



ClarkMUN XVI

# The Fate of Middle Earth

The Council of Elrond  
Reimagined



## **Letter to Delegates**

Greetings Delegates!

My name is Matthew Makris and I am excited to be the crisis head for your Lord of the Rings committee at ClarkMUN this year. I am only a freshman at Clark University, but have been doing MUN for a total of 3 years including highschool. With the help of my peers, I am eager to direct my first ever conference. Outside of MUN I am a huge fan of comedy movies, the gym, video games, and reading!

As for the committee itself, we will be doing a retrial of the Council of Elrond from the *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings*. With the "One Ring," being found at last it is now up to council members to decide what becomes of the ring? Should there be an attempt to destroy it? Should one nation be able to keep control of it? Or should you try and take all the power for yourself? With patience and persistence, peace may come to the land of Middle-Earth.

Thank you for taking your time to read over this background guide, and everyone on this committee hopes you have a great time and enjoy the fun of the council. If there are any questions at any time, please feel free to reach out.

Best wishes,

Matthew Makris

## **Introduction**

As said before you will be recreating the council of Elrond from the Lord of the Rings book, or first movie. The setting is that of a country called “Middle-Earth.” At this time, there are many uncertainties in the air. The One Ring, an artifact which brings power and glory to whomever owns it, has just been discovered by a peaceful nation of small folk known as Hobbits. As advised, the Hobbits bring the One Ring to the Elves, and due to their wise nature they decide to host a council of diplomats and political heads from around Middle Earth. This council is filled with people of Nobility and notoriety. Due to this fact, people should be acting more polite or cordial in meetings, however your own egos may make you boast or act brash. Alliance among council members, and reaching group consensus are crucial to making any plan or arc succeed as no one person is enough to topple or beat any opposing forces by itself. While it is good to make allies and get movements passed, it is also very important to be conscious and even suspicious of other council members. You don’t know who is out to betray you, or who has been tempted by the One Ring. In this world, while the One Ring brings power and fear to those who utilize it, the One Ring also affects the sanity of those around it. The closer you get to the one ring, the more power hungry and paranoid you become. So there are many choices, such as how to destroy the ring, hide it, or even steal that precious ring... but ultimately the choice is yours. Utilize your county and assets to the best of your ability and eventually you can concur anything Middle Earth throws at you!

## **Background**

\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\*

Some canonical lore will be changed for this delegation. This is to add more political stakes, drama, and fun to the mix. There are no rewrites in character motives, just subtle changes in actions to add new presences to the council of Elrond.

The history of Middle Earth starts with the forging of all of the great rings. These rings brought power to those who could wield them, but also warped their minds. 3 Rings were given to the elves. One of which is owned by Galadriel, a high elf. The elves were considered the wisest and fairest of all races, and lived exceptionally long lives. Another 7 rings were crafted for the Dwarves who were considered the best craftsmen and builders. They lived in mines and were a shorter, stronger race in Middle Earth. Finally, 9 rings were given to the race of humanity. Humanity was known as an emotional power seeking race that was unstable, but the most progressive. All those who possessed the rings governed their respective races. Those granted these rings were all very excited, but they would soon learn that they had been tricked.

Unbeknownst to any other race, a divine trickster named Sauron had forged a ring using all of his conquering will and malice to rule Middle Earth. This ring was forged in Mount Doom, a mountain in Mordor which is a realm of darkness and evil. This ring was "The One Ring," as it was the one ring to rule them all. During this time period Sauron pushed his army of Nazgul, wraiths, and orcs to conquer village after village, and soon kingdom after kingdom in brutal sieges. However not everyone would fall. During this time humanity and elves united to push

back against the forces of Mordor. During battle, the rebels believed they could secure victory, but the power of the One Ring reared its head. After watching his father pass away at the hands of Sauron, Isildur grabbed his father's sword and frantically struck Sauron with its shattered hilt. This sliced off Sauron's fingers, and without his soul being attached to his body Sauron the Dark Lord had been vanquished.

After defeating the Dark Lord Isildur traveled alongside Elrond of the Elves to destroy the Ring in the one place it could, the fires of Mount Doom in which it was forged. However due to humanity's weakness to the power the One Ring brings, Isildur used the One Ring in an attempt to flee with it, turning himself invisible. Yet the One Ring fell off of him in his time of need, leading Isildur to getting shot, and the ring vanishing into a nearby stream. This put the world at rest for a long while as they had no fear of the One Ring, and no way to access it. So the world entered an era of peace, and fear of the ring's resurgence.

2,500 years later a group of fishing hobbits were in the same stream in which the Ring had vanished. Due to being lighthearted playful creatures and the fact that hundreds of years had passed, the Ring and its location had faded out of existence. Yet completely by chance the Hobbits Smeagol and Deagol had fished up the One Ring. The Ring was precious and was fought over between the two cousins. While playful at first, the tempting nature of the ring caused the two cousins to become violent. This led to the Murder of Deagol by his cousin, Smeagol. After this event Smeagol, who changed his name to Gollum, retreated to the caves near his home land and held on to the ring for 450 years. During this time his sanity faded and his personalities split, with Smeagol being the kind of fun loving Hobbit, and Gollum the gross disgusting voice that made him desire the ring.

