual labor of building the railroads or working in steel mills suffered from dangerous work conditions, rampant child labor, long hours and overall exploitation.

Another important factor during this time period was the political landscape at the time — corruption was common, and the two political parties were evenly matched, demonstrative of the most common issue of the time: culture. At this time, cultural issues included prohibition, education, racial and ethnic groups, and most importantly for this committee, unions. Many of

the unions argued for a limit on working hours, the abolition of child labor, and women's suffrage.

In this committee, we will be focusing mostly on the context of the Homestead Strike of 1892, which was a conflict between Carnegie Steel and the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers union, which ended as one of the deadliest conflicts of labor management in American history. Our committee, (diverging from the history books) is set in the Governor's mansion in Pennsylvania on July 5th, 1892. The widely disliked Henry Clay Frick, champion of Carnegie Steel, presides over negotiations between all involved parties of the strike to try and save the situation before things inevitably turn violent. Everyone has everything to lose, and everything to gain. The meeting begins over dinner, and you have all been asked to participate.

### **History of the Homestead Strike**

Andrew Carnegie, the epitome of rags to riches, had become one of the famed "Captains of Industry" by 1892. Holding the majority stake in companies across the nation, Carnegie was one of the richest men of his time. Among his companies, Carnegie Steel, the nation's largest steel producer, was a point of major contention for Unions. Though Carnegie did technically own the company, and was himself a great philanthropist and voice for the cause of labor rights, Henry Clay Frick, Chief Executive and Chairman of Carnegie Steel as of this year, was not. Frick, wanting to raise profit margin, planned a massive wage cut in the Homestead Steel Mill, located just outside Pittsburgh. This was one of the largest and most important steel mills in the nation, and the planned wage cuts enraged workers, as well as one of the largest unions in the country, the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers.

Following the wage cuts, Frick refused to negotiate with the Union, further enraging the workers and prompting the beginning of the strike, which included a daily protest surrounding

the mill. In an attempt to disrupt this organization and deter the steel workers, Frick hired Pinkertons, a detective agency, which have infiltrated the ranks of the strikers, unknown to the Union. With tensions at a boiling point, violence is a one small push away, and the national guard has been put on high alert and is ready to step in if necessary.

## Current Status

In a last ditch effort to avoid violence, two representatives of the federal government<sup>1</sup> have invited all of the most major players to dinner in the governor's mansion. The hated and infamous Henry Clay Frick has bribed and fought his way into leading the peace talks, but has been feeling ill as of late — but nonetheless, is preparing to beat the Unions into line with his massive wealth and influence. At this dinner, everyone will have their own, secret objectives aside from solving the crisis at hand. While the Homestead Strike is a main factor in this committee, it will *not* be the main focus of debate. Rather, each party will be vying for their own influence, while at the same time solving the crisis. What will happen to the union? To Carnegie Steel? The fortune and fame that is at stake? Who will emerge victorious? That's for you to decide.

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<sup>1</sup> These are the chairs for this committee, and will have no bearing on our storyline.



**Note: Position papers are not required, but if you choose to write one, please send it to the chair in the email listed under their dais letter.**

## **Delegate List**

### **Louise Whitfield Carnegie:**

Louise Whitfield Carnegie (35) is the wife of Andrew Carnegie. She believes that she was not given a fair share of the Carnegie company after her husband's retirement. She still maintains a seat on the Carnegie companies board, but she wishes to maintain more control over it. She is a large philanthropist who donates to many causes, she wants to devote a portion of the Carnegie companies profits to charity.

### **Margret Carnegie Miller:**

Margret Carnegie Miller (19) is the daughter of Andrew Carnegie. She also believes that she has not given a fair share of the Carnegie company. Unlike her mother, Louise Whitfield Carnegie, she was not given a spot on the company board. She will not have access to a large sum of her parents' wealth until they both pass away. She wants to gain a spot on the Carnegie Companies board of directors and gain money. As the daughter of Andrew Carnegie, she is held in high regard, and more often than not she is given the benefit of the doubt.

