



COURT OF GENGHIS KHAN

A Simulation by Project Delegate



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Special Council on the Conquest of the Jin Dynasty. My name is Sofia Koshy, and I am honored to serve as one of your Chairs for what promises to be an engaging historical crisis. This committee is designed to test your strategy and diplomacy, as well as your creativity and decision-making under pressure.

A little about me, I am a rising senior at The Derryfield School and have been participating in Model UN conferences since my freshman year. I have found that exploring topics outside of everyday conversation often leads to the most engaging discussions, like when I represented South Korea in a Mars agriculture committee during my sophomore year. Outside of Model UN, I am deeply interested in history and global affairs. I play on my high school's tennis team, and in my free time, I enjoy spending time with my friends, reading, and watching movies. I have watched a lot, but I know there is much more to experience, so in between breaks and sessions, don't hesitate to give me a recommendation.

This is a historical crisis. While based on real events, certain historical details have been adjusted or ignored to create a more engaging and dramatic simulation. Delegates are encouraged to do independent research, but if you find contradictions, know that they are likely intentional. Above all, this committee is about telling a compelling story. Whether you choose diplomacy, espionage, warfare, or betrayal, the world will react to your decisions. Think boldly. Act quickly. Collaborate when it benefits you, and don't be afraid to take risks when the opportunity arises. I look forward to seeing all of your ideas come to life.

Sincerely,

Sofia Koshy

Chair - Historical Crisis Committee: Court of Genghis Khan



Historical Crisis Committee
Court of Genghis Khan

Dear Delegates,

We are pleased to share our hard work so that you may enjoy an atypical style of Model UN. My name is Felix Read, and it is my absolute pleasure to invite you to join us in this simulation. I look forward to seeing how you all will either crumble under the boots of your opposition or break them over your knees.

I would like you all to get a better idea of how I operate and what I like to do. I am also a rising senior at the Derryfield School and have been participating in conferences since my sophomore year. I'm at my best in Model UN when delivering impassioned and outright bold speeches that challenge the norm in the room. I've always been one for the unconventional, as evidenced by my representation of Italy in the Asteroid Defense Crisis Committee at Harvard MUN. Specifically, I advocated for attaching rockets to the asteroid to push it away from the Earth towards the sun.

I have a deep passion for geopolitics, but I also enjoy the complexity of relationships and the implications and consequences of the choices that people make. When MUN is unable to scratch that itch, I play roleplaying games outside with my friends, RPG video games, or spreadsheets disguised as games. I love difficult and intricate systems with multiple push and pull factors, and I hope that you play the simulation that way. Recently over the course of this year I have been reading George R.R. Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire*, which served as inspiration for the structure of this crisis committee.

More to my lovely co-chair's point, this is a historical committee, which means we can spice up the crisis in any way possible to maximize the tensions and the sense of urgency. I recommend that each and every one of you try to make the most of this experience, as fortune favors the bold.

I cannot wait to see which one of you seizes the day and takes the glory for yourselves.

With passion,

Felix Read,

Chair - Historical Crisis Committee: Court of Genghis Khan



Historical Crisis Committee
Court of Genghis Khan



How to Use This Background Guide

Welcome, delegates! This background guide is your essential foundation for navigating the high-stakes world of the Mongol siege of the Jin Dynasty. To make the most of your experience in this unique and experimental virtual crisis committee, use the guide actively and strategically:

1. **Read with Carefully**

We recommend you read the entire guide thoroughly. Pay special attention to the **Origins and Mandate, Committee Background**, and **Special Notes** on historical modifications. These clarify the narrative liberties taken and help you roleplay confidently within this reimagined version of history.

2. **Know Your Character Inside Out**

Locate your assigned character and study their **background, key traits, and strategic goals**. Highlight what makes them influential or vulnerable—this will guide your actions and alliances. Think about how your character’s personality aligns with the broader siege scenario.

3. **Use the Guide Dynamically**

Don’t treat this guide as a script—treat it as a springboard for dynamic storytelling. The **Questions to Consider** will help you develop innovative tactics and prepare counter-strategies for rival factions. Keep notes on possible deals, threats, and betrayals.

4. **Be Ready to Adapt**

In this committee, no plan survives first contact with the enemy. Have a few short-term and long-term objectives, but expect crisis updates, unexpected directives, and surprise betrayals to shake things up. Flexibility is key.

5. **Virtual Environment**

Unlike typical Model UN sessions, this is an **virtual MUN committee**. While this does, admittedly, come with challenges, it is also a wonderful opportunity to be creative and practice your skills from anywhere. Furthermore, we, as Project Delegate, will aim to make the experience as smooth as possible, while maybe even adding in some surprising twists.



How Committee Flow Will Work (and What Makes It Different)

The Court of Genghis Khan is a professional yet experimental simulation that blends historical crisis elements with modern virtual interactivity. Here's what to expect:

Continuously Moving Timeline

For every 20 real-life minutes (approximately), one month will pass in the scenario. As time advances, armies weaken without supplies, civilian morale drops, and opportunities (or crises) emerge fast.

Directives, Not Resolutions

Forget lengthy draft resolutions. Here, you create directives—short, actionable orders or plans. Only three signatories are required to pass one. Outcomes are determined and narrated live by your Chairs based on realism and creativity. See the [“How to Write a Directive”](#) on the next page.

Live Crisis Updates

Chairs will introduce sudden events, shifts in battlefield conditions, or unexpected betrayals. You must respond quickly and collaboratively—or exploit the chaos for personal gain. This is standard practice for a crisis style committee.

Backroom Deals and Espionage

Use the tools given to you to pass secret messages, form covert alliances, or coordinate betrayals. Deception, bribery, and clandestine orders are all fair play, within the bounds of your character's realism.

Multiple Paths to Victory

There is no single winning resolution. Characters have diverse goals: conquest, cultural survival, economic gain, or personal power. Each action shapes a collective, living storyline.

Chair as Storyteller

Your Chairs act as both moderators and narrators, guiding the story's flow and consequences of your actions. They ensure historical flavor while leaving room for your creativity to reshape history.



How to Write a Directive

A directive is a one page resolution that needs a minimum of three people to sponsor. The reason it is so small is because it is expected that multiple will be passed quickly over the course of the crisis that will have immediate and/or long term effects as depending on the content of a directive. It is much more bare bones and you will be rewarded for being precise and efficient in your writing. It is expected that the formal tone is to be preserved so that your chairs can decide how successful the consequences of each directive is. Virtually anything is on the table, but we wish to remind you that explicit declaration of genocide is not accepted at Project Delagate conferences, nor any other ones. At the same time, do not be afraid to put forth plans that lead to the death of others, this is the game of thrones, after all.

Key Terms

Not all key terms appear in the background guide, but delegates should utilize any key terms that may apply to their characters' perspectives and backgrounds.

Assassination: Extra-judicial murder of a person, usually a politician or general, for political ends.

Battle of Attrition: Warfare where each side is trying to starve out or break the will of the other.

Bianjaing: The main capital of the Jins. It is also the location of the siege and the simulation.

Diplomacy: The act of engaging in dialogue between nations to resolve issues peacefully.



Economy: The distribution and allocation of resources among people. The economy is not strictly monetary, it can be extended to goods and services which can be bartered for.

Espionage: The act of spying on a foreign threat and obtaining more information.

