



FIRAMUN '26

FIRA MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2026

**JOINT CRISIS
COMITEE: THE
LEVANTINE OF THE
JERUSALEM**

AGENDA ITEM:
RECONQUEST OF THE
JERUSALEM

UNDER SECRETARY
GENERAL:
GÜNEY DENİZ ALA &
ERDEM DEMIRCI
ACADEMIC ASSISTANT:
EGE ÇAĞAN CELEBCİ

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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

2. Letter from the Under Secretaries General:

Dear participants of FIRA Model United Nations Conference, it is our honour and absolute pleasure to welcome you to our Joint Crisis committee. First of all, our main goal in the idea of this committee and in the process of preparing the study guide was to make this committee a fun and memorable experience that will leave a mark on the lives of the delegates who choose this committee and will always remain in the back of their minds, so remember to have fun while writing your directives or discussing strategies with each other and be careful to be respectful to both your fellow academy members and each other. Regardless of your prior MUN experience, English Level, or current procedural knowledge, you will be able to succeed and develop due to the structure of Joint Crisis Committees. For this reason, don't be scared to try new things, engage with others, or get in touch with us. We'll do everything we can to make this committee a memorable event, so relax and enjoy yourself when it starts!

Best regards,

Erdem DEMİRCİ & Güney Deniz ALA

Under-Secretaries General of JCC: The Levantine Conflict

3. Letter from the Academic Assistant

Firstly, I would like to once again welcome you all to FIRAMUN'26. I am Ege Çağan Celebci and I will act as your academic assistant in the upcoming 3 days. Make sure to fully comprehend the study guide since all the pieces of information within it are crucial when making a move through directives. Please be careful in the regards of respect to both your fellow delegates and academic team. I wish you all a productive conference and am eager to see you there. If you have any questions feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Ege Çağan CELEBCİ

Academic Assistant of JCC: The Levantine Conflict

egecagancel@gmail.com

4. Introduction to the Committee:

Even if you have been in a Joint Crisis Committee before, we kindly request that you scan over the following procedural passages to refresh your memory, or if you have not, please try to comprehend the required procedural material prior to the committee so that you can feel at ease and enjoy it once it begins. On paper, it is definitely impossible to understand all the mentioned topics and procedures of the committee; hence, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. This section will cover and provide all the theoretical information delegates are going to need for the committee; anything else can only be learned through experience.

4.1. What is a Joint Crisis Committee (JCC):

Very briefly, a Joint Crisis Committee (JCC) is a type of committee in which two cabinets usually battle each other, and during these battles, updates or crises will arrive based on one's directives. Surely, depending on the conference, there can be more than 2 cabinets (like a WW2 committee with 6-7 cabinets), but in our case, it is the KMT Cabinet versus the CPC, and only one side will come out victorious. The winning condition is usually defeating the opposing side; however, there may be exceptions, which will be addressed later. Furthermore, in a JCC, one will not represent a country, but a person from that era, a character, or a god. Here are the definitions of the terms mentioned above:

4.1.1. Directive:

Directives are the main materials of Joint Crisis Committees; they are what distinguish a JCC from the General Assembly. As the name implies, the term "directive" refers to an order or instruction. On the committee, any realistic and feasible action can be taken by writing directives. Consequently, it is guaranteed that the majority of the time spent on the committee will be devoted to writing directives (Triumphs are attained through concrete actions, rather than mere speeches or campaigns.) Unlike the GA procedure, it is unnecessary to encourage, suggest, or demonstrate any ideas to make it happen; only a decent directive is required. There are several types of directives depending on what one wants to do, and they will be discussed in the latter section. To summarize, directives are written when one wishes to accomplish or do something. Writing a directive allows one to take any realistic action, therefore instead of long discussions and talking sessions to execute your ideas and progress in the committee, directives will be written.

4.1.2. Updates:

1- Updates are the outcomes of directives, which are either granted or rejected based on how precisely one wrote and phrased the directive. The Crisis Team evaluates whether they are adequate or not; every conference with crisis committees includes a Crisis Team that reads and inspects directives.

2- Updates can also come as a result of a new occurrence in your cabinet. For example, if the other cabinet launches a successful attack on one of your cities and captures it, an update will come. If the directive only concerns your cabinet, such as building a new military base in your country, then the update will only come to your cabinet, but if it is a conflict that both sides participate in, then the update will come to both cabinets.

3- The update doesn't necessarily have to be the result of a directive; for instance, if you are in the Hundred Years' Wars committee during the 14th century, then the Crisis Team may bring a plague update that will infect the majority of soldiers. Hereupon, it can be understood that the update may also be a crisis.

4.1.3. Crisis:

Crises emerge when one submits an insufficient directive, the other cabinet successfully affects you in a negative way, or temporal crises occur depending on the Crisis Teams' wishes. To clarify:

1- In order for a sufficient directive to be written, there are a few rules and necessities that must be followed; failing this, an inevitable crisis will occur based on what was wanted to be done in the directive.

2- If a cabinet were to create a virus and spread it to the other cabinet's people, the update would be a crisis that must be handled promptly. It does not necessarily have to be a virus or a plague; anything that affects one or one's cabinet negatively can be a crisis.

3- Finally, depending on how the committees' actions progress, a periodic crisis like a plague or a political disagreement may arise and affect a cabinet adversely.

4.2. Directive Types and How to Write Them:

In a Joint Crisis Committee, there are six types of papers that can be submitted. Each type has its own purpose, advantages, and disadvantages. Unless it is a top secret directive, directives should be given to the chair, who will then send them to the crisis team via admins.

4.2.1. Personal Directive:

Personal directives are written when an action is within your character's authority or is possible due to their abilities. Now take a look at how to write a Personal Directive: Firstly, there is a format for writing directives; thus, one has to write who is sending the directive and to whom (from, to). After that, which cabinet is sending the directive, then the real-world time and the current date of the committee. Lastly, the type of your directive and the headline of it. And that's it; this is all the format one needs to know to write a directive. The only thing left is the content of the directive, and the method by which one writes it is fairly straightforward; it is written by addressing the WH questions, which are what, why, when, who, where, and, most importantly, how. Write down the action you want to take by answering the WH questions, then detailing and explaining it as much as possible to ensure

that your plan is as comprehensive as possible. Also, the use of the future tense is critical, try to use it whenever possible. Here is how a directive looks on paper:

From: Menelaus Personal Directive

Date: 1192BC May 3

To: Related Authorities Capturing Tiryns Time: 12.34 (Spartan Cabinet)

What: I will capture Tiryns with my 5,000 agoge men stationed on the Tiryns frontline. My soldiers will kill and destroy any enemy forces they come across, as well as any enemy military bases. Women and children in the city will not be murdered unless they attack the soldiers.

Why: Tiryns plays a crucial role in the war, and it must be captured in order to cut the enemy's supply lines.

When: Soldiers will charge at 02.00 a.m. to catch the enemy off guard. Who: I will be operating this attack, and if I fall during the war, my right-hand man, Analus, will take over. 5,000 agoge soldiers will assault the enemy under his command.

Where: 2,500 of my soldiers will charge from the southeast frontline, and the other 2,500 will charge from the west to capture Tiryns. How*: To reduce noise, the 5,000 agoge soldiers will be divided into 50 groups, with 100 soldiers per group. Soldiers will check and control their weapons before charging. Each group will have a commander, and the commanders will be the best warriors among their groups. They will be well-armed with their hoplons, xiphos, and dorus (Spartan agoge soldiers' shields, spearheads, and small swords). Each group will apply the doctrine properly to face the fewest casualties. If needed, 3 soldiers from each group will bring supplies to their own group from the frontlines, and these 3 soldiers will be picked randomly from the commanders. They will take the safest route and avoid the enemy. Our men will take the safe paths suggested by our spies. They will pray, remember how brave they are, and then honour their nation and gods by demolishing the enemy. They will not disobey their commander's orders and apply the doctrine as they say. To avoid being affected by attrition, our soldiers will study their geographical situation as well as the enemy's to use it in their favour. They will not be wearing inappropriate armour and clothing, only those that will fit the current climate. Any careless mistakes shall not be forgiven and the commanders of the groups will eliminate the soldiers who made the mistake such as sleeping on a night's watch. If by any chance a soldier catches a disease that may spread he will be killed if there are no precautions that can be taken in order to heal him without letting it spread. If the siege and the road take unusually long to take and pass they will shave properly to prevent any lice growing, mating and distracting the soldiers. Soldiers will use an offensive phalanx formation

when I order them to charge, and they will slaughter each enemy troop they face. They will use the offensive formation until they face a larger enemy force to quickly capture as many critical areas as possible. If they face a larger enemy force, to be exact, 1.5 times larger than them, they will quickly change to a defensive phalanx formation and wait for recruitment while defending themselves. Their priority will be killing the enemy rather than cutting supply lines. In mountain areas, they will use the highlands in their favour and quickly oppress the enemy to finish them. Once they reach the city, their priority will be killing the cabinet members of Tiryns. If possible, they will defenestrate them to entertain themselves. Meaning of mercy will disappear from their minds and any offers made by the enemy will be rejected for they have disrespected our Nation. After the military bases and the city are captured, soldiers will go to the possible conflict areas to recruit other soldiers. Even though we've sent spies before, our soldiers will be vigilant for any kind of trap. Their main objective is to capture the city, and for that purpose, they will sacrifice themselves without hesitation.