### **Samuel Rea:**

Samuel Rea (43) is the representative for the Pennsylvania railroad company. The Pennsylvania railroad company relies on the Carnegie company's steel to build its railroad tracks and cars. As the railroad company is a large buyer of Carnegie steel, he wants to find a way to get the Carnegie company's steel cheap. Samuel Rea wants the Carnegie company to allow the Pennsylvania Railroad company to buy a stake in it so that it may continue to get steel cheaply. It is rumored that he has mob connections and is not afraid to pull a few strings to get deals done in his favor.

### **William Pinkerton:**

William Pinkerton (46) is the son of Allan Pinkerton and is married to Margaret S. Ashling of Blissfield. He is a former member of the US secret service who took over the Pinkerton company from his late father. As he is in command of the pinkerton agency, he wants to get business for his company. He is interested in making a deal with the Carnegie company to provide security, and stamp out protests, for them. Since he is the head of Pinkertons, he can send messages to the other Pinkerton spies outside of the meeting to gather information for him.

### **John Adams:**

John Adams (40) is a steelworker that is part of the strike. He has similar demands with the strikers, better pay, working conditions, ETC. He was once an employee of the Pinkerton company but claims to have quit. He is somewhat of a high figure in the Union and is looked up to by other union workers. He holds a leadership position within the union.

### **Seán Kelly:**

Seán Kelly (40) is a steelworker that is part of the union. Samuel is a devout catholic and is an Irish immigrant, because of this he is resented by a large swath of the union. Before working in the steel industry he worked as a private investigator. He leads a minority faction of Irish immigrants within the union.

### **George Jones:**

George Jones (21) is an up and coming investigative journalist for *The Pittsburgh Gazette*. He is currently reporting on the working conditions of the steelworkers but is looking for a big story to put his name out. Being a reporter he is a skilled investigator and is good at digging up facts that some would prefer to stay buried.

### **Henry Phipps Jr.:**

Henry Phipps Jr. (53) is a businessman first and foremost. He has a close relationship with Andrew Carnegie, secretly he suspects Carnegie prefers him to Frick. He is a philanthropist who donates large sums of his wealth to charities. He did not decide to reduce the wages of the workers, he may even favor raising them. He wants the company to resume its work as soon as possible and is willing to compromise to do so. He is known for always carrying cash with him and for keeping his word.

### **Robert E. Pattison:**

Robert E. Pattison (40) is the Governor of Pennsylvania. He is focused on keeping the status quo within Pennsylvania. He sees the Carnegie company as beneficial to Pennsylvania and is worried that the strike may drive them out. He is somewhat reserved in his actions right now because he fears that if he responds to the situation, he may suffer a loss in public approval. Right now he wants to act as a mediator and resolve the situation as soon as possible. He has the power to summon the state of Pennsylvania's militia.

### **T. J. Shaffer:**

T. J. Shaffer (37) is the president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers. He is the person responsible for organizing the strike. He possesses immense power within the union, as the president of it he has the power to veto votes. He is the symbol, and the most popular member of the union.

### **Carlo Matranga:**

Carlo Matranga was one of the biggest mobsters in New Orleans. After the dilemma between the Matranga clan and the police, he was forced to leave to the North. He obtains the money through extortion and labor racketeering. He has key connections with laborers and the representative of the railroad. He was invited as he is good friends with the governor. In Homestead, he wishes to gain more power over the railroad.

### **Joseph Provenzano:**

Joseph Provenzano was one of the biggest and influential mobsters in New Orleans, as he possessed great power and wealth. After Provenzanos lost their power to Matrangas, the relationship between both clans was strained. As well as Matrangas, Provenzanos were forced to leave to no other town than Homestead along with other mafia involved in the dilemma. Joseph hopes to regain power and control, especially over produce docks and the railroad, and has connections with the representative of the railroad. He was invited as he's met Frick, and has a good friendship with him.

