



CRUSADERS



HCC STUDY GUIDE

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Welcome Letter From The USG

Dear Delegates,

Its my great pleasure to welcome you all to this Historical Crisis Committee. As your Under-Secretary-General, I believe we will engage in a wonderful experience in these 3 days.

In this committee, history will not simply be discussed, it will be rewritten. You will be influential figures and decision-makers of the past, where every action you take may change the course of events.

I strongly encourage all delegates to come prepared not only with an understanding of the historical background, but also with strategies and plans for the events that will take place. Remember, in a crisis committee, your directives shape the narrative, and your decisions carry real consequences within the flow of the committee.

This study guide has been carefully prepared to provide you with the necessary background and context. It will provide the necessary information to be a successful delegate in this committee

I have full confidence that each of you will contribute to an engaging, competitive, and memorable committee experience. Please take initiative, be active, and most importantly, enjoy the process.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

Best Regards

Doğaç Bilgin

USG

Welcome From The Chairboard

Esteemed participants,

As the chair board of the Historical Crisis Committee, we warmly welcome you to MAFENMUN26. In this committee, you will be assigned specific historical figures who wielded significant influence during their time, rather than representing a country as a delegation. Regional beliefs, personal ambitions, patience, cunning, and determination will guide your journey as you strive to do what is best for yourselves and your country.

To ensure a productive and engaging committee, we highly encourage you to come prepared with thorough research and the determination to advocate for your beliefs, all while maintaining respect for your fellow participants in this distinguished conference. For first-time delegates, whether in Model United Nations or a crisis committee, rest assured that there is no need for anxiety. We will provide comprehensive explanations both in this study guide and during the committee discussions.

We hope that this MUN experience will be a delightful addition to your high school journey, enriching you socially, personally, and academically.

Best regards,

Introduction To The Committee

A Historical Crisis Committee (HCC) is a committee format which is highly different from any other kind of MUN committee (like GAs and such). It's not about discussion or finding solutions but it's driven by actual actions taken by real important people in a war or an event which took place in the past. The committee's procedure will be based on directives, which will allow you, the delegates, to perform any kind of action, strategy or scheme with a piece of paper. They will need to be extremely detailed to be accepted. Your directives and decisions will shape the fate of this committee. Our event from the past is the 3rd crusade which is a high scale war between two opposing sides, starting because of regional grounds. You will be in the shoes of Great leaders and important figures which have fought in this war and affected the course of history. You will have to navigate not only the battlefield but also the rivalries, and internal conflicts that define this period. Strategic thinking, and decisive action will be essential. Whether through military campaigns, diplomatic negotiations, or secret operations, every move you make will influence the balance of power. But in some cases some crises will happen which will not be under your control. You must navigate the situation carefully and make decisions under pressure to continue in your path. This committee challenges you to go beyond traditional debate. You are not merely observers of history; you are its architects. The fate of Jerusalem and the legacy of the Third Crusade now rests in your hands.

State Of The World in 1100s

WESTERN EUROPE

Western Europe in the 1100s was in a feudal era in which authority was not centered. Kings , but their power was often limited by powerful nobles, local lords, and the Church. Despite this, some monarchies were beginning to assert stronger centralized control.

The Kingdom of England, , was controlling a high amount of territories not only in the British Isles but also in France. Meanwhile, the Kingdom of France, though still politically rough, was slowly strengthening under the Capetian dynasty, wanting to assert authority over its vassals.

The Holy Roman Empire had a unique political structure , a confederation under an elected emperor. While powerful in theory, the emperor's authority was often disrupted by princes and regional rulers, making unity difficult. But the Empire remained a major force in European politics, especially under strong leaders.

In Europe, the Catholic Church was one of the major powers . The Papacy was not only strong but also had a lot of political influence, often affecting stuff between rulers and mobilizing large scale movements such as the Crusades.

ISLAMIC WORLD

While Europe was in a fragmented political situation, being in a time where feudality rules, the islamic world was living the opposite. Under the leadership of 3 different states. It was the era of science for them, they were much ahead than Europe in medicine, trade and economy thanks to cities like Damascus and Cairo.

