CATHEDRAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

08/08 IPC PRESENTS 2026

HOT OFF THE PRESS

30TH EDITION

DISEC

08/08

ENFORCEMENT OF ARMS EMBARGOES WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON MARITIME PIRACYENFORCEMENT OF ARMS EMBARGOES WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON MARITIME PIRACY

2026

DISEC

PRAVDA



In the aftermath of a devastating internal collapse, foreign trawlers took advantage of Somalia's lawless state and preyed upon its rich fishing grounds, with over 200 foreign vessels engaged in illegal fishing between 1991 and 1999 alone. As toxic and radioactive waste, dumped by European companies off the once pristine Somali coast, washed up near civilian beaches, Somali fishermen had had enough.

With their livelihood being destroyed by illegal foreign fishing, local Somali communities began informally planning a confrontation against foreign trawlers. They would approach the boats and demand payment for fishing in what they deemed their waters. The first such instance was the 1994 hijacking of the Bonsella, a cargo ship taken by 26 men identifying themselves as the "Somali Coast Guard."

These initial attempts at reclaiming the country's sovereignty turned into something more layered once these groups realized that the money foreign groups would pay to get their vessel and crew back dwarfed anything fishing (whether legal or fined) could ever produce.

For a young man with no functioning economy, no government, and scarcely any other opportunities, there was overwhelming financial incentive. Gradually, they turned to hijacking ships for ransom, whether those ships did anything wrong or not. Soon, isolated incidents turned into an organized industry with investors, dedicated attack teams, and negotiating "experts" who understood exactly how to extort large ransoms from Western companies.

The global response was overwhelming - military projects like Operation Atalanta, Operation Ocean Shield, and Combined Task Force 151 maintained a strict patrol near the Gulf of Aden and drove hijackings down after 2012.



DISEC

However, the international community never sought to provide Somalia with the resources and infrastructure it needs to patrol its own waters. Neither did the question arise of trawlers that started this cycle in the first place, and their part in the crisis at hand. With the underlying conditions exactly the same as before, the lull in hijackings dissipated as soon as naval attention drifted elsewhere.

This pattern reveals that it is the world's negligence that thrust Somalia into crisis, and yet the latter is always the one to blame. Recently, two German-flagged ships were hijacked off the Somali coast; the timing, extent, and coordination of the attack was unlike ever seen before. The vessels were carrying nationals of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, but no documentation. Curiously, no ransom demand has been made. Naturally, the committee's first instinct was to point the finger at Somalia, even though the evidence proves nothing of the sort.

Somali piracy follows a clear pattern: negotiate, collect, release. Somali pirates have nothing to gain from the practice but bounty. The latest hijacking made no demands regarding a ransom. There was no paperwork establishing what the ships were carrying, who owned them, or why they were sailing undocumented through one of the most surveilled corridors on earth. The reason why this unidentified ship was sailing through Somali waters is precisely because it is the one place operations like this can happen without anyone insisting on an explanation.

Somalia does not know who carried out this attack any more than the committee does. Thirty-four years after its government's collapse, Somalia is still being asked to explain crimes committed in its waters by actors it has no capacity to identify. The committee must investigate these atrocities with integrity, rather than blame Somalia simply because it is more convenient than pursuing the truth.



COFE



08/08

THE SUCCESSION CRISIS OF THE MURDOCH MEDIA EMPIRE

2026

IN THE SHADOWS, WE RULE

POLITIKIEN

Rupert Murdoch is dead. Thousands have been arrested. And somewhere between the walls of five allied nations, trust is beginning to disappear. Rupert Murdoch has spent decades building an empire around information.

So perhaps it is fitting or terrifying that his death has left behind more questions than answers.

When news first broke that Murdoch had been found dead, the immediate reaction inside the Five Eyes council was uncertainty. Delegates began searching for information. Rumours moved faster than confirmed reports. Nobody seemed to know exactly what had happened, or more importantly, why. Then came the symbol. n Umbra Imperamus. In the shadows, we rule.

The phrase was found alongside the body, accompanied by clues that appeared deliberately constructed for someone to find. Four books had been left at the scene: The Prince, Leviathan, The Wealth of Nations and The Art of War. At first glance, they looked like nothing more than a collection of political classics. They weren't. A Vigenère cipher accompanied the clues.

