

JCC-Mongols

Topic: Mongols vs. Songs

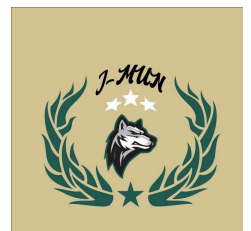


Table of Contents

- 1. Director's Letter (pages 3-4)**
- 2. Topic Introduction (page 5)**
- 3. Topic History (page 6)**
- 4. Current Situation (pages 7-8)**
- 5. Role Explanations (pages 9-10)**
- 6. Case Studies (page 11)**
- 7. Guiding Questions (page 12)**
- 8. Citations (page 13)**

Director's Letter

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the Joint Crisis Committee (Mongol side) at JMUN 2024. My name is Vihaan Rawal, and it is a great time to be your director for my first conference as a staffer. I have the immense privilege of helping both new and returning delegates grow their skills in debate, speech, advocacy, and mystery with the support of the incredible dais staff and secretariat. Serving alongside me is my MUnderful chair Olawumi Olaniyan and on the other side of JCC, the lesser side (just joking), Nidhi Dodiya (Director) and Eeshna Tummala (Chair). We are incredibly excited to see the inventive concepts, plans, and schemes that you produce during our MONGOLTastic committee.

I started my career in MUN only a year ago, as a first-time delegate at SeattleMUN 2023. At the time, I had little understanding of what MUN was or what it would mean to me in the ensuing year. It confuses me greatly that it has only been a year since I started MUN, as when I take part in MUN, there is something magical about how I lose myself in the magic of diplomacy in collaboration. It is a magic where delegates and staffers discover a platform for self-expression at student-run conferences. It is magic, unlike any other. It is even more crazy that I have only been in one crisis committee before (in EverMUN 2024), but I have grown to love the chaos and nuance of crisis committees. I was first drawn to MUN by my friends and promises of fun, but it was the other distinguished delegates, staffers, and friends that encouraged me to stick around and develop as a speaker, writer, leader, and friend. This may be the first or second MUN conference for many of you. It will be stressful or overwhelming for some of you. Please feel free to discuss any issues or concerns you may have with me or the rest of my fantastic Dais during committee or breaks. I hope you too will find your place in our incredible MUN community, and I strongly encourage you to ask me and the dais for input throughout the conference.

Empires Ablaze: The Mongol Invasion of the Song Dynasty in the Far East is JMUN 2024's spin on the traditional Joint Crisis Committee. It will place delegates within the arena of Asian warfare and diplomacy, with delegates assuming the roles and responsibilities of the warriors and leaders of the Mongols and Song Dynasty themselves.

This year, we will be following a structure akin to normal JCC committees with only one topic. With this format, we hope to ease delegates into our unique setting, and modify Crisis ROP. I would like to emphasize that you are expected to prepare exhaustively for our topic and beware (there will be lots of twists). I encourage delegates to use this time to familiarize themselves with specialized ROP, and the setting of this committee.

All of you will be bringing something unique to the committee. From those who obsessively read about Chinese history, to those of you who have been with MUN longer than I have, and especially to those of you who are reading a background guide for the first time, all of you have the potential to bring something new to the committee, through your ideas,

inspirations, and your passions. I encourage you to use your time at JMUN to meet new people, discover new things, and take advantage of MUN's offerings.

Best Wishes,

Vihaan D. Rawal

Director | **Empires Ablaze: The Mongol Invasion of the Song Dynasty in the Far East**

Jackson Model United Nations 2024

If you had not committed great sins, God would not have sent a punishment like me upon you.

Topic Introduction

Mongol territory is about to get even bigger as they have already conquered most of Eurasia and are now preparing to invade Song Dynasty China. This war is the culmination of many conflicts building up over time eventually turning the two countries against each other. The Mongols, no longer considering themselves unified with the Song due to their mutual hate of the Jin Dynasty, are now turning against their former ally by deciding to wage war against them.

