



FIRAMUN '26

FIRA MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2026

LAS CORTES DE GRANADA

AGENDA ITEM:
THE CAPTIVITY OF BOABDIL
AND THE FUTURE OF
ALANDALUS

UNDER SECRETARY
GENERAL:
YASEMIN RAITHEL &
MUSTAFA AKCA
ACADEMIC ASSISTANT:
EZEL ALEM

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1. Welcome Letters

1.1. Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Participants,

As the Secretaries-General of FIRAMUN'26, we are very happy to welcome you to Antalya for the first edition of our conference, which will take place from September 1st to September 3rd, 2026.

When we first started planning FIRAMUN'26, we had a simple goal: to organize a conference that we would enjoy attending ourselves. Since then, our executive, academic, and organization teams have spent months working on every part of the event. There have been long meetings, difficult decisions, last-minute changes, and a great deal of excitement. Now, we are finally ready to share the result with you.

During these three days, you will discuss real problems, defend your representative's position, disagree with one another, and hopefully find solutions together. Some moments may be challenging, especially for those attending their first MUN conference. That is completely normal. Nobody enters their first committee knowing exactly what to say or when to speak. What matters is having the courage to participate.

For experienced delegates, we hope FIRAMUN'26 gives you something different to remember. For first-time delegates, we hope it becomes the beginning of a much longer MUN journey. Either way, do not spend the whole conference worrying about awards. Take the floor, meet the people around you, make mistakes, and enjoy the experience.

A conference is shaped by the people in its committee rooms. We have done our best to prepare those rooms for you. What happens inside them is now in your hands.

We hope you leave FIRAMUN'26 with good memories, new friends, and at least one story you will still be telling months later.

Lastly, we want to finish our letter with Father of Turks, our visionary Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's delightful phrase:

"You, the young people of the new Türkiye! Even if you grow exhausted, you will follow me. Those who resolve to keep walking without resting will never, ever grow tired."

Welcome to FIRAMUN'26. Requiem Aeternam!

Sincerely,

Baran İNCE & Doruk ŞENTÜRK
Secretaries-General of FIRAMUN'26

1.2. Letter from the Under Secretaries-General

Honorable Delegates and Esteemed Participants,

We feel a great honor and excitement to host you in the Las Cortes de Granada (1487) committee. As the Under-Secretaries-General together with our academic and crisis teams, we aimed to prepare a simulation with high historical depth and intellectually challenging, which leaves the final act of the Reconquista process in the Iberian Peninsula and the fate of the eight-century Andalusian civilization entirely in your hands.

This committee, starting in the burning atmosphere of the Siege of Malaga in the year 1487, possesses a unique hybrid mechanism transcending the limits of traditional Model United Nations and crisis formats. In this parliament, the line between the noise of the siege cannons of the fifteenth century and the delicate surrender contracts (Capitulaciones) of the diplomacy table completely disappears. The roles you represent are not names consisting only of the dusty pages of history; each of you are high-level decision-makers struggling for the survival of their states, the legitimacy of their dynasties, and the honor of their beliefs at the dawn of Early Modern Period Europe. You are face to face with the Nasrid Palace trying to protect its eight-hundred-year legacy and shaken by internal contentions on one hand, and the Catholic Monarchy trying to unite feudal power centers around a central throne on the other hand.

Our main purpose while designing this special committee is to encourage you to be versatile leaders capable of producing binding diplomatic agreements possessing legal, religious, and financial dimensions while managing logistical, military, and intelligence crises in the field at the same time. The final result of this parliament is not condemned to a predetermined fate as written in history books. Rewriting the flow of history with an uncompromising resistance you will show in the field, guerrilla raids to be organized to the border lines, secret alliances to be whispered behind the scenes, or a fair peace text to be penned at the table completely depends on your vision and your strategic genius. Throughout the discussions we expect you to go beyond oratory based only on heroism; and to meticulously calculate the provision stocks of your armies, the internal balances of your palaces, and the political results every directive you will press a seal under will yield.

We hope that this study guide meticulously prepared by our Academic and Crisis teams and the dynamic scenario fiction in the background presents you an unforgettable and instructive parliament experience. Our belief that you will display a passionate, principled, and high diplomatic maturity performance in these sessions where you will determine the fate of Granada and Iberia is complete.

We wish you all success and hope you have a productive and history-shaping conference.

Sincerely,

Mustafa Akca

Under-Secretary-General

Yasemin Raithel

Under-Secretary-General

1.3. Letter from the Academic Assistant

Dear Delegates,

I, as the Academic Assistant of the Las Cortes de Granada committee I am Ezel Alem and I welcome you all to FIRAMUN'26, also our committee.

First of all, I'd like to receive my thanks to the Executive Team and my Under Secretaries General's to make this opportunity possible for my Model United Nations life. I'm so glad to be a part of this committee.

I suggest you read and study our committee sensitively due to the fact that it is crucial for the progression of the committee since the background history of the Granada War was not only a circumstance that commenced in 1483. The harassment attacks had mostly decided the fate of the war. Does eventuate our committee beneficial and successfully, delegates ought to comprehend guide.

I hope that you consider our suggestions, I can not wait to see you in the conference.

Warm Regards,
Ezel Alem
Academic Assistant

2. Introduction to the Committee

2.1. Nature and Purpose of Special Committees and the Las Cortes de Granada

Special Committees are unique platforms specially designed to reenact the most critical turning points of history or the future, without adhering to standard and uniform rules of procedure in Model United Nations simulations worldwide. These structures, diverging from the strict diplomatic conventions of traditional General Assembly committees and the purely operational limits of classical crisis rooms; offer a flexible decision-making mechanism capable of melting a senate debate, a historical parliamentary session, a military headquarters, or a multilateral peace table in the same pot. The need for such committees stems from the fact that the most complex turning points of international relations and diplomatic history cannot be fully simulated solely through theoretical speeches or merely backroom moves. Special Committees, with their hybrid procedures designed in accordance with the spirit, political dynamics, and balances of power of the represented era, grant

delegates the opportunity both to manage the military reality on the ground and to produce binding decisions at the table.

The simulation of Las Cortes de Granada (1487) is situated at the heart of a historical showdown that determined the political fate of the Iberian Peninsula and the Mediterranean basin in general at the end of the fifteenth century. The nature of this parliament relies on the ultimate struggle for sovereignty between the Emirate of Granada, the last stronghold of the eight-century Andalusian Islamic civilization, and the Crown of Castile and Aragon, which sought to establish a unified Christian monarchy. However, this committee is not a simple field of military conflict where two sides merely confront each other on battlefields. Las Cortes is a multi-layered laboratory of power that brings together under a single parliamentary roof, on one hand, the conflicting interests of feudal nobles, military orders, church hierarchy, and royal bureaucracy with the central monarchy; and on the other hand, the relentless struggles for the throne, palace intrigues, resistance of border garrisons, and the people's desire for independence within the Nasrid Dynasty.

The primary purpose of the committee is not merely to leave delegates in the position of orators defending the official theses of their own states or dynasties, but also to place upon them the responsibility of becoming high-level decision-makers personally managing the military, financial, administrative, and religious mechanisms of a state. While delegates conduct open diplomacy and seek alliances in the hall, they will simultaneously dispatch armies, direct siege fortifications, organize naval blockades, and strive to preserve their influence along the border regions through directives they will send to the Crisis Desk. In this process, success will be measured not by sheer superiority of military power, but by the strategic balance to be established between the grinding reality of war on the ground and the legal and diplomatic maneuvering capacity at the table.

Las Cortes de Granada operates on a vibrant alternative history ground where historical reality intersects with fictional possibilities. Although the initial conditions of the Siege of Malaga in 1487 and the power balances of the actors are based on archive documents and military data of the period, how history will unfold is left entirely to the strategic genius, crisis management skills of the parliament members, and the secret or open alliances they will establish with each other. Delegates possess direct authority to rewrite the fate of Iberia, develop diplomatic maneuvers to extend the lifespan of the Nasrid State, or establish the unity of Spain while observing feudal balances. This structure aims to provide participants with the experience of being not merely passive observers of history, but sovereign actors personally shaping it.

2.2. Hybrid Procedure: Transition from Crisis Format to Peace Agreement Format

The Las Cortes de Granada simulation is built upon a unique hybrid procedure that brings together the variable military dynamism of war and the binding legal weight of diplomacy, transcending the uniform rules of procedure of classical Model United Nations committees. In the Iberia of 1487, where the Middle Ages closed and the Early Modern Period began, war and diplomacy were not two separate processes independent of each other, but two main pillars feeding each other in the same strategic struggle. The hybrid procedure, designed by staying loyal to this historical reality, allows the delegates to act as both a

military commander managing the field and a diplomatic representative determining the fate of the state in the same hall. The process consists of two main phases structurally and operationally separated from each other: the Active Crisis Phase and the Peace Agreement (Treaty) Phase.

In the Crisis Phase forming the beginning of the committee, the parties are directly included in the hot conflict environment while sitting face to face on a single cabinet floor. In this stage, the parliament procedure is fast, flexible, and operationally focused. While delegates make speeches at the rostrum and seek open alliances; they dispatch army units, position artillery batteries, strengthen siege fortifications, organize logistical supply lines, or plan covert assassination and sabotage operations by means of individual, joint, or military directives. The Crisis Desk constantly updates the balances in the field with time skips by evaluating these moves of the delegates. The crisis phase is not locked to a predetermined duration or an artificial end; the military conflict is sustained until the final point it can reach in the direction of the endurance and strategic decisions of the parties.

The transition from this phase to the Peace Agreement phase takes place at the turning point where the military attrition in the field, siege conditions, and diplomatic pressures force the parties to compromise. The conditions of the transition completely depend on the performance of the delegates in the field. If the Granada defense bloc maintains its military and logistical resistance in the lines in and around Malaga and inflicts heavy casualties on the Christian army, or if the Castile bloc chooses to seek a strategic compromise by lowering costs, the Crisis Desk moves the parliament to the official agreement format. In contrast, if one of the parties completely collapses the enemy defense in the field and wins an absolute victory of annihilation, the committee can also be concluded with the provisions of direct unconditional surrender or military rout without seeing any mutual bargaining table.