Eventually, the trail pointed towards a message that would become increasingly difficult to ignore: ONLY TRUST WILL REMAIN. It sounded almost poetic. It would soon feel like a threat. A symbol that refused to stay in one place The first reports of the symbol appearing elsewhere were easy to dismiss. A marking on a wall. A tattoo. A symbol appearing on a poltician’s arm. Then another. And another. Soon, the symbol was reportedly appearing across the world.

The Murdoch family home was marked with it too. The story had changed. This was no longer simply an investigation into the death of one of the world's most influential media figures. Something—or someone—was attempting to make itself visible. And it seemed to be doing so deliberately. For the Five Eyes countries, that was a particularly uncomfortable development.

The alliance exists because five countries trust each other with some of the world's most sensitive intelligence. But how do you investigate an enemy when you don't know whether the person standing beside you is also investigating you?

COFE


THE COUNCIL OF
THE FIVE EYES


Reed Hastings
Jose Maria Aznar
CMUN







SESTS

08/08

RESOLVING TAIWAN STRAIT SOVEREIGNTY CLAIMS

2026

SECRET SOCIETIES, SILENT SHIPS, AND A DETERIORATING RIVER: WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT?

CANADIAN PRESS

If you were a part of the special emergency session on the Taiwan strait today expecting diplomatic speeches or policy statements, you would have been completely lost, just like I was. I was a part of the committee for a time duration of 35 minutes, right in the middle of a chaotic unmoderated caucus. The proceedings felt less like a UN proceedings and more like a thriller movie. Concealed below the energetic debates was something far more sinister than superficial border disputes. While the body was debating upon the formation and existence of a secret organisation known as the “White Lotus”,the real story was happening entirely underneath the record. 5 delegates from that committee to this shadow organisation, which was blind to the rest of the floor of the committee . These chosen delegates were also executing covert directives while everyone else argued on the existence of this organisation.

The committee’s clear agenda was resolving regional sovereignty under the theme of “Challenging the Mandate of Heaven”, which stretches across a 77 year timeline of low-lying geopolitical trauma. The tension centres on Taiwan, a high tech democracy that effectively runs the global economy as a major exporter of semiconductors. This nation is currently suffocating under the increasing pressure of Chinese military air incursions. It also connects right back to Tibet’s exiled spiritual leadership ignoring mainland laws and the massive mess of a fight brewing over who gets to choose the next Dalai Lama. But the intel leaking out of this room makes one thing dead obvious: the crisis in the Strait isn't just about flexing the military anymore. It’s straight up calculated sabotage. Let’s look at some headlines that were portrayed during the session: To begin with, “WASHINGTON KNEW: US WARSHIPS SAILED 48 HOURS BEFORE THE CABLES WENT DOWN." The United States delegation had consistently claimed their naval movements in the Strait were routine operations.



SESTS

But if American warships had been deployed two full days before undersea communications cables were compromised, they weren't reacting to a sudden crisis , but rather had advanced intelligence, or prior involvement. That, with the addition to the headline "THREADS—TAIWAN'S CABLE ESCORT CONTRACTING," makes it very obvious that private security contractors and foreign powers were already positioning themselves around Taiwan’s critical coastline infrastructure long before the public was told anything was wrong. Furthermore, the headline “"CHINESE GAIN CONTRACT PREDATES RIVER INCIDENT BY SIX DAYS, SHIPPING RECORDS SHOW" blows a massive punch through China’ character. Chinese officials had repeatedly framed their recent territorial moves as an emergency response essential for national stability. Contradictory to that, shipping records prove that state backed commercial entities secured beneficial contracts almost a week before any such incident took place. According to me,this wasn't an emergency response; it was a pre planned economic land acquisition attempt disguised as national defense. Then comes the most alluding headline:”"YELLOW RIVER DECOLOURISATION REPORTED ACROSS 300 KM, INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION REFUSED." A 300 kilometer stretch of an important waterway doesn't just change color overnight by accident. Whether this whole disaster is arising from illegal chemical dumping, industrial sabotage or secret military testing, one thing is clear: the government is definitely hiding something. And while real people living along the river are watching their environment completely collapse, officials are just denying realitywhich makes that headline look even crazier. This brings us right back to the White Lotus operating inside the committee room. While other delegates waste precious time debating whether secret societies are just conspiracy theories, five cunning delegates in that room are carrying out secret orders that directly align with these real world things which are concealed. The White Lotus isn't any ordinary society, it is actively steering the committee's direction from the inside, manipulating delegates and ensuring that the true causes behind the compromised cables and poisoned rivers stay buried. The committee is supposed to stop a massive war from starting over the Taiwan Strait, but right now, it’s making things worse. While secret operatives are pulling strings right under their noses, other delegates are occupied discussing petty issues. They keep feeding the public fake stories about "routine military patrols" and "unratified river rumors," but the real leaks tell a totally different story.