Once one gets used to it, it is quite simple and straightforward to write. While it lacks details and additional information, the directive nicely illustrates its format. As one keeps writing and contributing to their cabinet's goals, in no time one will witness that the directives one has written have already surpassed that one above. And to write such a directive, here are a few tips and tricks: - For every action that is written in the directive, it has to answer all the WH questions. - The longer and more detailed, the better. - Drawing your war doctrine, charging plan, or strategy may significantly increase the directive's preciseness and effectiveness. The success rate of the directive will grow in proportion to how clear your action and directive are. - Do not use abbreviations such as "etc."; instead, detail the directive explicitly. - WH questions are not necessarily broken into paragraphs (one can write the directive like a book), but if you are a beginner, doing so will dramatically improve the quality of your directive, hence, I strongly recommend it. - In JCCs, one should not try to impose their ideas or policies on others but rather to achieve a specific goal, such as destroying the other cabinet; therefore, do not be hesitant to ask for help from other cabinet members or your chair, you are all in this together. - If you are positive that there is no impostor in the cabinet, directives should be written separately because it will be much faster. If you need the authority of another cabinet member, simply ask that person to add their name to the "from:" section. That way, eight people will be working on eight different tasks, and it will save quite a lot of time. - Precise information, like troop counts, is critical; do not forget to write them down. - If needed, fake names can be used for strategic persons in the directives, like Coxus, the Naval Commander.

4.2.2. Joint Directive:

Directives written by more than one individual are considered joint directives. Joint directives are written when one can only achieve the purpose of the directive by utilising the authority of other cabinet members. Consider the scenario where one is a commander responsible for capturing Warsaw. Recognising the insurmountable challenge of achieving this objective without air superiority, a collaborative effort can be initiated by writing a joint directive with

the Air Force general. In this case, the "from" field of the directive would include the commander's name alongside the name of the air force general, and instead of a personal directive, you write Joint Directive at the top of the directive. Everything else is the same.

4.2.3. Committee Directive:

A committee directive is written when one wishes to use everyone's authority or when one is about to deliver their final directive (in most cases). Delegates frequently ask, "How are we meant to write a committee directive with the other cabinet?" However, this concern stems from a widespread misunderstanding. The committee directive is essentially formulated collaboratively within the confines of your cabinet, with the members of your cabinet. Although it is formally referred to as a "Committee Directive," its essence remains akin to that of a cabinet directive. So, simply writing Committee Directive in the "from:" part will do.

4.2.4. Intelligence Directive:

Intelligence directives are written when one wants to acquire the necessary information about their country/cabinet/character. The format is exactly the same, except for the "WH Questions" part. For example:

From: Winston Churchill Intelligence Directive Date: 1942 May 3 To:
Crisis Team Our Troop Counts Time: 16.21 (The Great Britain Cabinet)

How many troops does our country have? Do we possess any nuclear weapons? How many of our military factories are assigned to manufacture infantry weapons, and what kind of weapons are they producing?

When one wants to acquire a piece of information, one must write "To: Crisis Team" but when one wants to take action, one must write "To: Related Authorities". The reason behind this is that the crisis team is not the people who will cause the action to happen; hence, "Related Authorities" must be written.

4.2.5. Top Secret:

Top Secret directives are those that your chair is not allowed to read. Top secret directives are directly handed to the admin. They are written precisely the same, but one must fold the paper and write "TOP SECRET" on the back side of it. The major reason for writing a Top Secret Directive is treason, a diabolical strategy to crash one's own cabinet or switch sides. For instance, if a person secretly kills his cabinet members and becomes dictator, the winning condition changes and only that person wins, whereas the cabinet loses. But I do not

recommend writing Top Secret Directives unless you're planning on writing a brilliant 10-page directive, because failing to do so will backfire much worse. If one fails to accomplish their nefarious plan and gets busted, one will earn their cabinet's distrust and may die and be given an insignificant character. Additionally, updates to the Top Secret Directives are only sent to the person who sent them unless they directly affect other cabinet members.

4.2.6. Press Release (Declaration):

Press Releases are written when one wants to make a declaration, a speech, or a notice. When one writes a press release, depending on the era of the committee, the other cabinet members may hear it or not. In our case, there are no printers, social media, or newspapers, so it is very unlikely to hear other cabinets' press releases. The format is once again exactly the same, except for the "WH Questions" part. For example:

From: Erwin Smith	Press Release	Date:
845 July 23 To: Related Authorities Hying Up the Soldiers Time: 18.17 (Wall Maria Cabinet)		

Everything that you thought had meaning: every hope, dream, or moment of happiness. None of it matters as you lie bleeding out on the battlefield. None of it changes what a speeding rock does to a body, we all die. But does that mean our lives are meaningless? Does that mean that there was no point in our being born? Would you say that of our slain comrades? What about their lives? Were they meaningless?... They were not! Their memory serves as an example to us all! The courageous fallen! The anguished fallen! Their lives have meaning because we, the living, refuse to forget them! And as we ride to certain death, we trust our successors to do the same for us! Because my soldiers do not buckle or yield when faced with the cruelty of this world! My soldiers push forward! My soldiers scream out! My soldiers RAAAAAGE!

A Press Release like that might be written before a conflict to increase the motivation and morale of soldiers, or it could be written in any way one wishes, depending on their goal. Since one is addressing your people rather than the Crisis Team, the language can be informal. Plus, press releases can prevent crises, especially those related to the public; they can be used for propaganda, making promises, or spreading misinformation. This is a different form of press release that could be submitted:

From: Rollo Declamation Date: 802 August 28 To: Related Authorities Standing our Ground Time: 10.27 (Frankish Kingdom Cabinet) All of my life and all of your lives have come to this point. There is nowhere else to be but here. Nowhere else to live or die but here. To be here now is the *only* thing that matters. So, gather yourselves. Gather all of your strength, all of your sweetness into an iron ball. For we will attack again and again until we reach and overcome their king or die in the attempt! We will attack! Attack! Attack! Blow the horns! Beat the drums! And have courage! For there will be no turning back. Only victory! Or

death!

Based on one's creativity, press releases may vary just like directives and can be used for almost any purpose.

4.3. Procedure of the Committee:

i) Roll Call: When your character's name is called out during a roll call, you can respond with "I", "present", or simply by raising your placard.

ii) Tour de Table: Tour de Table is an introduction, similar to the opening speech. Following the roll call, it can be done at the beginning or end of the sessions, depending on the chair's initiative. Delegates are expected to briefly introduce themselves and voice their goals or vision for their cabinet.

iii) Semi-moderated Caucus: Unlike moderated caucuses, delegates in a semi-moderated caucus are allowed to speak without the chair's permission, as long as they do not interrupt other cabinet members and treat each other with respect.

iv) Unmoderated Caucus: In an unmoderated caucus, delegates are free to draft any kind of paper they want to achieve their goals, and support others. The majority of the cabinet's time should be spent on unmoderated caucuses rather than semi-moderated.

Unlike the General Assembly Committees, at a Joint Crisis Committee, the sessions proceed with Semi-Moderated caucuses and Unmoderated caucuses. The reason for that is to have a more smooth experience. Since the participants of a Joint Crisis Committee have already had a few experiences with how committees and MUN conferences proceed, semi and unmoderated caucuses are to advance the efficiency of debates, thus making crucial and quick decisions. It was mentioned earlier, but directives are the primary reason that a JCC's procedure is so unique. So later on with the sessions based on your chair's initiative you need not take one or two semi-moderated caucuses before an unmoderated caucus to write directives, directly voting for an unmoderated caucus before moderated will be allowed to continue writing directives. On a Joint Crisis Committee, after the roll call and Tour de Table, delegates take semi-moderated caucuses to discuss future actions, strategies and plans. After determining their move, delegates write down the designated act to put into practice. There isn't a General Speakers' List, resolution paper, or opening speech.

5. Matrix

5.1. Kingdom of Jerusalem

Christian Board Member

Name	Details
Baldwin IV	King of Jerusalem who personally directed the kingdom's military and political response to Saladin.