When the official transition is declared by the Crisis Desk, the rules of procedure and the working method of the committee undergo a radical transformation. The crisis mechanism based on a fast flow of directives leaves its place to a more rule-based parliament order where articles are written one by one, legal frameworks are discussed, and votings are held. In this stage, the delegates use their bargaining powers at the table in proportion to the military superiority they obtained or the resistance they maintained with sword and cannon in the crisis phase.

At the agreement phase, the parties establish joint working groups and pen the historical surrender and peace contract (*Capitulaciones*) that will determine the future of Iberia. Among the main topics to be negotiated are the ownership of border lines and strategic castles, the freedom of religious worship of the Muslim and Jewish population in the conquered cities, life and property security guarantees, the jurisdiction of sharia courts, the annual tribute and war reparations to be paid, and the ransoms of the captives. Every prepared article is negotiated across the parliament, revised with amendment motions, and turned into a binding peace text by being accepted with the determined voting majority. The hybrid procedure thus presents a complete cycle of strategy and diplomacy where every military move in the field becomes a legal trump card at the table.

2.3. Basic Terminology

In order to correctly grasp the historical background, military dynamics, and legal ground of the Las Cortes de Granada simulation, a profound understanding of the political, military, and religious concepts specific to the period is required. Reconquista (Reconquest), which defines the eight-century Christian expansion in the Iberian Peninsula and the ideal of putting an end to Muslim sovereignty, is not only a military expansion for the Castile and Aragon monarchy of the period, but at the same time a theological mission blessed with Cruzada (Crusade) bulls declared by the Papacy and collected special religious taxes. The concept of Mudejar is used to define the Muslim subjects who entered under Christian dominance as a result of this conquest movement but were allowed to protect their own religions, traditions, and certain legal autonomies. The former Muslim communities that were converted to Catholicism through pressure, threat of exile, or forced baptism in the ensuing processes, on the other hand, are called Morisco.

In the administrative and feudal mechanisms of the kingdoms, on the other hand, decisive institutions stand out in terms of both Christian and Islamic law. The feudal legislative and advisory organ where nobles, the clergy, and city representatives negotiated tax, army gathering, and war decisions with the royalty is referred to as Cortes. The official surrender contracts signed between the parties during the process of besieged cities surrendering or making peace; which determine freedom of religion, property rights, authorities of sharia courts, and migration conditions, are called Capitulaciones. While the urban militia organization established by the Crown of Castile directly tied to the royalty for the purpose of reining in the arbitrary power of feudal nobles and ensuring rural public order is known as Santa Hermandad (Holy Brotherhood); the process of directly tying the grand mastership office and properties of knight orders possessing tremendous wealth and military power such as Santiago, Calatrava, and Alcantara to the monarchy is expressed with the term Maestrazgo. The heavy annual tribute and tax order that the Emirate of Granada regularly paid to the Christian kingdoms in order to be able to maintain its existence in the past, on the other hand, is called Parias.

When examined in terms of the battlefield and military doctrine, the terms reflecting the military revolution and technological transformation of the period are directly decisive in the operational flow of the committee. The giant siege cannons of the period used for the purpose of battering the walls and opening breaches in sieges, throwing stone and iron cannonballs of hundreds of kilograms, are called Lombarda. The traditional Andalusian and Maghrebian cavalry forming the most effective striking force of the Granada army against the Christian heavy cavalry, lightly armored, extremely agile, and based on the tactic of organizing sudden raids with spears and swords and retreating rapidly, constitute the Cinet class. While the fanatic mercenary infantry units brought from the steep mountains of North Africa and rejecting surrender with a definite language are known by the name Gomara; the Alcazaba (El-Kasaba) representing the administrative and military inner castle in defense architecture, the Gibralfaro (Cebel-i Faruk) being the strategic observation and fortified defense fortress on high hills, and the protected corridor with crenellations on both sides connecting these two fortifications, on the other hand, are defined as La Coracha.

The fractional terms determining the internal political balances and intra-parliamentary contentions of the Emirate of Granada, on the other hand, form the backbone of the palace intrigues. While the rooted tribe representing the richest merchant elites, property owners, and the pro-Boabdil moderate palace bureaucracy of the city is referred to as Beni Sirrac (Abencerrajes); the warrior clan defending the border castles, army commanders, and an uncompromising jihad policy against Christians is known as Zegri (Tegri / Hamad al-Tegri faction). While the monarch who is the owner of the throne in the Nasrid dynasty is given the title of Emir or Sultan, the prime minister who conducts the bureaucratic administration, diplomatic letters, and agreement texts of the state is called the Chief Vizier. This whole of concepts ensures that the delegates both conduct a diplomacy suitable to the historical context throughout the simulation and strategically use the institutional tools of the period in the crisis and agreement processes.

3. Crisis Procedure

3.1. Nature and Purpose of the Crisis

Crisis committees, unlike the classical MUN format, take as a basis a more dynamic, fast, and scenario-based negotiation structure. The main purpose of these committees is to include delegates in decision-making processes in international crisis environments that develop instantly and to simulate how real-world diplomacy functions under pressure. With this aspect, crisis committees highlight not only policy production but also the abilities of strategic thinking, giving fast reactions, and making multidimensional analysis.

Because of the nature of crisis committees, events do not progress in a linear way. Periodic “updates” provided by the Crisis Directorate remind delegates that the international environment they are in is constantly changing. These changes can sometimes be a military development, sometimes an economic shock, and sometimes a rupture occurring in domestic politics. While responding to these developments, delegates must consider national interests, regional balances, and international law at the same time.

Another important aspect of crisis committees is that individual and collective action constantly affect each other. Delegates both work in coordination with their own crisis cabinets and participate in the diplomatic processes carried out in the committee in general. This two-way structure closely reflects real-world decision-making mechanisms. In addition, every decision made, every directive written, and every strategy created directly shapes the course of the committee; that is, the actions of the delegates produce results.

The purpose of crisis committees is not only to bring a situation under control. It is also to understand why crises emerge, evaluate their possible consequences, and develop sustainable solutions. For this reason, committees encourage delegates to think about both short-term urgent intervention and long-term stability. As a result, crisis committees provide the opportunity for delegates to develop a comprehensive perspective in interconnected fields such as international politics, military strategy, economy, society, and security.

3.2. How Will the Crisis Operate in Las Cortes de Granada

This committee, completely different from traditional double-cabinet crisis simulations, will operate in a single-cabinet and hybrid structure where the Castile and Granada delegations are located together in the same hall. The simulation will start directly from the hot conflict environment with the Siege of Malaga, which is the historical breaking point in the year 1487. While all of the twenty delegates negotiate face to face on the same parliament floor; on the one hand, they will conduct political and diplomatic discussions in the open session, and on the other hand, they will personally manage the military attacks, city defense, artillery fires, logistical supply lines, and covert operations with the directives they will send to the Crisis Desk. This joint presence in the hall will offer the delegates a rich area of intrigue such as establishing secret alliances between delegations, making concessions behind the scenes, drawing commanders from the opposing side to their own ranks, or whispering secret surrender conditions, in addition to the open front war. The course of the war and the siege will not depend on a strict scenario written in advance by the Crisis Desk, and will progress as far as it goes in the direction of the risks and military decisions the delegates will take. Whether the committee will pass to a peace and surrender agreement (Treaty) phase or not completely depends on the military balance in the field and the resistance of the parties. If the Granada side shows resistance militarily and logistically in the lines in and around Malaga, succeeds in wearing down the Christian army, and maintains a bargaining power that can sit at the table; or if both sides reach a balance where they cannot destroy each other with a definitive blow, the committee will be passed to the agreement phase. However, if one of the parties completely crushes the other in the military field, and wins an absolute victory of annihilation by completely collapsing the defense lines, the committee will also be able to be completed with the results of direct unconditional surrender or military rout without seeing any mutual agreement table.

3.3. Transition to Agreement Procedure

At the point where the military attrition in the field, siege conditions, and political maneuvers force both sides to compromise, the Crisis Desk will take the committee out of the crisis mode and transition it into an official Peace and Surrender Parliament (Treaty) format. This transition will transform the fast and variable pace of the committee into a more rule-based, article-based, and diplomatic-heavy negotiation process. At the agreement phase, the delegates will sit at the table with the bargaining power they obtained in proportion to their successes or losses in the field throughout the crisis, and will begin to pen the final peace text (Capitulaciones) that will determine the future of the Iberian Peninsula.

The main topics to be handled at the negotiation table will be; under which kingdom's control the borders and castles will remain, the life, property, and ownership rights of the Muslim population in the conquered or surrendered cities, freedom of religious worship, the autonomy of sharia courts, the amount of annual tribute or war reparations to be paid, and the ransoms of the captives. The delegations will prepare the agreement articles by establishing joint working groups, present amendment motions on the articles, and open each article to a vote across the parliament. This process will be the final diplomatic test where history is rewritten by turning the positions won or lost with sword and cannon in the crisis phase into a legal agreement text.

3.4. Types of Directives

Particularly in crisis or special committees, directives are a crucial component of delegate interaction and strategy. These directives, categorized mainly into personal, joint, and intelligence directives, allow delegates to shape the committee's decisions and outcomes actively. Each type of directive serves a specific function and context.

3.4.1. Personal Directives

Personal directives are unilateral actions taken by a single delegate, representing their assigned country or character. These directives are crafted solely by the delegate without the need for collaboration or approval from other participants, although their effectiveness might depend on the reactions of others in the committee. A typical personal directive includes specific actions, policy implementations, or responses to crises that align with the delegate's national policy and objectives. These directives can range from military maneuvers and diplomatic negotiations to economic measures and public statements. The main purpose of a personal directive is to assert a delegate's position, make immediate decisions, and respond to unfolding events in the simulation. They allow for quick, decisive action that can significantly influence the committee's direction.