SESTS

This crisis isn't just about borders or land anymore ,but a rigged game driven by secret groups, greedy corporations and massive concealed motives. The press isn't dropping this, because as long as a secret society is running the show from the shadows, any talk of peace is just utter rubbish.



CTK

08/08

GOVERNING LOWER AND UPPER EGYPT

2026

KEMET AT WAR: THE STRUGGLE FOR THE THRONE, THE TEMPLE AND BREAKING OF MA'AT

DOMEI NEWS AGENCY

For generations, Kemet has stood together beneath the divine authority of the Pharaoh. The principle of Ma'at, representing order, justice and balance, has helped preserve the stability of Upper and Lower Egypt. Yet under Ramesses XI, that balance is beginning to collapse. The Pharaoh still sits upon the throne, but his power and authority is slowly crumbling under the weight of an economic crisis, corruption and the rise of competing centres of power.

A KINGDOM STARVED

In Lower Egypt, the traditional taxation system continues to work, but under increasing strain. Tax collectors are accused of dishonesty and treason, while farmers have begun to depend upon temples and local authorities that can provide for them when the Pharaoh is unable to. The consequences are devastating. Agricultural production has declined, royal revenues are failing, and the administration struggles to maintain the government.

Most importantly, grain-the lifeblood of Kemet- is increasingly concentrated in temples rather than in the houses of the commoners where it is needed the most. The people are now in the grasp of a famine.

THE WRATH OF THE GODS

The crisis suddenly took a divine turn. In the fight ensuing between the priesthood and the Pharaoh, the royal army has allegedly destroyed a statue of Ra, provoking widespread outrage. In a civilization where political authority and heavenly order are inseparable, disrespect towards the gods cannot be tolerated. In a rare case of divinity revealing itself to humans, the god Osiris, descendant of Ra appeared before the people and vowed to end human civilization as a whole, for their crimes committed against the gods and the disrespect shown to statues and temples by involving them in their puny mortal wars. When his sister, Nephthys, wife of Seth, tried to stop him, he lashed out and laid his hands on her, angering Seth. In his rage, Seth cursed Egypt and as a result, all crops on Egyptian soil stopped growing and the Nile was overrun with colossal alligators, preventing any merchant ships from carrying out trade, threatening the very backbone of the Egyptian economy.

CTK

Whether it be divine wrath or human error, the result stays the same, Kemet is afraid and in turmoil.

