

BATHMUN 2025 CRISIS



THE HAW WARS

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the BathMUN crisis committee! We are very excited to welcome you back to Bath for this year's crisis on the Haw Wars. This study guide has taken a lot of time and effort to write, so we would really appreciate it if you could take the time to read through it. We will go through basic terminology used in crisis committees for those of you who may not have done this before, then we will discuss the historical context of the conflict and then talk about the mechanics used in this crisis. We have tried to cover everything you would need to know going into your cabinets in this one document, so reading through it *at least once*, before the conference, is critical for your success over the three days.

STAFF INTRODUCTION

Crisis Director's Welcome

Welcome everyone to BathMUN 2025's Crisis Committee. My name is Matao, and I'm a Physics student from the University of Bath, and it is my pleasure to be your Crisis Director for the weekend. We've got loads planned and are trying to make this crisis the best that we possibly can. I'm looking forward to seeing how you choose to tell the story of the Haw Wars!

Chairs' Welcome

Siamese Cabinet Chair - Lucien Khoury

Bonjour guys, I'm Lucien, one of your crisis chair for BathMUN 2025. I'm from Paris (city of love) but I study a BBA with a Major in Finance at Hult International Business School in London, second year. I started MUN in GA last September because I thought it was fun and I've gone to many conferences since. I now regret not joining crisis earlier, so I know there'll be fun. See you soon...

Haw Rebel Cabinet Chair - Thuc Anh

Hi everyone! My name is Thuc Anh, a 2nd year History student at King's College London, and I am beyond ecstatic to be your chair for the Haw cabinet! This is an incredibly unique and niche topic, with lots of wacky details so, it is going to be a very fun crisis. I look



forward to seeing you in November, working together to create lots of chaos, and most importantly establishing Haw rebel supremacy!!

Backroomers' Welcome

Siamese Cabinet Backroomer - Kyle Wilkinson

Hi, my name is Kyle Wilkinson. I'm a master's student at City St George's University of London, and I have the pleasure of being a backroomer for this year's BathMUN Crisis. I've been part of every BathMUN Crisis since 2023, staffing and directing. I'm very much looking forward to seeing you all in Bath, and wish you all a very enjoyable Crisis!

Siamese Cabinet Backroomer - Simon James Puttock

Hi! I'm Simon, a PhD researcher in Environmental Intelligence at the University of Exeter. I've been active in Model United Nations for the past three years and currently serve as one of ExMUN's Press and Publicity Officers. Last year, I was the society's Crisis Officer, directing five different Crisis events to add to the over 20 I've been part of in total at this point. I also had the chance to co-direct Crisis at SotonMUN 2025, working alongside BathMUN's excellent Secretary-General, Emily. This is my third BathMUN Crisis, and I'm thrilled to be back, both to collaborate with many of the brilliant staff team again and to see what this year's delegates will create!

Siamese Cabinet Backroomer - Giorgio Barbacci Schettino

Hello all, I am Giorgio (Nº2) I am an MSc Economics and Strategy for Business student at Imperial Business School and a graduate in Economics from the University of Bath. I have served as a Treasurer of the BathMUN society, USG Finance of the BathMUN 2023 Conference, and financial advisor for 2024. I have also delegated across different MUN conferences, both in the UK and abroad, and am currently the USG Finance at LIMUN, and will be backrooming at BathMUN for my second time! I am very excited to meet all the delegates and crisis attendees!



Haw Rebel Cabinet Backroomer - Giorgio

Hello delegates! I'm Giorgio, a 3rd year History student hailing from the not-so-sunny University of Southampton, and it's an absolute pleasure to be backrooming for the Haw cabinet! When the time comes, I hope the shenanigans and crisis-craziness that emerges out of the crisis will make the weekend worth it, and I can't wait to meet you all when the conference begins! Go Haw Cabinet!

Haw Rebel Cabinet Backroomer - Gabriel Knight

Hi there, my name is Gabriel and I'll be one of your Haw backroomers! I'm a student at the University of Bath in my final year of politics with economics (although I did start with astrophysics but switched and never looked back!) I've done MUN for over three years now and have virtually never missed a session during my time here. The reason I started in the first place - or rather a large reason, in any case - was because it sounded similar to a game I enjoy called Diplomacy, both of which involve lots of debating and compromises when you don't really feel like compromising! Outside of MUN, I'm into sports; I'm a big football and F1 fan (Arsenal and McLaren fan!), and I also do fencing. I really look forward to enabling the crazy, wacky, almost certainly nonsensical stories that you guys come up with, and I have to translate them into a somewhat comprehensible and tangible tale! COME ON YOU HAWS!

TOPIC GUIDELINES

This committee will focus on the Haw Wars, a South-East conflict which spanned 25 years but has been mostly relegated to the annals of history. The two cabinets will be the Siamese cabinet and the Haw rebel cabinet.