Delegate Allocations

Name	Details
Raynald of Châtillon	Aggressive noble and commander who strongly supported military action against Saladin.
Raymond III of Tripoli	Experienced commander and political leader who often advocated a more cautious strategy toward Saladin.
Odo of St Amand	Grand Master of the Knights Templar who commanded Templar forces against Saladin.
Humphrey II of Toron	Senior noble and military commander who fought alongside Baldwin IV.
Balian of Ibelin	Powerful noble who represented the interests of the Ibelin family and Jerusalem's military elite.
Baldwin of Ibelin	Ibelin noble who supported the kingdom's military and political interests.
Aimery of Lusignan	Senior military official who helped organize and command the kingdom's forces.
Amalric of Lusignan	Lusignan noble who represented an increasingly influential political faction within Jerusalem.

The Ayyubid Sultanate

5.2. Muslim Board Member

Name	Details
Saladin	Sultan and supreme commander who sought to unite Muslim territories and defeat the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

Delegate Allocations

Name	Details
Al-Adil	Saladin's brother and trusted commander who played an important role in Ayyubid military and political affairs.
Taqi al-Din Umar	Saladin's nephew and one of his leading generals during campaigns against the Crusaders.
Farrukh-Shah	Experienced Ayyubid commander who led forces in several campaigns against the Kingdom of Jerusalem.
Al-Afdal ibn Salah ad-Din	Saladin's son who represented the interests of the Ayyubid ruling dynasty.
Al-Zahir Ghazi	Saladin's son and later ruler of Aleppo who represented the northern Syrian interests of the Ayyubid dynasty.
Al-Muzaffar Taqi al-Din	Senior Ayyubid commander and relative of Saladin who contributed to military operations.
Izz al-Din Mas'ud	Regional Muslim ruler whose position could influence Saladin's wider political and military alliances.
Qadi al-Fadil	Saladin's chief adviser who managed diplomacy, administration, finances, and strategic communications.

1174 - 1193

Reign of Saladin, Sultan of Egypt and Syria, and founder of the Ayyubid dynasty.

3 Jul 1187 - 4 Jul 1187

Saladin defeats the Franks army at the Battle of Hattin.

Sep 1187

Saladin captures Jerusalem.

Oct 1187

Pope Gregory VIII calls for the Third Crusade to recapture Jerusalem.

1189 - 1192

The Third Crusade was formed with the aim of recapturing Jerusalem for Christendom. Although some cities were recaptured, Jerusalem was not one of them.

Aug 1189 - Jul 1191

The siege of Acre during the Third Crusade.

Aug 1189

Guy of Lusignan leads a force from Tyre to attack Acre.

Sep 1189

A small force of Crusaders is the first army to arrive from Europe at the siege of Acre.

1190

Richard I of England captures Messina on Sicily during the Third Crusade.

1190

Teutonic knights establish a field hospital at Acre during the Third Crusade.

10 Jun 1190

Frederick I Barbarossa, Holy Roman Emperor, drowns in the Seraph River in Cilicia on his way to the Middle East during the Third Crusade.

28 Jul 1190

A force of Crusaders under the command of Henry of Champagne arrives at the siege of Acre.

7 Oct 1190

A force of German crusaders under the command of Duke Leopold of Austria arrives at the siege of Acre.

May 1191

Richard I of England captures Cyprus during the Third Crusade.

Jun 1191

The Crusader armies of Philip II of France and Richard I of England arrive at the siege of Acre.

12 Jul 1191

Richard I of England captures Acre during the Third Crusade.

Aug 1191

Philip II leaves Acre and returns to France during the Third Crusade.

20 Aug 1191

Richard I of England orders the execution of 2,500 Muslim prisoners after the siege of Acre during the Third Crusade.

20 Aug 1191

The Massacre at Ayyadieh occurs during the Third Crusade when King Richard I of England orders the beheading of over 2,000 Muslim prisoners of war after the fall of the city of Acre. The sultan Saladin, in retaliation, executes Christian prisoners of war.

7 Sep 1191

Richard I of England defeats Saladin's army at Arsuf during the Third Crusade.

Jan 1192

The Crusader army led by Richard I of England arrives within sight of Jerusalem but decides not to attack for fear of a counter-attack by Saladin.

Jul 1192

Saladin takes Jaffa during the Third Crusade.

Aug 1192

Richard I of England retakes Jaffa from Saladin during the Third Crusade.

Oct 1192

Richard I of England, returning home from the Third Crusade is shipwrecked and eventually imprisoned by the German emperor Henry VI.

4 Mar 1193

Death of Saladin, Sultan of Egypt and Syria.

6. Background Information

6.1. The First Crusade

First Crusade, military expedition launched in 1095 that was organized by western European Christians in response to centuries of Muslim wars of expansion. Their objectives were to check the spread of Islam, to retake control of the Holy Land in the eastern Mediterranean, to conquer pagan areas, and to recapture formerly Christian territories. The First and subsequent Crusades were seen by many participants as a means of redemption and expiation for sins.

Although less advanced than other civilizations of the Mediterranean basin, western Europe had become a significant power by the end of the 11th century. It was composed of several kingdoms loosely describable as feudal. While endemic private warfare, brigandage, and problems associated with vassalage and inheritance still existed, some monarchies were already developing better-integrated systems of government. At the same time, Europe was feeling the effects of population growth that had begun toward the end of the 10th century and would continue well into the 13th century. An economic revival was also in full swing well before the First Crusade; forestlands were being cleared, frontiers pushed forward, and markets organized. Moreover, Italian shipping was beginning to challenge the Muslim predominance in the Mediterranean. Especially significant for the Crusade was a general overhaul of the ecclesiastical structure in the 11th century, associated with the Gregorian Reform movement, which enabled the popes to assume a more active role in society. In 1095, for example, Pope Urban II was in a position strong enough to convoke two important ecclesiastical councils, despite meeting resistance from Henry IV, the German emperor, who opposed papal reform policies.

Following Pope Urban's speech, preparations began in both East and West. Emperor Alexius, who had doubtless anticipated the mustering of some sort of auxiliary force, apparently soon realized that he would have to provide for and police a much larger influx of warriors. In the West, as the leaders began to assemble their armies, those who took the cross sought to raise money, often by selling or mortgaging property, both for the immediate purchase of equipment and for the long-term needs of the journey.

As preparations were under way, several less-organized bands of knights and peasants, commonly known as the "People's Crusade," set out across Europe. The most famous of these, brought together by a remarkable popular preacher, Peter the Hermit, and his associate Walter Sansavoir, reached Constantinople after having caused considerable disorder in Hungary and Bulgaria. Alexius received Peter cordially and advised him to await the arrival of the main Crusade force. But the rank and file grew unruly, and on August 6, 1096, they were ferried across the Bosphorus. While Peter was in Constantinople requesting additional aid, his army was ambushed at Cibotus (called Civetot by the Crusaders) and all but annihilated by the Turks.

The main Crusading force, which departed in August 1096 as Urban directed, consisted of four major contingents. A smaller, fifth force, led by Hugh of Vermandois, brother of King Philip I of France, left before the others but was reduced by shipwreck while crossing the Adriatic Sea from Bari to Dyrrhachium (now Durrës, Albania). Godfrey of Bouillon, leader of the first large army to depart and duke of Lower Lorraine since 1087, was the only major prince from the German kingdom involved in the Crusade, though he and his associates largely spoke French. Joined by his brothers, Eustace and Baldwin, and a kinsman, Baldwin of Le Bourcq, Godfrey took the land route and crossed Hungary without incident. Markets and provisions were supplied in Byzantine territory, and, except for some pillaging, the army reached Constantinople without serious problems on December 23, 1096.

A second force was organized by Bohemond, a Norman from southern Italy. The son of Robert Guiscard, Bohemond was on familiar ground across the Adriatic, where he had fought with his father and was understandably feared by the Byzantines. However, he was 40 years old when he arrived at Constantinople on April 9, 1097, and determined to come to profitable terms with his former enemy.

The third and largest army was assembled by Raymond of Saint-Gilles, the count of Toulouse. At age 55, he was the oldest and most prominent of the princes on the Crusade, and he aspired and perhaps expected to become the leader of the entire expedition. He was accompanied by Adhémar, bishop of Le Puy, whom the pope had named as legate for the Crusade. Raymond led his followers, including a number of noncombatant pilgrims whom he supported at his own expense, across northern Italy, around the head of the Adriatic Sea, and then southward into Byzantine territory. This large body caused considerable trouble in Dalmatia and clashed with Byzantine troops as it approached the capital, where Raymond arrived on April 21.

Meanwhile, the fourth army, under Robert of Flanders, had crossed the Adriatic from Brindisi. Accompanying Robert were his cousin Robert of Normandy (brother of King William II of England) and Stephen of Blois (the son-in-law of William the Conqueror). No king took part in the First Crusade, and the predominantly French-speaking participants came to be known by the Muslims as Franks.

Late in May 1097 the Crusaders and a contingent of Byzantine soldiers reached the capital of the Turkish sultanate, Nicaea (now İznik, Turkey), which surrendered to the Byzantines on June 19. The Crusade army left Nicaea for Antioch on June 26 and found crossing the arid and mountainous Anatolia difficult. At Dorylaeum on July 1, 1097, Turks attacked the advance column of the Crusader army. Despite the heat and a rain of arrows, the Crusaders held their ground, and, when the rest of the army drew up, the Turks were routed. A major victory in open warfare had been achieved by cooperation between the separate Western contingents and the Greeks.

