

Advanced Committee KCD



SJMUNC XXXVIII

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Letter from the Chairs

Hi everyone, I'm your chair for this committee, Manav Guttalapalli. I hope you all find the same excitement and fun in delving through medieval Bohemian politics as I do. I know it starts off boring, but once you start researching about the crazy political intrigue and family drama (often the same thing here), you'll be hooked. For the delegates who stray less to the side of covert operations and clandestine diplomacy, that's what the men-at-arms and peasant levies are for!

A little about me: I am a senior at St. John's and your head chair for this committee, also the vice-president of Model U.N. here. One of my primary responsibilities is to run our weekly club meetings, which consist of a different ongoing committee for each quarter of the year. If anyone has questions on how to be a delegate, how to run a committee, or how to run weekly meetings at your school, please feel free to come up and talk to me. I also powerlift and throw discus and javelin, as well as act in musicals. (Come see Oklahoma in November!)

Lastly, I know this is an advanced crisis committee, but sliding me a note or coming up to ask a question isn't out of the norm; it's expected. Very few delegates know everything about parli-pro, and none know what unexpected crisis notes or directives my co-chair and I might allow, so ask! If you have any questions, from the economic status of Stříbrná Skalice before it was sacked to what to wear, please contact me at guttam26@stjohnshigh.org.

Note: Some locations and historical figures are followed by names in parentheses — these parenthetical names are the English translations from Czech or German. Delegates may use either version.

Hello everyone, I'm your Co-Chair, Milton Lito. I'm excited to problem solve in Medieval Bohemia with you all in this Committee, and hope you all can see the fun that Manav and I see in the History of Kingdom Come Deliverance. Even if you don't like medieval history or don't know much about it, I urge you to spend some time trying to find something you may like, from the 1,800 principalities and territories of the Holy Roman Empire to the theology of the Roman Catholic Church before the Protestant Reformation and the Council of Trent. You and your fellow members of this committee decide the solution to the problem at hand, so use your research to make the committee more fun for you.

A little about me: I am a Sophomore at Saint John's and an active member of MUN here. Also, I am an avid fisherman and debater of Christian Theology, and am open to any questions about theology too, as it is also part of this committee and shaped Medieval Europe. Like Manav said, if you have any questions about MUN at your school, how the committee works, or need help with the history in the committee, shoot me an email at litom28@stjohnshigh.org.

Statement of the Problem

Geopolitics has historically been plagued by personal profit and scheming hidden by a veneer of moral responsibility. During a time when honor — or the guise of it — was valued at more than a human life, the machinations of the rich and powerful commonly trumped the common good. Contrary to popular belief, one man in the Middle Ages could not alter the course of history; unless, of course, he was a nobleman. Stability rarely existed in the Holy Roman Empire, with threats ranging from farmers turned bandits to egoistic knights, roaming crusaders, and the occasional frustrated tax collector. The fall of Charles IV in 1378 produced an opportunity for ambitious noblemen, heirs to margravates with dreams far above their station, and Charles' younger son Sigismund grabbed his chance as eagerly as the rest, albeit more violently than most. We now find ourselves south-east of Prague, in the Kutná Hora region, where Sigismund lays waste to his brother's supporters. Unable to fully control his Cuman mercenaries, every settlement from Stribna Skalice to Rataje nad Sázavou must join together, allegiance to the deposed King Wenceslas IV notwithstanding, to repel the coming threat. Despite the obvious invasion, lords and laymen alike must recognize the potential for insurrection, many factions of the Bohemian public unsatisfied with current conditions and so far removed from matters of state that they might burn a village down just to deter the much feared taxman. In their misguided protest, they may even aid the Cumans in spreading fear and anarchy, further cementing Sigismund as King of Bohemia.

However, rarely is a villain truly villainous, and a hero completely virtuous. Loyalists to the Bohemian Crown primarily fight for Wenceslas IV, as he represents weakness, lack of oversight, and incompetence in ruling. Many lords may have to decide if their oath to the crown is stalwart, or if the promise of life (and generous compensation, of course) is worth more.