Please note that, like almost all crisis committees, we will be starting at a fixed point in history and context. Nevertheless, some degree of freedom is permitted within the chairs' and backrooms' discretion in the plot, especially regarding the historical plausibility of directives.

It is also important to note that this topic, as with many topics covered in MUN and crisis specifically, will result in discussions surrounding sensitive issues such as colonialism and the parallels that may exist to more contemporary conflicts. We believe that addressing these issues are integral to a historically accurate scenario, and discussing them within this context can lead us to understand the current modern geopolitical landscape of South-East Asia.



Please know that we have taken great care to approach these topics with sensitivity, while also avoiding anachronism. We recognize that this is nevertheless a fine line. We welcome any feedback, and if any participant feels uncomfortable with the subject at any point, we would kindly ask them to reach out to a member of the crisis staff.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Definitions

Cabinet

A Cabinet is a group of characters inside a Crisis that represents an organisation or faction. Usually, cabinets reside in different rooms. A Cabinet is often composed of people that share similar values, ideals or goals, or who share the same side of a crisis. A Cabinet comprises a chair, who may or may not be a character in the crisis, and all the delegates for that side.

Although united in their overall objective, characters in a Cabinet will often have personal objectives that may conflict with other characters within the same cabinet, or even run against the aims of the cabinet as a whole. For example, although two characters may both seek to achieve the same goal, they may want to attain that goal in different ways that would pit them as rivals to each other. Another example may be a delegate whose personal objective would be to undermine the cabinet as a whole to gain power for themselves. There are cases where characters may switch from one Cabinet to the other, however this is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Frontroom

The Frontroom is Crisis's version of the committee floor of a General Assembly committee. This is where moderated and unmoderated caucuses, speeches and discussions take place. There will be as many "frontrooms" as there are cabinets in the crisis, and during debate, each cabinet is strictly confined to their own frontroom.



Backroom

Opposite to the Frontroom, this refers to what happens behind the scenes of the crisis. This term usually encompasses the room where the backroomers work, the procedures of the backroomers, and the backroom itself. The Backroom, as in the physical room, is strictly off-limits to delegates and faculty advisors.

Master of Disaster

Master of Disaster, or MoD, is an online system used to run Crisis committees. This is where delegates will be able to submit directives, talk to each other privately, and where crisis news updates will be posted.

Directives

The defining characteristic of crisis committees as opposed to General Assembly committees. Directives are pieces of text created by delegates and submitted to the backroom. The backroomer will read the directive and apply its consequences to the Crisis, seeking clarification from the delegate where needed. If the directive's impact is large enough, a news post will be made to the delegates about it.

Using Master of Disaster

This crisis will use the Master of Disaster (MoD) crisis software to handle most things related to the crisis, specifically news updates, private and cabinet directives and messages between delegates.

We ask that all delegates keep all crisis-related talk on MoD, both so that backroomers can be notified if delegates are discussing defections or other covert activities, but also to prevent meta-gaming should it occur.

If you are unfamiliar with MoD, [this link](#) will let you interact with an example crisis; the format is exactly the same as it will be on the day of the conference.



Flow of debate and motions

At the start of debate, both cabinets will be placed in a perpetual unmoderated caucus. The reasoning behind this is to allow for fast-flowing and open forum for ideas to be discussed and action to be taken in light of constantly changing information. We would like to emphasize the need for fast-flowing debate, which requires delegates to refrain from overly relying on structured caucuses to progress in the crisis.

Nevertheless, delegates can exceptionally enter structured debate, for example through a moderated caucus, consultation of the whole or to introduce a cabinet directive. Voting on motions is non-substantive, meaning that a simple majority is required and with no abstentions.

If a cabinet directive is successfully introduced, then the floor will be open to one speech in favour and one speech against the cabinet directive, both with a maximum speaking time of one minute. After this, delegates will vote upon the cabinet directive in a substantive vote requiring a simple majority to pass. If the vote is tied, then the chair is issued a tie-breaking vote. At this point, the chair may approve the cabinet directive on MoD, at which point it will be sent to the backroom.

Directives

There are three main categories of directives: cabinet, group and individual directives. Each will be useful at different stages and for different purposes during the crisis, so it is important to familiarise oneself with them.

A cabinet directive is one, usually submitted by the chair, in which every delegate participates in it. It may require the use of resources from all delegates in the cabinet, which must be agreed upon before sending in the directive. Cabinet directives often cover significant strategic moves or abrupt changes to the whole cabinet's stance.

Similarly, a group directive is one submitted by several delegates regarding a common objective or stance. In this case, it does not need to be voted upon, but the delegates involved must all agree upon the directive as a whole, including the resources being used in it. Group directives cover a wide range of topics, such as cooperative enterprises, military operations, or diplomatic discourse.