While unimportant to this council, it should be noted that during this time Bilbo Baggins had his own adventure with the races of Middle Earth. While there were important political shifts, the only thing with the history of the ring was that Bilbo Baggins had successfully stolen the ring from Gollum, while sparing his life in the process.

Bilbo would then take rest and raise his nephew Frodo within the Shire. The shire is the home of Hobbits. Hobbits are kind in nature, love food, pipe weed, and their own community. They tend to keep to themselves, with not hatred of the outside world but rather would like to stay out of foreign political drama. During this time, Bilbo's 111th birthday is being celebrated and some of his old friends come to visit. One of them being Gandalf the Grey, a powerful wizard who has knowledge on many things in Middle Earth. After witnessing Bilbo use the Power of the ring, Gandalf realizes that the ring is the One Ring, and forcefully takes the ring from Bilbo as even Hobbits are susceptible to the ring's temptation. Without touching the ring, Gandalf takes it back to his study to do research where he confirms that it is indeed the One Ring. Gandalf decided to grant the ring to Frodo as he has yet to be tempted and is naturally resistant to its power as a kind hearted Hobbit.

After this decision, Gandalf says he will meet with them at the Prancing Pony Inn where he will have forces to help take the ring the rest of the way. This is outside the Shire, and will be Frodo's first time in the outside world. Gandalf recruits another Hobbit and friend of Frodo, Samwise Gangee and they begin their travels while Gandalf makes plans to conspire with the head of his wizard covenant, Saruman the White. During this meeting Saurmon says he will contact the

forces of Isengard, a powerful Dark nation, which alerts the suspicion of Gandalf. On his ride to the Prancing Pony Inn, Gandalf is intercepted by the people of Mordor which he must fight off, thus making him late to the Inn.

Frodo and Sam, keeping their Identities secret to avoid enemy suspicion, make their way out of the Shire for the first time. On their arrival to the Prancing Pony, Frodo accidentally reveals his name. With multiple looking at him and fear he might be found, Frodo decides to use the ring to turn invisible. This causes him to become noticed by a Human named Aragorn. It is here that Aragorn, known as Strider, reveals his identity to the Hobbits as the Heir of Isildur, though he does so privately rather than publicly claiming authority. Unbeknownst to the Fellowship-in-formation, information about the Hobbits' movements is leaked to unknown buyers, resulting in a near-capture by the Nazgûl. Due to Gandalf's failure to show up, the group decides to continue East to Rivendell, council of the Elves.

As the group travels east, they are assaulted by the Witch-king of Angmar and his Nazgûl. During the attack, Frodo is stabbed with a Morgul blade, which binds him to a realm of shadows, making him mentally and physically unstable. The Ring reacts violently to the assault, signaling its presence to multiple powers across Middle-earth. Aragorn makes the decision to retreat rather than fight back, prioritizing the safety of Frodo and the ring.

Frodo's condition worsens as the group races toward Rivendell, pursued relentlessly by the Nazgûl. The group meets up with the elves and it is revealed that Elrond and his half daughter Arwen are both familiar with Aragorn. As the Ringwraiths attempt to seize their prize, Elrond

unleashes the power of the river, summoning a flood that sweeps the Nazgûl away. Though the threat is temporarily halted, the location of the Ring is still revealed, and they have little time in Rivendell to sort out this issue.

While Frodo recovers in Rivendell, the Ring's reemergence sends shockwaves across the world. In Minas Tirith, Boromir is dispatched north after recurring prophetic dreams foretell the Ring's role in the fate of Gondor, while Denethor grows increasingly suspicious of Elven intentions. In Lothlórien, Galadriel perceives the Ring's awakening and prepares her realm for war, foreseeing multiple futures shaped by sacrifice. Erebor receives emissaries from Mordor offering alliance or neutrality, prompting King Dáin to fortify mountain passes and reconsider old alliances.

With the Ring now in Rivendell and its secrecy irreversibly broken, Elrond summons the Council of the Free Peoples. Representatives of Elves, Men, Dwarves, and Hobbits arrive bearing conflicting priorities, historic grievances, and growing fears. Gandalf also arrives, explaining his delay was due to Mordor forces. Armies across Middle-earth mobilize without coordination, alliances strain under mistrust, and the enemy watches patiently from afar. The Council convenes not because peace reigns, but because it has not yet collapsed into open war. It is at this fragile moment when words may still shape the future that the committee begins.

## **Characters:**

### Elrond (Elf)

Head chairman of the council. Elrond has been around since the original creation of the One Ring, and has seen humanity fail to destroy the ring with Isildur and is therefore distrusting of Humanity. He raised Aragorn, heir of Isildur and told him of his royal lineage. He wants to see the destruction of the ring, and believes that only then will peace last throughout Middle Earth.