History of the problem

Sigismund of Luxembourg obtained many titles throughout his life: Lombard King, King of Hungary, German King, and Holy Roman Emperor. Most pertinent to our current situation, however, was his claim to the throne of Bohemia. Charles IV of Luxembourg, born Wenceslaus of the House of Luxembourg, was the Holy Roman Emperor, King of Bohemia, King of Germany, King of the Romans, King of Burgundy, and King of Italy.¹² Charles IV decreed the Golden Bull, an imperial decree that cemented Charles IV in Medieval European, and especially Czech, history, as the Golden Bull created 7 Prince-electors who chose the King of the Romans, stabilising post-Black Plague Europe.³ The Golden Bull Decree ended the infighting of Europe over who would be King of the Romans, as the king would be elected from that decree onward.⁴ On November 29, 1378, Charles IV died, leaving the Holy Roman Empire and many kingdoms, especially Bohemia, up for grabs.⁵ Wenceslas was Charles IV's 1st son by Anna Von Schweidnitz, Charles's 3rd wife, and heir to Bohemia and Germany.⁶ Wenceslas had a very light grip on power during his reign of Bohemia, often challenged by his nobility and even kidnapped twice by rebellious nobles.⁷

Wenceslas also had no support from his family, such as Wenceslas I, his uncle and the Duke of Luxembourg, and his brother Sigismund, Margrave of Brandenburg. Both his uncle and his brother wanted Bohemia for themselves.⁸ Sigismund was Charles IV's first son by Elizabeth of Pomerania, Charles IV's 4th wife, and heir to Brandenburg. Sigismund also had very little

¹ Teich, *Bohemia in History*, [Page 60].

² Mahoney, *The History*, [Page 50].

³ Luxembourg, *Golden Bull of 1356*, 2019.

⁴ Bryce, *Holy Roman Empire*, 243.

⁵ Chisholm, "Charles IV (Roman Emperor)," 898.

⁶ Greifeneder, "Biographie König."

⁷ Chisholm, "Wenceslaus."

⁸ Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, "Wenceslas King," Encyclopedia Britannica.

control over his margravate, as he often fought with the leaders of Naples for his role, leading to Sigismund leaving the margravate to his cousin, Jobst, in 1388. During Wenceslas's power struggles with nobility in 1396, Sigismund would oppose and ally with his brother multiple times until finally allying with his brother at the Battle of Nicopolis. Being jealous of Wenceslas's rule, Sigismund imprisoned his brother in 1402, only releasing him when Bohemia was attacked in 1403 by Hungary. Sigismund and Jobst waited out the death of Wenceslas's only heir, and were both elected King of Germany by different electors. Wenceslas was still alive while Jobst had died in 1411, meaning Sigismund was now in prime position to inherit Bohemia. In 1419, Wenceslas died, and Sigismund finally inherited Bohemia.⁹

Possible solutions

The alliances of the nobility rest on four factors: honor, relations, opportunity, and friendship. Just as Lord Radzig benefited the region with his oversight of the silver mines of Skalitz, he also may have had a relationship with the lords in the area, so much so that Lord Hanush offered him asylum after Sigismund's army sacked Silver Skalitz.¹⁰ If you are a delegate playing the persona of a nobleman, leverage your status to acquire favorable deals with the locals, defend your land with the help of the rest of the region's nobility, and plan big; just don't forget that everyone else will be doing the same. This committee is structured around a single pre-conference crisis occurring (the sack of Stříbrná Skalice), but it will progress in ways that even your chairs are unaware of currently. Utilize your favorable delegation assignment to the best of your abilities, and ally yourself with whomever serves your needs. The nobility also tended to make decisions with honor in mind; you must do the same.

⁹ Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, "Sigismund Holy," Encyclopedia Britannica.

¹⁰ Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, "Sigismund Holy," Encyclopedia Britannica.

There is no widespread idea of the working middle class at this point in time, and the radicalism of historical figures such as Karl Marx wasn't common knowledge 400 years before he was even born. The commoners in this committee usually follow one of four paths: religion, wealth, fealty, or outrage. Think of outrage as very basic rights advocacy: a push for clean water, safety from invaders, and the opportunity to work. Every delegate who belongs to the overall commoners classification should inspect their fealty and make decisions that are well-informed based on historical standards, but also should look out for their self-interests predominantly.