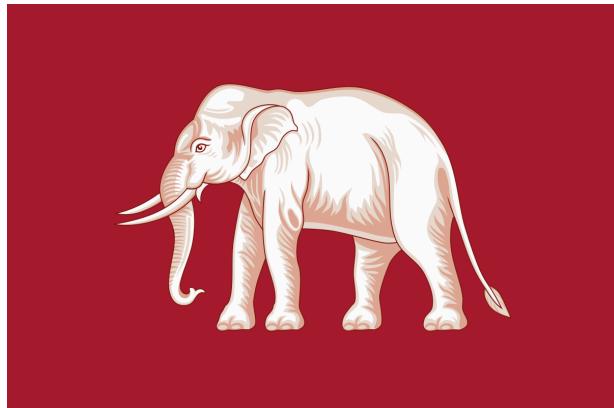
Finally, individual directives do not include any other co-submitters, and only include the submitter. As such, the scope of what can be done in an individual directive is limited by the portfolio and resources of the submitter's character alone. These tend to be the most used type of directive in crisis committees as they are the easiest and fastest to submit, which allows delegates to respond to updates as quickly and efficiently as possible. The topics covered by individual directives are limitless, but they will only be actioned if the backroom feels that it fits within the powers of that character.

In addition to the three main types of directives, MoD allows delegates to further categorise each directive into any of the following categories:

- *Strategic*: Used for tactical or political plans that don't involve the military, and must be well thought-out and can be part of a larger strategy to gain information or connections.
- *Military*: Used strictly to manipulate the positioning of military assets, such as soldiers, artillery, navy ships.
- *Personal*: Used by the delegate to liaise with the backroom to ask about specific information about their character, e.g. troops, location, funds or resources.
- *Press Release*: Used when a character may wish to communicate an important piece of information to the rest of the cabinet or crisis as a whole. Typically, once these directives are received they are put onto the "news ticker" on MoD.
- *Intelligence/Covert*: Used when a character wishes to retrieve intelligence or information about another character or situation secretly. These need to be extremely well thought-out and written to ensure that nothing in the directive is released elsewhere.
- *Economic*: Used to control the monetary funds that a character may have at their disposal.
- *Diplomatic*: Used to start or continue relations between characters, typically between characters from different cabinets. Note that MoD also allows delegates to message each other privately across cabinets directly on the platform, which can be used in conjunction with a diplomatic directive.



SIAM IN 1883



The Kingdom of Siam in the late 19th century was in a state of flux and instability on multiple fronts. Between the threat of colonialism from the French and British, the radical transformation of society and the northern threat of the Haws, the decisions made by the monarchy and lawmakers were being made with these multi-faceted and intertwined issues in mind.

Colonialism and reforms

The Kingdom of Siam in 1883 was ruled by King Chulalongkorn, also known as Rama V, from the Chakri dynasty. Ascending to the throne in 1868 at the age of 15 after his father, King Mongkut (Rama IV) passed away, his rule coincided with the wave of colonialist expansion by European powers, determined to "civilise" the lands which they encountered. In light of this, the Siamese elite, including the royal family, began appropriating Western customs and ideals into their intellectual, political and cultural culture.



Mongkut, aware of the failings of his regional neighbours in dealing with the colonialist forces, notably the Burmese defeat to British forces and the humiliation of China at the hands of Europeans, sought to modernise the Siamese state and society, which in his mind, would safeguard their political independence. These initiatives were expanded under the rule of Chulalongkorn, who was well exposed to European affairs and culture.



The main goal of the King was to build Siam into a modern absolute state, which, in his mind, required the absolute abolition of slavery, the centralisation of the government and hence the reduction of the influence of nobilities and chiefdoms, judiciary reforms, construction of transport and construction infrastructure, a new education system, and modern armed forces. To achieve this goal, he promoted a certain national identity, centred

around the concept of *chat* (ชาติ, meaning nation), monarchy and religion, meant to induce a sense of collective consciousness.



In the years between his ascendance to the throne in 1868 and 1883 (the starting date of our crisis), Chulalongkorn had already enacted significant reform, including the abolition of prostration in the royal presence on the day of his coronation, established the Royal Treasury Department to manage tax collection in 1875, and partially abolished slavery. Other reforms, such as those to the education system, the judiciary and policy-making organ, faced opposition from the two other factions with influence in the Siamese government.

The main faction of note were those that aligned themselves with the regent and former chief minister Sri Suriyawongse, who was in control over the country in the five years between Chulalongkorn ascended to the throne until he became of age. In this time, the regent appointed family members and allies to office, granting him influence even after he relinquished power. Aligned with this faction were the old nobles, which still held considerable influence. Together, these factions were generally conservative and opposed the reforms of Rama V. As such, as a young king, passing any reforms in the early stages of his kingship was considerably challenging.

