

Private Motivations for War in The Iliad

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Private Motivations for War in The Iliad

Wars are often complex in nature and are fought for diverse reasons.

In the Iliad, powerful gods, great nations, and heroic people all fight for different reasons. Each has private motivations to fight the war. These private [motivations](#) are of special interest, because they help define the consequences and outcomes of the war. The universal war of the gods, social war of the Greeks and Trojans, and the war for Achilles' honor are private motivations of the [Trojan](#) war. These private motivations seem to influence and shape each other in many distinct ways.

The universal war between the gods over the apple of discord consequently lead to the social war between the Greeks and the Trojans. For example, Aphrodite promised Paris that he could have the most beautiful woman in the world if he gave the apple of discord to her. He did so, and decided to go and get his reward. Unfortunately, the most beautiful women in the world, Helen, was the wife of the Greek King Menelaus. The [abduction](#) of Helen by Paris lead to the Trojan war. The promise made by Aphrodite to Paris in order to get the apple of discord resulted in the abduction of Helen and the start of the Trojan war. Therefore, Aphrodite, in the universal war, set the stage for the social war of the Greeks and Trojans. Another time the gods influenced the social war was when the Greeks and Trojans had a one on one battle to decide the outcome of the war. The Greeks chose King Menelaus and the Trojans chose Paris. Menelaus and Paris fought, but when Paris was about to be killed he was whisked off by Aphr...

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...s social war lead to Achilles'

war to redeem his honor. Achilles' private conquest then had a enormous effect in giving the Greeks victory of the social war. The resolution of the social war eventually lead to peace on Mt. Olympus. The three private motivations of the Iliad thus created, carried out, and concluded the Trojan war.

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