3.4.2. Joint Directives

Joint directives are collaborative efforts where two or more delegates come together to form a consensus on a particular action or policy. These directives require negotiation, cooperation, and sometimes compromise among the involved parties. These directives typically cover actions or policies that benefit from or require multilateral support, such as international agreements, coordinated military actions, or joint humanitarian aid efforts. The effectiveness of joint directives often hinges on their ability to gather widespread support or create coalitions. They demonstrate the power of diplomacy and collective action in addressing complex international issues.

3.4.3. Intelligence Directives

Intelligence directives are unique to crisis committees and involve the management and use of information to gain strategic advantages. These directives can be issued by individual delegates or groups and are directed at the crisis staff who simulate intelligence agencies and other informational resources. Intelligence directives request or direct the gathering, analysis, and dissemination of crucial information relevant to the ongoing crisis or committee scenario. They may involve espionage, reconnaissance, or the securing of confidential communications. The primary goal of intelligence directives is to enhance a delegate's situational awareness and strategic positioning by obtaining valuable, often secret, information that can influence the committee's decisions and outcomes.

3.4.4. Committee Directives

It is the type of directive written by the committee together. It is a type of directive written for solutions to very important crises. For example, since the atomic bombing of

Japan by the USA in the Second World War was a major development, it requires the signature of the entire committee and is considered a committee directive.

3.4.5. Top Secret Directives

Top Secret Directives cover actions involving high secrecy by nature that a delegate does not want to be known by other committee members or the rival cabinet. These directives are not read aloud or voted on in the committee session; instead, they are transmitted directly on paper or through a special communication channel to the Crisis Team. Generally, assassination attempts, espionage activities, sabotages, bribery, secret alliance negotiations, or covert military operations fall into this category. The main purpose of such directives is to obtain a strategic advantage on the field without the rivals' knowledge. However, in the case of these actions failing, there is a risk of exposure (leak); this can shake the delegate's credibility or cause serious diplomatic consequences.

3.4.6. Press Releases

Press Releases are official or unofficial statements published by delegates or cabinets with the aim of influencing the public opinion in the "simulation world," other states, or the civilian population. The primary purpose of these directives is to conduct perception management rather than performing a physical action. It is used with targets such as propaganda, raising the public's morale, instilling fear in the enemy (psychological warfare), spreading disinformation, or gaining the support of the international community. For example, making a won naval victory a headline in newspapers or publishing a declaration questioning a rival leader's legitimacy falls into this scope. An effective press release can

3.5. How to Write an Effective Directive?

I. Provide Clear and Explicit Information

Know precisely what you want to achieve, and write it down. Be brief, but not so vague that misunderstandings arise. Instructions must be clear from the point of view of the person executing them.

II. Keep it Short and Direct

Avoid long instructions. Just write down all the necessary steps, giving enough information for the recipient to take effective action.

III. Develop Your Strategy Step by Step

Actions that are complex should be decomposed into smaller, manageable steps or activities. Specify the sequence and timing of each action, including who is responsible and what resources are required.

IV. One Directive, One Issue

Each directive should be for one purpose only to avoid confusion. One should never combine several objectives in one command. 5. Refer back to previous instructions Refer to any approved prior steps, if applicable, to maintain continuity and avoid gaps. Define what or whom specifically is being referred to, such as a unit, location, or symbol. 6. Use Exact Numbers Whenever possible, use concrete numbers instead of vague percentages. This applies to personnel, resources, or operational targets. Specific numbers create clarity and speed-up implementation.

4. Introduction to the Agenda

4.1. Political Dimensions of the Granada War and the Captivity of Boabdil

In the last quarter of the fifteenth century, the Granada War, which determined the fate of the Iberian Peninsula, is not merely a territorial struggle between two different religions or civilizations; at the same time, it is a multi-layered conflict situated at the center of the transition from feudal fragmentation to centralized monarchies, intra-dynastic struggles for the throne, and deep political confrontations. The Catholic Monarchy (King Ferdinand and Queen Isabel), uniting the thrones of the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon, placed the ideology of completing Christian unity (Reconquista) by putting an end to eight centuries of Islamic sovereignty in Iberia at the very top of state policy and legitimacy. In this context, the Granada War was executed both as a tool for the Catholic throne to consolidate feudal nobles and independent knight orders within itself around a common external enemy, and as a move to establish religious superiority before monarchs in Europe and the Papacy.

One of the most critical turning points that fundamentally shook the course of the war and the internal balances of the Nasrid Dynasty was the capture of the Emir of Granada, Boabdil (Muhammad XI), by Castilian forces at the Battle of Lucena. Boabdil, who signed secret agreements with Castilian rulers during his captivity and was released by accepting dependence on the Christian kingdom in return for his throne (paying parias and taxes, as well as fighting against his uncle El-Zagal), created a deep crisis of legitimacy in Granada. This situation split the Nasrid Palace in two; on one side positioned the merchant elites and palace bureaucrats supporting Boabdil's weak and compromise-oriented leadership, while on the other side, uncompromising jihadist clans (the Zegrís) led by his uncle El-Zagal and his father, the former owner of the throne Abu'l-Hasan Ali, engaged in a power struggle in the capital and eastern castles.

Boabdil's captivity and the internal power struggles he initiated in the capital afterward to seize the throne opened a giant strategic window of opportunity for the Castile and Aragon alliance. The Catholic Monarchy skillfully fueled these bloody contentions among Nasrid dynasty members with a "divide and rule" tactic; while on one hand making Muslims fight among themselves, on the other hand it loaded with all its military power onto Malaga and the western border castles, which were the weakest links. Boabdil being forced to make concessions to the Christian kingdom in order to protect his throne and ensure

legitimacy against his uncle paralyzed the common defense reflex of the Emirate of Granada and damaged the political integrity of the capital with the outside world.

The most crucial point of the political dimension is that the Granada War was actually a two-fronted struggle for existence waged not only against Christian armies coming from the outside, but also against the crisis of legitimacy within the Nasrid Dynasty itself. The process that started with Boabdil's captivity led to the collapse of central authority, the increase of infidelities among tribes, and the loss of the people's belief in their leaders. On the crisis and negotiation ground of the simulation, delegates will have to redraw the political map of Iberia by managing the vulnerabilities created by this historical captivity, preventing intra-dynastic betrayals, or deriving political advantage from this division.

4.2. General Situation of the Iberian Peninsula in the Last Quarter of the Fifteenth Century

In the last quarter of the fifteenth century, the Iberian Peninsula was the most dramatic and radical period of transformation marked by the transition from medieval feudal fragmentation to the centralized absolute monarchies of the Early Modern Period. For many years, the political map of the peninsula was divided among the Crown of Castile, the Crown of Aragon, the Kingdom of Portugal, the Kingdom of Navarre, and the Emirate of Granada, the last independent Islamic state. However, the marriage of Princess Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Aragon, in 1469 ignited a unification process that would fundamentally shake the geopolitical balances of Iberia. With Isabella ascending the Castilian throne in 1474 and Ferdinand ascending the Aragonese throne in 1479, the two major kingdoms united under a common administrative roof, thus laying the foundations of the modern Spanish state.

The core domestic political objective of the Catholic Monarchs (Los Reyes Católicos) was to break the arbitrary powers of the feudal nobility (*grandees*), which had shaken royal authority for years, and to render central royal authority absolute across all territories. To this end, the urban militia organization known as the Santa Hermandad was established to place rural public order and security under royal control, and the grand masterhips (*Maestrazgo*) of immensely wealthy and militarily powerful knightly orders such as Santiago and Calatrava were directly consolidated under the monarchy. At the same time, royal influence over the church hierarchy was increased, and with authorities obtained from Pope Sixtus IV, the Spanish Inquisition (*Inquisición Española*) was established to reinforce social and religious purity under state control. The achievement of widespread internal stability enabled the monarchies of Castile and Aragon to direct all their power and resources toward eliminating the final Muslim presence in Iberia, namely the final act of the Reconquista movement.

The Emirate of Granada (the Nasrid Dynasty) in the south of the peninsula, on the other hand, had become increasingly isolated both geographically and politically in the face of this grand Christian unification. Al-Andalus, which had been the center of Mediterranean trade, rich agricultural basins, and an advanced civilization for eight centuries, was crushed under internal conflicts, struggles for the throne, and heavy economic burdens by the end of the fifteenth century. While the Maghrebi states in North Africa (the Marinids and Wattasids) failed to provide the desired military and logistical support to Granada due to internal crises,

maritime trade in the Mediterranean narrowed under the pressure of Genoese and Aragonese merchants. The kingdoms of Castile and Aragon, meanwhile, were determined to unite the entire peninsula under a single Christian banner with their massive feudal armies, modern field cannons (lombardas), and the backing of Crusades (Cruzada) declared by the Papacy. By the year 1487, the Iberian Peninsula had transformed into a compressed geopolitical arena witnessing a life-or-death struggle between two absolute wills.

4.3. Military and Administrative Objectives of the Castile and Aragon Administrations

The strategy of the Catholic Monarchs (King Ferdinand and Queen Isabel) in the Granada Campaign is a project to construct the institutional, military, and administrative backbone of the modern Spanish state, far beyond a traditional territorial expansion executed merely along borderlands. Bringing the Reconquista movement that has lasted for eight centuries in the Iberian Peninsula to a close is a fundamental state policy aiming both for the throne to establish absolute central authority over internal feudal elements and to gain the highest level of legitimacy before other Christian kingdoms in Europe and the Papacy. The military and administrative campaign executed in this direction is structured upon multi-layered objectives that complement each other.

On the military plane, the most primary objective is to apply a systematic strategy of attrition and isolation based on modern siege technology, instead of traditional medieval pitched battles. Battering fortified castles directly with hundreds of heavy siege cannons (lombardas) under the command of Francisco Ramírez de Madrid, collapsing walls through mining activities, and carrying the artillery power of the army to the most advanced level of the period constitute the technical foundation of the campaign. Simultaneously with this, by placing the port of Malaga and the southern coastline under a total naval blockade through the navy of the Duke of Medina Sidonia, it was aimed to cut off from the root any kind of grain, gunpowder, and mercenary reinforcements that the Emirate of Granada could receive from the Maghrebi emirates in North Africa. The provisioning of the land army was made uninterrupted with the Santa Hermandad logistic network and mobile field hospitals system personally managed by Queen Isabel, thus establishing the most organized field provisioning mechanism of history.

