**The Situation in Myappia[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Location:** On a continent far, far away

**Population:** 62 million

**Territory:** 211,209 sq. miles

**Capital:** Gustopia

**Major cities:** Voluntopolis, Merryville

**Language:** Myappian, but each ethno-religious group also has its own ancestral language.

**Currency:** Manat

**Religion:** No official religion, however 66% of the population practice the Tiamat religion, 20% practice Abzuism, and 14% are Temporal. (Full descriptions of the three factions are given below)

**The War:**

Myappia is just emerging from a violent and bloody three-faction civil war. As the majority group in Myappia, the Tiamats have long controlled the society’s wealth and resources. They exclude Abzu as heretics, and Temporalists as heathens. Abzu and Temporalists were denied voting rights and civil liberties that were commonly given to Tiamats. Both groups were excluded from prime occupations, and most of the power in the society was concentrated in the hands of the Tiamat.

The Abzu rose up against the domination of the Tiamat majority, triggering the initial conflict. The Temporalists were dragged into the war when Abzu extremists decided that the non-aligned Temporalists either needed to join the Abzu or die. They began to target Temporalist settlements in majority Abzu areas, arguing that anyone who was not for the Abzu was against them and must be exterminated. The Tiamat expected the Temporalists to side with them, but the Temporalists declined – aligning with either side would indicate support of the religious principles of the ally; Temporalists are opposed to that on principle. The Tiamat turned on the Temporalists, who were badly outnumbered on both fronts.

The Tiamat then began to advocate for an ethnically pure state; they published videos and pamphlets that instructed their people on how to efficiently exterminate Abzu and Temporalists. Temporalists took the heaviest losses in the initial genocidal attacks; they lost more than 40% of their population. Once the scope of the killing became known, the international community invoked the Responsibility to Protect doctrine, and commenced both air and ground counter-attacks. They stopped the Tiamat forces from further genocide in both opposition populations, and halted the Abzu assaults on Temporalist settlements.

**The factions:**

**Faction 1: The Tiamat** - The Tiamat are named for their religious sect. According to the Enuma Elish (their creation story): a godly male in the form of fresh waters, called Apsu, mated with a goddess in the form of salt waters, called Tiamat, and the goddess Tiamat gave birth to a variety of gods and to the earth and all things upon it. The gods born of Tiamat grew and multiplied and became rivals of one another. Eventually the gods born of Tiamat were killed until only 4 were left. They chose one of their number as king of the universe. This was Marduk, the god of light, who could perform miracles. In order to have a dominion to rule, Marduk decided to create humankind. No god, he decided, should be a servant. Instead, it would be the place of humans to serve the two gods and two goddesses; thus serving the gods is humanity’s primary purpose on Earth. By fulfilling this purpose, people may be admitted to the realm of the gods and eternal life; the Tiamat believe that anyone who rejects Marduk’s teachings is doomed to eternal servitude on Earth.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**Faction 2: The Abzu** - The Abzu are rooted in the same salt/freshwater creation story as the Tiamat. However, the Abzu believe that the gods originally created humans as servants for themselves, but freed them when humans became too much to handle. As a result, the Abzu are proponents of human terrestrial supremacy; this means that humans do not exist to serve the gods, but to rule the earth. They believe that human beings are the most significant species on the planet, thus all other species exist to serve mankind. By being good stewards of the earth, people can earn entry into the godly/eternal realm. They have the same four primary gods as the Tiamat, but worship in different ways. Historically, they have typically believed that good stewards of the earth, whether Abzu or not, could attain entry to the eternal realm. Today, extremist elements within the Abzu community have pushed the community to cut off relationships with non-believers.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Faction 3: The Temporalists** – This group is rooted in the idea that the only time period that counts is the present. Thus, arguments over the gods and the creation of the Earth are immaterial to modern life. Temporalists do not believe in eternity and do not worship any of the gods that are common to the Tiamat and Abzu. They typically believe that human cooperation can result in a better life in the here-and-now; they fought against the Tiamat to try to attain this better life on Earth. They have remained steadfastly neutral in the religious conflict between the Tiamat & Abzu, and both groups have targeted the “godless” Temporalists for extermination.