THE RISE OF AMUN

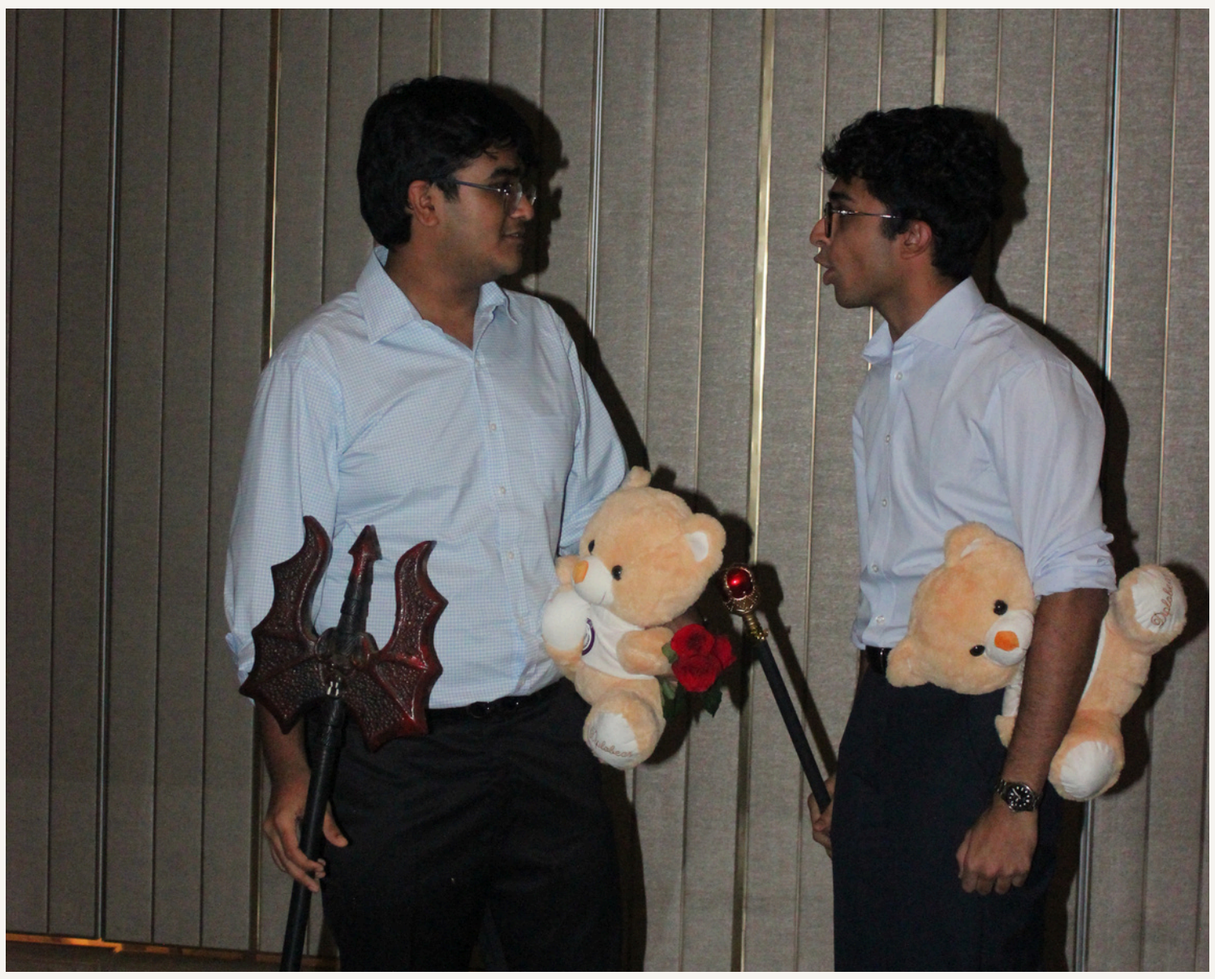
As royal authority weakens, another institution grows stronger: the Temple of Amun at Thebes.The High Priest of Amun was once a servant of both god and Pharaoh. Now, the priesthood increasingly appears to possess authority independent of the crown. The reason is simple. The priests conduct rituals, perform sacrifices and maintain the people's relationship with the gods. While the Pharaoh is increasingly perceived as a distant ruler, the priest is physically present among the people and offers reassurance when the royal administration cannot. This has created a dangerous question: **If the priests speak for the gods, what remains of the Pharaoh's divine authority?**

At the centre of this confrontation stands Herihor, whose growing influence has brought him into direct conflict with Ramesses XI. The struggle between Pharaoh and High Priest is therefore not merely political. It is a battle over legitimacy and succession. Who is the rightful heir? Who speaks for the gods? And who possesses the authority to preserve Ma’at?

The Fate of the Two Lands

The Council of the Throne of Kemet now faces a decision that may determine the future of Egypt itself.

The Divine Dispute: Osiris and Nephthys in Conflict



Should the Two Lands be reunified under the unquestioned authority of the Pharaoh? Should the priesthood receive greater power to restore divine order? Should military and regional authorities be strengthened to stabilise the kingdom? Every choice carries consequences. Strengthen the Pharaoh, and the priesthood may rebel. Strengthen the Temple, and the monarchy may become hollow. Yet doing nothing risks famine, economic collapse and further fragmentation. For generations, Ma’at has held Kemet together. But today, that sacred balance is being tested from every direction. The crown remains. The temples remain. But the question that now hangs over the Two Lands is one that no Egyptian can afford to ignore: When Pharaoh and the priest claim the power to save Kemet, who truly rules Egypt—and whom will the gods recognise as the rightful heir?

COA

08/08 THE TRIAL OF SOCRATES 2026

THE TRIAL OF SOCRATES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The trial of the philosopher Socrates began formally in the Court of Athens on Thursday, August 8, 399 BCE. There are two allegations against Socrates. The first one is impiety which is considered to be his rejection of the official gods of the city. The second is youth corruption which is considered to be the influence of his teachings on making young Athenians reject the morals of their families.