Administratively and politically, the monarchy used the Granada Campaign as a lever to melt the independent powers and private armies of the feudal nobility (grandees such as the Marquis of Cadiz and the Duke of Medina Sidonia) under the central command of the royalty. By directing the energy of the nobles toward a common external enemy, the possibilities of civil war within the kingdom were neutralized, and with the victories won, it was aimed to connect all newly conquered lands, castles, and customs revenues directly to the royal crown. At the same time, the transfer of the administration (Maestrazgo) of immensely wealthy military orders such as Santiago, Calatrava, and Alcántara to the monarchy itself was accelerated.

Financial and religious goals, on the other hand, were designed to ensure the sustainability of this administrative structure. The massive budget of the campaign was financed thanks to extraordinary taxes collected under the leadership of Chief Treasurer

Abraham Senior, credit lines provided from Genoese bankers, and Crusade (Cruzada) funds granted by the Papacy. The administrative structure, united with the Holy Inquisition mechanism represented by Tomás de Torquemada and the religious authority of Cardinal Mendoza, determined as its ultimate objective to create a homogeneous subject group loyal with absolute obedience to the monarchy and a single Catholic faith in the conquered lands, thus laying the foundations of an unrivaled and central empire in Iberia.

4.4. Political and Military Situation of the Emirate of Granada

In the last quarter of the fifteenth century, the Emirate of Granada was waging an existential struggle for survival on the verge of both political division and military exhaustion. The eight-century governing tradition of the Nasrid Dynasty was paralyzed due to intra-palace struggles for the throne, tribal blood feuds, and the ambition for power of dynasty members. Boabdil (Muhammad XI), who was released following the Lucena rout, reigning in the Alhambra Palace in the capital Granada, while on the other hand his military jihad-leaning uncle El-Zagal (Muhammad XII) controlled the eastern provinces such as Guadix, Baza, and Almeria, effectively dragged the state into a two-headed structure. When the influence of the former sultan Abu'l-Hasan Ali over the tribes in the mountainous Alpujarras region is also added, the emirate completely lost the ability to establish a joint defense front against the massive Christian threat coming from the outside.

Political division directly crippled the army's chain of command and military organization as well. The Granada army was at a massive disadvantage numerically and technologically against the regular army exceeding fifty thousand people and modern siege artillery of the Christian alliance. The total military presence of the emirate exhibited a fragmented structure: while there were approximately 7,000 guards and urban militias loyal to Boabdil in the capital Granada; approximately 10,000 combatant forces were stationed under the command of El-Zagal in the eastern provinces. In Malaga, which was the most critical defense line, there were approximately 3,000 elite North African Gomara mercenaries and around 5,000 to 7,000 local militias defending the city under the command of Governor Hamad al-Tegri. However, the absence of a central coordination prevented a comprehensive rescue operation from being organized from the capital or the eastern castles when Malaga came under siege.

In terms of military doctrine, Granada relied on lightly armored and highly maneuverable Cinet (Jinete) cavalry and impassable fortifications built on rugged terrain. Although fortified strongholds such as Alcazaba and Gibralfaro, steep cliffs, and narrow passes provided a great geographical advantage to defenders, traditional stone fortifications began to become insufficient against the giant lombardas of Christian artillery that demolished the walls. Furthermore, the tight naval blockade established by the Castilian navy on the coastline completely cut off any wheat, gunpowder, and soldier reinforcements that could come from the Maghrebi emirates in North Africa, dragging the besieged cities into a rapid hunger and provisioning crisis.

Economically and socially, the emirate had come to the brink of bankruptcy due to heavy annual tributes (parias) paid to Christian kingdoms for years, the depleted trade volume, and war expenses. While rich merchants and the Beni Sirrac tribe were in search of

peace and compromise, warrior clans and religious leaders along the borderlands rejected surrender with a definite language. The siege that began before Malaga in 1487 was not merely the loss of a strategic port for the Emirate of Granada, but rather the beginning of the total collapse of a politically, militarily, and economically divided civilization.

5. Historical and Political Development of the Conflict

5.1. Border Conflicts and the Capture of the Fortress of Alhama

In the last quarter of the fifteenth century, the Iberian Peninsula was kept in balance by fragile ceasefire agreements renewed for years between the Crown of Castile and the Emirate of Granada. In order to preserve its independence, the Nasrid Dynasty regularly paid annual tribute to the Kingdom of Castile, and avoided large-scale military conflicts on the borders, apart from low-intensity local raids. However, Isabella I, who took the throne of Castile at the end of the 1470s, and King Ferdinand II of Aragon beginning to establish central authority across Spain through their marriage alliance, radically changed the political balances in the peninsula. The Catholic Monarchs, after ending the civil war and throne struggles, turned their attention to the borders and increased the financial and political pressure on Granada. Wanting to respond to this pressure, the Emir of Granada, Abu'l-Hasan Ali, with the belief that the Christian kingdoms had not yet fully recovered, stopped paying the annual tribute and decided to make a bold military move against strategic targets in the border region.

In December 1481, on a stormy and dark night, the Nasrid troops under the command of Abu'l-Hasan organized a sudden night raid on the fortified castle of Zahara located on the Castilian border. Caught defenseless, the garrison was neutralized, the castle was taken under control, and hundreds of Christian civilians living in the town were enslaved and taken to Granada. The Zahara raid effectively ended the official ceasefire between the two states. Although this move created a short-term source of morale in the Granada palace, strategically it presented the Catholic Monarchs with the definitive justification for war they had needed for years. The Castilian side defined this attack not just as a border violation, but as an attack directed straight at Christian dominance in the Iberian Peninsula and the honor of the kingdom.

Castilian border guards and the prominent feudal nobles of the Andalusia region planned a comprehensive counterattack in order to take revenge for Zahara. At the center of this plan was the experienced commander of the southern armies, the Marquis of Cadiz, Rodrigo Ponce de Leon. Ponce de Leon, instead of directly targeting small castles on the border, chose to head to a point the enemy never expected, the heart of the Emirate of Granada. The target was the strategic fortress of Alhama, located only forty kilometers southwest of the capital Granada, known for its thermal waters, rich granaries, and fabric production centers. In February 1482, the Castilian vanguard troops secretly crossing the steep mountain roads climbed the castle walls with ladders, neutralized the garrison, and took complete control of the city.

The fall of Alhama created an irreparable strategic and psychological devastation for the Emirate of Granada. The castle was located right on the main supply and communication route between the capital Granada and Malaga, the emirate's largest port city and gateway to the outside world. The castle falling into the hands of the Christians meant the Nasrid territories were logistically split in two on the west and east axis. The shaking effect of this loss on the people of Granada was engraved in memories with historical verses expressing the desperation of the city, which became the subject of famous Spanish and Andalusian elegies of the period. The deployment of a Christian garrison so close to the capital clearly showed that the war had now left the borders and was directed straight at the existence of the emirate.

Emir Abu'l-Hasan Ali immediately besieged the city with a giant army in order to take Alhama back. Rodrigo Ponce de Leon and his soldiers defending the castle had to resist for weeks under starvation and intense bombardment due to the depletion of food and water resources. During the process of breaking the siege, the Castilian feudal structure faced a critical test. The Duke of Medina Sidonia, Enrique de Guzman, who had a blood feud and land rivalry with him for many years, put the interests of the royalty and faith ahead of his personal enmity and rushed to the aid of the Marquis of Cadiz with his own private army. This feudal solidarity repelled the Nasrid siege and ensured that Alhama permanently remained under Castilian control. The Alhama campaign became the historical turning point where the Catholic Monarchs succeeded in uniting the scattered noble forces around a single military target and which officially started the Granada War that would last for ten years.

5.2. Power Struggles and Divisions Within the Nasrid Dynasty

Shaken by the loss of the fortress of Alhama, the Emirate of Granada, instead of establishing a common defense line against the Christian military threat coming from the outside, was dragged into one of the most destructive internal power struggles in history. At the center of this deep crack in the Nasrid Palace was the power war and the intra-dynastic legitimacy fight experienced in the harem of Emir Abu'l-Hasan Ali. The emir's first wife, Ayesha al-Horra, who was supported by the traditional Nasrid nobles, was greatly disturbed by her husband granting excessive privileges to his concubine of Christian origin, Isabel de Solis, who later converted to Islam and took the name Zoraya. The possibility of Abu'l-Hasan declaring his sons born from Zoraya as heirs apparent left Ayesha al-Horra and her eldest son, the crown prince Boabdil, facing a clear danger of elimination. This polarization in the palace rapidly spread among the rooted tribes of Granada as well and turned into a factionalism that paralyzed the state administratively and militarily.

In this dynastic crisis, Ayesha al-Horra established a secret alliance with the Beni Sirrac (Abencerrajes) faction, which was one of the most powerful and wealthy families of Granada. In the spring months of 1482, when Abu'l-Hasan was occupied with the Siege of Alhama, Ayesha al-Horra succeeded in smuggling her sons Boabdil and Yusuf out of the city by suspending them with ropes from the towers of the Alhambra Palace. Leaving the capital, Boabdil first gathered supporters in the city of Guadix and then, returning to Granada, started a great popular uprising in the Albaicin neighborhood, which was the most crowded and poorest region of the city. Taking the anger the people felt toward the administration of

Abu'l-Hasan due to economic difficulties, heavy taxes, and the loss of Alhama behind him, Boabdil declared himself the Sultan of Granada under the name Muhammad XI. His father, Abu'l-Hasan, on the other hand, had to leave the city with his loyal troops and retreat to the steep mountainous regions around Malaga.