**Step 1: Post-Conflict Myappia: Federal or Unitary System?**

**Post-Conflict Rebuilding:**

The international community is now working in Myappia to help rebuild the society in the wake of the war. The first decision that must be made is how the state will work.

Two different structures for Myappia are under discussion: a unitary state and a federal system. The US favors a unitary state. The EU has proposed a federation formed by three relatively autonomous regions.

**Your Role:**

As members of the Myappian Reconciliation Commission, your job is to determine which type of structure you recommend: federal or unitary.

As a group, use the “federal versus unitary systems” handout to determine which way you want use. Your group must be able to explain and defend your rationale.

**Group Choice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Rationale:**

**What implications, if any, does your choice have for women and minorities in Myappia? Does your system ensure rights for minority women?**

**Federal vs. Unitary Governments[[4]](#footnote-4)**

**Federal v. Unitary Government**

The government of any state is organized generally in two main ways: the unitary system or the federal system (Your book also talks about confederal states – remember, there’s a reason confederal states don’t work!)

**Federal State:** Allocates strong power to units of local government within a country.

**Unitary State**: Places most power in the hands of central government officials.

**Federal**

Federal System: This type of system has multiple levels of government (for example, central-state-local in the US). Multinational[[5]](#footnote-5) countries tend to adopt a federal system of government to empower different nationalities and avoid political instability. Under a federal system, state/province boundaries can be drawn to encompass a region inhabited by a certain group (ethnic, racial, religious, etc). The federal system also works effectively for larger countries because the people can be governed at the level closest to them, thus allowing regional variation within the country. It is important to remember, though, that the size of country does not dictate whether it is federal or unitary. Belgium for example, is a small country with a federal system for the purpose of managing two majority ethnicities. Federal systems work well in countries that have regional variation in beliefs (think West Coast values versus Southern values in the US) and heterogeneous populations.

* Has multiple hierarchy levels
* The central (national) laws typically override the state/province rules
* States/ provinces have powers granted to them by the constitution (not by the Federal government)
* Allows local authority; this means one state/province can grant rights to its citizens & those rights do not apply to citizens in other states/provinces
  + Something may be legal in one state/province & illegal in another, as well
* Students of federal governments will note that within a basic federal political system, there are two or more levels of government that exist within an established territory and govern through common institutions with overlapping or shared powers as prescribed by a constitution.

**Unitary**

Unitary System: This type of system works best in countries where few cultural differences exist within the state and a strong sense of national pride and unity is prevalent. Since the power is centralized in a unitary system, there must be efficient communication throughout the country, therefore smaller states tend to have unitary government systems. Governments of this type are common in Europe. Unitary systems work best in states with homogenous populations with shared belief systems. When a unitary system exists in a multinational state, it is often predictable that values and beliefs of one nationality are imposed over the lesser ones.

**In a Unitary State**

* There is no real hierarchy of powers.
* Central government possesses most of the authority
* Power is centrally concentrated
* Little to no provincial authority
* Laws and rights are uniformly applied(no matter where you live in the country, you have the same rights as everyone else & the same laws apply everywhere)
* In a unitary state, any sub-governmental units can be created or abolished, and have their powers varied, by the central government.
* A unitary state can broaden and narrow the functions of such devolved governments without formal agreement from the affected bodies.

**Step 2: Selecting an Ideology**

**Your Role:**

As members of the Myappian Reconciliation Commission, you have already decided on how Myappia’s levels of governments will relate to each other. Your job today is to determine which underlying ideology will help Myappia to become a strong democracy. As a group, your next step is to pick an ideology.[[6]](#footnote-6)

What are your options?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Which one do you think will work best for Myappia? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rationale:**

**What implications, if any, does your choice have for women and minorities in Myappia? What about minority women – does your “social contract” cover the most marginalized people in your society? (Think about the Paxton & Hughes Ch. 1 reading.)**

**Step 3: Balancing capitalism and socialism**

Using the readings from your book and what we’ve discussed in class, try to strike a balance between capitalism & socialism in Myappia. Keep in mind: pure socialism is really bad at making goods, and pure capitalism is really bad at distributing them. How much of a safety net do you want for workers? How much regulation of industry (think safety, environment, etc)? What types of policies would logically follow from your balance of capitalism & socialism? Is the balance you’ve decided upon in keeping with the ideology that you selected earlier?