Further advance across Anatolia was even more arduous, and it was only after suffering many casualties, especially in the region of the Taurus Mountains, that the Crusaders arrived near Antioch on October 20. Meanwhile, Godfrey's brother Baldwin left the main army to involve himself in Armenian politics and then became ruler of Edessa. The first of the Crusader states, the county of Edessa would provide a valuable buffer against Turkish attacks on Antioch and other Christian territories.

One of the great cities of the Levant and one of the patriarchal sees of Christianity, Antioch was surrounded by an enormous circle of walls studded with more than 400 towers. Despite reinforcements and supplies from Genoese and English ships and later from the patriarch of Jerusalem, then in Cyprus, the siege proved long and difficult, and many died of starvation or disease. Spring brought the threat of counterattack by a relief force under Kerbogha of Mosul. The situation seemed so hopeless that some Crusaders deserted and attempted to return home. Among these was Peter the Hermit, who was caught and returned to the host, where he was quietly forgiven. Another deserter was the French knight Stephen of Blois, who was cut off from the main body of the army by Kerbogha's forces and judged, not unreasonably, that the Crusaders were doomed. On his way home Stephen met Alexius, who was marching at the head of a Byzantine relief force, and convinced him that Antioch's cause was hopeless. The emperor's decision to turn back, however justified tactically, was a diplomatic blunder; when the Crusaders learned of the emperor's move, they felt free from any obligation to return the city to him.

Bohemond, meanwhile, proposed that the first to enter the city should have possession of it, provided the emperor did not make an appearance. The Norman had, in fact, already made contact with a discontented commander within, who proceeded to admit him over a section of the walls on June 3, 1098. The other Crusaders followed Bohemond into the dozing city and quickly captured it. Only the citadel held out.

Thus, Antioch was restored to Christian rule. The victory, however, was incomplete. Kerbogha arrived with an enormous Turkish army and completely invested the city, which was already very low on provisions. Once again the situation seemed hopeless. Disagreements between the leaders persisted and were accentuated by arguments over the validity of what had come to be called the Holy Lance, which a Provençal priest found below the cathedral and insisted was the lance that, according to the Gospels, had pierced the side of Jesus Christ when he hung on the cross. Nonetheless, on June 28 the Crusader army moved out of the city. The Turkish forces were not of high quality and had only tenuous loyalty to Kerbogha. When they saw the size of the Crusade forces and the resolve of the men, the Turks began to flee. With the evaporation of Kerbogha's army, the citadel finally surrendered to Bohemond, and its garrison was permitted to leave. Rejoicing was tempered by a devastating epidemic that took many lives, including that of the legate, Adhémar of Le Puy, who, as the spiritual leader of the Crusade, had been a wise counselor and a stabilizing influence whom the leaders could ill afford to lose.

The Crusade leaders then fell into violent disagreement over the final disposition of Antioch. Bohemond, who had been responsible for the capture of the city and then had led its defense, wanted it for himself. Raymond, however, insisted that it be returned to the emperor. Unable to come to terms on Antioch, Bohemond and Raymond refused to march to Jerusalem, which effectively stalled the Crusade. The leaders agreed to depart only after the rank and file threatened to tear down the walls of Antioch. On January 13, 1099, the army then set out for Jerusalem under the leadership of Raymond of Saint-Gilles. As they moved south, Tancred and Robert of Normandy and, later, Godfrey and Robert of Flanders joined them. Bohemond, ignoring his previous oaths, remained in Antioch.

6.2. The Siege of Jerusalem

Not far from Beirut, the army entered the territory of the Fatimid caliphs of Cairo, who, as Shi'i Muslims, were enemies of the Sunni Seljuqs and the caliphs of Baghdad. In August 1098 the Fatimids had occupied Jerusalem. The final drive of the First Crusade, therefore, was against the Fatimids of Egypt, not the Seljuqs.

On June 7, 1099, the Christian army—by then considerably reduced to perhaps 1,200–1,500 cavalry and 12,000 foot soldiers—encamped before Jerusalem, whose governor was well supplied and confident that he could withstand a siege until a relief force arrived from Egypt. The Crusaders, on the other hand, were short of supplies and would be until six vessels arrived at Jaffa (Yafo) and managed to unload before the port was blockaded by an Egyptian squadron. On July 8 a strict fast was ordered, and, with the Muslims scoffing from the walls, the entire army, preceded by the clergy, marched in solemn procession around the city, thence to the Mount of Olives, where Peter the Hermit preached with his former eloquence.

Siege towers were carried up to the walls on July 13–14, and on July 15 Godfrey's men took a sector of the walls, and others followed on scaling ladders. When the nearest gate was opened, Tancred and Raymond entered, and the Muslim governor surrendered to the latter in the Tower of David. The governor, along with his bodyguard, was escorted out of the city. Tancred promised protection in Al-Aqsa Mosque, but his orders were disobeyed. Hundreds of men, women, and children, both Muslim and Jewish, perished in the general slaughter that followed.

The Crusaders, therefore, attained their goal three long years after they had set out. Against the odds this struggling, fractious, and naive enterprise had made its way from western Europe to the Middle East and conquered two of the best-defended cities of the time. From a modern perspective, the improbability of the First Crusade's success is staggering. For the medievals, though, the agent of victory was God himself, who worked miracle after miracle for his faithful knights. It was this firm belief that would sustain centuries of Crusading.

6.3. Crusader States

A successful surprise attack on the Egyptian relief army ensured the Crusaders' occupation of Palestine. Having fulfilled their vows of pilgrimage, most of the Crusaders departed for home, leaving the problem of governing the conquered territories to the few who remained. Initially, there was disagreement concerning the nature of the government to be established, and some held that the holy city should be ruled under ecclesiastical authority. As an interim measure, Godfrey was elected to govern and took the modest title of Defender of the Holy Sepulchre.

In December 1099, in the midst of this confused situation, Bohemond and Baldwin of Edessa arrived in Jerusalem to fulfill their Crusader vows. Accompanying Bohemond was Daimbert, the archbishop of Pisa, who was chosen patriarch and received the homage of both Godfrey and Baldwin. If Daimbert had ambitions to govern Jerusalem, they were thwarted when, on Godfrey's death, his brother Baldwin was summoned back to Jerusalem, where he assumed the title of king (November 11, 1100). Thus, there had come into being not a church state but a feudal kingdom of Jerusalem.

Securing the new Christian territories was now of utmost concern. The Crusade of 1101, for example, was organized by Pope Paschal II to reinforce Christian rule in the Holy Land, but it collapsed in Asia Minor. King Baldwin, however, profited nonetheless from the chronic rivalries of his Muslim neighbors. He was also able to extend his control along the coastline with the aid of Italians and in one instance of a Norwegian squadron that arrived under King Sigurd in 1110. By 1112 Arsuf, Caesarea, Acre, Beirut, and Sidon had been taken, and the entire coast except for Ascalon and Tyre was in Latin hands.

Meanwhile, castles had been built in Galilee, the frontier pushed southward, and Crusader states formed in the north. The county of Edessa, an ill-defined domain extending into the upper Euphrates region with a population consisting mainly of Armenians and Syrians, had already been established by Godfrey's brother Baldwin. When Baldwin left to become ruler of Jerusalem, he bestowed the county, under his suzerainty, on his cousin Baldwin of Le Bourcq.

Antioch had not been returned to the emperor, and Bohemond had consolidated his position there. The city was predominantly Greek in population, though there were also Syrians and Armenians, and the latent Greek-Latin friction was intensified when Bohemond replaced the Greek patriarch with a Latin one. When Bohemond was captured by the Muslims in 1100, his nephew Tancred became regent and expanded the frontiers of the principality to include the important port of Latakia, taken from the Byzantines in 1103. Not long after his release in 1103, Bohemond traveled to Europe, where he succeeded in winning over Pope Paschal II to the idea of a new Crusade. Whatever the original intention, there resulted not an expedition against Muslims but an attack on the Byzantine city of Dyrrhachium. Like its predecessor, the ill-fated campaign of 1082, the enterprise failed, and in 1108 Bohemond was forced to take an oath of vassalage to the emperor for Antioch and to return to Italy, where he died in 1111.

Tancred, again in power, ignored his uncle's oath, and Antioch and its patriarchate remained a source of controversy.

A fourth Crusader state was established on the coast in the vicinity of Tripoli (Arabic Tarābulus) by Raymond of Saint-Gilles, who had been outmaneuvered in Jerusalem and had returned to Constantinople hoping for aid from the Byzantine emperor, to whom he had always been loyal. In 1102 he returned to Syria, took Tortosa (Tartūs), and began the siege of Tripoli. But he died in 1105, and it remained for his descendants to finish the task in 1109.