Jins: The dynasty in North-East China that was threatened by the Mongol invasion. May also refer to the “Jin people.”

Mongols: A shorthand term for the empire of Genghis Khan.

Morale: The willingness of soldiers to fight for their army; the ability of people to cope with hard times; general emotion of the people.

Pragmatic: Dealing with things sensibly and realistically in a way that is based on practical rather than theoretical considerations.

Plague: The event of mass illness, where resources become strained and sanitation near nonexistent as more and more people contract a fatal illness.

Siege: A siege occurs when there is no active fighting, but rather an invading army attempting to take over a city; it is a battle of attrition.

Taxation: The way that governments accumulate money from the economy, be it by trade or quota.

Treachery: The act of betrayal and deceit, done to further one’s ends.



War-council: A set of generals who convene to discuss strategy and take actions regarding the war. These will be our “blocs”.

Introduction To The Court of Genghis Khan

Origins and Mandate of the Committee

The year is 1232, the Mongols have led a 21-year war on the Jin Dynasty, where they have piece by piece dismantled their armies and cities. The true final battle is at the Jin capital, Bianjing (also known as Kaifeng). The forces of the Jin dynasty numbered 200,000, with about 24,000 of them being cavalry and the rest being general infantry. These men are experienced but tired and beset by logistical problems with food and disease. They are the last bastion of the Jin dynasty, which accounts for their relatively massive size. The strength of the Mongols is 50,000 strong, with about half of them being horseback archers and the rest infantry defectors from either the Jin or other dynasties. The forces are outside the city wall, engaged in a siege, a long form of conquest that boils down to a battle of Attrition. Due to the static nature of Sieges, it encourages diplomacy between the warring sides and is the reason why the delegates have come together today.

This Crisis Committee is intended to resolve the war, be it peacefully or violently. The way that time will work is that throughout the committee session, time will pass continuously. This means that for every 20 minutes in real life, a month will have gone by in the world, meaning that rations and morale go down quickly, and directives are passed even more quickly to ensure strength. The way that directives work is that only three people need to agree to pass a “mini-resolution,” which means that its effect will happen instantaneously. These directives may fail or succeed as the outcomes are narrativized by the chairs. However, the better and more well thought out the directive, the more likely that its aims will be achieved.

Notes Regarding Historical Accuracy/Modifications

This special council is slightly ahistorical. Some dates and ages have been changed in the interest of making an engaging simulation for the participants. Independent research may lead to finding inconsistencies within this background guide, and if it is a technical piece that can slightly tip the scales of power, then it is a welcome piece of information. However, if the piece of information completely upsets the scenario, 1). Assume that it is known by the chairs and 2). was deliberately changed or ignored, and should be the course of action that a delegate takes. For example, Genghis Khan died in 1227, yet, for the purposes of this Committee, he is alive and a



key player for the Mongolian “side.” This changes the power dynamics of the situation and, in the chair’s opinion, makes it far more fun.

Notes Special Committee Aspects

In Medieval China, wars were fought and won by food, health, morale, and discipline. Without these qualities, an army falls apart, and these resources run out fast. To sustain an army, every soldier must have 2.5 kilograms of rice per day at a minimum. This is to maintain function, but it does not do well for morale. Meats and spices do more to raise the spirits and loyalty of your soldiers, but these are extremely costly and difficult to transport. Various alcohols are very calorie-dense and good for morale, yet ruin any sense of discipline among your armies.

A problem specific to Jins, they must also manage the populace and their ongoing acceptance. Should the effects of warfare and starvation become widespread in the city, the win condition of the people shifts from victory over the Mongols to survival by any means necessary. Each civilian needs food in order to facilitate the production of goods to stimulate the economy. Should massive economic upheavals occur, there will be decreases in productivity and heightened levels of criminality. The upside of their position is that the Jins have access to more revenue with taxation, while the Mongols need to rely on pillaging other towns for resources.

The Mongols can hinder supply lines, but keep in mind, the other factions, such as the farmers and the merchants, are interested in maintaining trade routes and the flow of capital. There is the chance that the Mongols can overpower these economic blocs with supreme coordination, but it may require a divestment in manpower so great that it leaves them open for counterattack.

This committee is uniquely free-form and allows for a lot of player interactivity. Each player, no matter how minor their role may feel, can use each of their specific niches to change the simulation’s landscape in their favor. Nearly anything is possible. Good luck, delegates.



Committee Background

History

Between 1206 and 1227, Genghis Khan, a native of present-day Mongolia, created the largest contiguous empire in human history.¹ The Mongols first emerged as a powerful tribe around 1130, but then were scattered into clans after being defeated by the Tartars in 1160. These clans experienced large amounts of conflict, and therefore the Mongols were kept weak and divided. One of the clan leaders, Yesugei, in 1167, had a son named Temujin. This son was deserted by his tribe, along with his mother and siblings, at nine years old when his father was poisoned and died. At the age of 16, he enlisted the help of his father's old friends when his wife was captured, and he used these allies to become a well-known, powerful figure on the steppes of Mongolia. He quickly became the head of the family and was even suspected of killing one of his step-brothers who stole a fish from him. With his childhood friend, Jamugha, he was able to take control of most of the Mongol clans.

Genghis was a brilliant strategist and forced people to listen to him. This was accomplished by his aptitude for psychological warfare and creating high amounts of terror among his opponents. However, he was also a compassionate leader and sought surrender wherever possible, not wanting to perform violent acts with no justification.

Military Strength

Around 1187, Genghis decided to unite more of Mongolia after his longtime friend, Juamugha, attacked his troops, and in order to do this, he created an army of more highly trained warriors. This army was mounted on horseback and capable of moving 60-120 miles per day, which was unheard of for any army of comparable size. This was possible partially because each Mongol warrior maintained three or four horses, which they could switch between over long journeys. This provided a large advantage in being able to wage quick, accurate strikes against enemy forces and cover large amounts of distance in minimal time. The army was also organized by a simple, traditional decimal system, which consisted of groups of tens, hundreds, and thousands of men regardless of ethnic origin.

This division of troops contributed much to the Mongol military success as orders were able to be delivered to specific units efficiently and rapidly. Genghis Khan was skilled in the art of siege warfare and could construct simple yet effective machines such as trebuchets and catapults. A more cruel tactic employed by the Mongol army during battle was the *kharash*, which entailed gathering residents or soldiers previously defeated. This crowd served as a human



shield, which would push forward to take the brunt of the enemy's long-range weapons and to break down obstacles so the Mongol army could move forward unimpeded.

Campaign in China

In 1206, at age 40, Genghis began looking toward China. His gathering of the Mongols to prepare for this venture was the largest in history. In 1210, he sent envoys to the Jin Empire. The envoys were captured and killed. This was an unforgivable thing for Genghis, and he decided to invade in 1211 after meditating and saying that he was told by the gods that it was the right thing to do.

Political Landscape

When Genghis first came to power, there was no Mongol capital, empire, or even nation. The Mongols, as a group living on the steppes, were viewed at the bottom of the social order. However, this quickly changed as Genghis made alliances and conquered other groups. He carefully vetted his allies and chose them accordingly. In the regions Genghis conquered, he would replace the elite with Mongol rulers to govern the conquered people, but left everyone else in society as they were, promising to include them in his new rule if they paid respect to his leadership. The men he selected for these roles had to be absolutely loyal to him. Genghis's overall strategy of trying to assimilate the local groups into the Empire was revolutionary for its period. Because of the empire's vast expanse, it featured a significant amount of diversity, which affected how Genghis had to rule and create laws. When he became Great Khan, Genghis believed he had no room for a traditional clan and the ties it brought along.