At this point the Mongols have barely scratched the surface of their invasion as they travel through the countryside and Song China. Striking fear into the hearts and minds of the Song. Slowly but surely making their way to the center to ensure the Song's complete and total surrender. For now though they are playing it safe by moving very efficiently and trying not to waste valuable resources. The Mongols currently have the upper hand as they are used to fighting war on the offensive and moving around very quickly.

The Mongols want the economic and strategic benefits of Song China and by utilizing their weakened state due to internal conflicts against them, they could potentially take over. In order to succeed in this attack they will have to strategize and combine old methods of warfare with new as this will be a battle like no other. If they can create effective strategies and tactics they will win the war, allowing them to avoid the costs that come with losing. Costs that would lead to an entirely different political, economical and cultural landscape in east asia, costs that the Mongols can not afford to suffer. The Mongols do not step into this lightly, moving forward every step and choice must have meaning and intention behind and as they continue onward knowing that there is no longer any turning back.

. In this committee you will get to experience a crisis very different than before. In a joint crisis you will only get to work directly with the delegates on your side of the debate while your enemies are entirely somewhere else. Through this committee you will learn not only new debate strategies but also the art of war. Join us as we conquer the Song Dynasty.

Topic History

The Mongol Empire reached its peak with the conquest of the Song Dynasty, a lengthy and expansive campaign lasting over fifty years. The origins of this conflict can be traced back to several escalating events, including smaller skirmishes. The initial spark that set off this LONG war was the Mongol invasion of the Jin dynasty.

During the early 1100s, China was divided among three prominent dynasties: the Jin, the Western Xia (Xi Xia), and the Song. Each dynasty was distinct and separate, emerging from different cultures and languages within the region. Their relationships were complex and influential, marked by significant conflicts like the Song-Xia and Jin-Song wars. While the Song-Xia war had a minimal impact on the eventual conquest of the Song, the Jin-Song wars were significant, laying the groundwork for the subsequent Mongol conquests of both Jin and Song.

The Jin-Song wars were driven by many factors. Both the Jin and Song dynasties sought to expand their territories, driven by the need for resources and a desire to strengthen their influence within China. Their animosity towards each other, stemming from prior territorial disputes and cultural differences, further fueled the conflict. From 1125 to 1206, the war was primarily between the Jin and Song. However, in 1211, the Mongols entered the scene. Although the Mongols and Song both achieved some success against the Jin, the prolonged conflict exhausted their resources. In 1233, the Mongols and Song formed an alliance to defeat the Jin, agreeing to divide the territory south of the Yellow River. By 1234, their combined forces had brought the Jin Dynasty to its knees.

After their victory, the Song Dynasty sought to reclaim key cities such as Kaifeng and Luoyang. However, their progress was halted by Mongol resistance, leading to a dispute over control of these strategically important cities. This disagreement triggered the Mongol conquest of the Song Dynasty.

The subsequent 44-year war was characterized by the use of diverse military strategies on both sides. The Song Dynasty employed guerrilla tactics, including ambushes and the disruption of Mongol supply lines. They carefully choose their weapons and battle formations, relying on long pikes and spears for defense, as well as their advanced technology, such as fire-lit arrows, flamethrowers, crossbows, and early gunpowder-based weapons. The Song also relocated populations from border areas further inland and sought alliances with independent tribes to strengthen their forces.

The Mongols, on the other hand, were a formidable military force, feared across Asia. Their soldiers were highly disciplined and skilled, able to adapt to various terrains and adopt new battle strategies. Their cavalry was particularly strong, with warhorses that were fast, agile, and powerful. The Mongols were also experts in siege warfare, excelling in the use of catapults and battering rams. Beyond their military strength, the Mongols used diplomacy to undermine the Song from within, persuading vassal chiefdoms to join them by offering sovereignty, wealth, and protection, or through coercion if necessary. They also spread rumors to sow distrust within the Song armies, leading to defections among soldiers and generals to the Mongol side.

To simplify this historical conflict for a Model United Nations crisis committee, certain assumptions will be made. Kublai Khan will be depicted as the sole ruler throughout the war. Zhao Bing will be portrayed as the ruler of the Song Dynasty for the entire duration, with the assumption that he possesses the intellect of an adult.