As if the division of the Granada throne in two between father and son was not enough, shortly afterward a third and much more capable military actor was included in the equation. Muhammad bin Sa'd, who was the brother of Abu'l-Hasan and the uncle of Boabdil, and who was known by the nickname El-Zagal (The Brave) due to his courage and military genius, became an independent focus of power in the eastern wing of the emirate. Holding the control of strategic ports and castles such as Malaga, Almeria, and Baza in his hands, El-Zagal gained great legitimacy in the eyes of the people and the army with the local victories he won against the Christian raids. El-Zagal viewed his nephew Boabdil as an inexperienced, timid, and weak element inclined to make secret bargains with Castile, and defended that the only legitimate authority in the emirate was himself and his older brother who conducted an uncompromising jihad policy.

Thus, the Emirate of Granada was divided in three geographically and politically in a period when it fought the most critical existence struggle of its history. While the capital Granada and the Alhambra Palace were in the hands of the young Sultan Boabdil, Ronda and the mountainous regions in the west were under the control of the old father Abu'l-Hasan, and the rich coastal cities and fortifications in the east were under the control of the uncle El-Zagal. This tripartite division completely severed the supply lines of the castles on the borders, made a common tax and army gathering system impossible, and most bitterly, led to internal conflicts where Muslim troops put each other to the sword instead of the Christian army. The Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella, watching this fatal throne fight their enemies fell into with great attention, built their military conquests directly upon these internal conflicts in the Nasrid palace.

5.3. Battle of Lucena and the Capture of Boabdil

In the early months of 1483, the great victory won by the uncle El-Zagal by ambushing the Christian army in the steep Axarquia mountains near Malaga carried the uncle's reputation to the peak in the eyes of the people and the ulema of Granada. This military success created immense political pressure on the young Sultan Boabdil sitting in the capital. The people of Granada and the palace bureaucracy began to accuse Boabdil, who had no military success, of cowardice and to see El-Zagal as the sole savior leader. Boabdil, experiencing the fear of losing his throne and legitimacy, decided to organize a campaign immediately in order to prove himself to his people and achieve a great military success that would overshadow the victory his uncle had won. In this decision, the provocative encouragements of the experienced Governor of Loja, Ali al-Attar, who was Boabdil's father-in-law and known for his legendary raids along the border regions, were decisive.

As the target, the fortified town of Lucena, located in the inner parts of the Castilian border and possessing rich granaries and fertile pastures to herd animals, was chosen. In April 1483, Boabdil entered Christian territories with a magnificent army consisting of approximately nine thousand infantry and seven hundred elite cavalry under his command. In

the first phase, the unprotected villages around Lucena were pillaged and the town was placed under siege. However, the greatest element the young sultan did not take into account was the high level of readiness of the Castilian nobles managing the border defense and their perfect familiarity with the regional terrain. The Count of Cabra, Diego Fernandez de Cordoba, and the local garrison commanders, as soon as they received news of the siege, quickly gathered their own private knight units and rushed to the aid of the fortress of Lucena.

The two armies confronted each other on the rough and muddy terrain on the outskirts of the town of Lucena. The disciplined charge organized by the Christian cavalry at an unexpected moment, emerging from beneath a dense fog, created great confusion in the ranks of the Nasrid army. In the bloody clash that took place, the ninety-year-old master commander Ali al-Attar, who was the most trusted military brain of the Granada army, was killed. With the fall of their commander, a general panic began in the Nasrid ranks, and the regular army suddenly dispersed, turning into an uncontrolled rout. The Castilian knights drove and encircled the retreating Muslim troops toward the bed of the Martin Gonzalez river.

Sultan Boabdil, seeing his army being destroyed before his eyes, tried to flee the battlefield in order to save his life. However, upon his horse getting stuck in the swamp and falling over, he was forced to hide among the dense bushes and reeds by the riverside. Cornered in the reeds by the Castilian infantry pursuing him, Boabdil was taken captive after a short scuffle. Even though the young sultan tried to hide the royal insignia on him, his gold-embroidered armor, silk caftan, and magnificent sword gave away his true identity. Boabdil, immediately taken under protection by the Christian commanders, was imprisoned first in the Castle of Baena, and then in the fortified Tower of Porcuna, which had the highest level of security.

The Lucena rout and the capture of Boabdil alive became the most dramatic development that determined the fate of the Granada War. With this incident, the Granada throne was left without a master; the uncle El-Zagal immediately entered the capital, took over the administration, and tried to gather the resistance under a single roof. However, for the Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella, Boabdil became a political trump card much more valuable than dozens of castles won on the front. The Spanish monarchs, rather than executing this captive in their hands, immediately saw the opportunity to utilize him as a political puppet they could use against his uncle and father. The captivity of Boabdil gave the Christian kingdom the power to combine a military conquest campaign with a diplomatic civil war strategy.

5.4. Feudal Alliances and Internal Rivalries Within the Spanish Kingdoms

Even though the thrones of Castile and Aragon came together under a personal union with the marriage of the Catholic Monarchs Isabella I and Ferdinand II, at the beginning of the 1480s the Spanish side did not have a homogeneous state structure governed from a single center. The laws, parliaments (Cortes), tax systems, and even military organizations of the two kingdoms continued to operate completely independent of each other. While the main military and financial burden of the Granada Campaign fell on the shoulders of the Crown of

Castile due to its vast human resources and border geography, the Kingdom of Aragon was mostly occupied with Mediterranean trade and its strategic calculations over Italy. Moreover, within Castile itself, the powerful feudal nobles (Grandes) inherited from past civil wars acted extremely jealously in protecting their own autonomous privileges, vast fiefs, and private armies against the centralist policies of the royalty.

The field where feudal division and personal rivalries reached their most dangerous dimensions was the Andalusia region, which was directly adjacent to the Granada border. A bloody rivalry that had been ongoing for decades between two giant aristocratic centers of power prevailed in these lands. On one hand was the Duke of Medina Sidonia, Enrique de Guzman, who held the Gibraltar coasts, the fishing monopoly, rich ports, and trade fleets in his hands, and on the other hand was the experienced Marquis of Cadiz, Rodrigo Ponce de Leon, who personally fought at the head of the field armies and commanded the border garrisons. These two dynasties had entered into open street clashes in the streets of Seville in the past, pillaged each other's villages, and disregarded royal authority. Even though temporary compromises were achieved with the direct intervention of the throne at critical turning points such as the rescue of the Castle of Alhama, the ownership of the captured castles, the sharing of captive ransoms, and the military reputation struggle in the presence of the kingdom kept the tension between these two great nobles like a dynamite ready to explode at any moment.

The royal administration, while continuing the campaigns it conducted against Granada on the one hand, developed institutional mechanisms to prevent these feudal powers from acting independently on the other. Santa Hermandad (Holy Brotherhood), which was a public order and militia organization established with the support of the cities and the bourgeoisie and directly tied to the throne, was turned into an effective tool in order to rein in the arbitrary use of power by the nobles in rural areas. Besides this, the management (Maestrazgo) of military-religious knight orders such as Santiago, Calatrava, and Alcantara, which possessed the greatest military and economic power in the Iberian Peninsula, was gradually taken under royal control by King Ferdinand. With this move, both the giant revenues and castles of the orders were directly transferred to the financing of the war, and the nobles were prevented from using these orders as independent centers of military power.

As a result, although the Christian front gathered in the Las Cortes de Granada parliament seemed united for the sake of a holy ideal when looked at from the outside, it was woven with deep conflicts of interest in the background. The city representatives (procuradores) who did not want to pay new taxes (servicios) to cover the war expenses, the feudal Grandes who demanded independent fiefs and judicial authority in the newly conquered lands, the knights who wanted to direct the revenues of the war to their own orders, and the Church hierarchy that turned religious radicalism into a political weapon were in a constant state of contention. For the Catholic Monarchs, the war did not consist only of defeating the Nasrid army on the front; at the same time, it was a struggle to build the central state by skillfully balancing these feudal divisions.

6. Military Campaign and the Siege of Malaga

6.1. Strategic Location of the City of Malaga and Defense Preparations

Malaga, which was the largest and most protected port city of the Emirate of Granada on the Mediterranean coast, was not only a commercial center for the Nasrid State, but the single vital connection point of the kingdom with the outside world and especially with North Africa. This rich port, which had been a frequent destination for Genoese, Venetian, and Maghreb merchants for centuries; provided high customs revenues to the Granada treasury with the export of silk, dried fruit, leather, and olive oil. The actual indispensability of the city, on the other hand, stemmed from its military geography. Thanks to its location close to the Strait of Gibraltar, Malaga was the main gate where all kinds of military reinforcement forces, provisions, and weapon supplies that could come from the Marinid Sultanate in Morocco and North African tribes reached the Iberian Peninsula. The loss of this port meant the Emirate of Granada's connection with the sea being completely severed and its being isolated by being imprisoned within its land borders.

The defense architecture of the city possessed a fortification network far beyond the military engineering standards of the period. Besides the thick and high outer walls surrounding the city center, two giant castle complexes connected to each other formed the backbone of the defense. The El-Kasaba (Alcazaba), which was located in the lower part and functioned as an administrative center, met the direct attacks directed at the city with its multi-layered towers and interlacing doors. The fortified Cebel-i Faruk (Gibralfaro) Castle, which was built on a steep hill right above the Alcazaba and was in a position completely dominating the city, was one of the most difficult to conquer fortresses of the period with its steep rocky structure. These two castles were connected to each other by means of a fortified corridor called La Coracha and protected by high crenellated walls on both sides. This architectural structure allowed the garrison to retreat to the upper castle and continue an independent resistance even if the lower walls fell.

When it came to the year 1487, the military command of Malaga was in the hands of Hamad al-Tegri, who was appointed as the governor to the region by the uncle El-Zagal and was known with an uncompromising warrior identity. Hamad al-Tegri, who previously defended the castle of Ronda and organized countless border raids against the Christian army, reorganized the city according to state of emergency conditions against the approaching great Christian offensive. All granaries, olive oil cellars, and water cisterns found in the city were taken under state control; mandatory provisions were collected from the people and merchants in order to be able to withstand a long-lasting siege. While light warships and galleys in the shipyards at the port were being repaired, the weak points of the walls were strengthened with stone and earth fillings.