Yassa (Code of Law)

The code of law created by Genghis Khan and adopted throughout the empire was called Yassa. This code necessitated severe punishments for minor crimes, strict obedience to Genghis Khan, and a binding together of the nomadic tribes. Because of such strictness, the Mongol Empire was seen as a safe place, and the army was extremely disciplined. Because of Yassa, leaders of the empire, such as chiefs and generals, were elected based on merit; crimes such as thievery were banned, and religious intolerance was prohibited. This was the first set of written laws used by the Mongols. As the Genghis Khan grew in power, there was a significant need for laws that the whole empire would have to follow. The strange aspect to this code of laws was that the physical script was supposedly only known to and read by the royal family because there was some semi-sacred or magical view of the text.



Potential Punishments

Two of the most common crimes in the steppe were the “stealing of animals and the kidnapping of women.” Under Genghis’s rule, stealing a horse was punishable by being “cut into two parts.” Beheading was the most common method for killing someone who was not of noble blood, and even minor offenses, such as not picking up something someone dropped, could be punishable by death. Another example is that a hunter could be beaten with sticks or put to death if he let an animal escape during a community hunt. However, if someone was favored by the Khan, they had multiple strikes before being punished.

Kurultai

The kurultai was the gathering of Genghis Khan and his advisors to make decisions for the Empire. These meetings were often held as a form of war council. The root word “khurim” in Mongolian means a “feast” or festive gathering, but today it stands for an event more like a wedding. This body of counselors was modeled after both Mongol and Chinese traditions. The Khan held the power of final decision and was heavily involved in the process, but would delegate some tasks to those he trusted.

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Questions to Consider

The following guiding questions are designed to steer delegates toward the critical issues that must be addressed in this committee. These questions aim to provoke thoughtful debate, clarify conflicting priorities, and lay the groundwork for innovative and actionable resolutions/directives. Please note that delegates are NOT limited to these questions alone; this committee is designed to be more fluid/quick-paced.

1. How are you going to feed your troops?
2. How are you going to maintain power?
3. How are you going to take power?
4. How are you going to survive?
5. How are you going to exploit this council for your benefit, be it financial, cultural, or explicitly political?
6. What are the religious, cultural, and/or economic impacts of your actions?
7. What legacy will your actions leave?
8. What are you willing to do to win?



Characters

Mongolians

Genghis Khan:

Role: Founder and Great Khan of the Mongol Empire; unifier of the steppe and supreme commander; beginning to consider the legacy of his empire and his family

Background: The leader of the Golden Horde, née Temujin, was the first and greatest Khan of the Mongol Empire. An empire so massive that it held the land from all of Ukraine to China to eastern Russia. He stands among or above those like Napoleon and Alexander the Great, himself a charismatic and intelligent leader. He valued ability over all, unique in his eschewment of aristocracy in favor of meritocracy. He is extremely well protected, and it is very unlikely that any assassination attempts will lead to his death. Despite that, he is a very old man and may die of natural causes. If Genghis Khan does, his empire could disintegrate as his heirs fight over the remains of his grand empire. However, the inverse could be true, and his death could instead turn him into a martyr, redoubling the will of the Mongol army. He emphasizes merit over birth, rewards loyalty, and forges a mobile, disciplined, and devastatingly effective military. His win condition is the conquest of the Jin Dynasty.

Perspective: Genghis Khan sees the conquest of the Jin as both a divine mission and a final jewel on his vast imperial crown. He views warfare as a tool for imposing order, ensuring loyalty, and fulfilling the Mongol destiny. While he respects competent advisors, military and civil, his authority is unquestionable. He does not seek unnecessary destruction but believes fear and swift action are the best deterrents.

Key Traits:

- Charismatic and absolute leader
- Deeply strategic and ruthless when necessary
- Values meritocracy, order, and military discipline
- Committed to the full governmental destruction or submission of the Jin

In Committee: Genghis Khan's word will carry immense weight for both the Mongols and the Jin. He may entertain proposals from both hawks and moderates, but will ultimately push for total Mongol supremacy. Delegates representing Genghis should balance visionary leadership with strategic realism, ensuring any decision aligns with long-term conquest and empire-building.



Ögedei Khan:

Role: Third son of Genghis Khan and Börte; designated successor and second Great Khan of the empire

Background: Genghis Khan's son, who continued the conquest and would ultimately go on to complete the subjugation of the Jin. He was the second Khan of the Mongol Empire after his father's death. Ögedei is deeply loyal to his father and is an extremely competent strategist. He leads the largest part of the army against the Jin dynasty, with about three-fifths of the force being with him. His win condition is survival and conquering the Jin dynasty, and also building a centralized imperial bureaucracy.

Perspective: Though not a military mastermind, Ögedai was a skilled administrator, statesman, and consensus-builder. He believed in the divine mission of Mongol expansion but was pragmatic about governance. He favored efficient taxation, the development of a Mongol capital, Karakorum, and the use of advisors such as Yelü Chucai to implement civil governance in conquered lands. While deeply loyal to his father's legacy, he often took a more measured and institutional approach than his father and siblings.

Key Traits:

- Consensus-builder and diplomatic strategist
- Strong supporter of bureaucracy and taxation reforms
- Committed to finishing the conquest of the Jin Dynasty
- Balances tradition with the growing imperial state
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In Committee: Ögedei will likely push for total conquest of the Jin, but with a keen eye on how to govern and extract value from the region afterward. He may have proposed a mix of military action and administrative preparation, seeking to secure his father's legacy while establishing lasting structures for Mongol rule. Expect him to mediate between aggressive generals and diplomatic advisors to maintain Mongol unity and strategic focus.

Subutai:

Role: Renowned Mongol general and primary strategist who played a crucial role in many Mongol campaigns, including the conquest of the Jin; worked with both Genghis and Ögedei; called him one of the "top dogs of war" (Secret) by Genghis himself



Background: Born around 1175, Subutau rose from a non-noble family lineage to become the foremost military tactician of his era. Elevated to the rank of *noyan*, he spearheaded over 20 campaigns across Eurasia, during which he conquered more territory than any other commander in history. He often gained victory through sophisticated, often novel strategies and routinely coordinated movements of armies that operated hundreds of kilometers apart from each other.

Perspective: Subutai views warfare as a calculated, intelligence-driven art form. He emphasizes mobility, logistics, deception, and psychological warfare, believing victory belongs to those who adapt fastest and exploit terrain, timing, and surprise. Fiercely loyal to the Mongol state, he prioritizes military efficiency and strategic coherence above personal glory.

Key Traits:

- Strategic genius orchestrating simultaneous, distant armies
- Pioneering use of engineers and siege tactics in foreign campaigns
- Exceptionally patient, methodical planner
- Earned immense respect among the Mongols and the Jin
-

In Committee: It would be expected that Subutau would advocate for integrated military campaigns grounded in reconnaissance, engineering, and coordinated maneuvers, not impulsive raids. One may see him propose multi-front offensives, careful supply logistics, and psychological pressure to weaken the Jin before striking decisively.