Nevertheless, the influence of these older classes was waning, and with a new generation of leaders with a sense of nationality, some of whom had been educated abroad, as well as the King's brothers coming of age to help the administration, radical change was on the horizon for the Kingdom of Siam, starting in 1883.



Governance

In the 1880s, the actual form of governance in Siam was changing, due to the reforms under Chulalongkorn. Indeed, the Kingdom of Siam was transitioning from a mandala system, which was present throughout most of South East Asia, to a centralised bureaucratic monarchy, akin to the colonialist powers.

The old mandala system consisted of a centralised kingdom surrounded by semi-autonomous provinces, called *mueang* (เมือง), ruled by hereditary nobles who owed tribute or pledged allegiance to the king, if and whenever it suited them. Employing the *Chatusadom* (ຈຸດສັດມົກ) system which dates back to the Ayuthaya Kingdom of the 14th century, administration was divided into four ministries: Interior, Palace, Treasury, and Agriculture. Within this system, local nobles had significant autonomy, especially in the furthest provinces.



In a bid to centralise power and create a modern state, Chulalongkorn gradually implemented reforms to move the Kingdom away from this outdated system, instead creating new ministries, such as the ministries for Justice, Education, War, Foreign Affairs, and Public Works. In addition to this, provinces were grouped together into *monthons* (ມັນຫາລ) which were overseen by an intendant of the Ministry of the Interior, which effectively ended provincial autonomy. This eventually became known as the Thesaphiban reforms, which came into place in the late 1890s.

At the start of our crisis, none of these changes had started yet, partly because of internal resistance to these perceived radical changes. In effect, this leaves the furthest provinces of the Kingdom susceptible to attack from the likes of rebels and possibly even foreign powers. Also possible is the chance that one of the leaders of these extremal lands switches their allegiance, which should be avoided at all costs.

Chinese influence in Bangkok

It cannot be understated the economic and commercial impact that Chinese immigrants to Siam had in the 19th century on Bangkok, and on the Kingdom as a whole. The trend of Chinese immigrants settling in Thailand dates back to early Siamese kingdoms, which had a long tradition of absorbing outsiders. Among these outsiders were the Chinese, and their influence as traders and officials meant that their influence was strong, to the point



of even influencing the development of the Thai language. In addition to this, the Thai monarchy itself had Chinese blood. For instance, King Taksin was of mixed Chinese, Teochiu blood, and when he established the new capital of Thonburi after the destruction of Ayutthaya in 1767, actually invited his fellow countrymen to populate and thrive in his new city.



According to the Postal Census of 1883, which took stock of the different nationalities and occupations of the residents of Bangkok, the Chinese consisted of about 30% of the “household heads”. The proportion of residents within the inner city who were Chinese was even higher. While Bangkok housed many different ethnic groups, such as Indian, Khaek, Malay, Burmese, and many more, there was little clustering, except for the Chinese, who were disproportionately more present in the neighbourhood of *Sampheng* (ສຳເັີົງ). At this period in time, the Thai community in general still owned most of the property in Bangkok, but the Chinese were clearly starting to invest in this sector heavily at the time. This would become clear years later as the property market was taken over by the Chinese immigrant community.

These Chinese immigrants proved to be immensely useful for the development of Thailand, not only as they proved to be a cheap source of labour for work in the fields and in manufacturing, but also as traders and marketers. They primarily worked as traders and marketers, essentially taking over this business from the locals. However, the Chinese also engaged with the so-called social problems of Bangkok, notably with regards to the liquor stores, gambling houses, pawn shops and opium dens which were present throughout the city. In fact, the Chinese immigrant community managed 92% of all liquor stores, 91% of all gambling houses, 99% of all pawn shops and 98% of all opium dens in the city.

An important aspect of the Chinese population which was of great use to the government at the time was taxation. Indeed, Chinese heads of households were not subject to corvée, and instead had to pay a separate head tax, which was unique to their ethnic group. In order to circumvent this tax, some chose to seek a *nai*, or master, and be registered as dependent upon them. Others sought protection from Thai officials or foreign consuls. Due to the nature of the taxation and the number of people it applied to, this proved to be a huge source of revenue for the Thai government.



Military tactics

In line with the modernisation efforts happening across the different branches of government, the Siamese military was in a state of flux. The Royal Siamese Army was officially established in 1874 by Rama V and was organised, trained and structured along European lines with help from British foreign aides. The Navy was established a year later in 1875 with a Danish naval reserve officer in charge.

The main theme of the reforms was to introduce a more centralised military, designed to deter a European invasion. The main change was the creation of new military schools designed to train a modern fighting force, and one which would be absolutely loyal to the King. This school fed into the “Scarecrow Corps” (Mahat Lek Lai Ka, มหาดเล็กໄລກ), established in 1868, which eventually became the 1st Infantry Regiment of the King’s Bodyguards, and grew to six infantry battalions.