The establishment and protection of the frontier was, for the new states, a problem conditioned by geography and the politics of Levantine Islam. From Antioch south, the Crusaders held a narrow strip of coastland bounded by mountains to the north and by the Jordan Valley in the south. To the east beyond the Syrian desert lay the Muslim cities of Aleppo, Ḥamāh, Ḥimṣ, and Damascus. Though the Franks did push southward to Aylah (or Elim, modern Al-ʿAqabah), all attempts to move eastward failed, and it was necessary to erect castles at vulnerable points along the eastern frontier as well as along the coast and inland. Among the most famous of these were Krak de Montréal, in the Transjordan, and Krak des Chevaliers, in the county of Tripoli. Meanwhile, the hostility between Shiʿi Egypt and Sunni Baghdad continued for some time. The emirates in between the two powers remained divided in their allegiance, and those in the north feared the Seljuqs of Iconium.

After Baldwin I's death in 1118, the throne passed to his cousin Baldwin of Le Bourcq (Baldwin II), who left Edessa to another cousin, Joscelin of Courtenay. In 1124 Tyre, the last great city north of Ascalon still in Muslim hands, was taken with the aid of the Venetians, who, as was customary, received a section of the city. Baldwin II was succeeded by Fulk of Anjou, a newcomer recommended by Louis VI of France. Fulk was married to Baldwin's daughter Melisende. In 1131 Baldwin and Joscelin both died. They were the last of the first generation of Crusaders, and with their passing the formative period in the history of the Crusader states came to an end.

6.4. The Second Crusade

It had long been apparent that Edessa was vulnerable, but its loss came as a shock to Eastern and Western Christians. Urgent pleas for aid soon reached Europe, and in 1145 Pope Eugenius III issued a formal Crusade bull, *Quantum praedecessores* ("How Much Our Predecessors"). It was the first of its kind, with precisely worded provisions designed to protect Crusaders' families and property and reflecting contemporary advances in canon law. The Crusade was preached by St. Bernard of Clairvaux in France and, with the aid of interpreters, even in Germany. Bernard revolutionized Crusade ideology, asserting that the Crusade was not merely an act of charity or a war to secure the holy places but a means of redemption. In his mercy, Christ offered the warriors of Europe a blessed avenue of salvation, a means by which they could give up all they had to follow him.

As in the First Crusade, many simple pilgrims responded. Unlike the First Crusade, however, the Second Crusade was led by two of Europe's greatest rulers, King Louis VII of France and Emperor Conrad III of Germany. Louis enthusiastically supported the Crusade, but Conrad was reluctant at first and was won over only by the eloquence of St. Bernard. The Second Crusade also differed from its predecessor in that there were three objectives instead of one. While the kings of Germany and France marched east to restore Edessa, other Crusaders went to Spain to fight Muslims or to the shores of the Baltic Sea to fight the pagan Wends.

The situation in the East was also different. Manuel Comnenus, the Byzantine emperor, was not pleased to discover another Crusade headed toward Constantinople. The Second Crusade wreaked havoc with his foreign policy, which included an alliance with Germany, Venice, and the pope against the Normans. It also complicated the emperor's peaceful relationship with the Turkish sultan of Rūm. Manuel made a truce with the sultan in 1146 to make certain that the Crusade would not cause the sultan to attack Byzantine lands in Asia. Although sound strategically, the emperor's move confirmed for many Western Christians the apostasy of the Greeks.

Conrad left in May 1147, accompanied by many German nobles, the kings of Poland and Bohemia, and Frederick of Swabia, his nephew and the future emperor Frederick I (Frederick Barbarossa). Conrad's poorly disciplined troops created tension in Constantinople, where they arrived in September. Conrad and Manuel, however, remained on good terms, and both were apprehensive about the moves of King Roger II of Sicily, who during these same weeks seized Corfu and attacked the Greek mainland.

Conrad, rejecting Manuel's advice to follow the coastal route around Asia Minor, moved his main force past Nicaea directly into Anatolia. On October 25 at Dorylaeum, not far from where the First Crusaders won their victory, his army, weary and without adequate provisions, was set upon by the Turks and virtually destroyed. Conrad, with a few survivors, retreated to Nicaea.

Louis VII, accompanied by his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, followed the land route across Europe and arrived at Constantinople on October 4, about a month after the Germans. A few of his more hotheaded followers, on hearing that Manuel had made a truce with the Turks of Iconium and totally misunderstanding his motives, accused the emperor of treason and urged the French king to join Roger in attacking the Byzantines. Louis preferred the opinion of his less-volatile advisers and agreed to restore any imperial possessions he might capture.

In November the French reached Nicaea, where they learned of Conrad's defeat. Louis and Conrad then started along the coastal route, with the French now in the vanguard, and reached Ephesus. Conrad became seriously ill and returned to Constantinople to the medical ministrations of Manuel. After recuperating, he eventually reached Acre by ship in April 1148.

The French passage from Ephesus to Antioch in midwinter was extremely harrowing. Supplies ran short, and the Byzantines were unjustly blamed. Manuel defended his cities against the angry Crusaders, which meant that the French spent more energy fighting Christians than Muslims. Louis concluded that the Greeks were trying to weaken the Crusade. He also had lost the bulk of his troops to Turkish attacks by the time he reached Antioch, which was ruled by Eleanor's uncle, Prince Raymond. The Crusade's original goal of recapturing Edessa was no longer feasible, because Nūr al-Dīn, the son and successor of Zangī, had massacred the city's Christian inhabitants, making it difficult to take and hold Edessa with the forces available. Raymond urged an attack on Aleppo, Nūr al-Dīn's center of power. But King Louis, who resented Eleanor's open espousal of Raymond's project, left abruptly for Jerusalem and forced the queen to join him.

In Jerusalem, where Conrad had already arrived, many French and German notables assembled with Queen Melisende, her son Baldwin III, and the barons of Jerusalem to discuss how best to proceed. Despite the absence of the northern princes and the losses already suffered by the Crusaders, it was possible to field an army of nearly 50,000 men, the largest Crusade army so far assembled. After considerable debate, which revealed the conflicting purposes of Crusaders and Jerusalem barons, it was decided to attack Damascus.

How the decision was reached is not known. Damascus was undoubtedly a tempting prize. Its ruler, Unur, fearful of the expanding power of Nūr al-Dīn, was the one Muslim ruler most disposed to cooperating with the Franks. However, Unur was now forced to seek the aid of his former enemy to thwart them. And Nūr al-Dīn was not slow to move toward Damascus. Not only was the Crusader campaign poorly conceived, but it was badly executed. On July 28, after a four-day siege, with Nūr al-Dīn's forces nearing the city, it became evident that the Crusader army was dangerously exposed, and a retreat was ordered. It was a humiliating failure, attributable largely to the conflicting interests of the participants.

Conrad decamped for Constantinople, where he agreed to join the emperor against Roger of Sicily. Louis's reaction was different. His resentment against Manuel, whom he blamed for the failure, was so great that he accepted Roger's offer of ships to take him home and agreed to a plan for a new Crusade against Byzantium. Lacking papal support, the plan came to nothing, but the perception that the Byzantines were part of the problem rather than the solution became widespread in Europe.

The Second Crusade had been promoted with great zeal and had aroused high hopes. Its collapse caused deep dismay. Searching for an explanation, St. Bernard turned to Scripture and preached that the Crusade failed because of the sinfulness of Europe. Only through the purification and prayers of Christian men and women would God relent and bestow victory on his knights once more. This belief became central to Crusading ideology and an important impetus for movements of lay piety during the Middle Ages. The Muslims, on the other hand, were enormously encouraged by the collapse of the Second Crusade because they had confronted the danger of another major Western expedition and had triumphed.

6.5. The Ayyubid Dynasty

The Ayyubid Dynasty refers to a Muslim ruling dynasty formed in the second half of the 12th century. It was created by the Kurdish leader known as Salah al-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub or simply Saladin. It was born out of the political and military systems of the Zengid state in which the father of Salah al-Din, Ayyub, and his uncle, Shirkuh, worked under the Zengid rulership of Nur ad-Din. The Ayyubids first rose to power in Egypt when his uncle, Shirkuh, who had become the vizier of the Fatimid Caliphate in 1169, died and left Salah al-Din in charge. Salah al-Din consolidated power in Egypt and eventually, in 1171, dissolved the Fatimid Caliphate and restored the Sunni Abbasid Caliphate in Baghdad. This is one crucial event that put Egypt under the Sunni political orbit and made it easier for Saladin to rise to power.

Following the demise of Nur ad-Din in 1174, Saladin expanded his sphere of influence in Syria. Instead of immediately concentrating on taking over the Crusader states, he aimed at uniting the various Muslim states surrounding these Christian principalities. The acquisition of Damascus, as well as other territories in Syria and northern Mesopotamia, helped to consolidate his power. Aleppo, which formed one of the key remaining territories of Zengid rule, was annexed by Saladin in 1183, whereas Mosul was made dependent on him by 1186. This way Saladin created a powerful state and military force covering Egypt, Syria and some areas adjacent to these lands. Such consolidation of Muslim power was extremely important for the conflict in the Levant since until now the Crusader states enjoyed advantages of disunity among the rulers of Muslim territories.

