

Hilton 2023 Chair Letter

Crisis 2 - (Masseria and Associates)

Committee Overview

Castellammarese War

Committee Description:

This Committee will be run Crisis-style, meaning that the chosen topic will develop as the conference proceeds. These “crisis updates” will be dependent on the progress made by Crisis #1, consisting of the opposing Maranzano committee. Please note that Crisis procedure is different from that of a standard Model-UN committee; do not hesitate to email the chairs if you need assistance in understanding the altered formatting.

For best preparation, delegates should arrive with a working knowledge of the Castellammarese War, its context, and any beliefs held by their assigned role. A helpful guide for success in Crisis committees can be found [here](#).

To be eligible for an individual award, delegates must email a complete position paper to the chairs by the start of the conference, though in-person submissions are preferred.. Before delegates start their position papers, they **must** email the chairs with their top three choices for committee roles. Roles will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis, so try to email the chairs with your preferences as soon as possible. While this is a pressing matter, remember that Model UN is not necessarily a competition. It is a platform for students to work together and solve the world’s most pressing issues, so get to researching and try to have a little fun.

ABOUT US:

Nolan Condon

My name is Nolan Condon, I’m a senior at Brighton High School and this is my third year in Model UN and first time chairing. Besides Model UN, I run cross country and track and field. In my free time, I like to play guitar and spend tons of time outdoors. I am super duper excited for an amazing committee!

Email: nolypoo06@gmail.com

Timothy Seo

Hello delegates! I’m Timothy Seo, a junior at Pittsford Mendon High School. This is my third year in Model UN and my second time chairing. In my free time, I like to play the violin, listen to music, and try new foods. I’m very excited to be chairing at Hilton, so feel free to reach out with questions!

Email: yeonu.seo@gmail.com

Background

Beginning in 1930, the brief yet impactful Castellammarese War ultimately redefined organized crime in the United States for decades to come. The war involved several assassinations, ambushes, betrayals, and created the mafia that we know today.

The Castellammarese war began when the Sicilian Mobster, Vito Ferro, ordered one of his right hand men, Salvatore Maranzano, to establish a criminal racket in Manhattan. This organization would become known as the Castellammarese Family. Giuseppe “Joe” Masseria, leader of the Morello family and self proclaimed king of organized crime in New York, received the Sicilian with open hostility from feeling threatened due to this invasion of his territory.

Even so, Maranzano established prominent New York connections, and became a genuine threat to the Morellos. Following this growth, Masseria called on his organization and allies to stay on high alert, raising tensions to an all-time high.

Conflict truly escalated when Masseria ordered a hit on Gaetano Reina, a minor boss of an ice racket group. Although Reina was once loyal to Masseria, his death angered Gaetano’s men, who then chose to side with Maranzano and the Castellammarese Family. Now powerful enough to start a war with Masseria, Maranzano and friends directly involved themselves into the conflict.

However, a much more subtle, quiet, and arguably more significant generational conflict was brewing underneath the war between the Morello and Castellammarese families. Both Masseria and Maranzano were considered “Mustache Pete’s- or old world criminal bosses who embraced old customs such as rejecting foreigners from the mafia. Mustache Pete’s stuck to Italian rigidity, while New World Gangsters, nicknamed “Young Turks,” felt that tradition would lead to the extinction of the gangster class entirely. The friction between generations blurred the lines between Castellammarese and Morello- and made many question if the victor of this conflict would really be Maranzano or Masseria... or someone else entirely.

Useful links:

- <https://blogs.shu.edu/nyc-history/2020/02/21/castellammarese-war/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVph2qG9DCw>

This committee will start shortly after the murder of Gaetano Reina. As the Masseria racket, it is the delegates responsibility to pinpoint the best way to snuff out the invading Castellammarese Family.

Essential questions to be asked:

Are the families who claim loyalty to Maranzano actually unwilling to betray him? What about those who claim loyalty to Masseria? How will the Morello Family stay economically afloat in this time of war? How should the Italian Mafia be run after the war?

Committee Roles

Joe Masseria- Don of the Morello Family, and leader of the Masseria outfit.

Charles “Lucky” Luciano- Prominent soldier in the Morello Family, and avid Young Turk. co-owner of a large bootlegging operation with Vito Genovese and Frank Costello.

Giuseppe Morello- Former Don of the Morello Family, and advisor to Masseria.

Al Capone- Leader of a large criminal family in Chicago, and loose ally to Masseria.

Albert “Mad Hatter” Anastasia- Ally of Masseria, and leader of six Brooklyn labor unions.

Vito Genovese- Soldier in Morello Family, and co-owner of large bootlegging operation with Luciano and Frank Costello.

Manfredi Mineo- Masseria-allied gang leader.

Willie Moretti- New Jersey based criminal, and close ally to Frank Costello.

Joe Adonis- Masseria-allied gangster, and former enforcer for Frankie Yale.

Frank Costello- Calabrian Masseria soldier, and co-owner of a large bootlegging operation with Vito Genovese and Charles Luciano.

Carlo Gambino- Soldier for Joe Masseria.