The Ayyubid Sultanate, under the leadership of Saladin, was the strongest military force in the region. Founded after the decline of the Fatimid Caliphate in Egypt, the Ayyubid state expanded to include Egypt, Syria, and parts of Mesopotamia. Their ability to unify nearby muslim states was the key to expansion. However, this unity was not absolute. with territories often ruled by relatives. Short term loyalty was strengthened but it also created the potential for problems, especially in the event of leadership disputes.

By the late 12th century, the Great Seljuk Empire had declined, giving way to a series of smaller states, the most known among them was the Sultanate of Rum in Anatolia. Unlike the Ayyubids, the Seljuk world was politically fragmented. Authority was divided among various rulers, each pursuing their own priorities. Even though these made them much weaker they still controlled Anatolia and was a crucial state for the crusades.

The Abbasid Caliphate, centered in Baghdad, remained the heart of the Sunni Islamic world. However, near the start of this crusade, its political and military power had significantly declined. Real control in the middle east was in the hands of Ayyubid state and the Seljuks. But them, while respected, functioned as a symbolic state for the islamic world. But their control of the public opinion among the islamic people showed they still had some authority

BYZANTINE EMPIRE

The Byzantine Empire was no longer the big force it had once been. Instability, economic hardships, and military pressures had weakened its position. But, Byzantium remained important. It controlled some trade routes and was between Europe and Asia. Relations between Byzantium and Western Europe were complicated. Cultural differences and religious divisions caused distrust. For the Crusaders, Byzantium was both an ally and an enemy. For the Byzantines, the Crusaders were unpredictable and often dangerous.

THE CRUSADER STATE

Founded during the First Crusade, the Crusader States including the Kingdom of Jerusalem and more, represented the Western Christians in the Middle East. Near the war, these states were politically not stable and heavily dependent on support from Europe. Divisions among their leaders weakened their ability to respond effectively to threats. Disputes over succession, leadership, and strategy often disrupted unity. The fall of Jerusalem in 1187 showed these weaknesses. Despite their fortifications and military orders such as the Knights Templar and Knights Hospitaller, the Crusader States struggled to maintain cohesion in the face of a more unified Muslim opposition.

TRADE, ECONOMY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

In the 12th century trade was an essential part of diplomacy for countries. It was not just about selling or buying goods but it was also a method of exchanging technology, ideas and more. For trading several paths and routes were used. Most trades were made on land and not by sea. Routes were in the hands of several countries, and those countries asked for taxes to pass which made owning a state which was on a trade route really important.

WARFARE TECHNOLOGY

War in these times was not functioning by large battles, but by sieges, raids, skirmishes, and strategic positioning. While Control over land was important, it was more about defeating enemy armies and maintaining long term dominance through strategic positions and resource management. Campaigns were often seasonal, limited by weather conditions. Armies could not stay in the warzone without secure supply lines. Making logistics an important thing in any operation. Leadership played a critical role. Commanders were expected to manage morale, coordinate diverse forces, and adapt to rapidly changing conditions

Crusader armies had mostly feudal levies, armored knights, infantry, and support personnel. In these, the knight was the most iconic and strategically good unit. Heavy cavalry charges, when made effectively, could break enemy forces and create big advantages. Knights were equipped with armor, lances, and swords, making them great in close combat. Additionally, military orders such as the Knights Templar and Knights Hospitaller were a better fighting force. but the crusader armies had some problems caused by internal conflicts and dependency to new forces coming from europe. Also they did not adapt well to ney land and climate.

The Muslim forces under Saladin focused on mobility, and strategic patience. Cavalry played a huge role, (particularly light and medium cavalry which are fast). Rather than relying on direct confrontation, these

forces often used tactics like encirclement, and controlled retreats (like turan). Archery was another important part of the army. Mounted archers applied pressure on the enemy, weakening them before close engagement. One of the greatest strengths of Islamic forces was their adaptation ability. Commanders used long term strategy over fast victory, often not taking risks and focusing on attrition. This was really effective against enemy armies, which were often more impatient in their actions.