Güyük Khan:

Role: Eldest son of Ögedei Khan and Genghis Khan's grandson; rising political and military figure

Background: Güyük Khan was raised at the heart of the Mongol imperial dynasty. He participated in major campaigns, including the Jin conquest and western expeditions in Eastern Europe, and is known for his discipline, ambition, and aristocratic pride.

Perspective: Güyük favors a hardline approach to warfare and governance. He distrusts advisors who preach moderation, like Yelü Chucai, and sees diplomacy as secondary to Mongol dominance. While loyal to the empire, he is deeply concerned with preserving the authority of his lineage and reinforcing the central role of the Ögedei line.



Key Traits:

- Aggressive and proud
- Suspicious of peace or compromise
- Politically calculating within the Mongol elite
- Advocates for swift conquest and clear Mongol supremacy

In Committee: Expect Güyük to push for rapid military victory over the Jin, resist power-sharing with Jin defectors or local bureaucrats, and subtly maneuver for influence within the Mongol chain of command.

Tolui:

Role: Youngest son of Genghis Khan and Börte; commander and trusted military leader

Background: Tolui is the fourth and youngest son of Genghis Khan, thus placing him as one of the top contenders to succeed him. Furthermore, he was also considered one of the Mongols' finest warriors, only strengthening his position. He played a pivotal role in the former campaigns against the Jin and the Western Xia, leading brutal but effective sieges.

Perspective: Tolui is a traditionalist who embodies his father's values—ruthless efficiency in war, loyalty to family, and belief in the divine destiny of the Mongols. Unlike some of his more politically-minded siblings, he is less interested in bureaucracy or discussion with the Jin, preferring a campaign more focused on military dominance and internal cohesion.

Key Traits:

- Fierce, disciplined general
- Loyal to Genghis and the Mongol people
- Less political, more action-oriented
- Cautious of foreign influence or administrative overreach



In Committee: Tolui is likely to support sustained military pressure against the Jin, emphasizing unity through war, and act as a voice of stability among rival factions. He may oppose peace talks if they appear to weaken Mongol momentum or tarnish his father's legacy.

Sorghagtani Beki:

Role: Persian-Christian princess of the Keraite tribe and wife of Tolui Khan; political and intellectual strategist who held enormous soft power in the empire

Background: Born into the Keraite royal line (c. 1190 AD) and married to Tolui, Genghis Khan's youngest son, Sorghagtani emerged as a central figure in the empire. Mongol women had far more rights than in many other cultures at the time, especially since the men were often away and they were the ones responsible for the home. Though illiterate herself, she managed vast estates, embraced bureaucracy, and ensured her four sons—Möngke, Kublai, Hulagu, and Ariq Böke—received elite, multilingual educations. She was very tolerant in matters of religion, herself a Christian, and promoted the notion of the state above religion while supporting all major religions of the time.

Perspective: Sorghagtani values political savviness, respect for the Mongol state, and administrative sophistication. She champions trade, intellectual exchange, and merit-based rule over brute military conquest. As a devout Nestorian Christian, she supports religious plurality and cultural diplomacy, yet remains firmly devoted to Mongol imperial unity and her lineage's hold on power.

Key Traits:

- Pragmatic and willing to take a more intellectual, gradual approach
- Skilled networker and kingmaker
- Promotes education and bureaucratic governance
- Advocates of tolerance and economic expansion

In Committee: Expect Sorghagtani to push for structured administration, gradual integration of conquered peoples, and negotiations that preserve Mongol unity. She will advocate for policies that empower trade, cultural exchange, and dynastic stability—using her sons' longstanding prospects as leverage.



Jebe (“Arrow”):

Role: Renegade-turned-elite general under Genghis Khan

Background: Originally a foe of the Mongols, likely named Jirgo'adai of the Besud clan, Jebe bravely admitted to injuring Genghis Khan’s horse in a critical battle around 1201. Impressed by his honesty, Genghis not only spared him but also elevated him to the rank of *noyan*, one of his top 88 generals, with the authority on par with other veterans. As a general, he was known for his speed, adaptability, and daring tactics, winning conflicts around the Beijing plains to the 1219 invasion of the Khwarezm Empire in modern-day Uzbekistan.

Perspective: Jebe is a hard-driven military pragmatist who sees decisive conquest as the most reliable path to peace. While loyal to Genghis Khan, he operates with independence and sharp tactical instincts; he may even disagree with other high-ranking officials. He’s skeptical of prolonged diplomacy and tends to view negotiations as only a first step or a temporary tactic between campaigns.

Key Traits:

- Unflinching loyalty to Genghis Khan
- Tactical genius, especially in fast cavalry warfare
- Bold, fearless, and often unconventional
- Prioritizes victory through action over process

In Committee: Jebe will likely push for aggressive strategies against the Jin, advocacy for fast-moving operations over drawn-out sieges, and resist efforts at compromise unless they ensure total submission. He may clash with more bureaucratic voices, but he commands high respect among Mongol military factions.

Börte Üjin:

Role: Principal spouse of Genghis Khan and mother of his heirs (including Ögedei); helped manage trade routes across the empire; had influence over major policy decisions

Background: Börte, from the influential Khongirad (Onggirat) tribe, was betrothed to Genghis Khan in childhood and married at a young age. Soon after their union, she was abducted by the Merkits, a major turning point that prompted Genghis’s original rise to power. Börte bore four sons: Jochi, Chagatai, Ögedei, and Tolui, which, in the time period, secured her status as the chief empress of the Mongols and the true matriarch of the ruling family.



Perspective: Respected for her political insight and diplomacy, Börte governed the Mongol homeland in Genghis's absence, overseeing her own style of government and managing resources. She influenced imperial decisions, warning Genghis of threats and tempering his responses, illustrating her strategic prowess.

Key Traits

- Diplomatic and politically perceptive
- Strong maternal figure, protector of succession
- Administrative leader of the Mongol homeland
- Trusted advisor

In Committee: Börte would likely advocate for steady consolidation of power, well-organized home-front governance, and wise, patient diplomacy. Her presence would balance the hard-line conquerors, pushing for policies that ensure family unity, stable succession, and the creation of lasting imperial structures.

Jins

Emperor Aizong of Jin:

Role: Emperor of the Jin Dynasty; all-powerful sovereign during the Mongol assault

Background: The last ruler of the Jin Dynasty, who ruled during the final stages of the conquest. He took power after his father, Xuanzong, died in 1224. Aizong is a deeply prideful man who ties his power and the strength of his dynasty to his self-worth. However, he took power during a period when the dynasty was weakening, beset by internal corruption, famine, and external threats. Though personally intelligent and determined, he was often trapped by factionalism, failing logistics, and deteriorating morale. That being said, he was raised and reigned in the context of the Mongol invasion, so he is keenly aware of the threat that the Mongols pose.

Perspective: Aizong believes in the legitimacy and cultural power of the Jin state, tying his sense of worth to its survival. While not naive about the odds, he remains determined to protect sovereignty and restore internal order and stability. He is deeply skeptical of defectors and believes surrender would disgrace his ancestors and doom his people to foreign rule. However, desperation and fear may push him to consider negotiation if it preserves his people or dynasty in some form.