### **Childs Frick:**

Childs Frick was the first of four children of Henry Clay Frick. Frick was a bright student through his years of schooling. He finds his inspiration in traveling, likes hunting and collecting fossil specimens, which he later donated to the American Museum of Natural History. He didn't have a good relationship with his father as he wasn't as interested in business; When he was forced to manage the Frick family's business affairs, it caused a lot of tension within his family. He has connections with the workers, as well as the Pinkerton brothers as he participates in the community the most out of Frick's children, even if his status is higher. He wishes to give back to the community, and to possibly open places of education for paleontology.

### **George Lauder:**

George Lauder is a Scottish industrialist, and a mechanical engineer. After being asked by his good friend Andrew Carnegie to join his and his brother's Company in Pittsburgh, he agreed wholeheartedly. Now he is a director of Carnegie Steel and in partnership with Frick, but doesn't favor the man as much. Lauder is very well educated, therefore giving him the ability to create

new innovations, and profit off them. After receiving a letter from Carnegie of how unfit Frick is for his position, he has been focusing more on his work, not bothered to defend Frick's position. Now he is concerned about boosting profits of the company, and hopes to be able to fund his inventions.

### **General Snowden:**

General Snowden is a commander of Pennsylvania's militia, and therefore has a lot of power. He believes that the union workers were in the wrong as they can't 'appreciate' the work that Carnegie puts into the company and the workers. As an ex-lawyer he wishes he could challenge the laws in the city, and succeed in becoming a democratic party candidate for Congress.

### **Martha Howard Frick:**

Martha Howard Frick is the second child of Henry Clay Frick. Martha is an excellent scholar, and is passionate about art and business. Throughout her childhood, her father was not as present as she wished he was, nor was he supportive of her, which was the reason for the tension between the two of them. Martha wishes there were more opportunities for women in business, and wants to establish more women's places of education in Pittsburgh. She often makes conversations with her dad's colleagues, which gains her connections to the business side.

### **Robert Pinkerton:**

Robert Pinkerton is a co-director of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, along with his twin brother William. As he is responsible for the agency, he wishes to get more people involved,

and for the agency to strive. He really wants to establish the relationship with the laborers, and get inside information to prevent the violence happening.

### **Trent Ford:**

Trent Ford is the CEO of the great Ford train emporium. Ford has a lot of power as he is the root of how Carnegie Steel and the railroad gets the products for their businesses. Without him, and his collaborative nature, the businesses would not thrive. He is for wages being cut, and believes company's profit is the most important part. He wishes to expand his business through more cities.

### **Elizabeth Brown:**

Elizabeth Brown is one of the main organizers of the strike. Throughout her life, she has been one of the main communicators in the city, and is very opinionated. When she found out about the wages being cut, she encouraged the workers to protest. Elizabeth has connections with the Pinkertons, and organized the strike with T. J. Shaffer. She wishes to have more connections, and be promoted in her work place as she is a nurse.

### **Charles M. Schwab**

Charles M. Schwab is a steel magnate. By the age of 20 he had succeeded in bringing many steel manufacturers to the top, and in the meantime developed friendships with important people such as Andrew Carnegie and Henry Phipps Jr. He is careful with those relationships and knows how to get what he wants. Charles has the mindset of treating the profit of a company as the most

important thing, which is what makes him good at his job. In the back of his mind, he wishes to have the opportunity to make US Steel into one of the nation's steel producers.

## **Research**

Again, please note that this committee is not solely on the topic of the Homestead Strike, so outside research can be helpful, but is not necessary for a delegate to participate in a meaningful way. If you would like further information and context regarding these events, here are some helpful links to that research:

- <https://www.history.com/topics/industrial-revolution/homestead-strike>
- <https://aflcio.org/about/history/labor-history-events/1892-homestead-strike>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/gilded-age>