Sigismund's actual invasion could be stopped by military force, espionage, groschen (money), or diplomacy. Although diplomacy is a bit difficult when your enemy has anywhere from a couple of dozen to a couple thousand soldiers, Cumans, and funded bandits in your region. Success in this committee relies not just on repelling the invasion, but through prospering given the circumstances. No priest with some skill in sword fighting is going to lay down his life for a lord, nor will a lord lay down his life for a farmer.

Bloc Positions

Historical

Nobles (You can *act* stuck-up; don't be offensive)

- Lord Racek (Radzig) Kobyla¹¹

Burgrave and Hetman of Stříbrná Skalice (Silver Skalitz) in 1403, Radzig Kobyla transitioned between towns and positions. He occupied the role of Royal Hetman for Wenceslas IV, acted as a robber baron, and was Burgrave of Vyšehrad from 1410 to 1415. Following the sacking of Skalitz in 1403, Kobyla fled to Rataje nad Sázavou (Rattay). The fictional story of Kingdom

¹¹ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

Come: Deliverance paints Kobyla as a fiercely loyal servant to his king, and historically, it seems that assumption was well-founded, but as this committee progresses, loyalties may shift.

Although he was forced from his lands, Kobyla retained nearly all of his forces and a not insignificant number of subjects. Navigating potential issues that may arise with his wayward people will take as much effort as defending the region from invasion alongside his fellow nobility.

- Lord Diviš (Divish) of Talmberg¹²

Lord or pán of Talmberg from 1390-1415, Divish was also Burgrave of Prague from 1400 onwards. Historically, his residence from 1401 until his death was Prague, but for the purposes of this committee, he will be fictionalized as merely the Lord of Talmberg. Divish was held captive from 1391-1398 in his own castle by Havel Medek of Valdek, but was freed by a ransom acquired by his wife working with his close friend, Radzig Kobyla. Despite Divish's predisposition for neutrality, loyalty to the protection of his people and his relationships with other lords in the region trump his lack of fervor for battle.

- Jan Ptáček of Pirkstein (Hans Capon)¹³

Lord of Rataje nad Sázavou (Rattay) and Polná, Hans Capon's greater exploits came later in his life, as in his youth his ancestral lands of Rattay were held in regency by his relatives, the Lords of Leipa. In 1403, Capon was 15 years old, but still the rightful heir of the largest feudal property in the Kingdom Come: Deliverance region. Depicted in the game as hot-headed and brash, Capon was shown to be well-versed in swordplay and quick to defend his people, leading to him being well-liked by his subjects.

- Lord Hanuš of Lipá (Hanush of Leipa)¹⁴

¹² Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

¹³ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

¹⁴ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

Acting Lord of Rataje nad Sázavou (Rattay), head of the house of Leipa, and later serving as a Marshal of Bohemia before his death in 1415, Hanush offered shelter to his friend and fellow nobleman Radzig Kobyla following the sacking of Stříbrná Skalice (Silver Skalitz) in 1403. Much like his comrade, Hanush acquired a reputation as a robber baron sometime after the events of *Kingdom Come: Deliverance*. Portrayed as a responsible, trustworthy, and gruff man in the game, historically, his role in Rattay is up to interpretation, as he continued to act as regent for a young Jan Ptáček (Hans Capon) long after he came of age.

- Lord Jošt Moravský (Jobst of Moravia)¹⁵

Margrave of Moravia, Elector of Brandenburg, and briefly King of the Romans/Germans, Jobst has a complicated history with Sigismund of Luxembourg and Wenceslas IV. Cousin of both claimants to the Bohemian throne, he obtained his prince-elect status over the margravate of Brandenburg from Sigismund, and assisted him in capturing Wenceslas IV — for the second time. He rebelled against Sigismund and was pivotal in the release of the Bohemian monarch in 1403, and contested Sigismund in 1410 to be King of the Romans/Germans. He unfortunately died a couple of months after being elected, leading to Sigismund claiming the title. In *Kingdom Come: Deliverance*, Jobst is painted as an unyielding loyalist to the crown, but historically, his allegiances have shifted based on the greatest opportunity.

- Hynek I, “Suchý Čert” of Kunštát and Jevišovice (Hynek the Dry Devil of Kunstat)¹⁶

Lord of Kunštát, Lord of Jevišovice, and Burgrave of Znojmo, Hynek “the Dry Devil” was given the nickname for his tall, gaunt appearance, coupled with his famed ruthlessness and violent character. Much like Lord Jobst of Moravia, Hynek hailed from east of the Bohemian crown lands, and like Hanush and Radzig Kobyla, he was known for being a robber baron. Although he

¹⁵ Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, “Jobst King,” Encyclopedia Britannica.