Key Traits:

- Proud and realistic, but politically pressured
- Committed to national survival and ancestral honor
- Wary of compromise, especially with traitors
- Emotionally burdened by encroaching collapse

In Committee: Emperor Aizong will likely serve as a stabilizing and principled voice for the Jin Dynasty. Though surrounded by crisis, he remains committed to defending his people and preserving the integrity of the state. He would likely advocate for smart, coordinated defense strategies, rallying both military and civilian support. Aizong is open to negotiation if it protects his people and retains some form of sovereignty, but he will resist solutions that demand unconditional submission. Delegates representing Aizong should balance a fierce loyalty to the Jin legacy with the pragmatic leadership required in the empire's most critical hour.

Wanyan Chenglin:

Role: Army commander and advisor; deep familial and personal ties to the founders of the Dynasty and the current emperor

Background: Born around 1202 AD, Wangyan Chenglin was a military general of Jin heritage and a member of the Wanyan clan. When Emperor Aziong was forced to move in before Mongol campaigns to avoid capture, Chenglin would stay behind and organize the defense. Though not currently in line for the throne, his leadership in crisis has earned him the emperor's trust and the support of the military forces

Perspective: Chenglin believes in the dignity and the continuity of the Jin Dynasty, even in the face of overwhelming odds. He is not driven by political ambition but by military duty and personal honor, even if this loyalty puts the Jin people in danger. He favors decisive defense strategies and believes surrender would disgrace the legacy of Aziong and the prior Jin leaders.

Key Traits:

- Fiercely loyal to Emperor Aizong and the dynasty
- Brave and capable military leader
- Respected by troops for personal courage
- See resistance as a moral imperative, not just a tactical one



In Committee: It can be expected that Wanyan Chenglin will be a bold and stabilizing military voice, advocating for a last stand to protect the heart of the Jin state. He will resist calls for surrender or appeasement, but may support tactical retreats or reorganization to prolong resistance. Delegates representing him should act with conviction, loyalty, and a readiness to fight until the very end, viewing the survival of Jin honor as worth any personal cost.

Cui Li:

Role: Senior general and defender of the Jin territory; tasked with leading Bianjing during the Mongol campaign

Background: A prominent Jin general who led troops in defense against the Mongols. He was a steadfast man who was interested in the lives of his people and effective governance, first and foremost. He is concerned with the Jin dynasty but recognizes the human cost of pointless war. He has a strong code of honor and enforces it among his soldiers; he is one of the main points of morale among the Jin army.

Perspective: Cui Li is a realist. While loyal to the Jin imperial house, he is not blind to its failings. He opposes needless bloodshed and advocates for defensive tactics that prioritize the preservation of life and strategic strongholds. He is skeptical of both surrender and reckless offensives, instead favoring honorable resistance and forming a state of detente (cooling of relations) between the two powers.

Key Traits:

- Principled and respected by both soldiers and civilians alike
- Committed to minimizing unnecessary suffering
- Loyal but independent-minded
- Tactical and pragmatic in the face of collapse

In Committee: Li will probably bring a calm, measured voice to the Jin delegation. He will advocate for realistic strategies that preserve lives and maintain morale while still honoring the dynasty. Delegates representing him should prioritize humanitarian considerations, strategic defense, and military discipline, potentially bridging the gap between hardliners and moderates.



Wanyan Heda:

Role: Veteran general and longstanding defender of the Jin Empire; has won many conflicts with the Mongols

Background: Wanyan Heda first emerges in the 1220s as one of the Jin Dynasty's most capable commanders. He led successful defenses at Chang'an (1223) and Dachangyuan (1229), and played a key role in holding the vital Tongguan Pass (1230). He has also defeated the Mongol leaders Subutai and Tolui in battle, earning him a reputation for bravery and a consistent ability to win conflicts.

Perspective:

Heda is a seasoned warrior imbued with unwavering loyalty to the Jin and a successful military history against the Mongols. His belief in strong defensive positions and clever terrain use reflects his determination to blunt the Mongol offensive. Yet, he is also pragmatic, understanding when to stand firm and when to conduct strategic withdrawals to preserve his forces and adapt to evolving threats.

Key Traits:

- Fierce, resolute defender of Jin sovereignty
- Expert in terrain-based defense and ambush tactics
- Proven success in prior large-scale engagements against the Mongols
- Respected for leadership, discipline, and battlefield adaptability

In Committee: Heda will likely champion a defensively robust, posture-focused approach. Expect him to advocate securing key strongholds, such as cattle passes and mountain valleys, mounting ambushes, and implementing flexible retreats to preserve the Jin armies and protect the capital. He will likely resist calls for reckless offensives or unconditional surrender, emphasizing that the Jin can still prevail through disciplined tactics combined with careful diplomacy.

Empress Dowager Rensheng:

Role: Widow of Emperor Xuanzong (former Jin leader); adopted-mother of Emperor Aizong; moral and spiritual head of the imperial household; deeply in touch with the common people of the empire



Background: Born into a royal family and married to Emperor Xuanzong, Empress Rensheng took her title in 1214 and Empress Dowager in 1224 when her nephew Aizong (with no direct heirs) ascended to the throne. As Dowager, she presided over the imperial inner court during one of the dynasty's darkest periods. With the Mongols at the gates of Bianjing, she began to personally oversee famine relief (distributing porridge and medicine), embodying dynastic compassion and responsibility.

Perspective: Empress Rensheng embodies dynastic honor, moral authority, and is a leader who can connect to everyday citizens. She supports reforms that aid the vulnerable and believes in maintaining the spiritual legitimacy of the Jin, even as its political structure crumbles. She balances filial piety with active intervention, dedicating palace wealth to aid both soldiers and common people.

Key Traits:

- Compassionate and public-spirited
- Symbolic pillar of dynastic legitimacy and harkens back to the days of a greater, more powerful empire
- Maternal protector of Emperor Aizong and the vulnerable
- Pragmatic within her moral framework

In Committee: Empress Rensheng is expected to serve as the moral compass of the Jin delegation, advocating for policies that protect civilians, strengthen morale, and preserve dynastic integrity. She may support negotiation if it spares lives and dignity, and will likely oppose any action that undermines the legitimacy or moral standing of the throne. Her presence lends weight to appeals grounded in ethics, duty, and compassion during crisis.

Fan Zhongyan (Lived earlier in history, but inspired the Jin style of governance):

Role: Confucian scholar-reformer and chancellor of the Song dynasty; philosophical architect of ethical governance; inspired many future Jin political figures

Background: Fan Zhongyan (989-1052) was a prominent Song-era chancellor and reformer who led the Qingli Reforms (1043-1045), which aimed to address governmental corruption, strengthen local militaries, improve the civil service system, and fund public education. Though these reforms did not last in the Song era, they would inspire future Jin era leaders and diplomats



and help shape the modern empire. Indeed, his famous saying became a moral beacon: “They were the first to worry the worries of all-under-Heaven, and the last to enjoy its joys”(Pines 76).

Perspective: Fan believes that true statesmanship demands selfless leadership and moral duty. He champions merit-based governance, institutional accountability, and proactive reforms to protect the common people, even at personal expense. While he acknowledges the importance of military action, his philosophies promote the notion that rulers should bear collective worries before reaping collective joys, embodying ethically driven, people-centered rule.