**Rationale:**

**What implications, if any, does your choice have for women and minorities in Myappia? Minority women are among the most marginalized people in most societies; will your choice help these women?**

**Step 4:** Presidential or Parliamentary Democracy

**Your Role:**

As members of the Myappian Reconciliation Commission, you have now decided on how Myappia’s levels of governments will relate to each other, and you have picked an ideology. You have also balanced capitalism and socialism.

Today, you need to decide if you will have a **presidential system or a parliamentary system**.

**Keep in mind**: a presidential system has strong checks and balances. This prevents the minority from being trampled by the majority…but it also makes it very hard to get things done. In contrast, a parliamentary system has fewer checks and balances, but the up side is that you can make major changes pretty quickly.

Which one do you think will work best for Myappia? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rationale:**

**What implications, if any, does your choice have for women and minorities in Myappia? What about for minority women?**

**Step 5**: The Electoral System

**Your Role:**

As members of the Myappian Reconciliation Commission, you have now decided on how Myappia’s levels of governments will relate to each other and you have picked an ideology. You have also balanced capitalism and socialism. Also, you’ve decided if you will have a presidential system or a parliamentary system.

Finally, you’ve got to pick an **electoral system**. Will you go FPTP, or will you use some form of PR? You have the sample ballots for each type of system: FPTP, Closed List PR, Open List PR, Mixed Member PR, and STV. Use the book, what we discussed in class, and your sample ballots to make your choice.

Which electoral system do you think will work best for Myappia? **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Rationale:**

**Your choice of electoral system typically helps to shape the party system. Based on your choice of electoral system, what is the party system most likely to look like (and why)?**

**What implications, if any, does your electoral system choice have for women and minorities in Myappia? We know from the Paxton & Hughes reading that minority women are the least likely to be represented in legislatures; does your electoral system help to change that?**

**Sample Ballots**

**For Instructors:**

This document contains sample ballots for the most common electoral system types.[[7]](#footnote-7) There are two copies of each ballot per page so that you can print them/cut in half & save paper. I find that having something tangible has really helped American students understand proportional representation. I also use a number of videos to help the students understand how the different electoral systems work.

1. Single member district
   1. Video: [The Problems with First Past the Post Voting Explained](https://youtu.be/s7tWHJfhiyo)
2. Closed party list
3. Open party list
4. Mixed member proportional
   1. Video: [Mixed-Member Proportional Representation Explained](https://youtu.be/QT0I-sdoSXU)
5. Single transferrable vote
   1. Video: [Single Transferrable Vote](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8XOZJkozfI)
   2. The last page of this document contains a flow chart for STV vote allocation
   3. You can also show the students STV vote allocation here:
      1. <http://paul-lockett.co.uk/stv.html>
6. If you want to show students the different methods for seat allocation in PR systems, this site is helpful: <http://staatsrecht.honikel.de/en/sitzzuteilungsrechner.htm>
7. Finally, there are some good videos on gerrymandering, as well:
   1. This song *will* get stuck in your head:
      1. <http://www.propublica.org/article/video-the-redistricting-song/single>
   2. More from the Animal Kingdom: <https://youtu.be/Mky11UJb9AY>
   3. Colbert on gerrymandering (risqué): <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/0f673t/the-colbert-report-the-word---win--lose--or-redraw>