The most critical element of the defense was the Gomara warriors, who were under the direct command of Hamad al-Tegri and were brought from the mountainous regions of North Africa. These mercenaries, consisting of approximately three thousand people, were elite units who could move extremely agilely with light weapons, swords, crossbows, and daggers, and rejected surrender with a definite language. While a part of the city's people and wealthy merchants were in favor of surrendering through an agreement because they knew the power of the Castilian army, Hamad al-Tegri and the Gomara garrison considered the

possibility of surrender as treason and seized control in the city with a military discipline. Malaga, right before the Christian siege started, turned into a military base focused on resisting until the end with its anxious people inside and its defenders coming from the outside.

6.2. Siege Operations, Artillery Units, and Supply Lines

In May 1487, the Christian army of approximately fifty thousand people under the command of King Ferdinand II reached the front of the walls of Malaga by advancing through Velez Malaga and completely besieged the city by land. This military operation was one of the most striking examples of the transition from the war doctrine based on classical cavalry and infantry charges of the Middle Ages to the early modern period siege warfare where gunpowder weapons and fortification engineering were decisive. The main strategy of the royal army, instead of forcing the city with a direct infantry attack, was to batter the walls, open breaches, and break the resistance inside with a war of attrition by using the most advanced artillery park of the period.

In the management of this giant artillery power was the chief gunner of the kingdom, Francisco Ramirez de Madrid. The Spanish army placed hundreds of giant siege cannons (lombardas) firing stone and iron cannonballs, specially brought from the Italy and Flanders regions, opposite the western and northern walls of the city that were seen as weak. Thousands of sappers were assigned for the purpose of placing and protecting the cannons; trenches were dug, wooden blockhouses and earth redoubts were built. However, the extraordinary thickness of the walls of Malaga, the robustness of the stone blocks, and the earth fillings filled behind the walls prevented the Spanish artillery from getting the expected fast result in the first weeks. The Muslim artillery also inflicted heavy casualties on the Christian trenches by making accurate counter-battery fires from the bastions of the Alcazaba and Gibralfaro.

The prolongation of the siege led to the birth of a giant logistical crisis in the Christian camp. Meeting the daily food, water, and gunpowder needs of an army of fifty thousand people and thousands of mount and draft animals in the mountainous and rough Andalusia terrain required an immense organization. Queen Isabella I, who was in the cities of Seville and Cordoba, personally undertook the management of these logistical lines. The Queen collected mandatory provisions from the cities across Castile and dispatched supply convoys consisting of thousands of mules and ox carts to the siege line. Besides this, medical support was provided to the army by establishing the first mobile field hospitals (Hospital de la Reina) of military history for the soldiers who were injured and fell ill on the front.

Despite this, dysentery and plague epidemics broke out in the Christian ranks due to the scorching heat of the summer months, the contamination of the water resources in the camp, and the deterioration of hygiene conditions. The rapid depletion of gunpowder stocks and the delay of loans taken from Genoese merchants brought the siege army to the brink of dissolution. While desertions increased among the soldiers, the nobles began to put pressure on King Ferdinand in the direction of lifting the siege. The siege operation turned into a fatal war of patience where not only the cannons battering the walls of Malaga, but also the limits of the logistical supply lines and economic endurance were tested.

6.3. Gomara Units and Military Developments During the Siege

The main military factor that wore down the Christian army the most during the Siege of Malaga and caused the siege to remain unbroken for months was the city garrison following an extremely aggressive and attritional counterattack doctrine instead of a passive defense. The striking force of these attacks was constituted by the North African Gomara warriors under the direct command of Hamad al-Tegri. The Gomas organized sudden sortie operations from the Alcazaba and Gibralfaro castles by taking advantage of the darkness of the night and the rough structure of the terrain. These surprise night raids made on the Christian siege trenches, gunpowder depots, and artillery positions disrupted the Spanish fortification works multiple times. These units fighting with light weapons, poisoned arrows, and daggers against heavily armored Castilian knights created a constant state of panic and alert in the Christian camp by retreating behind the walls after neutralizing the sentries in the trenches and setting the giant siege machines on fire.

The bloodiest and most dramatic military incident of the siege was an assassination attempt that completely radicalized the course of the war. A Maghrebian dervish named Ibrahim al-Cerbi, who secretly exited the city and claimed that he would inform the Christian commanders of Malaga's terms of surrender, and also make prophecies regarding the future, managed to infiltrate the Christian camp under the pretext of surrendering. The dervish taken to the royal tent attacked a Portuguese noblewoman who was a close friend of Queen Isabella resting in the tent at that time and Don Alvaro de Portugal with his dagger by mistaking them for the king and queen. The assassin, who severely injured the nobles, was torn apart and killed at the scene by the royal guards. King Ferdinand II had the dervish's corpse catapulted inside the walls of Malaga with giant catapults in retaliation for this assassination attempt that caused a great outrage in the camp. The Gomara garrison in the city, on the other hand, in response to this move, massacred a Christian captive they held with spears and sent his corpse back to the Christian trenches on the back of a mule. This mutual brutality completely severed all diplomatic contacts between the two sides and turned the war into an absolute struggle of annihilation.

The uncompromising attitude of the Gomara units and the martial law applied by Hamad al-Tegri put under pressure not only the Christian army, but also the civilian population and the merchant class who wanted to surrender peacefully within the city. Entering the third month of the siege, the depletion of food stocks in the city forced the people to eat horses, donkeys, cats, and even tree barks. While the number of civilians dying of starvation in the streets rapidly increased, the prominent figures of Malaga who wanted to initiate surrender negotiations were threatened with death by the Gomara warriors. However, the incessant bombardment of the Christian artillery, the deep breaches opened in the walls, and the great humanitarian drama breaking out inside prepared the end of this military resistance line established by the Gomara units as well. Military developments definitively revealed that the city could no longer hold out without a rescue army coming from the outside.

6.4. Naval Blockade and the Cutting of External Support Routes

The other leg of the Siege of Malaga, which was as decisive and strategic as the land campaign, was constituted by the perfect naval blockade established in the Mediterranean. The city being surrounded by land with an army of fifty thousand people would not yield a result in the full sense as long as the port remained open; because the Marinid Sultanate in North Africa and the Maghreb ports could constantly deliver reinforcement soldiers, weapons, and grain to their coreligionists under siege by sea. The Catholic Monarchs, being aware of this vital threat, massed all the naval power of Spain off the coast of Malaga from the first day the land army reached the walls. The experienced Catalan and Valencia galleys of the Kingdom of Aragon and the heavy Basque trade and warships of Castile brought from the Bay of Biscay were united under the roof of a single royal navy.

In the administration and logistical coordination of this giant naval power, the Duke of Medina Sidonia, Enrique de Guzman, who controlled the Gibraltar coasts and the southern sea trade, and the admirals of the kingdom played a critical role. The Spanish navy established a double security line patrolling continuously day and night by completely closing the mouth of the port of Malaga and the gulf. Thanks to this line, entries and exits to the port were completely locked. The light Maghreb boats and supply fleets setting out from the North African coasts with the aim of delivering aid to the Gomara units in Malaga were caught in the Alboran Sea and either sunk or their cargoes were confiscated and included in the provisions of the Christian camp. The Strait of Gibraltar being taken under tight control in this way also effectively severed the Emirate of Granada's last physical contact with the Islamic world.

The total isolation created by the naval blockade also exhausted the last hopes of Hamad al-Tegri and the Gomara garrison resisting within the city. Neither could an aid come by land from the eastern castles under the control of the uncle El-Zagal, nor was the navy expected from North Africa appearing on the horizon. With the closing of the port, even fishing became impossible to do, and the last live food source in the city dried up too. Malaga, remaining under the heavy cannons of Francisco Ramirez from the land and the artillery fire of the Spanish armada from the sea, turned into a giant open-air prison completely detached from the outside world. The naval blockade became the most definitive strategic move that broke the military resistance of the city and forced both sides to sit at the negotiation table.

7. Peace and Surrender Negotiations

7.1. Impact of the Military Situation on the Negotiation Table

In the Las Cortes de Granada simulation, the fate of the peace and surrender negotiations is shaped directly through the military attrition and balances of forces in the siege field rather than abstract diplomatic discourses. In fifteenth-century Iberia, each article of a diplomatic capitulation text gains legitimacy in proportion to the supply capacity of the armies, gunpowder stocks, captured redoubts, and broken defense lines. For this reason, the

military developments before Malaga are the main factor that directly constructs the bargaining power of the two parties at the table.

For the Christian alliance, superiority in the field is directly related to the breaches opened in the walls by the heavy artillery batteries under the command of Francisco Ramirez and the total naval blockade established by the Duke of Medina Sidonia with his navy. If the Castile and Aragon army has succeeded in completely isolating the city, cut off external aid routes, and opened irreversible breaches in the walls, it gains the authority to impose unconditional or extremely heavy surrender conditions at the table. However, the siege prolonging more than necessary, epidemics breaking out in the camp, the depletion of the loans taken from Genoese bankers, and logistical costs reaching astronomical dimensions can force the Christian kings to make concessions and seek a rapid diplomatic compromise.

For the Granada defense bloc, on the other hand, the greatest diplomatic trump card at the table is the duration of the military resistance to be shown in the field. How long the garrison under the administration of Hamad al-Tegri can hold the Alcazaba and Gibralfaro castles, to what extent the Gomara units inflict casualties on the siege army with night sortie operations, and the success of the raids El-Zagal will make from the eastern provinces on the Castilian supply lines strengthen the hand of the Nasrid diplomats at the table. The Muslim side, whose resistance cannot be broken, which makes the enemy pay heavy logistical costs, and turns the city into a swamp; obtains the right to demand broad privileges regarding religion, property, and life security in the surrender articles.