¹⁶ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

supported Wenceslas IV, he ultimately acted as a robber baron and served only his own interests. He fought the Sigismund-aligned Duke Albrecht IV of Austria at Znojmo in 1404 — proving himself Wenceslas' ally — but was imprisoned for a year in 1407 by the Bohemian king after continuing his pillaging practices. Hynek died shortly after his release, but during the time period we focus on, he proved a thorn in the side of Sigismund and his allies, while never truly assisting the loyalist faction without recompense or the opportunity to create a situation in which a robber baron such as himself might profit.

- Sir Ulrich of Passau¹⁷

Knight of the Rosenberg family and investigator of counterfeit coins found circulating in Passau and originating in Sázava, Sir Ulrich is a fictional character created by WarHorse Studios to serve the role of a foreign presence meant to interfere with regional politics. The Rosenbergs supported Sigismund in his vie for the Bohemian throne, but as medieval politics usually go, had no qualms with interfering in the machinations of other “camps” of Sigismund's supporters. Ultimately, the Rosenbergs — and by proxy Sir Ulrich — serve their own interests, and operate under the principle that a betrayal is only a betrayal if there are witnesses. Sir Ulrich himself operates in the game as a firm, unyielding, and honorable knight, but it remains to be seen if he will value the orders of his lord or his character more.

- Sir Markvart of Úlice (Markvart Von Aulitz)¹⁸

Hetman or Governor of Prague, Sir Markvart Von Aulitz, hailed from Úlice and served in Sigismund's forces during his quest for the Bohemian crown. Historically, he has no ties to the sacking of Silver Skalitz and the continuing events of the game *Kingdom Come: Deliverance*; in fact, he died in 1402, during the siege of Suchdol by an arrow.¹⁹ For the purposes of this

¹⁷ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

¹⁸ Sedláček, *Hrady, zámky*, 164.

¹⁹ Sedláček, *Hrady, zámky*, [Page 164].

committee, he will serve as he did in the video game: the commander of Sigismund's forces in the region. In such a role, he will have a limited line of communication with the Cuman and mercenary bandits in the area, with a not insignificant amount of reputation with them. They will not, however, follow his orders to the letter, nor will they act if it does not benefit themselves.

Commoners

- Captain Bernard²⁰

Captain of the guard in Rattay and a seasoned warrior, Bernard is charged with training soldiers and ensuring the town's security. A gruff and pragmatic man, he has little patience for incompetence or political scheming. Though his authority does not extend beyond military matters, his experience on the battlefield and his role in maintaining order make him an important figure for the protection of Rattay and the interests of its people.

- Captain Robard²¹

The loyal captain of Talmberg, Robard commands the garrison under Lord Diviš. Renowned for his steadfast loyalty and strict discipline, he prioritizes defending Talmberg's lands over involvement in politics. While not outspoken in council, Robard represents the disciplined, martial backbone of Talmberg, and his perspective on matters of defense carries weight in times of crisis.

- Miller Peshek²²

²⁰ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

²¹ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

²² Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

A miller by trade, Peshek also plays the role of a fence for stolen goods, profiting from the gray areas of law and order. Though his criminal dealings keep him unpopular among nobles, he remains indispensable to those who need coin, food, or connections outside the reach of lords and knights. Peshek represents the interests of the shadow economy and the grievances of Skalitz's refugees now settled under his care. He is also the uncle of Theresa of Skalitz, and despite his barbed comments and sharp tongue, would leverage his region-spanning black market to help her.

- Miller Woyzeck²³

Operating outside Uzhitz, Woyzeck mirrors his cousin Peshek in mixing milling with less-than-legal trade. Known for pragmatism and a willingness to turn profit from disorder, he represents the mercantile commoner class who survive by bending rules. His influence is tied to his connections with travelers and merchants, granting him knowledge of regional affairs often hidden from noble eyes.