The process began with a threat and not with an argument. The gods of Olympus were watching the trial closely before the beginning of the trial's opening statements. It was said that there were five gods who were particularly important for the outcome of the trial. The city was protected by the goddess of wisdom, Athena. Zeus was the king of the gods. The underworld belonged to Hades. The god of the sea was Poseidon. The god of war was Ares. Both sides during the whole trial were observing the favor or anger of the five gods, and it was warned to both parties that any mistake could have dire consequences.

The prosecution team presented their opening statement after this caution. Their case was quite simple. They stated that Socrates had advised young Athenians to not pay homage to the city's gods over many years of private teaching. They also stated that Socrates had used risky philosophy to replace piousness. They put forth the case as both a legal and a public safety concern. This piece of information reached the court very soon after. The god Zeus had been infuriated with the ongoing trial proceedings. The reason for this wrath of the god was not known at all. This information had upset both the blocs. For a while, the discussion on strategy of legal defense was forgotten. The delegates instead discussed how the city could satisfy the king of the gods before Athens suffered more damage. The update that followed increased the anxiety even further. There were some parents who had come to Meletus, the principal prosecutor at the trial, with some serious complaints. They said that they had given their children into the hands of Socrates in order to learn something from him in private and now their children refuse to worship the official gods of Athens. There were children who would threaten suicide on being asked to pray. Furthermore, they also said that the children had lost their faith in Zeus as a mighty god and they would actively defy Athena.

COA

In addition, the children talked about receiving instructions from daimonion, the inner divine voice that Socrates used to talk about. In the wake of these revelations, the court split into two very different groups. The prosecution group focused all their efforts on Socrates. They rarely even looked at Meletus and his motives. The defense group took an entirely different strategy. They turned to Meletus and his actions. They claimed that he was lying and adding information to support his weak case. This led to a motion to interrogate Meletus. This was carried out in the court. Meletus denied having anything to do with convincing the parents to come out and testify against Socrates. He claimed their testimony was voluntary. In addition, he said that the children had been studying with Socrates for two years. The next development landed heavily in favor of the defense. Documents came out revealing that Meletus had given 1,500 silver drachmas to metics, noncitizens who lived in Athens. At the moment, no explanation was given as to the purpose of the payment. However, there were some issues about its relation to the case against Socrates because of its amount and timing. Another update came, and it was the most serious yet. It was said that shipping documents indicated that Meletus had received 40 minae of Persian gold from the Spartan commander Lysander about one month before the surrender of Athens in the Peloponnesian War.

The implication is clear if the information is true. It suggested the man leading the prosecution of Socrates may himself have accepted foreign gold from an enemy power during wartime. The report cast a long shadow over the legitimacy of the case. It shifted momentum, at least temporarily, toward the defense. The following update drew attention completely away from the courtroom scene. Several individuals within the lower city were found vomiting in the street. The cause for this problem was quickly determined. The disease that had devastated Athens during the Peloponnesian War was back. It seemed that about half the population of the city had come down with the illness. People's rage increased quickly.



COA

This rage was focused on the city's government, which appeared to be busy with courtroom affairs when normal Athenians were getting sick. Following the plague update, the fury of the five gods involved in the trial was found to change repeatedly. It increased, and then it decreased, and so on, very quickly. At this stage, it became clear that all five gods were angry again. Both blocs faced pressures to move quickly because of this. The next update was undoubtedly the most gloomy update throughout the session. The student of Socrates killed himself after he was told to worship gods of Athens. Before committing suicide, the student was heard saying "**All Hail Socrates**". As investigators claim, the student had been molded through private instructions in such a manner. It is claimed that the student believed his death as a way of sacrifice to the daimonion. Later on, this update was revised before it went farther, since only one student had died. Previous wording about several deaths was dropped. After revision of this update, both blocs were asked to give official directives. After reviewing the directives, there was an obvious difference between each side. The directive from the prosecution side involved sacrifice to Hades, Apollo, Ares, and Poseidon. Seven temples were constructed in their honor. Nonetheless, there were unwanted effects of the action. The wrestling match in the name of Ares had become the source of spreading plague to everyone there.