### Galadriel (Elf)

Eldest and strongest of the Elves, she has persisted through many battles and wars. She has one of the great rings being Nenya, the ring of water. She has been influenced and is tempted by the ring as all ring bearers are, but is wise enough to know she should not take the One Ring. She wishes for power, and was once influenced by Sauron, but is now trying to avoid the One Ring's Power at all Costs.

### Thranduil (Elf)

Lord of the woodrealm of Elves, he is extremely distrusting of Dwarves. He believes the wood elves should be left alone and everyone should follow his isolationist mindset. He wishes to grow his Elf faction, and while not directly seeking the One Ring's power, he may be influenced to gain it in order to enforce his will.

### Aragorn (Human)

The heir to Isildur and a human with an extended lifespan, Aragorn is strong as he is smart. He is ashamed of his ancestors past mistakes and is fearful of the temptation the Ring brings. He knows that no one race or man should have the ring as it only leads to conflict. He has worked with Gandalf in the past to locate and stop the ring but was never successful until now. He is fond of Frodo and believes that he was the best choice for the Ring. He is willing to do what it takes to destroy the Ring, but believes he should not have it himself under any circumstances.

Boromir (Human)

Heir to Gondor, Boromir is a brash strong Human. Due to his father's upbringing he believes Gondor is the next Great Nation and should prosper. A war hero and egotistical, Boromir is tempted by the ring. Gondor is already at war with Mordor and believes that Gondor should take the Ring as with its power they can vanquish Mordor.

Denethor II (Human)

Current King of Gondor and father of Boromir and his brother Faramir. He believes Boromir is the perfect heir and despises Faramir for being everything Boromir is not. He is only thinking of political gain, not only trying to gain the ring but the favour of all leaders at the council to boost Gondor's power. If his hands get on the ring, he will become obsessive, just as Gollum did.

Théoden (Human).

King of Rohan, an extremely powerful Human Nation. He is struggling from an outside influence back at home corrupting his thoughts. While he boasts a strong army, he is unwilling to utilize it as influences back at home have made him believe he needs the One Ring. He seems

sort of sick and wary, and many people are suspicious of why he seems to only trust Grima, an assistant of Sarumon

#### Gimli (Dwarf)

Gimli is a short, honor bound, hot headed Dwarf. He distrusts elves slightly as his father, friend of Bilbo and Gandalf, had previously experienced difficulty when dealing with them. He is willing to assist the will of the council though, as he is worried what could happen to the Dwarven community if anyone else was to gain the One Ring. His Dwarven nature makes him more brash than others but he ultimately has the Safety of Dwarves at heart.

#### King Dain Ironfoot (Dwarf)

Lord of the Iron Hills, King Dain is focused on alliances with other nations, and securing trade and prosperity for the Dwarves. He is cordial with most at the council, but does not take kindly to any dwarven disrespect. He wants to focus on defense rather than offense as he believes if anyone is to attack, the Dwarves may be in trouble. He has not seen the One Ring, and is not aware of how much it can tempt a soul.

#### Frodo Baggins (Hobbit)

The current possessor of the One Ring, Frodo is the descendant of Bilbo and a timid young man. He was forced into an adventure he did not care for and is scared. He is very slowly beginning to be tempted by the One Ring, but for now has no interest in its use. He tries to use morality to

help people calm down, but due to his naivety is often dismissed. He wants life for everyone to be as peaceful as it is in the Shire.

#### Samwise Gamgee (Hobbit)

Frodo's best friend and protector. He believes that Frodo should be the one to carry the ring if it is chosen to be destroyed, but is also aware of the tremendous burden that the ring provides. He is caring and loyal to Frodo, and is willing to speak up for him when dismissed. He wishes to return to the Shire, but is willing to leave if Frodo desires.

#### Gandalf the Grey (Wizard)

The only one to know of the Danger Sauron brings to the council, Gandalf is a wise and powerful wizard. He knows the ring will come back if hidden, will be abused if kept, and believes there should be an attempt to destroy it. He himself has no interest in keeping the ring and is fearful of the power it provides. He is willing to help in any way he can and feels guilty for putting the burden that is the One Ring on Frodo.

#### Sarumon the White (Wizard)

Evil and manipulating Saurmon the WHite is using both sides to gain the One Ring for himself. He is aware of Gandalf's suspicions and is trying to quell them. He is willing to use whoever he has to and abuse his power as head of the wizards to gain the One Ring for himself and rule over all. Publicly he appears neutral, but secretly is the most ambitious one at the table.

#### Radagast the Brown (Wizard)

One wizard working with Saruman's council, he is unaware of Saruman's trickery. He is worried about the toll on nature that will occur if there is war, and wants to preserve the habitat. He trusts the Hobbits as he loves the Shire, and is willing to avoid the ring and potential war with Mordor if it protects the environment.

The Mouth of Sauron (Human/Mordor)

Disguised as a wealthy human from Rphan, he is secretly the head of the Mordor army. His main goal is to start distrust throughout the council and gain the One Ring for Mordor. He is Sauron's will and is a master of trickery, hoping to soon see his master returned to former glory.

**Questions:**

**Sources:**