The Ayyubid state became closely identified with the fight against the Crusader kingdoms, especially the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Recovering territories held by the Crusaders was not only one of the key political and religious objectives, but also one of the major military threats to his territories according to Saladin. Tensions rose in the 1170s and 1180s as both parties fought each other for the control of key fortresses and territory. The growing power of Saladin enabled him to organize joint military campaigns from both Egypt and Syria, thus putting great pressure on the Kingdom of Jerusalem. It all ended with the Battle of Hattin in 1187, during which Saladin defeated the army of the Crusaders. The defeat severely weakened the military capacity of the Kingdom of Jerusalem and enabled Saladin to seize a number of cities and fortresses. Of greatest importance is the fact that Saladin seized Jerusalem in October 1187, almost a century after its capture by the First Crusaders.

The capture of Jerusalem had a huge impact on the politics of the Levant and led to the start of the Third Crusade. It showed the efficiency of the military and political consolidation realized during the Ayyubid period and surprised the Christian states of Western Europe. As a

result, the Third Crusade began, involving many rulers of Europe such as Richard I of England, Philip II of France, and Frederick I Barbarossa of the Holy Roman Empire, with the aim of overturning the results of Saladin's victory. However, despite regaining some coastal territories, the crusaders did not succeed in taking back Jerusalem. The war ended with a treaty signed by Richard I and Saladin and known as the Treaty of Jaffa (1192), giving Christians a chance to visit Jerusalem, though keeping it in Muslim hands. Saladin died in 1193, yet the Ayyubid dynasty continued its rule under his relatives and successors.

6.6. Third Crusade

The Third Crusade (1189-1192 CE) was initiated to reclaim Jerusalem after it was captured by the Muslim commander Saladin in 1187 CE. The Crusade was directed by three European kings, which is why it is also called 'the Kings' Crusade'. The three leaders were: Frederick I Barbarossa, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and King of Germany (r. 1152-1190 CE), Philippe II de France (r. 1180-1223 CE) and Richard I 'the Lionhearted' of England (reign. 1189-1199 CE). Despite this background, the campaign was unsuccessful, with the Holy City never facing an assault. During the journey, there were several triumphs, especially the seizure of Acre and the conflict at Arsuf. Dwindling to nothing, the Crusade fell apart as, when they reached their goal, the western leaders lacked enough troops or supplies to oppose Saladin's still formidable armies. Even though an agreement was reached allowing pilgrims access to Jerusalem and preserving a Christian presence in the Middle East, another effort to capture the Holy City would soon be undertaken, which was the initial aim of the Fourth Crusade from 1202 to 1204 CE.

6.7. The Fall of Jerusalem

The Second Crusade (1147-1149 CE) effectively concluded with the total failure to capture Damascus in Syria in 1148 CE. The different Muslim states in the Middle East consequently understood that the previously dreaded western knights could be vanquished, and the fragile survival of the Crusader-controlled lands, the Latin East, was clearly emphasized. What was required now was a consolidation of Muslim forces, and this was accomplished by one of the most remarkable medieval leaders, Saladin, the Sultan of Egypt and Syria (r. 1174-1193 AD).

Saladin, who established the Ayyubid dynasty in Egypt, seized Damascus in 1174 CE and Aleppo in 1183 CE. Saladin surprised the world by conquering the forces of the Kingdom of Jerusalem and its Latin allies at the Battle of Hattin in 1187 CE. Consequently, Saladin managed to gain control over cities like Acre, Tiberias, Caesarea, Nazareth, Jaffa, and even the most sacred site, Jerusalem. Surprisingly compassionate towards his Christian prisoners in contrast to the slaughter during the First Crusade (1095-1102 CE), following the retaking of Jerusalem nearly a century prior, Saladin permitted ransoms for Latin Christians who could pay for their release and enslaved the remainder. Eastern Christians were allowed to stay in Jerusalem as a safeguarded minority community. The Latin East had nearly fallen apart, with only Tyre still in Christian control, led by Conrad of Montferrat, but it would serve as a vital base for the impending counteroffensive.

Pope Gregory VIII's reign lasted only a few months in 1187 CE, yet in October of that year, he profoundly influenced history by urging another crusade to reclaim Jerusalem and other sacred relics, including the True Cross. Only a recreation of the extraordinary achievement of the First Crusade would suffice. At least three kings accepted the Pope's challenge: the Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick I Barbarossa, the German king, Philip II of France, and Richard I of England. As these were the three most influential figures in Western Europe, the campaign held great promise.

6.8. Death of Frederick I Barbarossa

Frederick I Barbarossa was the initial king to assemble forces, and he journeyed with his troops by land across Thrace in the spring of 1190 CE. The Byzantine Emperor Isaac II Angelos (reign. Isaac II (1185-1195 CE) was understandably cautious about the western army moving through his lands, while the westerners were quite skeptical of Isaac's fresh alliance with Saladin, a sentiment grounded in truth since Isaac did attempt to hinder the Crusaders' advancement into the Middle East. As Frederick took control of Adrianople in Thrace, the Byzantines became increasingly supportive of their Christian counterparts, though the Emperor likely felt a sense of relief when the Germans moved into Anatolia.

Then calamity occurred on 10 June 1190. The Holy Roman Emperor died in an accident, either falling from his horse into the River Saleph or suffering a heart attack while swimming, all while traveling to the Holy Land in southern Cilicia. Frederick's demise, followed by a disastrous surge of dysentery, led to the loss of a significant portion of his army or their choice to return home in sorrow. The Crusade would need to depend on the English and French forces, brief allies who were not particularly fond of one another even in the best circumstances. While some German soldiers reached Acre in the Middle East, the decline of Frederick's leadership and expertise would have a considerable impact on the Crusade overall.

6.9. Richard I Takes Sicily & Cyprus

In the meantime, Richard I opted for the maritime path to the Middle East. The seasoned strategist, as thorough as always, had directed all his realm's assets towards the effort,

gathering a flotilla of 100 vessels and 60,000 steeds. While traveling, Richard seized Messina in Sicily in 1190 CE, and when the king's forces assembled for the first time on the island in April 1191 CE, there were 17,000 troops prepared for combat. The English king understood completely that logistics were the critical element for any campaign, so he focused on securing a strong supply line by first taking Cyprus. Formally remaining Byzantine, the island now featured a rebellious leader, Isaac Komnenos, who announced himself as its sovereign ruler. Richard became unbeatable and, with the rather weak justification that the locals had not been very kind to certain shipwrecked Crusaders, Cyprus was captured in May 1191 CE. The island's residents had to pay a 50% tax on all belongings to further enhance the Crusader king's campaign funds. The island was governed by the Crusaders, who later used it as a supply base for armies headed to the Middle East, until the Venetians seized control in 1571 CE.

In France, Philip II had gathered his force of 650 knights, 1,300 squires, and an even greater contingent of infantry. This army also traveled to the Levant, this time with the help of Genoese vessels that would transport it to Acre. The Third Crusade was undoubtedly evolving into an authentic military venture involving all of Europe.

6.10. The Siege of Acre

The initial significant conflict of the campaign occurred at Acre, along the shores of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. In fact, the city had been surrounded for a while by forces commanded by the French lord Guy of Lusignan, ruler of what was left of the Kingdom of Jerusalem (r. 1186-1192 CE). Nevertheless, Guy was having difficulties as he was confronted by an army dispatched by Saladin to aid the city. Fortunately for the Latin leader, multiple Crusader forces soon appeared to assist: the remnants of Frederick's troops, a German group commanded by Duke Leopold of Austria that had come by sea, a French contingent led by Henry of Champagne, and the forces of Richard I and Philip II. By early June 1191 CE, the Crusaders had assembled and were prepared to capture the city.

An intense and prolonged assault utilizing catapults was initiated, but the lengthy siege ultimately succeeded only when sappers, enticed by monetary rewards from Richard, breached the city's fortification walls from the land side. The English king's reputation and siege engines, along with discord within Saladin's army, contributed to the triumph. The 'Lionhearted', a title given to Richard for his bravery and boldness in battle, accomplished in five weeks what Guy could not achieve in 20. The city was ultimately taken on 12 July 1191 CE, along with, importantly, 70 vessels, most of Saladin's fleet. As the story goes, Richard was unwell then, possibly afflicted by scurvy, yet he had retainers transport him on a stretcher to enable him to shoot at the enemy fortifications using his crossbow. Richard subsequently tarnished his 'good king' image by ordering the execution of 2,500 prisoners. The English king believed that the postponement in delivering the promised ransom warranted a strong response, and releasing them would inevitably lead to their return to the opposing army.

