



# THE FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN INVITATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear Delegates and Moderators,

Welcome to NAIMUN LVI and more specifically welcome to Vercingetorix's Confederation, 59 B.C.E. The staff of NAIMUN LVI has been working day and night to make this the most rewarding and educational experience yet, and we are excited to welcome you all to DC in February!

This document is the topic abstract for Vercingetorix's Confederation, 59 B.C.E. It contains three key elements to allow you all to prepare well in advance for the committee: topics, structure, and research avenues. The goal of this abstract is to give you a better understanding of the content in the committee. As well, it is meant to be a launch point for further research about the content of this committee. By reading and understanding the topic abstract, you will more fully get a sense of how this committee will be run at NAIMUN and what specific issues the NAIMUN staff want you to focus on.

We hope to be of assistance to you in your preparation for NAIMUN LVI. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact the Secretary-General or Director-General. We look forward to welcoming you to the NAIMUN family!

Best,  
Chase and Charlotte

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# THE FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN INVITATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## Topic Abstract: Vercingetorix's Confederation

### What is a Crisis Committee?

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Crisis committees are markedly different from both GAs and ECOSOCs. They tend to focus on specific issues, geographic areas, and historical periods. For example, NAIMUN LI's Yedintsvo: Vladimir Putin's Cabinet, 2000 simulated the early years of President Putin's cabinet, tackling issues from reforming the Russian economy to confronting separatists in Chechnya. In essence, crisis committees have a narrower and more specific focus than the GAs and ECOSOCs that focus on broad global concepts and issues. Crisis committees also have the distinguishing characteristic of portfolio powers, where delegates have and can use individual powers that are part of their character's bio in order to shape the 'world' they interact in. Finally, crisis committees are the smallest of committees, usually with less than 30 delegates per committee. They tend to be faster-paced and more dynamic than assemblies with set topics.

Adapted from "A Guide to Model UN." For more information, please visit: <https://naimun.modelun.org/introduction-to-model-un/>

### Introduction

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This committee will comprise the various chiefs and druids of tribes from across Gaul, Germania, and Britain, beginning in the year 59 BCE and moving forward throughout the decade of Caesar's Gallic wars. Vercingetorix, a charismatic young chief of the Arverni, has called together a council of Gaul's greatest leaders to discuss the situation with Caesar and Roman aggression. Delegates will be expected to gain an understanding of the complex cultural, political, religious, and economic issues underlying Rome's expansion during the late Republic, and they will be challenged to develop solutions for the challenges that Gaul faces. There will be no set topics for this committee, as the



## THE FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN INVITATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

course of events will largely depend on courses of action pursued by the committee and by individual delegates, but thematically, there will be a broad focus on the question of Gallic identity and unity, Gaul's relationship with Rome during and after the wars, and the role of religious leaders and faith in Gallic life. This abstract will provide a starting point for delegates to delve into the world of ancient Gaul. Extensive research for this committee is encouraged -- the committee focuses on a little-known academic topic, and as a result, research will be necessary for the creative solutions delegates will need to solve the issues facing Gaul. The most successful delegates will be those most familiar with the history and source material and most willing to use their historical knowledge to explore new and creative solutions.

### Topic A: Gallic Identity and Unity

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At the beginning of this committee, in 59 BCE, it is important for delegates to understand that there was no coherent identity of "Gaul" among the Gallic tribes. Vercingetorix has brought them together under the cause of freedom from the Romans, but this fact alone by no means translates to Gallic unity. Historically, constant infighting plagued the tribes of the confederation, and the committee will need to address these issues accordingly over the course of the weekend. Will the Gauls decide to put aside their differences and unite to present a stronger front to Rome? Or will Gaul remain fragmented, to be divided and conquered?

### Topic B: Gaul's Relationship with Rome

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Of vital importance to this committee is the simple fact that much of Gaul's wealth in 59 BCE came from trade with Rome and her provinces. Gaul has an abundance of natural resources, but without the Roman trading network, it will be hard-pressed to make good use of them. The committee must consider what a peace with Rome will look like after the wars are over, whether Rome could be an ally in future conflicts, the possibility of setting up trading relationships with powers and peoples outside Rome, and other economic concerns.



# THE FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN INVITATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## Topic C: Religious Leaders and the Role of Faith

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One of the most interesting aspects of the culture of ancient Gaul is the intense set of rituals and beliefs that governed the Gallic religion. Several members of this committee will, instead of chieftains of tribes, represent influential Druids. Druidic practice is one of the many cultural issues explored in the *Comentarii* and religious belief will be one of the primary factors motivating many of the characters. Delegates would do well to pay specific attention to the discussion of Druids in Book VI Chapters 13 and 14.

## Resources for Further Research

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The following sources should be a starting point for delegate research, but delegates should be creative and attempt to combine web, print, and other sources to find the best information possible. This topic is relatively under-studied compared to some, and delegates should not feel discouraged if they have difficulty finding information. Delegates are strongly encouraged to reach out to the chair for assistance in research or with any questions they might have.

The primary source material for this committee will be Julius Caesar's *Comentarii de Bello Gallico*. A variety of high quality English translations can be found in print and online, including one linked below from MIT's Internet Classics Archive, which the CM personally used to get through AP Latin in high school. Delegates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the text as well as relevant scholarship on it before they throw themselves into preparation for committee. The most successful delegates will have a solid familiarity with the source material and background information, and an ability to play off of it to create solutions of their own. A more exhaustive list of scholarly materials on the Gallic Wars will be published in the background guide this winter.



## THE FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN INVITATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Arverni." Encyclopædia Britannica.

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<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Arverni>.

- Brief biography of Arverni and his political role

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Gallic Wars." Encyclopædia Britannica.

April 02, 2018. Accessed June 12, 2018.

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Gallic-Wars>.

- Brief overview of the conflict

Smith, Christopher B. R., ed. "Trade and Traders in the Roman World: Scale, Structure, and Organisation." In *Trade, Traders and the Ancient City*, by Jeremy Paterson. Taylor & Francis, 2012.

- <http://files.gazdtort-hu.webnode.hu/2000000035-cfd0ed0cab/Trade%20and%20Traders%20in%20Ancient%20City.pdf#page=158>
- Source on larger contemporary context in Roman Empire and Gaul

"The Internet Classics Archive | The Gallic Wars by Julius Caesar." The Internet Classics Archive | Antigone by Sophocles. Accessed June 12, 2018.

<http://classics.mit.edu/Caesar/gallic.html>.

- Translations of primary sources about the wars.

YouTube. February 01, 2017. Accessed June 12, 2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPsugO6txb4>.

- Video overview of the conflict.

YouTube. July 31, 2017. Accessed June 12, 2018.

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- Video overview of the conflict.