The most important thing about 12th century battle tactics was siege warfare. Cities and castles were the true centers of power, because they were controlling trade routes, resources, and regional authority. Capturing or defending a castle could change the fate of an entire war. Siege technologies included Battering rams for breaking gates, Siege towers for scaling walls, Trebuchets and mangonels for ranged attacks and Mining techniques to undermine fortifications. But, sieges were taking a lot of time and resources. They required planning, and high amounts of supply. But it was worth it because sieges are necessary to end a conflict for good. There were various tactics for sieges. For example you could starve soldiers inside and disrupt their logistics by just not letting them come out and damaging their castle with siege weapons, forcing them to either die or come out of the fortified place. Please remember, These types of tactics will decide who will win this war.

A good logistical system was one of the most important things about war in the 1100s. Supplying troops with food, water, weapons, and medical care was a constant challenge. Crusader forces, operating far from home, were particularly vulnerable. They relied heavily on sea supply routes, often sent by Italian city-states. In contrast, Muslims were from operating closer to their core territories, allowing better supply lines. Control of ports, trade routes was just as important as battlefield victories.

Naval forces played a crucial role in the Crusades. Italian states like Venice, Genoa, and Pisa provided ships, and logistical support. Their involvement was because of economic and religious reasons. Control of the Mediterranean allowed for Transportation of troops, supplies, Blockades of enemy ports and Rapid reinforcement.

Background of the crusades

.Reasoning

All the crusaders weren't merely connected to a single reason, however also to religious, economic, cultural and other reasons as well. At the end of the 11th century, the Christian religion had become powerful in Europe, and the head of the Catholic Church was willing to reunite the Christian world for a joint reason. In this period, Jerusalem and other blessed cities were under the control of the Muslim people. The thought of regaining these cities for the Christian people has been the most essential reason for the crusades. Moreover, Papa was aiming to minimise knights and nobles' validation and directing them to other enemies.

.1st Crusade

The 1st Crusade began with Pope II. Urbanus's calling upon in 1096. It aimed to regain Jerusalem and other sacred regions. Crusaders who had come from other lands with the assistance of the Byzantine empire were moving to the east. During these actions, the Crusaders, who led to a lot of battles and sieges, managed to retake their important cities. Lastly, Jerusalem was besieged by crusaders and fell to the Crusaders in 1099. After this crucial siege, the Kingdom of Jerusalem and the other Crusader States were established; therefore the 1st Crusade is identified as the most successful crusade ever.

. 2st Crusade

The 2nd Crusade started in 1096, and the ultimate reason was that the county of Edessa had been taken over by the Muslim people. This incident caused to enhance tension in Europe and furthermore another Crusade siege. Essential individuals had attended these fights, for

instance, the French King VII. Louis and the German King III. Konrad. While Crusade forces have passed through the Mediterranean, they have lost a huge number of their soldiers. Later in this event, the Crusades stepped into a new siege, which was focusing on conquering the city of Damascus.

.Reasoning for the 3rd Crusade

The significant point is the Battle of Hattin for the 3rd Crusade, which was between the Crusaders and the forces of Saladin. The crusade had been going on to protect Tiberias; however, Saladin tracked them carefully and obstructed the Crusaders' access to their water sources. Due to the summer heat and dehydration, the Crusaders had to face difficult problems.

Saladin's forces surrounded the crusaders, and the crusaders had to sustain losses on 4 July 1187. At the end of the battle, the Jerusalem king Guy of Lusignan, Reynald de Chatillon and other major individuals had been captured, and a large number of the Crusader soldiers had been destroyed as well. Saladin spared Guy of Lusignan, and he indicated that to not do any opposite action against the muslim people; however, he executed Reynald de Chatillon as he had vowed before.

After this victory, Saladin had conquered Crusader castles and cities with his fellows and aimed for Jerusalem. Moreover, he besieged Jerusalem, and it didn't last long due to issues regarding the number of soldiers and other sources.

Balian threatened to destroy the Muslim holy sites and fight to the end if the city fell. In conclusion, the two sides entered into negotiations. In the end, Jerusalem surrendered instead of being taken by force.