In contrast, in the case of the military defense lines completely collapsing, the people being decimated by starvation as a result of provision stocks being depleted, and no hope of rescue remaining from the outside, the Granada delegation loses all its trump cards at the table. As experienced in the example of Malaga in history, in a picture where the resistance is completely broken and the Christian side realizes a final military annihilation, surrender negotiations can become meaningless and leave their place to mass enslavement and exile edicts. Therefore, the negotiation process forming the basic framework of Chapter 7 consists of turning the concrete military results the delegates obtained through sword, cannon, and provision management in the crisis phase into legal texts.

7.2. Territorial Division and Border Arrangements

Territorial division and border arrangements, which will redraw the sovereignty lines in the south of the Iberian Peninsula, constitute the most complex and conflicted leg of the peace and surrender negotiations. Geographical borders, which constantly fluctuated with the exchange of castles along the borderlands (La Frontera) throughout the Middle Ages, must be brought to a permanent and legal status after the Siege of 1487. The main issue to be put on the table at this stage is to the direct ownership and administration of which crown or local authority the surrendered cities, strategic ports, steep passes, and agricultural basins will be left.

For the Castile and Aragon bloc, the main goal of the border arrangements is to completely besiege the Emirate of Granada militarily and geographically, and to sever all sea and land contact of the kingdom with the outside world. Connecting the port of Malaga and the surrounding coastal towns directly to the Crown of Castile, fortifying Ronda and the

western mountain passes, and transferring the strategic watchtowers on the border lines to Christian garrisons are the minimum demands at the table. Along with this, whether the newly conquered lands will be made royal property or distributed as new fiefs (*señoríos*) to feudal nobles such as the Duke of Medina Sidonia and the Marquis of Cadiz who participated in the campaign with large armies is also located at the center of the Christian delegation's own internal border bargains.

For the Granada delegation, on the other hand, land negotiations are a struggle to protect a minimum geographical depth that will prevent the emirate from being completely wiped off the map. It carries vital importance that the capital Granada and the fertile Vega plain feeding it, the fortified castles of Guadix, Baza, and Almeria in the east, and the steep Alpujarras mountainous basin in the south remain under Muslim control. While Sultan Boabdil and the palace bureaucracy try to protect the autonomy of the capital and core lands by sacrificing certain border castles and outer ports; El-Zagal and the border commanders will strongly oppose border concessions, defending that leaving even a single fortified position to the Christians will collapse the defense of the entire emirate.

The border lines to be determined at the negotiation table will dictate not only the settlement of military garrisons, but at the same time the sharing of fertile agricultural lands, irrigation canals, mine deposits, and trade routes. Demilitarization of the castles, creation of buffer zones along the borderlands, joint control of border outposts, and the identification of passes where the right of free passage will be granted between the two sides will constitute the concrete geographical articles of the capitulation text to be prepared within the scope of article 7.2. Every hill the parties can hold and every castle they can protect in the field will directly determine the final course of the border lines on the map.

7.3. Religious Rights, Cultural Guarantees, and Freedom of Worship

The most sensitive, legally most binding heading of the surrender and peace contracts (*Capitulaciones*), and the one that will directly determine the future social peace, is the guaranteeing of the religious and cultural rights of the Muslim and Jewish population living in the lands that will enter under Christian sovereignty. In the Medieval Iberia tradition, the status of the non-Muslim population in the conquered regions was shaped within the framework of traditional *Mudejar* law. However, the ideology of Catholic unity that strengthened at the end of the fifteenth century and the institutionalized Inquisition pressure turned these religious negotiations into an extremely harsh ideological conflict area. For the Granada delegation and especially the religious scholars and the chief vizier Abu'l-Qasim al-Malih, the most indispensable condition at the table is the guaranteeing of the people's immunity of life, honor, and faith with an absolute language. In this context, the protection of mosques, *masjids*, and foundation properties without being converted into churches, freedom to recite the call to prayer and worship in congregation, *qadis* and sharia courts continuing to look into Islamic inheritance and family law cases, and the strict prohibition of the Christianization of children will be demanded. Furthermore, the free continuation of the Arabic language, traditional clothes, and cultural rituals, and the granting of permission for those who do not want to live under Christian sovereignty to migrate safely to North Africa by selling their properties, are also the main red lines of the Granada wing. On the Castile and

Aragon front, on the other hand, this issue creates a deep difference of opinion between two opposite poles. The Archbishop of Toledo Cardinal Mendoza and pragmatic royal bureaucrats advocate granting broad religious privileges in order to ensure that the cities surrender without showing resistance, to prevent new rebellions, and to be able to keep the local population who are taxpayers on the land. In contrast, the Grand Inquisitor Tomas de Torquemada and the strict clergy wing impose that no religious concessions be given, that a single faith be made dominant in the Iberian lands, that mosques be rapidly consecrated and converted into churches, and that the Inquisition courts be equipped with unlimited authority in the newly conquered fields. The compromise to be reached under this negotiation heading will determine whether the surrendering people will remain as subjects loyally tied to the Christian kingdom, or whether it will prepare the ground for future mass rebellions and forced exiles. Every religious clause to be penned at the table will directly test both the Catholic Monarchy's legitimacy in the presence of the Papacy and the moral and historical responsibility the Nasrid dynasty bears toward its own subjects.

7.4. Taxes, Tribute, and Financial Regulations

Taxes, tributes, and financial regulations, which constitute the economic dimension of the peace and surrender negotiations (Capitulaciones), dictate both the Crown of Castile meeting its massive campaign expenses and the Emirate of Granada establishing a financial balance over its remaining assets. These financial bargains conducted at the end of the fifteenth century determine how the financial burden of the war will be shared between the parties and in what manner the conquered regions will be integrated into the royal treasury.

For the Castile and Aragon bloc, the main goal of the financial arrangements is the compensation of the loans taken from Genoese bankers and the massive budgets spent from the royal treasury during the war process. In this direction, the transfer of a high amount of war reparations (indemnities in cash), contributions in gold and silver, and precious metal reserves are demanded from the surrendering cities. Furthermore, the restructuring of the regular annual tribute system (Parias) that the Nasrid dynasty paid to the Christian kingdoms in the past under much heavier conditions and the transfer of the major portion of the customs revenues of the remaining last commercial centers in Granada's hands to royal control constitute the harshest financial demands at the table.

For the Granada delegation and especially the merchant elites managing financial affairs and the chief vizierate office, on the other hand, financial negotiations are a struggle to prevent the people from falling into total economic ruin. Taking into consideration the treasury exhausted due to the war and the collapsed agricultural production, the installment of the war reparations to be paid, keeping the tax burden on the people at reasonable levels, and customs exemptions for local merchants to be able to continue their commercial activities are demanded. The protection of the property rights of the Muslim people, the non-confiscation of agricultural lands, and the placement of the taxation system of artisan guilds into a fair legal framework constitute the basic defense lines of the Granada delegates at the financial table.

The compromise to be reached under this heading will determine Granada's people's capacity to survive economically in the new period while strengthening Castile's central

public finance. The financial articles to be signed at the table will set forth the most concrete legal data balancing the economic interests of the two parties in a wide spectrum ranging from the value of money to tax rates.

7.5. Security Guarantees and the Status of Prisoners

The final and most critical administrative heading of the peace and surrender contracts (Capitulaciones) is constituted by the status of individuals taken captive during the conflicts and the security guarantees for the garrisons and civilian population who will lay down their arms after signing the agreement. This area, which harbors the most ruthless face of war, is the sole legal guarantee of establishing trust between the parties and preventing potential massacres. Following bloody and prolonged conflicts such as the Siege of Malaga, the anger of the victors and the survival reflexes of the losers come face to face around these articles.

For the Castile and Aragon bloc, security guarantees mean ensuring permanent public order in the conquered regions and completely neutralizing the armed resistance potential of the Muslim garrisons. The surrendering soldiers and commanders handing over their weapons, the keys of the castles being transferred to the royal guards, and Christian garrisons being stationed at strategic points are mandatory conditions. The ransoms of prisoners of war, high-ranking commanders to be exchanged, or the numerical breakdown of captives to be sold in slave markets or released are among the toughest bargaining elements at the table. The royal administration demands that surrendering leaders be kept under surveillance for a certain period or transferred to secure regions in order to prevent a potential rebellion.

For the Granada delegation, on the other hand, this heading is the most vital legal shield preventing the people and the army from being put to the sword or enslaved. Especially Hamad al-Tegri and the defenders of Malaga stipulate through the articles to be placed in the surrender document that the life security of the garrison soldiers and civilians be absolutely committed, that no one be made a slave, and that those who wish be permitted to withdraw safely to East Granada territories along with their weapons. Furthermore, the issues of the reciprocal release of prisoners captured by both parties throughout the war and the return of plundered properties are the most fundamental security articles testing the applicability of the agreement.

The complete drafting of these articles and their approval by both parties will be the determinant of the transition to a fair peace following a bloody siege or the prevention of a new wave of massacres. The security guarantees to be signed at the table constitute the final proof of how the distrust felt by enemies who fought in the field against each other will be neutralized through legal texts.

8. Allocation Distribution and Role Descriptions

8.1. Castile and Aragon Delegation

King Fernando de Aragon: Fernando, who is the King of Aragon and the commander-in-chief of the Christian armies, is both a commander directly managing the military operations in the field and a pragmatic statesman aiming for the unification of Spain.

His delegate must undertake the military dispatch and administration of the siege operation, rein in the rivalry among the nobles, and protect the central authority of the kingdom. While he is obligated to ensure discipline within the army and determine military targets during the crisis phase; he is responsible for taking the strategic castles of Granada under kingdom control and preparing a surrender agreement that will prevent external threats during the negotiation phase.

Queen Isabel de Castilla: Queen Isabel of Castile represents the legitimacy, logistics, and financial backbone of the Granada Campaign. Her delegate must manage the supply lines behind the front, mobilize the Santa Hermandad militia organization, and meet the provisioning needs of the army uninterrupted. At the same time, she must protect the religious and political influence of the throne by establishing the bond between the parliament representatives and the clergy, and the royalty. At the agreement table, on the other hand, she will be the main actor determining the legal and institutional framework of Christian sovereignty in the conquered cities.