Guy of Lusignan, meanwhile, was made the new king of Cyprus which had been sold by Richard to the Knights Templar (more cash for the cause). Back in the Levant, unfortunately, Philip was obliged to return home in August 1191 CE due to political problems in Flanders which threatened his throne. Thus, from the original three kings, the Crusader army now had only one. Still, Richard was probably the greatest general of his generation, and the campaign, despite its setbacks, was off to a fine start.

6.11. The Battle of Arsuf

The Crusader forces then aimed for Jaffa, the crucial port that supported Jerusalem, but en route, Saladin, after several days of unsuccessful harassment of the advancing army, concluded that confronting the invaders directly on the battlefield was the best strategy. On 7 September 1191 CE, on the plains of Arsuf, the two forces engaged in a moving confrontation, with the Crusaders taking care to remain near the shore and consequently exposing just one side of their formation. The Muslim archers on horseback and foot, along with infantry spear-wielders, charged at the advancing Crusader infantry, which typically arranged itself into a defensive formation around the heavy cavalry units. Following clashes throughout the day, the heavy cavalry of the western forces was deployed with catastrophic results, though the initial charge may have been an unauthorized act by the Knights

Hospitaller. The Crusaders were victorious in the battle, yet the Muslim casualties were not significant, as Saladin was compelled to retreat to the relative protection of the forest adjacent to the plain.

The Crusaders subsequently advanced to Jaffa to pause and reorganize. While Richard aimed to first secure Egypt to cut off the enemy's logistical support, the majority of the Crusaders focused on heading directly for Jerusalem, which was ultimately the initial objective of the Crusade. The English king yielded to public demand and advanced towards the Holy City, but only after a careful progression that involved capturing and strengthening strategically vital castles safeguarding the army's supply routes. As a result, the Crusader army had yet to achieve its objective by January 1192 CE. The rainy conditions were not hastening their progress either, and still 19 kilometers from their final objective and with their supply routes unstable, a critical decision was reached.

6.12. Jerusalem & A Negotiated Peace

Richard had advanced close enough to see Jerusalem, but he realized that even if he managed to breach the city's strong defenses, his forces had been so diminished by the numerous battles during the last two years that he would probably be unable to maintain control against an expected counteroffensive. The decision was backed by the leaders of the army's two most seasoned combat units: the Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitaller. The defeat of Frederick's army is now felt more acutely than ever. The next year, another advance on Jerusalem occurred, but, like before, it fell short, and the leaders concluded they could, similar to Acre, capture the city after a prolonged siege but would almost certainly be unable to prevent a counteroffensive from Saladin.

In the meantime, the Muslim leader opted to assault Jaffa, which was captured in July 1192 CE. Richard, by that time in Acre, set sail and reached Jaffa on 1 August, intent on recapturing the city. Leading by example, the “Lionhearted” reached his objective despite unlikely circumstances, yet overall, little had shifted. Jerusalem remained under Muslim

control, and Saladin still had his forces whole. It was a sort of deadlock and, in any event, like Philip, domestic issues in England required Richard's swift return to secure his throne in October 1192 CE. The entire Crusade initiative was essentially forsaken. No Crusader force would ever approach Jerusalem as closely again.

6.13. The Crusades, 1095-1204

Richard salvaged something from all the work and brokered a peace agreement with Saladin at Jaffa. The Crusaders were required to surrender and dismantle the fortress of Ascalon, although they would retain a narrow area of land surrounding Acre, and negotiations also included ensuring the future protection of Christian pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. It wasn't exactly what was anticipated initially, but a Fourth Crusade could always arise in the future. Richard observed that in any forthcoming campaign against the Arabs, launching an attack from Egypt, the vulnerable underbelly of their empire, would be beneficial. It was exactly this strategy that the Fourth Crusaders (1202-1204 CE) implemented, although they were once more sidetracked from their initial goal, this time by the treasure of Byzantium: Constantinople.



Map of The Latin East, 1190 CE

6.14. The Outcomes of the Conflict (Aftermath of the Battle of Jaffa)

The rejection at Jaffa signaled the conclusion of Saladin's counter-offensive. Both parties were utterly drained, and Palestine was in a devastated condition. Shortly after the battle at Jaffa, Richard became gravely ill. A three-year ceasefire was arranged, Ascalon's defenses were destroyed and returned to Saladin, while from Tyre to Jaffa, the coastline was to stay under Christian control. Saladin kept control of Jerusalem, but Christian visitors could access the city freely. The holding of Jaffa permitted the Crusader kingdom to reestablish its dominance over the coastal territories of Palestine from its new capital located at Acre.

7. Military and Warfare

7.1. Warfare methods and doctrines can be used in wars

7.1.1. Land Doctrines

Mechanized Warfare (called as Modern Blitzkrieg)

Emphasizes the use of armored vehicles, tanks, and infantry fighting vehicles to achieve rapid, mobile, and highly effective operations.

Aimed at combining the speed of motorized units with the firepower and protection of armored vehicles to breakthrough enemy lines and maneuver around enemy forces.

Infantry Warfare (It has been used since the Hun Emperor Mete Han the son of Teoman)

That kind of warfare focuses on infantry as the core of land forces, utilizing small-unit tactics, terrain use, and close combat. Often involves specialized units such as paratroopers, mountain troops, or special forces.

Combined Arms Warfare (Today's United States) is a doctrine that integrates different types of military forces, such as infantry, artillery, tanks, and air support, to create synergies. The idea is to leverage the strengths of each type of unit in a coordinated manner to overwhelm the enemy and exploit weaknesses.

Guerrilla Warfare (it used in Vietnam Conflict god wills it) focuses on unconventional tactics, often used by smaller, more agile forces against a larger, better-equipped enemy. Involves ambushes, sabotage, and raids rather than conventional battles.

Defensive Warfare (Stalin throwing man rather than ammo) Centers around fortifying positions, defending key terrain, and attriting the enemy through well-prepared positions and counterattacks. This can also involve delaying tactics, with a focus on conserving strength for a future offensive.

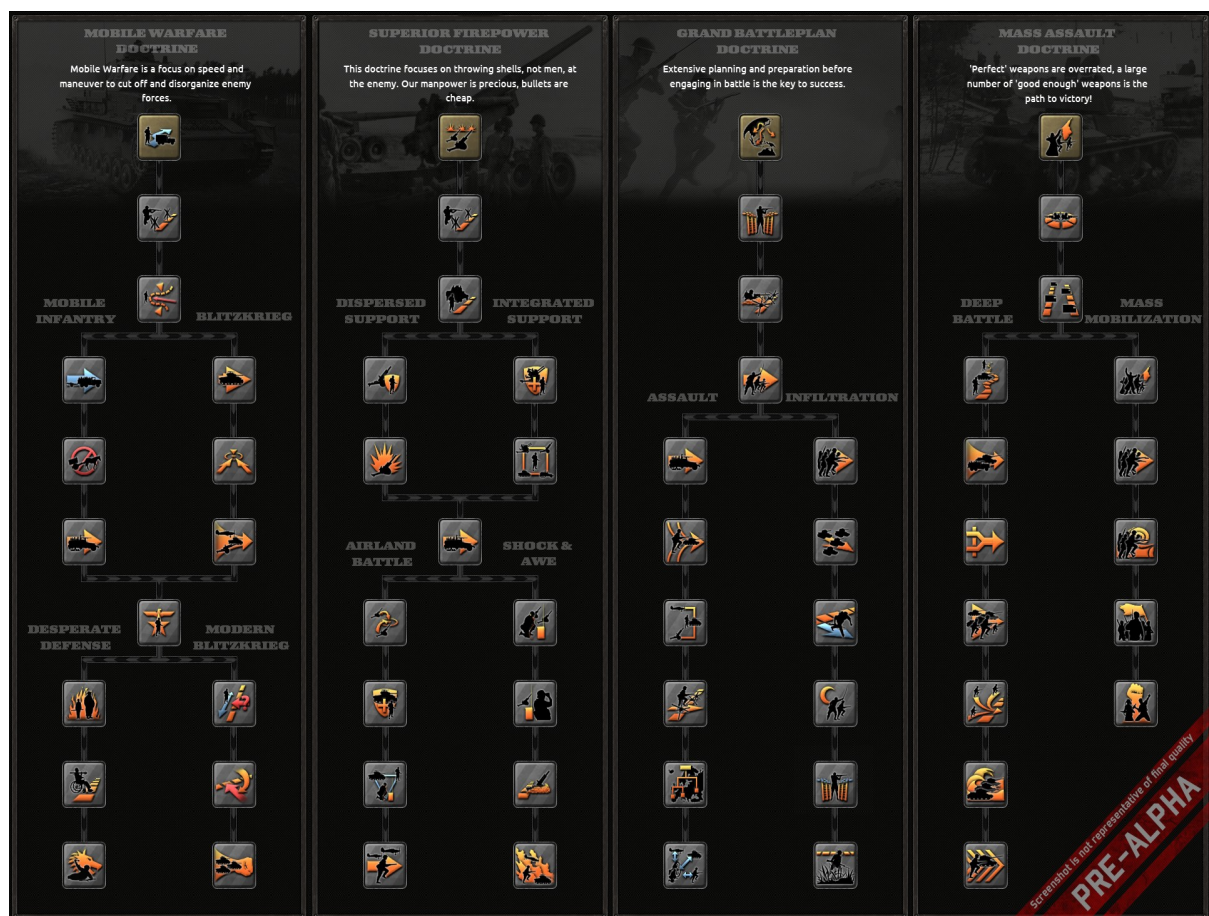
Offensive Warfare (Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Island) emphasizes rapid movement, surprise, and overwhelming force to strike at key enemy targets and disrupt their ability to respond. Includes both large-scale advances and more surgical strikes aimed at critical infrastructure or leadership targets.