Decayed horse sacrifices dedicated to Poseidon had been washing ashore, making the city's ports practically unusable because of contamination. Piglets were used in an act of purification of the prosecuting team's benches. It was supposed to please the gods but was instead harshly criticized by the citizens because the ritual seemed exclusive to the prosecutors' inner circle and failed to protect everyone else from the plague. On the other hand, the defenders' directive entailed restrictions for leaving Athens, made peace with Apollo, Athena, and Hades, and organized a blockade of Spartan trade. However, this strategy came at a high price as well. The sick were locked up in their homes and were deprived of medicines. As a result, many of them died at home. In addition, the sent ship to investigate Meletus' foreign connections sunk in the sea with Athens's thirty most important governors and officers onboard. Sparta has already started organizing its army near the borders. According to most of the reports presented in court, Athens is not ready for the new war yet.

COA



Immediately after the directive review, another update came into play, adding yet another dimension to the whole situation. Anytus, who is the prosecution ally, had been known to shelter Critias. Critias was one of the Thirty Tyrants and a former student of Socrates. According to testimonies by the witnesses, Anytus openly rejected Hades when he was doing it. He openly showed disrespect to the god. Additionally, he said that he talked to the Fates personally. The discovery made the position of the prosecution very difficult since there seemed to be contradiction within their group.

The last update of the session was the one which came unexpectedly. A messenger came from the Oracle of Delphi bringing a message that belonged to Critias, who spoke from his grave. Not everything about the message was revealed prior to the court adjournment. Delegates were free to think about the possible meaning of it for the next session.

HSC

08/08 THE ABYSSINIAN CRISIS OF 1936 2026

ABYSSINIA: HOW LONG CAN THE WORLD KEEP WAITING?

UNITED PRESS



GENEVA — For the people of Abyssinia, this is not just another disagreement between two countries. It is their home, their army, and their future. Italian forces are moving further into their country, and after the recent Battle of Amba Aradam, the situation is becoming more worrying by the day. The Ethiopian army in the north has been badly weakened, while Italian troops continue pushing south. Emperor Haile Selassie is still in Addis Ababa, but even the capital may not remain safe for much longer. For now, Abyssinia is still standing. The bigger question is how much longer it can continue to do so without serious help from the League of Nations.

The crisis between Italy and Abyssinia did not begin with the invasion itself. There has been a wound between the two countries for decades. In 1896, Ethiopian forces defeated Italy at Adwa. Europe could hardly believe it. It was the only successful repulsion of a European colonial invasion in African history, and the defeat became a major humiliation for Italy. Then, in 1922, Benito Mussolini came to power. Mussolini's Fascist government was built around extreme nationalism and the idea of bringing back the glory of Rome. Abyssinia became an obvious target. Invading it would give Italy the chance to expand its power and, perhaps, make up for the defeat at Adwa. The Wal Wal oasis gave Mussolini the opportunity he needed. A territorial dispute took place there, and Mussolini used it to demand reparations from Abyssinia. However, Italy had already been preparing for a much larger conflict. Italian troops and supplies had been sent to its East African colonies since early 1935, months before the League of Nations had even attempted to find a diplomatic solution. Mussolini rejected attempts at arbitration.

HSC

Then, on October 3, 1935, Italian forces crossed into Abyssinia. From the beginning, the two sides were very unequal. Italy had a huge industrial advantage, including aircraft and chemical weapons. The Ethiopian army was fighting with far fewer modern weapons, largely relying on rifles and determination. Still, the Ethiopians fought. Abyssinia also did what it believed the League of Nations was there for: it appealed for help. The League of Nations responded. Italy was condemned, resolutions were drafted, and sanctions were imposed in 1935. On paper, this looked like action. But on the ground, the Italian army was still advancing. That is where the situation becomes difficult to understand. If Italy was being punished, why was the invasion continuing? Some of the most important measures that could have affected Italy's campaign were never taken. The Suez Canal remained open, allowing Italian supply ships to pass through. Oil, which was extremely important for keeping a modern military campaign running, was also left off the sanctions list. So Italy was being condemned by the international community while still being able to receive supplies needed for its war. For someone in Abyssinia, this must be a difficult thing to understand. Your country is being invaded, you ask an international organisation for help, and the answer is sanctions that do not stop the army coming towards you. And then there was the Hoare-Laval Pact.

Britain and France were secretly negotiating a proposal with Mussolini that would have given Italy some of the most fertile and resource-rich areas of Abyssinia in exchange for a ceasefire. The proposal never actually happened, but the idea alone was enough to make the situation even more complicated.