Current Situation

The conflict between the Song Dynasty and the Mongols was one of the most significant military confrontations in medieval history, leading to the fall of one of the most advanced dynasties in China and the rise of the Mongol Yuan Dynasty.

The Song Dynasty (960-1279)

The Song Dynasty, established in 960 CE, was a period of immense cultural, technological, and economic growth in Chinese history. Known for its advancements in science, technology (such as the compass, gunpowder, and printing), and a thriving economy, the Song ruled over one of the most populous and prosperous regions of the world. Despite its internal strengths, the Song faced consistent threats from northern nomadic tribes, particularly the Khitan, Jurchen (Jin Dynasty), and eventually, the Mongols.

While the Song is often divided into two phases—Northern Song (960-1127) and Southern Song (1127-1279)—it was during the Southern Song that the dynasty faced its most formidable threat: the Mongols.

Rise of the Mongol Empire

The Mongols, under the leadership of Genghis Khan, began their campaign of conquest in the early 13th century, rapidly expanding their influence from the Mongolian steppe across Asia and into Europe. Known for their highly skilled cavalry, innovative military tactics, and use of psychological warfare, the Mongols swiftly subjugated numerous empires and kingdoms, including the Jin Dynasty, which controlled northern China.

Following Genghis Khan's death in 1227, the Mongol Empire was divided among his sons, but the conquest of China remained a central objective. Kublai Khan, Genghis Khan's grandson, would lead the Mongol assault on the Southern Song, aiming to unite all of China under Mongol rule.

The Mongol-Song War

The Mongol campaign against the Song Dynasty began in earnest during the mid-13th century. The Song, despite having a strong economy and advanced technology, struggled militarily against the Mongols. The Mongol army was adept at siege warfare, employing gunpowder weapons and siege engines that were often more advanced than those used by the Song. The Mongols also formed alliances with former Song enemies, such as the Jin, using divide-and-conquer strategies to weaken Song resistance.

One of the key battles occurred at **Xiangyang** (1267-1273), a fortified city that guarded the access to the Yangtze River. The Mongols, using gunpowder technology and siege tactics, successfully captured Xiangyang after a prolonged siege, opening the way for a full-scale invasion of Southern Song territory.

Fall of the Song Dynasty

By 1276, the Mongols had captured Lin'an (modern-day Hangzhou), the capital of the Southern Song. Although remnants of the Song court fled south and attempted to resist, the

dynasty was on its last legs. The final confrontation occurred in 1279 at the **Battle of Yamen**, where the Song fleet was decisively defeated. The last Song emperor, a child named Zhao Bing, was forced to flee, and in desperation, his loyal minister jumped into the sea with him, marking the end of the Song Dynasty.

Aftermath

The Mongol victory resulted in the establishment of the **Yuan Dynasty** (1271-1368) under Kublai Khan, marking the first time all of China was ruled by a non-Han Chinese dynasty. This conquest not only reshaped Chinese history but also integrated the Chinese economy into the vast Mongol Empire, facilitating trade and cultural exchange across Eurasia through the famed Silk Road.

The fall of the Song Dynasty is often viewed as a pivotal moment in world history, as it signaled the end of one of the most advanced civilizations of its time and the rise of Mongol dominance, which would stretch from China to Eastern Europe. The Song's legacy, however, continued to influence Chinese culture, particularly in the realms of literature, art, and philosophy, long after its political power had waned.

Role Explanations

Ögedei Khan: In order to continue the expansion of the Mongol Empire he wants to initiate a campaign against the Song dynasty. He is the main commander of the Mongol army, and all major decisions go through him. He is a strong leader and crucial to the success of the army. Working mainly with the other commanders he hopes to expand fully into Song territory.

Möngke Khan: Möngke led major military campaigns in other areas and will be instrumental in the Mongol advances into southern China. He is a high-level commander and is a crucial force in ensuring the success of the Mongol army. He is one of the high-level commanders working directly with Ögedei Khan. Also, a strong military leader.

Kublai Khan: Kublai while on the newer side of being a commander is still an unstoppable force on the battlefield. Working with and learning from the other commanders to eventually take on more responsibilities within the army and the invasion .