Key Traits:

- Ethical and principled champion of public interest
- Institutional thinker, committed to meritocracy and accountability
- Reform-minded, balancing moral integrity with practical administration
- Advocates for clear, substance-driven communication

In Committee: Zhongyan likely serves as the experienced, people-focused voice of the Jin delegation, urging attention to public welfare, integrity, and long-term stability. He will likely advocate for transparent governance, merit-based military and civil appointments, and proposals that elevate citizen morale, even possibly suggesting public relief, education initiatives, or moderate reforms within crisis response. Delegates representing him should prioritize principled decision-making, foresight, and balanced institutional design.

Emperor Xuanzong of Jin:

Role: Father of Aziong; former emperor of the Jin

Background: Born in 1163, Xuanzong came to power after internal turmoil in 1213. A princely leader known for his cultural adaptability, he is credited with relocating the capital from Zhongdu (modern-day Beijing) to Běijīng in 1214, following the initial Mongol incursions. Though he temporarily negotiated peace by becoming a tributary to Genghis Khan, the Mongols continued their advance, and Xuanzong oversaw multiple military setbacks. Throughout his reign, he would continue to mobilize the empire to become more defensive and better respond to Mongol threats.

Perspective: Emperor Xuanzong is a leader caught between tradition and crisis. He values diplomatic engagement—like the 1214 peace deal—but also recognizes the need to defend the realm. Furthermore, he has also experienced firsthand how Mongol leadership can be deceptive and not adhere to diplomatic deals.



Key Traits:

- Culturally adaptive: balanced Jin roots with practical governance
- Willing negotiator
- Strategic leader: accepted relocating the capital to preserve the dynasty

In Committee: Xuanzong will likely propose a hybrid strategy, pursue active diplomacy with the Mongols while reinforcing key defensive positions. Delegates playing him should frame negotiations not as submission, but as a tactical pause to regroup. He may support military reforms and capital relocation again to fortify Jin's unity and flexibility under pressure.

Yuan Haowen:

Role: Leading literary figure and poet who became an emotional voice of Jin's cultural and national identity; hoped to rekindle the lost glory of the empire by writing patriotic pieces to inspire the general public

Background: Yuan Haowen (1190-1257) was from Xinzhou, Shanxi, and served under the Jin court in various official roles before retiring when Mongol dominance rose. A child prodigy, he became renowned as the foremost prose and ci (a form of Classical Chinese literature) poet of his era. In fact, when the Jin stronghold he was staying in was captured, he was allowed to roam and compose in the palace, earning recognition as “chief poet” of the so-called “School of Death and Chaos,” lamenting the dynasty’s potential collapse.

Perspective: Yuan represents a deeply patriotic, intellectual viewpoint, not necessarily a political one. His “sang-luan” (death and chaos) poems express profound sorrow, a desire to preserve cultural memory, and a heartfelt appeal for resilience amid catastrophe. He favors moral reflection and the continuation of national identity over outright military or administrative solutions.

Key Traits

- Emotionally powerful, evocative poet of the Jin culture
- Symbolic bearer of Jin identity and heritage
- Critical moralist urging remembrance of prior achievements
- Blocks forgetting through literature; sees art as resistance



In Committee: Yuan Haowen brings moral and cultural weight to the debate. He will champion the preservation of Jin identity through cultural resilience, urging policies that safeguard heritage, morale, and societal spirit, even under military stress. Delegates representing him should aim to elevate the stakes of decisions with arguments rooted in cultural survival and historical memory.

Neutral/Swing Characters

Yelü Chucai:

Role: Senior counselor and chief bureaucrat to Genghis Khan and Ögedei Khan; part of the Mongol leadership, but has a deep sense of responsibility to minimize the amount of economic, infrastructural, and human loss

Background: Yelü Chucai is a Khitan advisor and Confucian scholar, known for his intellect and diplomatic strategies. Rather than indulging in conquest, he advocates for preserving cities and establishing a stable tax system, benefiting the Mongols in the long term. His focus is on rebuilding and preserving order, even under Mongol rule.

Perspective: He firmly believes that cities and people are more valuable alive than in ruins or dead. His ultimate loyalty lies with stable governance and the preservation of cultural order, though he accepts Mongol authority as the current reality. While outwardly loyal to the Khans, he supports policies that spare civilians and sustain productive economies.

Key Traits:

- Wise, patient, and highly persuasive
- Advocates tax-based governance over plunder
- Balances Confucian ideals with Mongol demands
- Protective of the people and culture

In Committee: Yelü Chucai serves as a swing figure—able to collaborate with Mongol commanders, Jin loyalists, or neutral factions if it reduces chaos. He will likely argue for pragmatic policies: sparing cities, preserving supply lines, and rebuilding local administrations. The delegate representing him should leverage calm reasoning, long-term benefits, and moral authority to guide extreme voices toward practical compromise



Jochi:

Role: Eldest son of Genghis Khan; commander of western territories; estranged and removed from the Mongol line of succession, but still given limited royal powers

Background: Born around 1182, Jochi is Genghis Khan's firstborn, though rumors about his paternity led to tensions with his brothers Chagatai and Ögedei, and ultimately his removal from the line of succession. Despite this, Genghis recognized him as his son and entrusted him with a large western part of the Mongol Empire. Jochi led major campaigns in Siberia and Khwarazm (part of modern-day Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan), helped secure boundaries, and built administrative systems among conquered nomadic tribes.

Perspective: Jochi values autonomy and stability in his domain. He champions pragmatic leadership and humane governance. Though loyal to his father, he is disillusioned by court politics and the exclusion from succession. He completely distrusts his brother Ögedei. Furthermore, he is wary of endless conquest that may undermine regional order and economic viability, and seeks recognition and influence through loyalty and capable administration.

Key Traits:

- Discrete resentment of his brothers and frustrated with the sidelined authority
- Experienced commander with large, yet remote, territorial control
- A preference for stable borders and pragmatic rulership over total war
- Balances loyalty to Genghis with a personal agenda for autonomy

In Committee: Jochi is a key swing figure, capable of aligning with Mongol hardliners for strategic unity or tempering their ambitions in favor of pragmatic governance. He will likely advocate for stable administration in newly conquered regions, fair treatment of local powers, and balanced expansion that does not destabilize his western realm.

Shi Tianze:

Role: High-ranking Jin commander and opportunistic political survivor; works for both the Jin and the Mongols

Background: Shi Tianze is a Han general in the Jin army, elevated through marriage into a powerful Jin family. Highly skilled in logistics and city defenses, he is outwardly loyal; however, he has passed intelligence to Mongol commanders while also gauging which Jin officials might follow him.



Perspective: He speaks of protecting civilians and preserving order, but his real goal is survival and a seat in the new regime. If the Jin somehow pulls out a surprise advantage, he would stay on with them to maintain good graces and his position of power. If the Jin capital were to weaken and the Mongols find themselves near victory, he may defect, bringing officers, city gates, and supply lines with him. However, defecting is dangerous and, should he be caught, there is a chance he would die in the ensuing fight.

Key Traits:

- Charismatic and diplomatic but morally flexible
- Balances military competence with covert scheming
- Skilled at reading shifting power dynamics
- Survival-focused, values personal power of rigid loyalty

In Committee: Shi Tianze is the ultimate swing vote. He will likely publicly support policies that protect civilian lives and keep supply lines open, while privately weighing which faction offers him the best future. Delegates playing Shi should negotiate subtly, hedge commitments, and use secret backchannels (possibly through passing notes or in unmoderated caucuses) to manipulate outcomes in their favor.