Network-Centric Warfare (United Kingdom used it for Lutvaffe's in Operation Sealion and the United States used it against Japan between 1940 to 1945) focuses on using technology and information networks to coordinate military actions more efficiently. Relies on real-time intelligence, communications, and integrated sensors to improve decision-making and operational coordination.

Asymmetric Warfare (9/11 Twin Towers NGL) involves combat between forces of unequal strength, often with one side using unconventional tactics (like guerrilla tactics or cyber attacks) to counterbalance the technological or numerical superiority of the enemy.

Counterinsurgency (American Civil War) (COIN) is a doctrine designed to combat insurgent groups and maintain control over populations in contested areas. Focuses not just on military engagement but also on winning hearts and minds, providing security, and addressing local grievances.

Air-Land Battle Doctrine (German General Heinz Guderian used the blitzkrieg to roll through Poland) emphasizes the integration of land and air forces to create a continuous battlefield where air power supports ground operations. Aimed at blurring the lines between air and land combat to create more dynamic and effective operations.



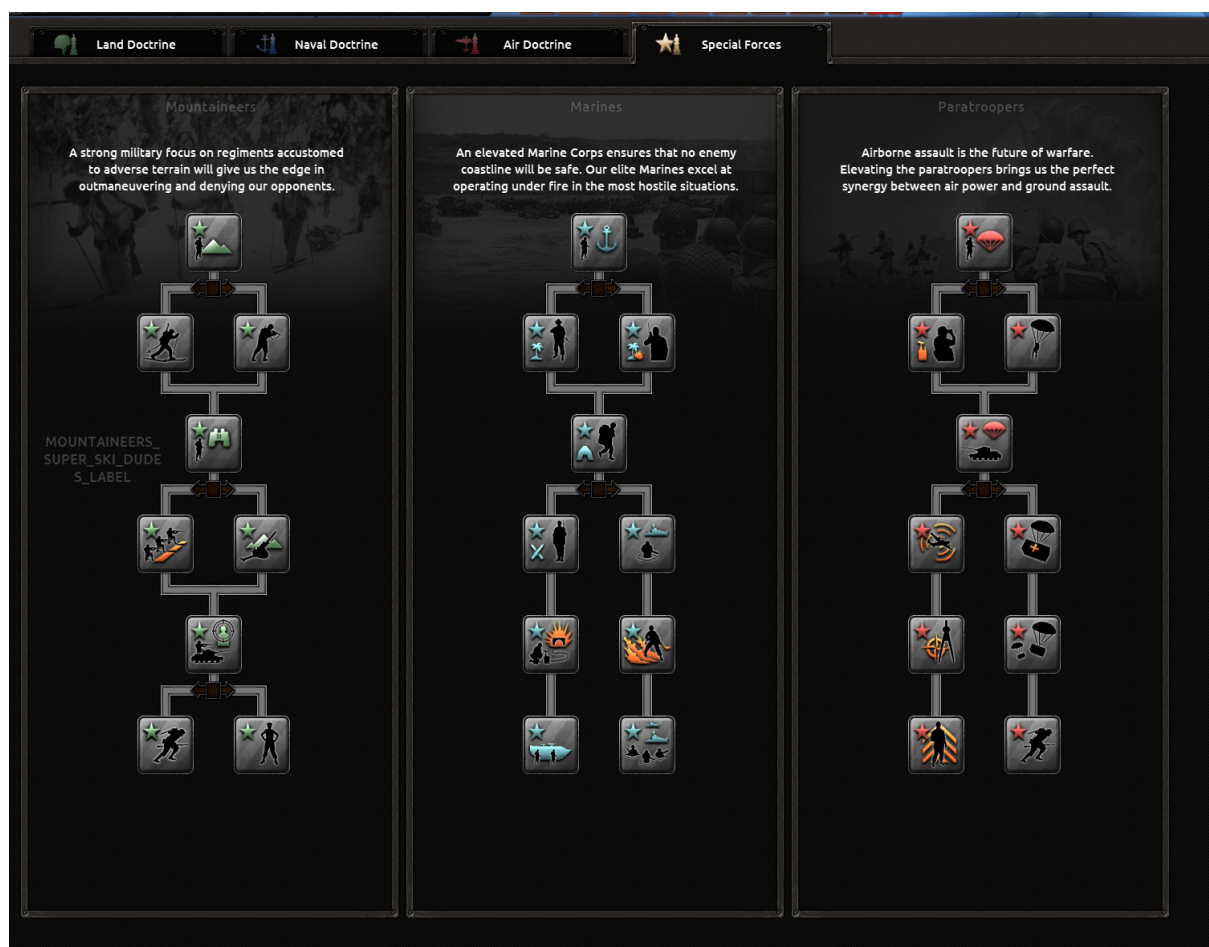
7.1.2. Special Doctrines

Unconventional Warfare (UW) Doctrine Special Forces are often tasked with training, advising, and supporting indigenous or allied forces who are fighting against a common enemy (e.g., in Afghanistan or Vietnam). Missions are often carried out in secrecy or in coordination with insurgent groups to destabilize a government or force. Part of unconventional warfare involves creating the right psychological atmosphere, often through propaganda and influence campaigns. Support to indigenous forces (guerrillas, partisans, or insurgents). Covert and deniable operations.

Infiltration and sabotage operations. Intelligence gathering and sabotage behind enemy lines.

Special Reconnaissance (SR) involves gathering intelligence in denied or enemy-controlled areas. These operations are critical for providing accurate, actionable intelligence to command structures and for targeting high-value objectives.

Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) are a critical element of special warfare that aims to influence the emotions, motives, and behaviors of individuals or groups. The doctrine behind PSYOPS involves using communication and media to manipulate perceptions and create strategic advantages.



8. What We Expect of You?

8.1. When will the committee start, and what will its ongoing process be?

Once all preparations are complete, including training sessions on committee procedures, directive writing, and a review of the rules, delegates will take full control of their assigned roles. From this point on, you will be responsible for making decisions, solving problems, and working with others to handle the challenges ahead. Success will depend on your ability to think creatively, analyze situations critically, and act with confidence. These three skills, creativity, critical thinking, and courage will be your greatest strengths in this committee.

This is not a typical debate. You will need to think fast, adapt to new situations, and make difficult decisions under pressure. You may need to form secret agreements, launch diplomatic or military actions, or create persuasive directives to gain the upper hand. The key is to stay focused, work as a team, and always be prepared for unexpected challenges.

Winning won't be easy, but with determination, smart planning, and strong teamwork, you can shape the outcome of the crisis. Stay sharp, take action, and remember: those who hesitate will fall behind.

8.2. How will your allocation and cabinet affect you?

Your allocation is your identity in this committee, you will have their name, location, strengths, skills and weaknesses. Each allocation has their own count of military, vehicles and firepower. delegates can come together and share their arsenal for a greater purpose.

Your allocation is your identity in this committee. You will take on their name, location, strengths, skills, and weaknesses. Everything you do will be based on the resources and abilities of your assigned role.

Each allocation has its own military forces, vehicles, and firepower, all of which play a crucial role in the committee's strategic decisions. However, no allocation stands alone. Delegates can collaborate, form alliances, and combine their arsenals to achieve greater goals. Whether through diplomacy, tactical coordination, or sheer force, teamwork can be the key to victory.

Use your resources wisely, assess your strengths and limitations, and work strategically with others to navigate the challenges ahead. The decisions you make will shape the course of the committee and possibly determine its ultimate outcome.

8.3. What are our expectations regarding your performance in the committee?

In war and battle, chaos is inevitable. Cities may erupt in violence, citizens may panic, and destruction will follow. Explosions, ambushes, injuries, and loss of life. The battlefield is unpredictable, and fear will spread.

But a true warrior stays focused. No matter how intense the conflict becomes, you are expected to adapt, strategize, and find a way to victory while minimizing damage and casualties. Every decision you make could determine the outcome of the war. Stay sharp, think ahead, and act with purpose. Because in the heat of battle, only those who can outthink and outmaneuver their opponents will prevail.

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