SUMMARY OF THE THIRD CRUISADE

The Third Crusade (1189–1192)

Beginning

After the surrender of Jerusalem, Pope Gregory VIII firmly believed that Jerusalem could remain under Muslim control; therefore, he made a critical announcement to regain Jerusalem for the crusade's religious value. Pope Gregory VIII has mentioned that the individuals who don't commit with us will be excommunicated, Furthermore he conducted a new tax named tithe Saladine. He wasn't merely able to gather Richard I of England, Philip II of France, and Friedrich Barbarossa under a single force for the Crusades; he also had essential commanders, for instance, Leopold V, Duke of Austria, Conrad of Montferrat, and a few esteemed knight templars. With the significant contributions of Friedrich Barbarossa, they assembled the largest army for the crusaders' sieges, and most of it was German due to Friedrich Barbarossa's forces. After assembling the Crusader forces, Philip II of France, I. Richard and their forces were determined to arrive by ship at the old city called Acra (today's Acre). Additionally, Friedrich Barbarossa was obstinating to march overland. However, Friedrich Barbarossa's event caused critical problems.

Firstly, Friedrich Barbarossa began marching into the Kingdom of Hungary and got the assistance of the Hungarian king III Bela. Then he aimed to move toward Constantinople. The Byzantine Empire didn't demand Barbarossa's forces to march on its land, however. As a result of the Battle of Myriokephalon, the Byzantine Empire wasn't as strong as it used to be; therefore, the Byzantine Empire had no chance to prevent them. During Friedrich's force crossing over the Byzantine Empire, they

destroyed and burned the Byzantine capital city, “Adrianople”, and harmed civilians as well. For unknown motives, Barbarossa’s force didn’t pass through Constantinople; it crossed over into the Hellespont (The Dardanelles). Some claims express that II Isaakios had an agreement with Saladin Eyyubi to prevent Barbarossa’s force as much as they could in order to be protected by Saladin Eyyubi. Secondly, after Barbarossa passed through the Byzantine Empire, he had to face the Seljuk Empire. Since II Kilicarslan was very old and the Seljuk Empire wasn’t that powerful, he didn’t consider fighting with Barbarossa and had to allow Barbarossa on their lands; however, II Kilicarslan’s sons were highly against this idea and until Barbarossa’s force arrived at Icaniom. II Kilicarslan and Barbarossa were about to manage a compromise, but II Kilicarslan’s sons didn’t hesitate to attack Barbarossa. Although it was unsuccessful, II Kilicarslan’s son could give casualties to Barbarossa. When Barbarossa and his force had been resting, Barbarossa went to bathe in the Göksu River, and he died by drowning. After his death, his son VI Friedrich took control of the force. The German force wasn’t satisfied with VI Friedrich becoming the commander of the force, which led the German force to be unmotivated and disappointed at the same time.

Development Of The War

The German force wasn’t satisfied with VI Friedrich becoming the commander of the force, which led the German force to be unmotivated and disappointed at the same time; meanwhile, the Turkmens began to assault the German force with the news of Barbarossa’s death. Some of the soldiers had left the force due to Barbarossa’s death and the last assault of the Turkmens. During this time, Philip II arrived in Acre and before Saladin noticed that action, it was too late for him to be there. Guy de Lusignan has already mustered troops from the Christians who moved to Tyre after the Jerusalem siege.

A huge number of Christian soldiers were gathered together and joined Guy de Lusignan’s force, and just as many soldiers were coming by ships as well. Additionally, some other ships and the ship carrying the

funds collected to finance the Crusade had also been driven onto the shores of Cyprus, and also King Richard's fiancée and sister were on the ship carrying the funds. The Moment II Isakios was informed regarding the ships. II Isakios captured Richard's fiancée and his sister. To rescue his fiancée and sister, King Richard landed in Cyprus on May 6, and he seized Cyprus with his forces. II Isakios was captured at Cape Victory, located on the Karpas Peninsula, the northernmost point of Cyprus. After capturing II Isakios, King Richard started moving to Acre.



At this stage, Saladin directed a force to relieve Acre, which just caused his forces to die, due to the unwavering support of the Crusades. A strong winter could be seen, although the whole forces hadn't arrived at the Acre yet in 1190. This winter caused many illnesses in the camps. Furthermore, this Winter had delayed the siege until 8 June 1191. Finally, King Richard and his force have landed on the Acre, and the Crusaders began preparing, constructing catapults.