The Trader (Merchant's Guild Diplomat):

Role: Representative of the powerful Merchant Guild; economic influencer and dealmaker

Background: The Trader is the official mouthpiece of the Merchant Guild, a loose coalition of influential wholesalers, food distributors, and artisan collectives who thrive on steady trade and peaceful markets. While he is part of the Jin Empire by birth, he cares little for dynastic allegiance or tribal identity: his loyalty is to profit and the uninterrupted flow of goods. Through quiet bribes and merchant networks, he exerts soft control over staple commodities like rice, beans, and imported luxuries.

Perspective: For The Trader, a dead city or burnt field means lost customers, idle caravans, and wasted capital. He wants the siege to end swiftly and with minimal bloodshed, no matter who ends up ruling afterward. He is skilled at making himself indispensable to any power—Mongol, Jin, or opportunistic local warlord—willing to promise protection and economic freedom.



Key Traits:

- Persuasive, silver-tongued negotiator
- Utterly pragmatic; values trade above politics
- Wields economic leverage through food prices and supply contracts
- Capable of shifting allegiance if profit demands it

In Committee: The Trader will most likely lobby for ceasefires, safe trade corridors, and guarantees that markets remain open. He may cut backroom deals with Mongol commanders, Jin leaders, or defectors alike, whichever faction ensures minimal destruction and maximum commerce. Delegates representing The Trader should leverage economic influence, threaten embargoes, and broker covert resource deals to steer the conflict toward profitable stability.

The Populist (Voice of the People):

Role: Unofficial spokesperson for the urban poor, artisans, laborers, and city dwellers caught between the Jin and Mongol powers.

Background: The Populist is not a noble, military leader, or priest—rather, they embody the collective voice of the Jin capital’s common people. They have no official title but have emerged as a grassroots organizer, rallying civilians to demand food, safety, and an end to senseless suffering. While not universally respected or recognized by the ruling Jin elite or Mongol invaders, they command considerable brute force: riots, labor stoppages, and the moral sway of sheer numbers.

Perspective: The Populist’s sole concern is the survival and dignity of the city’s people. They have no interest in who sits on the throne or wears the imperial seal, only that food is on the table, disease is kept at bay, and families are not destroyed for political glory or territorial gain. Willing to bargain with either side if it means food deliveries or a ceasefire, the Populist sees both Jin corruption and Mongol brutality as threats that must be contained for ordinary life to endure.

Key Traits:

- Charismatic and driven by raw civic emotion
- Lacks official rank but can mobilize crowds to protest or rebel
- Disrespected by elites as a “mob leader,” yet impossible to ignore
- Pragmatic and willing to make quick deals to protect the people



In Committee: The populist's support is unique because they will make any directives passed either more effective or more detrimental. They can threaten civil unrest, general strikes, or sabotage if neglected. Delegates playing The Populist should wield the moral leverage of the masses, forcing nobles, generals, and traders to account for public anger if they fail to deliver on promises.

Liu Kezhuang:

Role: Renowned poet and social critic; voice of the scholar-gentry class; moral commentator on current affairs

Background: Liu Kezhuang (1187–1269) was a major literary figure, best known for his sharp, plainspoken poetry and outspoken criticism of corrupt officials and social injustice. Though not a Jin official himself, he lived through the final years of the Jin dynasty's collapse and the Mongol encroachment, and his works circulated widely among the literary figures on both sides of the northern frontiers. His poetic style, often blunt and politically barbed, made him a respected yet feared voice of dissent and civic conscience.

Perspective: Liu Kezhuang uses his verse to highlight the suffering of ordinary people, the moral failings of the elite, and the futility of endless war. He distrusts both Jin decadence and Mongol brutality, calling instead for reforms, honest governance, and relief for the poor. Though not a soldier or politician, he is influential among scholars, local administrators, and minor gentry who carry his ideas into policy debates.

Key Traits:

- Fierely independent moral voice
- Advocates for honest governance and social justice
- Distrustful of both oppressive dynastic politics and foreign conquest
- Uses poetry as a tool of political pressure

In Committee: Kezhuang brings principled criticism and moral accountability to all sides. He will push for measures that protect civilians, root out corruption, and avoid pointless slaughter. Delegates representing Liu should speak with poetic clarity, use moral persuasion to shame leaders into action, and build coalitions with other reform-minded figures or middle factions.

Qiu Chuji:

Role: Eminent Daoist monk; respected spiritual advisor; advocate for temperance and balance in chaotic times; leader of religious figures in the Mongol Empire



Background: Qiu Chuji (1148–1227), also known by his religious title Changchun (“Eternal Spring”), was one of the most influential Daoist monks of his age. As a leader of the Quanzhen School of Daoism, he was famed for his spiritual rigor, deep learning, and moral authority. In 1219, at Genghis Khan’s request, he undertook an arduous journey to meet the Khan in Samarkand (a city in modern-day Uzbekistan), where he famously urged moderation, compassion, and a longer, healthier life through self-restraint. This friendship with Genghis Khan would continue to last.

Perspective: Qiu Chuji sees war as an unfortunate disturbance in the natural balance (Dao). While recognizing the Mongol might, he counsels rulers to temper cruelty with mercy and to govern by moral example rather than fear alone. He is trusted by common people, respected by Mongol leaders for his fearlessness, and quietly supports peace and minimal bloodshed, believing it aligns with cosmic harmony.

Key Traits:

- Wise, deeply respected sage
- Seeks peace, moral governance, and spiritual order
- Independent: not swayed by wealth or rank
- Has moral sway over both peasants and high figures

In Committee: Qiu Chuji will advocate for ceasefires, humane treatment of prisoners, protection of temples and civilians, and moderation of harsh tactics. He is a natural mediator who can bridge gaps between Mongol warlords, Jin defenders, and desperate townsfolk. Delegates representing Qiu should lean on calm moral authority to persuade others toward balance and mercy.

Xueting Fuyu:

Role: Abbot of the Shaolin Monastery; mediator and protector of Buddhist monastic communities during the conflict; influential warrior who spread the Shaolin martial arts throughout the Jin Empire

Background: Xueting Fuyu (1203–1275) was a renowned Buddhist monk and the abbot of the Shaolin Monastery during the turbulent late Jin and early Yuan periods. As head of one of China’s most influential monastic centers, he oversaw not only spiritual practice but also the temple’s role in local defense and community aid. Known for his scholarship and organizational skills, he safeguarded Shaolin’s resources and monks amid Mongol campaigns, ensuring the monastery remained a sanctuary and training ground for martial monks and refugees alike.



Perspective: Fuyu values peace and spiritual discipline but recognizes that monasteries must sometimes defend themselves. He advocates for non-violence and compassion wherever possible, but supports practical measures, like training monks in martial arts and fortifying temple grounds, to protect communities from chaos. He respects wise leadership on all sides and uses his moral credibility to broker truces and ensure the safety of temples and refugees.