Rodrigo Ponce de Leon (Marquis of Cadiz): The Marquis of Cadiz, who is the most experienced and respected feudal commander of the Andalusia border regions, commands the most striking cavalry units of the field armies. His delegate must organize the front line attacks, trench clashes, and military maneuvers in the steep terrain during the Siege of Malaga. He must observe the balances with his historical rival the Duke of Medina Sidonia and defend the rights of the nobles over the lands and booty to be captured after the conquest. Thanks to his military prestige, he has the power to direct the other feudal nobles in the army.

Enrique de Guzman (Duke of Medina Sidonia): The Duke of Medina Sidonia, who controls the Gibraltar coasts and the southern sea trade, is the richest noble of the Christian alliance with the highest naval power. His delegate must manage the naval blockade applied to the port of Malaga, prevent supply ships that could come from North Africa, and ensure the security of the coastline. Protecting his feudal interests, increasing his own influence in the newly captured ports and trade routes, and establishing a balance of power with the land army commanders are among the primary goals of the delegate.

Gonzalo Fernandez de Cordoba: This young commander, who is the great military tactician of the future, is an expert in light infantry movements, intelligence gathering, and tactical maneuvers. Due to his knowing Arabic and his command of the dynamics in the Granada palace, he serves as a key bridge both in covert operations and in diplomatic contacts. His delegate must coordinate infiltrating enemy lines, reconnaissance operations, and tactical raids during the crisis phase; and must undertake a mediator role in bilateral meetings to be held with Nasrid representatives during the negotiation phase.

Pedro Gonzalez de Mendoza (Archbishop of Toledo and Cardinal): Cardinal Mendoza, who is the head of the Church of Spain and one of the most influential statesmen of the kingdom, provides the religious legitimacy and financial support of the campaign. His delegate must transfer the Crusade funds (Cruzada) given by the Papacy and the church revenues to the war, and protect the moral superiority in the Christian ranks. At the

negotiation table, on the other hand, while defending the protection of absolute religious privileges, he must at the same time produce applicable and diplomatically flexible surrender articles for the survival of the state.

Tomas de Torquemada: Torquemada, who is the Grand Inquisitor of the Holy Inquisition, represents absolute religious purity and strict Catholic orthodoxy in the Iberian Peninsula. His delegate must ensure religious supervision within the army, investigate allegations of heresy, and pursue harsh policies against non-Muslim elements within the kingdom. He is the most radical actor demanding that no religious concessions be given in peace and surrender negotiations, that the rights of the Muslim and Jewish population be restricted, and that the inquisition courts be made directly authorized in the newly conquered lands.

Iñigo Lopez de Mendoza (Count of Tendilla): The Count of Tendilla, who is a noble specialized in border security and castle defense, stands out with his military discipline and administrative experience. His delegate must undertake the dispatch and administration of the border garrisons, ensure the protection of the captured fortified positions, and secure public order behind the front. During the negotiation process, on the other hand, he must display a rational approach organizing the balanced administrative structure to be established with the local people in the conquered regions, the border security protocols, and the captive exchange conditions.

Francisco Ramirez de Madrid: Ramirez, who is the Chief Gunner of the Kingdom and a military fortification expert, is the most technical brain of modern siege warfare in the field. His delegate must personally manage the placement of giant siege cannons (lombardas), wall battering plans, gunpowder and cannonball supply, and the construction of fortification trenches. It is his responsibility to determine the breaches to be opened in the walls of Malaga and to ensure that the army enters the city with the least casualties. At the table, on the other hand, he must focus on the security of military ammunition and the physical control of the castles to be taken over.

Abraham Senior: Senior, who is the Chief Treasurer of Royalty and the leader of the Castilian Jewish community, is the financial genius managing the giant budget of the war. His delegate must collect the internal taxes necessary for the financing of the campaign, make borrowing agreements from Genoese and Spanish bankers, and prevent the army from collapsing financially. During the negotiation phase, on the other hand, he is tasked with calculating the amount of war reparations, planning the tribute payments, and drawing the financial framework of the new trade agreements.

8.2. Emirate of Granada Delegation

Boabdil (Muhammad XI): Boabdil, who is the young sultan of Granada, is a controversial monarch who fell captive to the Castilian forces after the Lucena rout and was released in return for certain political commitments. His main purpose of existence is to protect the

legitimacy of his throne, save his people from an inevitable military massacre, and keep the diplomatic channels with the Christian kingdom open. His delegate must consolidate popular support in the capital during the crisis phase, manage the ongoing throne contention with his uncle and father, and make a strategic decision regarding whether or not aid will be sent to Malaga. At the negotiation phase, on the other hand, he is obligated to create an agreement text that protects the autonomy of Granada, guarantees the life and property security of the Muslim population, and contains a reasonable tribute order.

El-Zagal (Muhammad XII): The uncle El-Zagal, who is the most capable and uncompromising commander of the Emirate of Granada, is the warrior sultan holding the eastern castles, and the Almeria and Guadix regions in his hands. Defending an uncompromising jihad policy against the Christian kingdom, El-Zagal strongly opposes his nephew Boabdil's surrenderist attitude. His delegate must mobilize the eastern garrisons during the crisis phase, open supply routes to provide military support to the Malaga defense, and organize guerrilla raids on the Castilian supply lines. At the peace table, on the other hand, he must display a harsh stance that does not accept the military superiority of the Christians, and prioritizes uncompromising territorial defense and military independence.

Abu'l-Hasan Ali: Abu'l-Hasan, who is the former emir of Granada and the old head of the dynasty, is an experienced leader possessing the loyalty of traditional Arab and Berber tribes. Even though he lost his throne to his son and brother, he still has great influence over the tribes and senior commanders in the mountainous Alpujarras region. His delegate must mobilize the steep mountain tribes during the crisis phase, try to turn the civil war in his favor by bringing his former allies together, and ensure the security of the border castles. During the agreement process, on the other hand, he must focus on protecting the rights of rooted tribes, former dynastic properties, and the traditional land order.

Hamad al-Tegri: Hamad al-Tegri, who is the Governor of Malaga and the military defense commander of the city, is the leader in the field of the resistance against the Christian army of fifty thousand people besieging the city. His delegate must manage the fortification of the Alcazaba and Gibralfaro castles during the Siege of Malaga, protect the trenches against artillery fires, and distribute the food and water resources in the city under martial law conditions. It is his responsibility to keep the civilian merchants advocating surrender within the city under control, and to organize sudden sortie operations outside the walls. At the negotiation phase, on the other hand, he must impose on the table the terms that will prevent the enslavement of the Malaga garrison and its people.

Musa bin Abi'l-Ghassan: Musa, who is the cavalry commander-in-chief of the Emirate of Granada, is a legendary soldier known for his courage and his power to mobilize the masses. Considering the idea of surrender and paying tribute as treason to the homeland, Musa advocates fighting until the last breath. His delegate must make surprise night attacks on the Christian siege lines by managing the light cavalry units, commit arson on gunpowder depots, and keep the war morale of the capital's people high. At the table, on the other hand, he must conduct the harshest military opposition rejecting any kind of surrender document, preventing the Muslim army from laying down its arms, and resisting Christian impositions.

Abu'l-Qasim al-Malih: Abu'l-Qasim, who is the chief vizier and the most experienced diplomat of the Granada Palace, is the name at the head of the state bureaucracy and the correspondence council. He is a pragmatic statesman who can see that the military balances have turned in favor of the Christians and conducts a rational diplomacy to prevent the kingdom from being completely wiped off the map. His delegate must manage the diplomatic letters between the parties throughout the crisis, and protect the palace balances to suppress internal unrests. At the negotiation phase, on the other hand, he is the main negotiator who will legally pen the articles of the peace agreement, and process religious freedoms, trade rights, and property guarantees into the text.

Ayesha al-Horra: Ayesha al-Horra, who is the mother of Sultan Boabdil and the most powerful woman of the Nasrid Palace, is known for her high political intelligence and her influence within the dynasty. She is the key figure who ensured her son's ascension to the throne and protects him against all kinds of political conspiracies. Her delegate must control the women's network and noble families within the palace, and make intelligence and political moves against the uncle and father factions wanting to weaken her son's legitimacy over the throne. At the peace table, on the other hand, she must aim to guarantee the honor of the dynasty members, the inviolability of the royal treasury, and the protection of Boabdil's title of monarch.

Ali al-Attar: Ali al-Attar, who is the Governor of Loja and the senior guard of the border regions, is Boabdil's father-in-law and the master manager of border raids. He possesses vast experience in dispatching light cavalry units in steep terrain and ambushing Christian armies. His delegate must fortify the border outposts in and around Loja during the crisis process, strike the supply convoys going to the Christian camp, and act as a military advisor to the young sultan Boabdil. During the negotiation process, he must work on drawing the border lines, pardoning the Muslim garrisons along the border, and border security articles.

Ibrahim al-Cerbi: Ibrahim al-Cerbi, who is a North African dervish and religious scholar, has profound spiritual authority over both the Gomara warriors and the people of Malaga under siege. He is a radical figure who increases the resistance of the warriors with his religious excitement and prophecies, and at the same time can plan covert assassination and infiltration attempts. His delegate must keep the religious motivation of the people alive throughout the siege, and coordinate intelligence and assassination operations directed at Christian commanders behind the front. At the agreement table, on the other hand, he must advocate freedom of Islamic worship, protection of mosques, continuation of sharia courts, and the safe evacuation of Maghrebian volunteers to North Africa.

Yusuf bin Kamasha: He is the leader of the Beni Sirrac tribe, which is one of the most rooted and wealthy families of Granada, and the representative of the merchant elites. He is a key financial power holding the city economy, guilds, and the sea trade conducted with North Africa in his hands. His delegate must provide financial resources to the army and the cities under siege during the crisis phase, and organize the supply of provisions and gunpowder over secret trade routes. At the negotiation table, on the other hand, he must determine the financial conditions necessary for the free movement of Muslim merchants, limitation of

customs taxes, protection of property rights, and continuation of the economic order after the war.

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