- Huntsman Berthold²⁴

The official gamekeeper of Rattay, Berthold enforces forest law and controls hunting rights on noble land. A skilled woodsman and tracker, he is deeply tied to the lives of peasants and villagers who rely on hunting to survive — sometimes illegally. Berthold's voice represents the tension between the needs of commoners and the privileges of nobility, as well as the importance of food supply and rural order. Formerly military, Berthold is a master of deception, guerrilla tactics, and his domain, which extends throughout every forested area in the region.

- Theresa of Skalitz²⁵

²³ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

²⁴ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

²⁵ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

A survivor of the Skalitz massacre and now living in Rattay, Theresa represents the suffering of refugees displaced by Sigismund's invasion. Known for her resilience and resourcefulness, she has earned the respect of townsfolk and soldiers alike. Theresa embodies the civilian perspective: the plight of the dispossessed, the demand for justice, and the call for stability in the face of noble squabbles. Theresa is also closely affiliated with the work of her childhood friend Sister Johanka, her uncle Miller Peshek, and her relative Miller Woyzeck.

- Konrad Hagen²⁶

A merchant in Rattay, Konrad Hagen is primarily concerned with trade and the prosperity of the marketplace. While not a soldier or noble, his wealth and connections allow him to influence local politics, particularly in matters of taxation and protection of commerce. Hagen represents the growing economic class of townsmen whose support could determine whether lords maintain stability or face unrest.

- Huntsman Nicholas Angel²⁷

A servant of none but the great expanse of wilderness that occupies the region surrounding Talmerg, Nicholas Angel is another master huntsman. A self-righteous man, Nicholas pretends to be better than everyone else despite valuing coin over everything, including his morals. An ambitious man, he follows his lord's orders, but is always looking for upward mobility and career growth. Despite his flamboyant attitude and charismatic personality that so often graces the local tavern, Nicholas is still a master huntsman and spends his days hunting game and Cumans alike. If you find a bandit dead in the woods, robbed blind, all his drink stolen, and a red-feathered arrow in Talmberg colors through his armor, high chance Nicholas is watching.

²⁶ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

²⁷ Ibid.

Servants of the Church

- Father Godwin²⁸

A priest residing in Uzhitz, Father Godwin was the youngest son of a minor noble. After picking up a penchant for swordplay and sinful life, Godwin was sent to become one of the clergy, the norm for younger sons of nobles. Over the years, he became closer to the faith, but retained his sword practice, drinking practice, and declined a life of celibacy. Godwin is massively popular among the people of Uzhitz and the surrounding towns, and treats all doctrine and dogma of the Church as law — except for those pertaining to the pleasures a priest can partake in.

- Sister Johanka²⁹

A pious lady, formerly of Skalitz and now residing in the Sasau Monastery, Sister Johanka primarily spends her days assisting Brother Nicodemus in the apothecary and caring for the wounded refugees of Skalitz. A vocal advocate for the rights of refugees and non-citizens within the Monastery's purview, she is an avid supporter of the reconstruction of Skalitz and an opponent of the actions of the Sigismund-sponsored bandits and Cumans. However, Johanka opposes their actions because the common folk are being hurt, not due to the effect the invasion has on nobles. As a blanket policy, Johanka would rather that the events of Animal Farm (for all the unintended consequences) occur rather than support the oligarchy of medieval Central Europe. For all her advocacy, Johanka is still a 15th-century peasant, and if left in charge, would make decisions that immediately benefit the common man without considering any further consequences.

- Brother Nicodemus³⁰

²⁸ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

²⁹ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

³⁰ Warhorse Studios, *Kingdom Come*, 2018.

Head of the Sasau Monastery Apothecary and a senior member of the Sasau Monastery hierarchy, Brother Nicodemus can make anything from panacea to poison. A rebellious man, his bark is far more than his bite, and the slightest pressure from the Abbot causes him to back down. However, his belief in the hierarchy of the church is immense, and he treats those below him as horribly as sycophantically he acts towards those above. His respect for nobility varies, but ultimately depends on how much they bother him and seek his services.

- Abbot Peter of Zbýšov³¹

15th Abbot of the Sázava Monastery, not much is known about Abbot Peter's origins or his influence upon the region. The monastery and by effect its abbot controlled Sázava (Sasau), and his role in this committee will be as the religious and pseudo-political leader of the city.

³¹ Provozuje BluePool s.r.o., "The place," Sázava.



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