It was impossible to receive an assessment from outside for the Muslim people who live in Acre. Lastly, the Crusaders charged to the Acre Castle and destroyed the whole city. 2700 Muslim Soldiers and 300 Women and children were captured. Saladin was seen with Crusader captives across from the castle and indicated that if any Muslim got harmed, all of these Crusader Captives would have died. However, King Richard didn't hesitate and executed all the Muslim captives in front of Saladin.

In this period, Barbarossa's son Friedrich died in the Acre Siege, and the French King Philip had to return to his country because of his illness. Richard gathered the whole force and considered moving toward the beach side to Jaffa. When Richard and his force were going to Jaffa, he was also seizing the coastal cities. Saladin had been tracking them and faced them in Arsuf. They both have engaged in battle. The battle of Arsuf ended with Saladin's abandonment, and both sides sustained a critical amount of losses. Moreover, Richard conquered Jaffa. In the end, the Crusader forces were exhausted and had to take a rest.

Throughout this period, Saladin had destroyed a wealthy city called Ascalon. Ascalon has been utilising Force assistance. In any case, King Richard would conquer the city. Saladin destroyed the whole beautiful city. Richard was having issues in Cyprus. In order to resolve these issues, he sold Cyprus to the Knights Templar. Saladin has dispatched half of his force to Egypt, and the other half has been dispatched to Jerusalem. King Richard had seized the opportunity of that action and overran Ramla. He stayed in Ramla for 6 weeks. On 3 January, King Richard occupied Beit Nuha, which was 19 km away from Jerusalem. This was the closest position that Richard could have taken to Jerusalem. At this time, the force which had been sent to Egypt was returning, and they had realised that Beit Nuha had been occupied. They notified Saladin regarding Beit Nuha and camped near Beit Nuha. The Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitaller have mentioned that it would be impossible to conquer Jerusalem going from top to bottom. For this reason, we have to return. King Richard has been convinced by the Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitaller, therefore they returned to Ramla, and they besieged Ascalon and conquered it in a short time. After conquering Ascalon, they started rebuilding the city. Richard firmly

understood how essential Ascalon is and stayed in Ascalon for 4 months.

Richard Force has been facing serious problems over the last month, and some French commanders and their forces demanded the return of Acre due to a conflict that arose between the captains of the Pisan and Genoese fleets stationed in the port of Acre, leading the Pisans to attempt to take control of the city. Saladin utilised this opportunity and resorted to harassing the Crusaders through ambushes. Saladin has taken control of Ramla again. King Richard had to pursue French commanders in July 1192; at the same time, Saladin had conquered Jaffa in 3 days. However, Richard arrived back by ship, and he could take control of the city again. Saladin's force was able to abandon, although they had sustained losses. Furthermore, Saladin learnt that more support was arriving in Jaffa; therefore, he reorganised his force and attacked again. However, it wasn't successful.

After all of these battles, King Richard contracted a serious disease, and new reinforcements have arrived from Syria and Egypt for Saladin. Saladin was waiting with his forces in Jerusalem. Richard was concerned about the recent events in England, such as his brother usurping his throne. Richard was willing to negotiate and go back to his country, and he had no choice but to negotiate.

Conclusion

The Treaty of Jaffa was negotiated by both sides due to King Richard's problems in England and his illness.

- 1 Jerusalem would remain under the control of Muslims
- 2 The permanent visiting would be recognised for Christian individuals
- 3 The Crusaders would retain the coastal cities.

Saladin has strategically won because he protected Jerusalem; however, Richard hasn't utterly failed. Crusaders were retaining the coastal cities, and they were able to have access to visiting their holy city.

Key Figures

I. Richard was king of England from 1189 to 1199. He took control of the Mediterranean Sea with the triumphing Siege of Acre. He won decisive battles against Saladin and the Muslim people.

II. Philippe had a critical role in The Third Crusade by assisting in the Siege of Acre as a comrade to Richard of England.

I. Friedrich Barbarossa was one of the strongest leaders in the Third Crusade. He assembled a huge German army. He was an enemy of the Seljuks, and his death affected the Third Crusade very deeply.

Guy of Lusignan was king of Jerusalem and also the ultimate reason to begin the Third Crusade due to his loss in the Battle of Hattin, which led to his capture

Conrad of Montferrat was a great commander for the Crusaders by achieving a significant victory in preventing Tyre after the Battle of Hattin.