In 1881, the King set up a military school in Bangkok to train soldiers to induct them into the Scarecrow Corps. In a bid to enlarge this force, he allowed for commoners living in the provinces to become soldiers in the armed forces. In return, the soldiers would receive money, food and clothes as payment, better than serving any master, and so many decided to abandon their previous nobles. Furthermore, many nobles actually sent their sons to serve in the force in order to gain favour with the King. Nevertheless, infighting between different factions within the Siamese court prevented Rama V from implementing the most important of his reforms of the military until 1887, such as the creation of cadet schools.

There were also some quirks about the Siamese army. As expected, cavalry was widely used in transportation as well as battle, but these were not the only animals employed in wartime. Indeed, as you will notice in the cover picture of this study guide, elephants were also employed in battle. In that image, which is taken during the first wave of Haw incursions, elephants can be seen carrying cannons on their backs. Elephants were hugely important in transporting men and weaponry across the hilly landscape of Northern Siam. While they did not actually fire the cannons on their backs, the Siamese military did mount *jingals*, a type of matchlock gun, onto the elephants which could be fired over their rears. Furthermore, the soldiers, most of whom were Buddhist or spiritual in some way, actively performed magic rituals before battle, believing that it would bring them strength and safety.

At the start of the crisis, the Siamese military’s standing force consisted of the aforementioned Scarecrow Corps, a modern and moderately sized fighting force, and the



Capital Defense Corps. The latter were a larger fighting force, but were less modern and centralised. Finally, levies from around the country can be raised through the corvée system, although this usually occurs just prior to or during wartime. Most men raised in the levies went to serve in the infantry, except for some hereditary villages from which the elephantry, cavalry, artillery and navy corps were drawn from. Unsurprisingly, the levies were the least modern and organised force, given that the constituents were not professional soldiers. Moreover, this force tended to suffer from insufficient resources, lacking in weapons and munitions.

<https://waseda.repo.nii.ac.jp/record/65198/files/Honbun-8715.pdf>

THE HAW REBELS



Origins

The Haw Rebels were rebels and bandits of various ethnicities and religions, whose arrival in modern-day Laos was the consequence of escaping the Qing dynasty's suppression and reimposition of imperial authority (known as the Tongzhi Restoration). While assessing the socio-economic background of the groups' memberships has proven notoriously difficult for the era's historians to determine, academic consensus broadly understand the make-up of the various groups to have been drawn from the lower strata of southern Chinese society, with many resorting to freebooting and rebellion out of economic desperation and neglect.

Firstly, the Qing dynasty successfully suppressed the Taiping Rebellion (1850-64), a politico-religious rebellion led by the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom in central and south China. Inspired by Christian millenarism, they sought to overthrow the devilish Manchu-led Qing dynasty out of China. After being defeated, 2 rival rebel bands - the Black Flags and Yellow Flags - fled into Tonkin. The Black Flags worked well with Vietnam's Nguyen Dynasty, even



helping them against French colonial invasion. In comparison, the Yellow Flags did not obtain the same level of legitimacy so were largely defeated by a combination of the stronger Black Flags, the Nguyen Dynasty, and the Qing Dynasty. The surviving remnants of the Yellow Flags would flee westward to Sip Song Chau Tai, causing havoc there.

Later, the Qing dynasty additionally suppressed the Panthay Rebellion (1856-73) in the Yunnan province. The rebels were of multiple ethnicities, the majority being Muslims (specifically the Muslim Hui). They rebelled against the imperial authority due to its violent and cruel oppression against Muslims. The suppression was incredibly bloody, costing up to one million lives, and persecution of Muslims continued afterwards: as a result, many Muslim Yunnanese, including the rebels, fled from the province. The rebels fled south, distinguishing themselves as Red Flags and Striped Flags.

These rebels looted and plundered any village they came across. In 1872, the Red Flags successfully sacked Dien Bien Phu. The Striped Flags alongside the remaining Yellow Flags seized control of most of Muang Phuan. Due to conflating all of the rebels with the Yunnan migrants and Hui people, the Red, Striped, and Yellow Flags were collectively called the Haws.

Seeing the threat coming closer to home, Oun Kham (King of Luang Phrabang) and Tu Duc (Nguyen Monarch) joined forces to resist them. However, this was ultimately unsuccessful and the rebels continued pushing further south with the aim of sacking Vientiane. Feeling the urgency of the situation, Oun Kham appealed to Siam Monarch Rama V for help.

Military Tactics



Guerilla warfare was the primary style of fighting for the Haws. As the rebels consist of Flags each holding a significant level of autonomy, it allows for the small-scale fighting typical of guerilla warfare. This made the Haws very fast and mobile.

Furthermore, this dispersed nature of the Flags gives them a formidable weapon: the element of surprise. Surprise attacks at night and ambushes were a key feature of the rebels' offenses.