Key Traits:

- Deeply principled
- Balances Buddhist pacifism with pragmatic self-defense
- Respected across social classes for his wisdom and integrity
- Provides refuge and moral counsel to commoners and warriors alike

In Committee: Xueting Fuyu will likely push for the protection of temples, monasteries, and civilians caught between armies. He will encourage negotiations to limit bloodshed and preserve sacred sites and local aid centers. Delegates respecting him should blend moral persuasion with practical offers: sheltering refugees, providing monks for local relief, and discreetly mediating ceasefires when possible.

Myōe:

Role: Respected Japanese Buddhist monk, reformer, and spiritual teacher; known to advocate for moral renewal and cross-border peace

Background: Myōe was one of Japan's most respected Buddhist monks during the Kamakura period. A devout practitioner and reformer, he worked tirelessly to restore discipline within monastic communities and encouraged a return to pure Buddhist teachings. He also worked to make Buddhist texts more accessible to regular people. Though based in Kyoto, his reputation for integrity and visionary writings reached beyond Japan's shores, influencing Buddhist circles throughout East Asia.

Perspective: Myōe believed that true peace stems from moral clarity and self-restraint. He spoke out against greed and corruption within both religious orders and secular courts. Deeply committed to the welfare of all sentient beings, he viewed warfare as the ultimate failure of compassion and would urge all rulers and generals to seek nonviolent paths whenever possible. To him, protecting temples, feeding the hungry, and sheltering the displaced are sacred duties that rise above factional ambitions.



Key Traits:

- Revered for personal discipline and spiritual insight
- Courageous moral critic of both monks and nobles
- Symbol of compassion and ethical reform

In Committee: Myōe brings a clear, calming voice that cuts through political maneuvering. Likely, he will argue tirelessly for truces, relief for civilians, and protection of sacred places. While he holds no army or wealth, his influence stems from the respect he commands among monks and laypeople alike. And coming from Japan, he will be able to present a different perspective and potentially serve as a key mediator. Delegates representing Myōe should lean on Buddhist teachings to remind all sides of their karmic responsibilities and the human cost of endless bloodshed.

Sa'd al-Din Köpek:

Role: Skilled diplomat from the Sultanate of Rum, a territory in modern Türkiye controlled by the Mongols; power-broker focused on trade networks and personal influence

Background: Sa'd al-Din Köpek was a prominent figure in the court of the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum. Serving as Master of the Hunt, chamberlain, and de facto vizier, he became infamous for his behind-the-scenes maneuvering to consolidate power. Ambitious yet pragmatic, Köpek understood that the strength of his Sultanate, and his own wealth, depended heavily on the Silk Road's security and the free flow of caravans between East and West. Although not a soldier, he wielded immense soft power through his connections with merchants, court officials, and foreign envoys.

Perspective: For Sa'd al-Din Köpek, peace is profitable and chaos is bad for business. He cares little for which emperor or khan rules as long as roads stay open and tribute flows. A master at reading the winds of politics, he will quietly align with the side most likely to protect and expand regional trade. Though notorious for court intrigue back home, Köpek presents himself abroad as a polished diplomat who speaks for caravans, tax collectors, and local guilds eager for predictable markets.

Key Traits:

- Highly persuasive and subtle negotiator
- Values economic stability over ideological loyalty
- Not afraid to broker under-the-table deals if it serves trade interests
- Can swing between factions if it secures safe commerce routes



In Committee: Sa'd al-Din Köpek will likely push hard for negotiated truces, trade corridor guarantees, and any policy that minimizes damage to roads, towns, and marketplaces. He may quietly encourage bribes or side arrangements to smooth disputes. Delegates playing Köpek should use charm, wealth, and backchannel talks to turn conflict into a profitable compromise, always ready to threaten withdrawal of caravan support if ignored.

Daoist Nun of the White Cloud Temple:

Role: Senior nun from the famous White Cloud Temple; respected for her wisdom, healing, and voice for peaceful balance; plays a role in Jin governance due to religious affiliation

Background: The Daoist Nun of the White Cloud Temple is a fictional nun inspired by the real White Cloud Temple (Baiyun Guan) in Beijing, which has long been a vital center for the Quanzhen Daoist tradition. As a senior priestess, she is known in the capital and surrounding villages as a healer, mediator, and teacher of Daoist principles. During this time of siege and chaos, she organizes temple resources to feed the hungry, comfort the displaced, and calm social unrest.

Perspective: Rooted in the Daoist belief in harmony and natural balance, the Nun advocates nonviolence and moderation from all sides. She urges generals and rulers alike to remember that excessive force only disrupts the Dao—the natural way of things. While she has no military power, her calm presence and moral authority among commoners, farmers, and weary soldiers give her soft influence in moments of tension.

Key Traits:

- Wise and serene, with an aura of quiet authority
- Focused on healing, charity, and spiritual counseling
- Trusted by local communities regardless of rank or faction
- Has some sway over Jin governance due to religious affiliation

In Committee: The Daoist Nun will possibly call for ceasefires, civilian protection, and the safeguarding of temples and sacred sites. She can be a subtle mediator, reminding factions of the human and spiritual costs of war. Delegates representing her should speak in clear, calming language, grounding arguments in Daoist ideas of balance and the folly of excess.



Future Emperor Zhang Xianzhong:

Role: Charismatic grassroots leader, anti-establishment firebrand, and future emperor; opposes both the Jin dynasty and the Mongol conquerors

Background: Zhang Xianzhong (1606–1647 in actual history) rose centuries after the Jin–Mongol conflict, leading massive peasant rebellions during the chaotic collapse of the Ming Dynasty. In this simulation, he has been brought back in time. Backed by starving peasants, displaced farmers, and former soldiers, Zhang rejects both the decaying Jin court and foreign Mongol rule, asserting that true authority should come from the common people’s will.

Perspective: Zhang Xianzhong sees conventional empires as corrupt, parasitic, and doomed to crumble under their greed. His brutal methods come with a radical promise: wealth seized from the rich, land divided among the poor, and power rebalanced from palaces to villages. Unlike soft idealists, he wields real military muscle and uses fear as much as hope to expand his realm. Though suspicious of diplomacy, he may strike deals if they buy time to strengthen his peasant “empire.”

Key Traits:

- Charismatic and fearsome rebel-king
- Master at exploiting chaos to flip power hierarchies
- Ruthless against elites, protective of peasant supporters
- Willing to disrupt fragile truces if it weakens both the Jin and Mongol Empires

In Committee: As a self-made emperor, Zhang Xianzhong brings a disruptive but insightful view: he will call out both the Jin’s decadent aristocracy and the Mongols’ foreign exploitation, arguing that neither deserves the people’s sweat and blood. He might push for land reform, grain redistribution, or temporary ceasefires to reposition his rebel army. Delegates representing Zhang should embrace his paradox: an emperor who speaks like a peasant but rules like a tyrant when needed.



Further Research Recommendations

You do not need to do any more research than is currently provided in the background guide! While the majority of characters are based on real life individuals, certain dates and figures have been modified for the sake of this committee. For instance, Genghis Khan died in 1227, yet in this simulation he is still living. Similarly, certain figures, like The Trader, are entirely fictitious, yet based on figures we believed to have existed in the time period based on our research.

All being said, you DO NOT need to do more research. However, you are more than welcome to conduct your own research or use our works cited as inspiration. Good luck and feel free to contact the chairs at secretariat@projectdelegate.org for any questions.



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