Leopold V was the leader of Austria's forces. He had taken part in the Siege of Acre, therefore this action led to an increase in the tension between Richard I of England and him.

Hugh III of Burgundy supported the Crusaders by bringing his forces. He had joined the Siege of Acre and took a crucial role in the battle. Also, after Philip II of France had returned to France, he controlled most of the French troops.

Henry II of Champagne became the new king by marrying Isabella I of Jerusalem after Conrad of Montferrat's death. He also entered the Siege of Acre and established close relations with Richard I of England; therefore, he had significant diplomatic roles.

Pope Gregory VIII was the person who started the Third Crusade. He called upon Christian rulers to reclaim Jerusalem after its capture by Saladin; his call caused Richard I of England, Philip II of France and Frederick I Barbarossa to attend the Crusade.

Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub was the leader of the Muslim Side. He regained Jerusalem, which sent shockwaves throughout Europe. He negotiated the compromise of Jaffa with Richard the Lionheart to ensure that Jerusalem remained under Muslim control.

Al-Adil I was the brother of Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub and the most reliable commander for him. He greatly helped Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub in the Political section and also took a major role in the army and took measures.

Al-Afdal was the son of Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub and accomplished as an essential commander. He served in the Muslim Army with his dad, Saladin, by protecting Jerusalem.

Seljuk Sultan (Kilij Arslan II) was the sultan of the Greek Seljuk State. He attempted to resist the passage of the Crusader armies through Anatolia and opposed Frederick Barbarossa's forces during the Third Crusade.

Robert de Sable became Grand Master of the Knights Templar in 1191. He provided support to Richard the Lionheart in military operations against Saladin and led Templar forces at the Siege of Acre.

Garnier de Nablus served as the Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaller and joined the siege of Acre. He utterly had an essential role in the Crusader Victory at the Battle of Arsuf.

Baha ad-Din ibn Shaddad was the closest advisor to Saladin during the Third Crusade. He influenced diplomatic affairs, played a key role in negotiating truces, and provided an eyewitness account of the campaign in his historical articles.

Imad ad-Din al-Isfahani held the position of Saladin's secretary and chronicler at the same time. He has been conducting diplomatic correspondence and documenting. Also, Saladin has always gotten advice from him regarding diplomatic matters.

Byzantine Empire was not utterly involved in the battle; however, it served as a key player in diplomatic actions. Due to protecting its own Empire during the Third Crusade. The Byzantine Empire allowed Frederick I Barbarossa's forces to pass through its own lands, which had been profoundly affected by the crusade.

Taqi ad-din was the nephew of Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub and also an important commander in the Battle of Arsuf as well. He operated the Muslim Forces regarding the discovery and conservation.

Az-zahir Ghazi was one of the Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub's sons and acted as a youthful prince. He handled many military and political duties during the Third Crusade. He highly contributed to preventing Aleppo, he emerged a prominent member of the dynasty and helped maintain Ayyubid control in northern Syria following Saladin's death.

Abbasid Caliphate wasn't directly committed to the battle; however, it provided religious legitimacy and moral support to the Muslim individuals during the Third Crusade.

Zengid Dynasty truly assisted the Muslims and cooperated with Saladin's forces regarding the broader resistance against the Crusaders. They had left a legacy to Saladin, which caused him to establish his rise.

Al-Aziz Uthman was also one of the sons of Saladin too. He supported the administration of Egypt and contributed to the Ayyubid war effort against the Crusaders.

Balian of Ibelin defended Jerusalem in 1187 and negotiated its surrender to Saladin. He held an essential political and diplomatic role during the Third Crusade.

The Order of Assassins (Nizari Isma'ili Shia Islamic military order) was founded by Hasan-i Sabbah in 1090. It is firmly believed that they have killed hundreds of people who were deemed enemies of their state over the course of 200 years, including other Shias (the Fatimids), as well as Sunnis (the Abbasids and Seljuks) and Christians (the Crusaders) alike. They didn't fight against huge forces; they remained with assassins and secret operations. They were instrumental in the battle by assassinating Conrad of Montferrat.