The rebels are outlaws, therefore they lived in the forests and mountains. This was incredibly advantageous for their guerilla warfare as the shrubbery and foliage act as great camouflage and cover, hiding them from plain sight. It particularly aids their weapon of surprise. Plus, the forests are great places to employ traps to further catch the enemy off-guard, something the Haws utilised extensively such as implementing sharpened bamboo-stake traps. Furthermore, given the Haw's comparative comfort operating among the more remote, and less well-administered regions of Laos and Vietnam - specifically Sip Song Chau Tai, Phuan, and Huah Phanh Atang Hok - they enjoyed a significant degree of autonomy and freedom from the regions' *de jure* owners, strengthening the group's regional dominance, and granting them a considerable advantage in fighting in harsh terrain.

To take it further, the rebels employed demoralising tactics to mess with their enemies' psyche. They would take someone prisoner, for example, torture them and release them back to the enemy, sending a clear message: do not mess with the Haws.

From years of theft and plunder, the Haws acquired many resources that would make them extremely lethal, such as weapons. In fact, they were so good at plundering that they managed to obtain modern repeating rifles and Birmingham-made ammunition.

Finally, the Haws believed in magic and the supernatural. They would perform prayers, rituals, and even sacrifices to ensure that even the beyond-human-forces are on their side, guaranteeing their survival. For instance, the Haws killed a local pregnant Khmu woman because, according to their superstitions, an unborn baby's blood had an incredible power that if mixed with the Haw's blood, could strengthen their ability to fight and make them far more lethal. Similarly, they used round silver *tical* coins as ammunition because they were 'charmed to render them fatal.'

TIMELINE

1850	The Taiping Rebellion occurs in central and south China. It is ultimately crushed, resulting in the Black Flags and Yellow Flags fleeing to Tonkin. It lasts until 1864.
1851	King Rama III passes away and King Mogkut, Rama IV, ascends to the throne.



1854	The Red Turban Rebellion begins in the Guangdong province of Southern China.
1855	The Siamese Kingdom signs the Bowring Treaty with the United Kingdom, which liberalises foreign trade, grants foreigners easier access into the country, and ends many trade monopolies.
1856-1873	The Panthay Rebellion occurs in the Yunnan province in China. It is ultimately crushed, causing the rebels to flee south. They distinguished themselves as Red Flags and Striped Flags.
1868	Rama IV passes away and his son Chulalongkorn, Rama V, ascends to the throne as crown prince, as he is still too young.
1871	Rama V initiates foreign observations and travels to British Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, Burma and India to study western systems. This would have a large influence on the reforms he would initiate later in his tenure.
1872	Rama V is officially crowned and shortly after begins his reforms to the judiciary and towards abolishing slavery. Bands of defeated rebels start entering Laos from the Yunnan region, distinguished by Red and Striped Flags. They moved south and occupied most of northern Laos.
1873	Red Flags sack Điện Biên Phủ and Striped Flags take control of Muang Phuan and the Plain of Jars.
1874	In response to the Haws, the King of Luang Phrabang province Chao Oun Kham and the Nguyen monarch Tự Đức send a joint army to expel the invaders, but this failed and the victorious Haws moved southwards to sack Vientiane. Chao Oun Kham appeals for assistance from King Chulalongkorn.



	<p>A royal decree states that those born into slavery after 1873 are to be freed at the age of 21, a major step in the abolishment of slavery in Siam.</p> <p>The Front Palace Crisis occurs, reaffirming the power of the nobility over the King.</p>
1875	<p>Infighting between Black and Yellow flags causes the latter to flee westwards into the Black River Valley, where they harass the province of Sip Song Chau Tai.</p> <p>Siamese forces cross the Mekong River in their first attempt to capture a main Haw base at Chiangkham.</p> <p>The Haw avoid being dragged into open battle and simply retreat to the the mountains of Phuan and Huaphuan. After the Siamese leave, they continue plundering unimpeded.</p>
1877-1882	<p>Haw forces continue guerrilla incursions with no resistance from Siamese or Laotian troops.</p>
1883	<p>Start of this crisis.</p> <p>In the face of renewed Haw threats on Luang Phrabang, Chao Oum Kham appeals to Rama V for help.</p> <p>He sends a Siamese army to meet them, largely made up of Isan and northern Thai levies. The operation is badly planned and fails to expel the Haws.</p>
1885	<p>Siamese forces mount an assault on a well-defended Haw stockade, which results in a big battle and another loss, resulting in significant Siamese casualties.</p> <p>Prince Yodyingyot passes away, allowing Rama V to abolish the Front Palace, and create the title of "Crown Prince of Siam", in line with Western customs.</p>
Mid to late 1890s	<p>The Haws continue to raid, albeit with diminished strength.</p>



	<p>Pressure from Siamese, Laotian, and increasingly French colonial interests finally force the Haws back into China. The frontier is now more or less stabilised.</p> <p>This conflict was succeeded by the Franco-Siamese conflict of 1893, which started with the Paknam Incident. The following crisis leads to the French domination over the region and eventually leads to the current geopolitical situation in South-East Asia</p>
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CURRENT SITUATION

The start date of this crisis is **January 1st 1883**. With rebels increasing their raids on the Luang Phrabang region, the King Chao Oum Kham requested military assistance from King Rama V.