Abyssinia was asking the League of Nations for protection while some of its most powerful members were considering giving Italy parts of Abyssinian territory. It is not hard to see why Abyssinia might feel abandoned. Now, on March 7, 1936, the situation has reached another dangerous point. The Battle of Amba Aradam has just ended, and Ethiopia's northern army has been shattered. Italian forces are moving south, closer to Addis Ababa. For Emperor Haile Selassie, the question is becoming more urgent. How long can the capital remain safe? For the Ethiopian army, there is another question. How long can it continue fighting against an enemy with such a huge military advantage?

HSC

And for the League of Nations, there is perhaps the hardest question of all. How much longer can it wait? The League of Nations was supposed to provide collective security to its members. Abyssinia trusted that system. But collective security only works if countries are actually willing to act when another member is attacked. The League of Nations has already condemned Italy. It has already imposed sanctions. But neither has stopped the invasion. There are still possible choices. Oil could be added to the sanctions. The Suez Canal could be considered as a way of restricting Italian supplies. Stronger economic pressure could be attempted. Diplomacy could continue. But time is becoming a serious problem. Every week of discussion gives the Italian army another week to move forward. Every week without a stronger response makes it harder for Abyssinia to defend itself. And while all of this is happening, the League of Nations is being watched. Not just by Italy. Abyssinia is watching too. The world has already seen what happens when a powerful country decides to ignore international pressure. What it has not yet seen is whether the League of Nations is willing to do more than issue condemnations when those pressures fail. The Abyssinian Crisis has become a test of much more than one country's survival. It is a test of whether collective security is something the League of Nations can actually enforce, or simply something it can promise. . For now, the Ethiopian army is still fighting. Haile Selassie is still in Addis Ababa. Italian forces are still moving south. There is still time for the League of Nations to act. But how much? That may be the question that decides what happens next. The United Press will continue to follow the Abyssinian Crisis as the League of Nations faces its next decision.





TGP



08/08 THE EMPIRE WITHIN THE STATE 2026

THREE DEAD, EIGHTEEN WIVES GONE: NEW YORK WAKES TO A MAFIA MYSTERY FAMILIES POINT FINGER AT FORMER DA AS AUTHORITIES SUDDENLY DISCOVER THEY HAVE "NO COMMENT"

WASHINGTON POST

New York has seen murder. New York has seen kidnappings. New York has even seen politicians try to talk their way out of them. But never all at the same time. The Five Families awoke today to an in-city emergency after finding three of theirimprisoned soldiers dead inside their prison cells, with whispers of a conspiracygoing so far as to prompt even the rats in the sewers to remain silent on the matter. The blame has been placed squarely on the shoulders of one individual: The former district attorney. According to multiple sources within – andsympathetic to – the Families, the ex-District Attorney is said to have orchestrated the murders of the three gangsters. But that, gentlemen, is where the troublestruly began.

"One of the three slain mobsters was "Big Red," a notoriously brutal enforcer whose booming voice could send shivers downthe spine of the most hardened criminal inthe Five Families. Big Red" wasn't known for his subtlety.He wasn't known for his mercy. He was, however, known for instilling a healthydose of fear inside every listener when he cleared his throat and prepared to speak. The Families have been reading that speech in a whole new light ever since "Big Red" was found dead in his prisoncell with two other men. EIGHTEEN WIVES. ONE CITY. ZERO EXPLANATIONS. As dawn broke over Gotham, the Five Families were struck by an even greater horror: the simultaneous disappearance of all eighteen wives of the Five Families' soldiers. Yes. ALL EIGHTEEN WIVES OF THE FIVE FAMILIES HAD VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE. Without a trace, mind you. Without so much as a single clue as to where they might have gone or why. Some men awoke in their homes to findtheir wives missing, their breakfast coldon the table and their morning papercarefully set aside as if they had left for work just hours before. The police have been less than helpful, calling the developments in New York "deeply troubling."



TGP



Meanwhile, those few officials still employed by the Five Families have crossed out their morning prayers and begun cursing heavily.