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| Official Ballot: Kingdom of Myappia  Election for Myappian Parliament  Riding 1 |
| **Single Member District** instructions:   1. Vote by putting an X in the box next to the candidate you choose. 2. Vote for only one candidate. |
| Bill Maher – CPM |
| Bruce Springsteen - PS |
| Adam Sandler - NMC |
| Jessica Simpson - MPM |
| Sylvester Stallone - Alli |
| Ted Nugent - TPR |
| *Write-In* |

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| --- |
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| Jessica Simpson - MPM |
| Sylvester Stallone - Alli |
| Ted Nugent - TPR |
| *Write-In* |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Official Ballot: Kingdom of Myappia  Election for Myappian Parliament  Riding 1 | | | | | |
| **Closed Party List PR** Instructions:   1. You have only ONE vote 2. Place an X under the party for which you wish to vote | | | | | |
| Communist Party of Myappia (CPM) | Socialist & Green Party (PS) | New Myappian Centre (NMC) | Myappian Popular Mvmt (MPM) | Centrist Alliance (Alli) | The Proper Right (TPR) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bill Maher | Bruce Springsteen | Adam Sandler | Jessica Simpson | Sylvester Stallone | Ted Nugent |
| Rachel Maddow | Matt Damon | Gene Simmons | Gary Sinese | Clint Eastwood | Rush Limbaugh |
| Brad Pitt | Mila Kunis | Cindy Crawford | Angie Harmon | Kelsey Grammar | Sean Hannity |
| Barbara Streisand | Samuel L. Jackson | Kid Rock | The Rock | Robert Downey, Jr. | Stephen Baldwin |
| Martin Sheen | Eva Longoria | Bruce Willis | Vince Vaughn | Elizabeth Hasselbeck | Chuck Norris |

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|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bill Maher | Bruce Springsteen | Adam Sandler | Jessica Simpson | Sylvester Stallone | Ted Nugent |
| Rachel Maddow | Matt Damon | Gene Simmons | Gary Sinese | Clint Eastwood | Rush Limbaugh |
| Brad Pitt | Mila Kunis | Cindy Crawford | Angie Harmon | Kelsey Grammar | Sean Hannity |
| Barbara Streisand | Samuel L. Jackson | Kid Rock | The Rock | Robert Downey, Jr. | Stephen Baldwin |
| Martin Sheen | Eva Longoria | Bruce Willis | Vince Vaughn | Elizabeth Hasselbeck | Chuck Norris |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Official Ballot: Kingdom of Myappia  Election for Myappian Parliament  Riding 1 | | | | | |
| **Open Party List PR** Instructions:   1. You have only ONE vote 2. Place an X beside the candidate for which you wish to vote 3. Your vote counts for both your candidate & your party | | | | | |
| Communist Party of Myappia (CPM) | Socialist & Green Party (PS) | New Myappian Centre (NMC) | Myappian Popular Mvmt (MPM) | Centrist Alliance (Alli) | The Proper Right (TPR) |
| Bill Maher | Bruce Springsteen | Adam Sandler | Jessica Simpson | Sylvester Stallone | Ted Nugent |
| Rachel Maddow | Matt Damon | Gene Simmons | Gary Sinese | Clint Eastwood | Rush Limbaugh |
| Brad Pitt | Mila Kunis | Cindy Crawford | Angie Harmon | Kelsey Grammar | Sean Hannity |
| Barbara Streisand | Samuel L. Jackson | Kid Rock | The Rock | Robert Downey, Jr. | Stephen Baldwin |
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| **Open Party List PR** Instructions:   1. You have only ONE vote 2. Place an X beside the candidate for which you wish to vote 3. Your vote counts for both your candidate & your party | | | | | |
| Communist Party of Myappia (CPM) | Socialist & Green Party (PS) | New Myappian Centre (NMC) | Myappian Popular Mvmt (MPM) | Centrist Alliance (Alli) | The Proper Right (TPR) |
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| Brad Pitt | Mila Kunis | Cindy Crawford | Angie Harmon | Kelsey Grammar | Sean Hannity |
| Barbara Streisand | Samuel L. Jackson | Kid Rock | The Rock | Robert Downey, Jr. | Stephen Baldwin |
| Martin Sheen | Eva Longoria | Bruce Willis | Vince Vaughn | Elizabeth Hasselbeck | Chuck Norris |