Siamese reforms are under way, led by King Chulalongkorn, but we are still very much within the mandala system. Peripheral states are not taxed directly, and there is no simple or efficient means of transportation to the outreaches of the kingdom.

Haw forces, currently under little to no pressure by Siamese forces, are emboldened to continue plundering, looting and generally causing havoc throughout the northern territories of the Kingdom of Siam.

The goal of the Siamese cabinet is to **completely dislodge the Haw from the northern provinces**, restore stability and regain the trust of the local leaders. Meanwhile, they will have to navigate the complex and delicate international relations with colonialist countries, who are looking to gain influence in the region at the expense of the Kingdom's sovereignty.

On the other hand, the goal of the Haw cabinet is to **continue to grow their influence and power**, advancing further southwards and gaining ever more territory. The ultimate goal of the Haw is to gain power and influence, and their goal is to achieve this by any and all means possible. However, their "rule" is still illegitimate and different groups claim conflicting regions: issues that they will have to resolve if they are to have a lasting foothold in the region.



MECHANICS

Crisis cycles

We are aiming for one-month-long crisis cycles. What this means is that for every crisis update that we publish, one month will have passed in the crisis. This means that, as a delegate, your plans should consist of actions that could be roughly completed in a one-month timeframe for optimal results (or multiple one-month timeframes if it is an ongoing venture). Please note that this does not necessarily mean that each crisis cycle will take the same amount of time for the backroom to publish, as the number of directives that we will have to deal with varies over the course of the conference.

As our crisis moves throughout the year, the weather will also change. Thailand goes through three main “seasons” in a year, which are the wet season, the cool season, and the hot season:

Season	Months
Cool	November-February
Hot	March-May
Wet	May-October

We will update you once we have transitioned into a new season so that you can plan accordingly.

Map

This year, we will be using a different mapping software called QGIS for our crisis. Unlike in previous years, delegates will not have access to a copy of the live map through Google Earth. Instead, chairs will project their respective versions of the map within each cabinet room and be able to explore the map that way. We will also make sure that delegates get a copy of an updated static map for every major update.

There will be two versions of the map, one for each cabinet. Each map will display the locations of every character and military unit which **your cabinet can see**. This means that your version of the map reflects only the positions of your characters and troops and any



enemy troops that you may see or run into. This is why it is of utmost importance that your version of the map remains within each respective cabinet and we will have a zero-tolerance policy for delegates trying to metagame by looking at the enemy map.

Movement

As of the start of the crisis, Thailand as a country is very difficult to navigate. Water travel using canals and waterways was the principal form of transportation in the country, but even this was limited. Most of the year, waterways could be used throughout the central region which delegates may wish to take advantage of. However, where our crisis is focused, in the northern reaches of the country, navigable waterways were not yet established, and these could not be used at all during the dry season. In addition to this, roads were not well established in this region and therefore made it difficult to access from the rest of the country. Indeed, according to archives, it took upwards of two months to travel from Bangkok to large Northern towns, travelling under man and animal power.

On the map, you will be able to see roads connecting different cities and towns across the Kingdom. Travelling along these roads will be your fastest mode of transport in this crisis, barring rivers, which are anyways unreliable depending on the season. Nevertheless, they are also more prone to ambush from the enemy, which you may have to contend with.

The Haw delegates and their respective guerilla forces will have an inherent bonus in their movement in the northern regions; having been installed in the area for many years, they will have vastly more knowledge than the Siamese forces (who themselves are levies not from the region) in how to move around the area. This will be reflected in shortened travel times in the north.

We will be taking the two-month travel time as our baseline for the movement of characters, armies and supplies throughout our crisis. Bearing in mind that each crisis update equates to a month of time in the crisis, delegates should be able to roughly anticipate their movement across the map based on this.

Resources

Each cabinet will start with a shared pot of funds, from which delegates will be able to use collectively. Through passing cabinet directives, delegates will be able to spend the communal pot on weapons procurement, infrastructure projects, etc. As for individual



resources, delegates may assume that they have all the sufficient funds necessary to achieve anything within the purview of their own portfolio. Some characters will be richer than others: those part of the upper echelons of the Siamese royal court will be wealthier than a Haw rebel commander. However we would like to discourage delegates from engaging in purely money-making endeavours in this crisis as it is distracting and misses the point of this topic. Each character and their portfolio is unique and where one Thai royal may have larger funds, the Haw general will have a much larger impact on the frontlines where it actually matters.