The disappearances of the eighteen wives have prompted the most troublingquestion of all: are the murders and kidnappings related? The Five Families believe so. According to a purported message fromone of the Five Houses, the families' former district attorney has been accused of trying to destroy the Families from the inside, murdering their soldiers while kidnapping their wives, who – as one Family elder put it – "know where everything is and therefore know too much." Meanwhile, the police have remainedresolutely unhelpful, insisting that there is "insufficient evidence" against the ex-District Attorney. That claim has been met with equal partsderision and disdain, with many lawenforcement personnel reportedly reconsidering their careers in light of the open mockery of the public they continueto face. BACK TO THE FAMILIES. Something remarkable – if somewhat latein coming – has happened in the wake of the disasters: solidarity. The Five Families – long at each other'sthroats whenever an opportunity arose –have found themselves united in purposefor the first time in years. Corleone, Barzini, Cuneo, Tattaglia and Stracci – the heads of the Five Families –have all reportedly joined together in aneffort to investigate the events leading upto the murders and kidnappings.



Whether this means a united front or five groups of investigators asking the same questions in increasingly fancy suits remains to be seen. One thing, however, is clear: the Five Families have grown tiredof waiting for the "right moment" toavenge their losses, their prisoners and their honor. They have grown tired of listening to whispers and half-truths. It is time forthem to investigate. Who murdered the three prisoners? What happened to the eighteen wives? And finally – what does the former DA know about the Original Sin of them all? Because in New York, secrets have a habitof walking and talking and, in this case, kidnapping eighteen wives before disappearing for good. For now, we wait for the next development. The Five Families sharpen their knives. The former DA tightens his lips. And perhaps, just perhaps, the ghosts of the old Conspiracy of Five – Godfather's Pentad – are laughing all the way to the prisons. After all, they too have suffered through wars, prisons, betrayals and evenpoliticians. But never, ever, have they hadto deal with something as ridiculous as the disappearance of eighteen wives, the murder of three prisoners and thesuspicion of a former DA all at once.



OTI



08/08 THE SCHISM OF THE ▢▢▢ ORDER 2026

A COMMUNION OF CULTS

ASAHI SHIMBUN

The proceedings of Occult Temple of Iscariot and the actions of its chosen custodians may seem like a fictional narrative to the average reader. Where multiple organisations- more accurately construed as cults by the general public- vy for control via auction over spiritual or magical items, scramble to find clues about the casket of the individual that convened them, and briefly argue a divorce as the reason a precarious power balance will tip. It seems trivial, but for them? Well, It's a matter of life and death. Outside the temple, legions march toward their location as they frantically debate their next course of action. But what preceded this to lead to such dangerous circumstances? The Temple has had it's keeper incarnated over many generations- and Helena Blavatsky, founder of the Theophysical Society, was meant to be the last. Her casket sealed away forevermore, the Temple's will carried out through mechanisms set up years prior. But things shifted once the casket found itself in hands unworthy and unable to understand what it symbolises.

And so she convened the organisations recognised by the temple: a test to find the one most worthy, to retrieve the casket and its meaning. The communion started with establishing the stakes at hand and the involvement of organisations, arguing supposed 'worthiness' before any action was taken. Before long, however, the custodians were working together- realising that collective action would get them closer to their individual goals. A hunt ensued across the area, for items of legendary importance and mythical status. They found clues, piecing together a larger picture the Temple had intended from the beginning. An auction afterwards, the time per item growing shorter and shorter- actively preying on their desperation for power acquisition. The Veil of the Road, magical letter, and playing cards all effectively becoming part of the custodians' armoury. Contributing to the chaos were crises one after another. The pope assassinated by an unknown party, followed by a distracting divorce of the leaders of the Moon faction. Books scattered across Saint Basilica preaching a mysterious "RAR". Through it all, the committee was convinced of a mole supplying information to external parties.

OTI

Then the physical threat emerged, and it solidified the mole theory. Armies heading for the Temple's location, due in ninety minutes. A reveal on a mysterious book supposedly allpowerful. All hell broke loose, with delegates divided on whether to fight, flee, or hide- supported by different magical items. One custodian argued whether using the 'watch' to go back in time would allow for them to acquire the book. Another proclaimed using a specific candle to conceal them, while a different line of reasoning proposed using the Message Box to answer the question of the casket's location in three words would be worth it.

Then, somehow, the situation worsened for them. The army had traversed through thirty minutes worth of travel in 8 minutes. Either time travel or teleportation, but it confirmed that these enemies were not mere mortals, but magical entities, possibly in possession of the "allpowerful" book.

Now with imminent danger and possible death sixty minutes away, the committee must act decisively to survive past the next hour and find the casket. Else, the Temple may fail to survive it's next era.