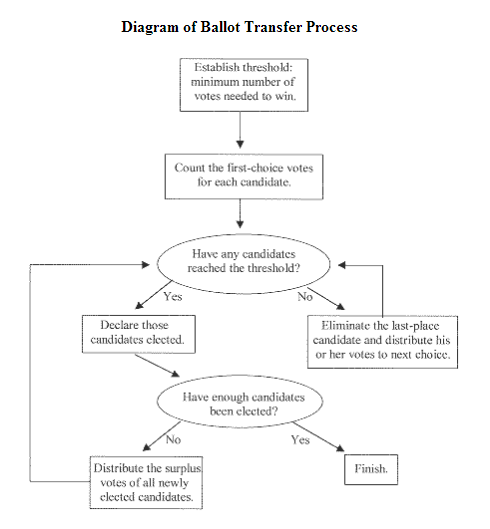
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| Official Ballot: Kingdom of Myappia  Election for Myappian Parliament  Riding 1 | | |
| Instructions: **Mixed-Member PR**: You have TWO votes | | |
| District Vote |  | Party Vote |
| This vote decides who will be elected to Parliament from this district. Vote by putting an X in the box next to the candidate you choose. Vote for only one candidate. |  | This vote decides the share of seats that will be allocated to each of the parties listed below. Vote by putting an X in the box next to the party you choose. Vote for only one party. |
| Bill Maher – CPM |  | Communist Party of Myappia (CPM) |
| Bruce Springsteen - PS |  | Socialist & Green Party (PS) |
| Adam Sandler - NMC |  | New Myappian Center (NMC) |
| Jessica Simpson - MPM |  | Myappian Popular Movement (MPM) |
| Sylvester Stallone - Alli |  | Centrist Alliance (Alli) |
| Ted Nugent - TPR |  | The Proper Right (TPR) |
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| Bruce Springsteen - PS |  | Socialist & Green Party (PS) |
| Adam Sandler - NMC |  | New Myappian Center (NMC) |
| Jessica Simpson - MPM |  | Myappian Popular Movement (MPM) |
| Sylvester Stallone - Alli |  | Centrist Alliance (Alli) |
| Ted Nugent - TPR |  | The Proper Right (TPR) |
| *Write-In* |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Official Ballot: Kingdom of Myappia  Election for Myappian Parliament  Riding 1 | |
| **Single Transferable Vote** Instructions: Rank order your candidates in order of preference. 1 = high (the candidate you most prefer). You may rank as many or few candidates as you please. | |
|  | Bill Maher – CPM |
|  | Bruce Springsteen - PS |
|  | Adam Sandler - NMC |
|  | Jessica Simpson - MPM |
|  | Sylvester Stallone - Alli |
|  | Ted Nugent - TPR |
|  | *Write-In* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
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|  | Adam Sandler - NMC |
|  | Jessica Simpson - MPM |
|  | Sylvester Stallone - Alli |
|  | Ted Nugent - TPR |
|  | *Write-In* |

Diagram: Single Transferrable Vote



1. *Myappia* by Dr. Amy L. Atchison (Department of Political Science and International Relations, Valparaiso University) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/). Contact information: **Ph. 219-464-5348 |** [**Amy.Atchison@Valpo.edu**](mailto:Amy.Atchison@Valpo.edu) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Creation story taken from: <http://www.fsmitha.com/h1/religion-flood.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Adapted from: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumerian_religion> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Adapted from <http://www.lewishistoricalsociety.com/wiki/tiki-print_article.php?articleId=136> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Remember: a *nation* is a group of people – not a territorial entity! So, a multi-national state has multiple groups living within it. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. It’s unlikely that you’d deliberately select this in a real rebuilding situation – after all, even failed states have remnants of their previous institutions, etc. However, the goal is for you to understand how all of these things are connected. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. All adapted from <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/polit/damy/BeginnningReading/PRsystems.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)