Cabinet funds can also be raised, for example the Siamese may decide to increase or crack down harder on taxes, while the Haw cabinet may continue plundering towns and villages.

Combat

Units of troops are called armies and are categorised depending on the number of soldiers in said army. An army consists of only one type of troop. The different sizes are tiny, small, medium, large and huge. The number of soldiers in each army size is left deliberately ambiguous. When an army loses a battle, they are dropped down to the next lower army size. Tiny armies are destroyed if they lose a battle.

Furthermore, certain troop characteristics are taken into account, such as an army's experience. A newly formed, newly recruited army will have very little experience and, therefore, would be less competent at fighting against a similarly sized but more experienced army. Likewise, aspects such as morale and attrition will be taken into account on a more qualitative scale.

CHARACTERS

Below are listed the starting characters from both cabinets:

Thai Cabinet	Haw Cabinet
King Chulalongkorn จุฬาลงกรณ์	Red Flags Supreme Commander
Prince Tisavarakumara กรมพระยาดิศวรกุமาร	Red Flags Field Lieutenant #1



Thai Cabinet	Haw Cabinet
Tuam Bunnag ท้วມ บุนนาค	Red Flags Field Lieutenant #2
Prince Devawongse Varopakarn กรมพระยาเทวะวงศ์วรรณ	Red Flags Intelligence Officer
Oun Kham ອູນ ຂຳ	Red Flags Quartermaster
Bhanurangsi Savangwongse กรมพระยาภาณุพันธุวงศ์วรรณเดช	Red Flags Financial Officer
Phraya Rajchaworanukul พระยาราชวรวนนุกูล	Red Flags Foreign Officer
Phraya Phichai พระยาพิชัย	Head of Striped Flags
Inthawichayanon อินทิวิชยานนท์	Striped Flags Field Lieutenant
Prince Narisara Nuvadtivong กรมพระยานริศราณุวัດติวงศ์	Striped Flags Intelligence Officer

As you will notice, the Haw characters are identified by generic titles. This is because, as leaders of a secretive and decentralised organisation, concealing their identities was crucial to the continued success of their guerrilla operations. This is not to say that they don't have their own identities, rather it is the opposite: each Haw character has a name and backstory, which, if revealed to the opposing cabinet, could lead to their security being highly compromised. As such, it is of the utmost importance for these delegates to, as much as possible, keep their identities private, perhaps even amongst themselves.

This list is the *starting* list, meaning that delegates are free to defect, become double agents, or be killed. We have a list of backup characters if this unfortunate third option occurs and will issue the affected delegate with their new character.



SELECTED THAI TRANSLATIONS

Thai word	Pronunciation	Meaning
สวัสดี ครับ/ค่ะ	Sawasdee Khap/Kha	Hello. "Khap" is male and "kha" is female.
ฮอ	Haw	The word for Haw
คน	Khon	Person
หมู่บ้าน	Muban	Village
เมือง	Mueang	City/town
แม่น้ำ	Maenam	River
คลอง	Khlong	A type of canal found in Thailand, specifically formed from the rivers Chao Phraya, Tha Chin and Mae Klong. This refers to both artificial canals and smaller rivers. Very prominent in Bangkok, which gave the capital the nickname of "Venice of the East".
ผี	Farang	Foreigner, usually Caucasian. Also the word for guava.
โง	Ngo	Fool/moron/simpleton/imbecile
ผา	Pha	Scum
กรุงเทพมหานคร อมรรัตนโกสินทร์ มหาธรรมยุทธา มหा ดิลกภพ นพรัตนรา ^ช ชานีบุรีมย์ อุดม ^{รา} ราชนิเวศน์มหา ^{รา} สถาน อมรพิมาน อวตารสัตติ สักกะ ^ห ทัตติยวิมุณกรรມ ^ห ประสิทธี	Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Yuthaya Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchathani Buriram Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukam Prasit	The full ceremonial name for Bangkok, literally translating to "City of Angels, the Great City of Immortals, the Magnificent City of the Nine Gems, the Seat of the King, the City of Royal Palaces, the Home of Gods In carnate, and the City Erected by Vishvakarman at Indra's Behest". It is colloquially shortened to just "Krung Thep".



FURTHER READING

The journals of British surveyor James McCarthy - [Surveying and Exploration in Siam](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3043356)
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3043356

Demographics of Bangkok in 1883 -
https://thesiamsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/1989/03/JSS_077_2f_Wilson_BangkokIn1883SocialAndEconomicProfile.pdf

The role of Chinese immigrants on Siam in the 19th century -
<https://repository.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/server/api/core/bitstreams/13ff7a6f-8745-4b5b-b19a-5264b9bbada2/content>

Chulalongkorn and his reforms of Siam -
<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s12140-019-09308-8.pdf>