Bayan of the Baarin: A prominent Mongol general, Bayan led several successful campaigns before this invasion and plans to repeat his success stories. His strategies have been tried and tested on the battlefield so it will be important to utilize them against the Song. Working right under the commanders don't forget to make sure to get yourself a spot at the table.

Uriyangkhadai: The son of the famous general Subutai, Uriyangkhadai is a key general in the Mongol forces. Even though he is low in the ranks, he is still a force to be reckoned with on the battlefield. Working with the other generals to ensure a swift victory.

Aju: A Mongol general who is also low in rank and lucky to get a seat in the meeting. A hard worker who will do anything to advance. He is even more focused on advancing than team morale, but he knows how to do the right thing when needed.

Subutai: He is Ögedei Khan's second in command. No one can light a candle to him except the main commander. He is absolutely formidable in battle and will be key to the invasion's success.

Jebe: Another one of the top generals, Jebe was instrumental in the Mongol conquests across Asia and will be able to translate some of that to the invasion of the Song. Working with the other generals he just wants to be useful in the meeting room.

Kaidu: While being a prominent general and being instrumental on the battlefield, he did not particularly like some of the other Khans and was not happy with their leadership. Fortunately, he was still willing to be a key contributor to the fighting force.

Hulegu Khan: Hulegu led the Mongol campaigns in the Middle East, including the conquest of Baghdad, and was ready for the invasion of the Song. He was content with his role in the military but knew there was room for improvement and wanted to utilize this attack and being invited to the meeting as a stepping stone to success.

Chagaan: A Mongol general who wants to have a bigger role in the army. Is willing to do a lot more in order to succeed. He wants to ensure victory for the Mongols over the Song and whoever is next.

Tolui: Tolui was a key military leader and played a significant role in the Mongol conquests, including campaigns in Asia. He hopes that experience will be remembered and transferred over to his role in the new invasion and plans to continue his success story.

Kadan: Kadan led several military campaigns in Europe and Asia, including efforts against the Song. While also being the main commander's son he does not want to be remembered for that, instead for his great skills. He hopes to gain a seat at the commanders table because of his skill, not his name.

Arigh Böke: Arigh Böke was involved in the internal power struggles of the Mongol Empire but also contributed to military campaigns. Like some others he does not like the main rules of the Mongol empire, but he does not like that to affect his loyalty to the Mongol empire.

Yelü Chucai: A Khitan statesman and advisor to Genghis Khan and his successors, Yelü Chucai played a crucial role in the administration and governance of the Mongol Empire. He is here to voice the sympathies of the people during this invasion and ensure any internal conflicts are squashed as soon as they begin.

Jalair: A prominent Mongol general who participated in various campaigns, including some in Asia. He is lesser known and wants these campaigns to change that. He is also more removed from the main group of generals and commanders and plans to use the invasion to solidify his spot in the group.

Altan: Chief Inventor of new and improved technologies. In order to invade China, the Mongols might have to change up their invasion strategies a bit which is why he is here.

Temür: Chief Weaponsmith working directly with Altan in order to help overcome some of the differences between the groups of people they are now attacking.

Xaela: Head of treasury. If the Mongols run out of money during the invasion it will lead to a lot of other intel issues which will make them externally weaker. Which will make it easier for the Song to push back and we do not want that.

Davaa: Head of Strategy. Working directly with the commanders and other high-level generals. He is there to help advise in this new situation to make sure that the Mongols are putting their best foot forward and success.

Guiding Questions:

1. How did the Mongols leverage diplomacy to undermine the Song Dynasty's position and gain support from other chiefdoms? What strategies were most effective in persuading or coercing these entities?
2. How did the alliance between the Mongols and Song against the Jin Dynasty influence the subsequent conflict between the Mongols and the Song? What were the key factors that led to the breakdown of this alliance?
3. What were the key military strategies and tactics employed by the Mongols in their conquest of the Song Dynasty? How did their cavalry and siege warfare capabilities contribute to their success?
4. How did the Mongols adapt their tactics to the unique challenges posed by the Song's advanced military technology and guerrilla warfare?

Citations

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