

Advanced Committee JCC - Muslims



SJMUNC XXXVII

Saint John's Model United Nations Conference

Table of Contents

Table of Contents-----	1
Letter From the Chairs:-----	2
Crisis Committee Overview-----	4
Statement of the problem-----	7
History of the Problem-----	8
Possible Solutions-----	11
Bloc Positions-----	12

Letter From the Chairs:

Hello my name is Ronan Pigeaud, and welcome to the Joint Crisis Committee for the First Crusade on the side of the Muslims. This committee is meant to be fast-paced, with consistent crisis updates and crisis notes, as is standard in a crisis committee. This briefing paper will be an explanation of what a crisis committee entails and how to write a crisis note.

The First Crusade was a rather chaotic endeavor meant as a religious reprisal meant to stabilize an unstable Christian world. For this reason, this time is ripe with opportunities for delegates to change the course of history to their character/nation's benefit (or demise!). This subject is also rather complicated, especially when considering all the events and context surrounding the actual crusade. For that reason, the chair for the Christian World side and I recommend that delegates take some time to prepare notes for this committee, as well as print out this briefing paper (and perhaps even the other side's) as a resource to use during the committee. Any and all printed paper notes, articles, and AI summaries, are fair for use during committee. No electronic devices or electronic notes are allowed to be used for the committee.

Given that this subject matter is rather tough to get a grasp on, here are some resources for you to look at to get a jump start on research

- Wikipedia: Wikipedia is always a good place to begin research, as it allows you to formulate a general happening of events
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Crusade

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_views_on_the_crusades
- YouTube: There are many well-sourced and documented videos portraying the First Crusade from the Muslim perspective including the fairly comprehensive one I've linked below:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5iEZIrZtrQ>
- AI is a great tool to gather specific information in the manner you want it in a fast manner. You are more than welcome to use AI for research but do be cautious, as AI is not always 100% correct.

Crisis Committee Overview

A crisis committee is a special type of Model UN committee that deals with an actively developing problem that delegates are able to tackle in multiple ways. Three ways in which a crisis committee is different from a regular committee are that the emphasis is on passing directives (not resolutions), the inclusion of periodical updates in committees called “crisis updates”, and that it includes crisis notes, a way for delegates to individually influence events.

A directive is just like a resolution, but its emphasis is on being fast, concise, and responding to a current problem. Actions done by a directive are going to immediately take place, unlike resolutions in a standard general committee, which are not binding and are merely suggestions. Directives are created, presented, and passed in the same way that a resolution is.

A crisis update is a new development outside what is outlined in a briefing paper. Normally, updates are announced to the entire room and can be of rather minor or major magnitude. These updates are meant as hurdles for delegates to triumph over throughout the day. As soon as they are announced, delegates can (and will be expected to) act on them.

Crisis “notes” are not notes at all. They are letters or messages sent from you to either a personal secretary (for which, you can just invent a name) or to “crisis” (both forms are acceptable). In these letters, you include any action item that you wish to do in your committee. For example, you could hire bodyguards, raise an army, send spies to collect intelligence on foes, or send loquacious love letters to random characters that are to be read in committee (this happens more often than you think).

Remember to be appropriate with your actions. The goal of crisis notes is to make effective changes while also being fun and creative. The notes are given to crisis coordinators (Crisis), who will evaluate your note, individual position in the context of events, and resources available to you at the time, and will decide whether or not to grant you the request. A thing of note about crisis notes is that if they are too general for our crisis coordinators to understand, then they will take the liberty to do as they wish (and more often than not, they can be rather spiteful). For instance, if you were the Eastern Roman Emperor Alexius I in Constantinople, and wrote a note saying:

“I wish for 3,000 troops to be deployed in my area”

Crisis may respond with:

“3000 troops have been deployed to an unknown location in the Eastern Roman Empire. They are unarmed, have no food or equipment, nor any level of training. Good luck. —Crisis”

The crisis coordinators could respond in a manner of ways, given that there was no specificity on armaments, specific location, food, or logistics. However, the more specific and detailed you are, the less likely the chance is for things to be messed up. Here is a revised note:

“Dear Crisis, I, Eastern Roman Emperor Alexius I, ask for 3000 well-trained, loyal troops to be immediately deployed to Constantinople to aid me in my campaign through Anatolia. They should be equipped with spears, swords, heavy armor, provisions for such a campaign, as well as horses to aid their efforts. Please use appropriate funds from the treasury.—Alexius I, Eastern Roman Emperor”

Crisis may respond with:

“3000 troops have been deployed to Constantinople and are ready for your use. The appropriate amount has been subtracted from the Eastern Roman treasury. —Crisis”

Actions and items received from crisis notes will either be announced in crisis updates or in individual notes received from Crisis. You can use the information you learn or items you receive in directives or future crisis notes.

A common thing to do in a crisis note is the assassination of other delegates. In these committees, some delegates may “die” after being assassinated, or killed in combat, disease, or any other reason that could be presented in a crisis update. If your character is killed, DO NOT WORRY. We are prepared with replacement characters. Furthermore, it is most likely that little to no people will actually “die” in committee. Assassinations must be very well prepared and should take place over multiple crisis notes, given their impact on committee.

One thing to know about crisis committees is that anything can happen, so be prepared, watch your back, and have fun.

Statement of the problem

The original First Crusade began in 1096 initiated by Pope Urban in order to recover the Holy Land from Islamic rule. This military and religious campaign not only threatens the territorial, political, and cultural independence of Muslim countries in the Levant but also the Muslim states all over the world. In addition to the Muslim perspective, the Crusaders' arrival has the role of upsetting the regional power allocation, not to mention endangering the security and autonomy of local people, including Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities that have lived together under Islamic rule for centuries.

The Muslim leaders are in an unenviable position on account of the problem of creating a single cohesive defense against imposing external power bodies even in the light of internal political discord such as that between the Abbasid Caliphate in Baghdad and the Fatimid Caliphate in Cairo. The political disunity of the Muslim faith and lacking a joint military reaction have been the main reasons that the Crusaders captured much land, such as Jerusalem, in 1099.

The Muslims are faced with a problem that has two dimensions: protecting Muslim lands from an invasion by foreigners while at the same time doing away with the divisions that prevent a unified approach. Muslim leaders are under tremendous pressure to develop action plans and bring forth those units in order to demonstrate effective resistance, secure the people, and uphold the integrity of Islamic sacred shrines. The impact of this confrontation will be felt on both the political and religious levels of the Middle East.

History of the Problem

The First Crusade was launched in 1096 following Pope Urban II's appeal at the Council of Clermont in 1095, marking a major turning point in the medieval relationship between the Christian and Muslim worlds. The Crusade was framed as a response to the Seljuk Turks' advances in Byzantine territory, which threatened the stability of Eastern Christianity. However, it quickly evolved into a broader religious and territorial war aimed at reclaiming Jerusalem and the Holy Land from Islamic rule.

Context Leading to the Crusade

Before the Crusade, the Muslim world was already experiencing significant political instability. The Abbasid Caliphate, which had once been the most powerful empire in the Islamic world, was in decline. By the late 11th century, the Abbasids had lost control of many regions, including Syria and parts of Palestine, which had been taken over by the Seljuk Turks. The Fatimid Caliphate, based in Cairo, was a rival Islamic power vying for control over the same territories, particularly in the Levant. This rivalry between the Abbasids and Fatimids created a fragmented political landscape, making it difficult for the Muslim world to unite against the looming Crusader threat.

The fragmentation of the Islamic world was exacerbated by internal divisions. The Sunni-Shi'a split deepened political and religious divisions between the Abbasids (Sunni) and the Fatimids (Shi'a), further complicating the possibility of cooperation. While the Seljuks had successfully conquered

Jerusalem from the Fatimids in 1073, their own political hold over the region was tenuous due to infighting and competition for leadership within the Seljuk Empire.

The Crusader Advance

When the Crusaders began their march toward the Levant, the Muslim powers did not initially recognize the scale of the threat. Muslim chroniclers of the time, such as Ibn al-Athir, report that the Crusaders (Franj) were initially viewed as a relatively small and disorganized force. However, their victories in battles such as the Siege of Nicaea (1097) and Antioch (1098) quickly changed this perception. The fall of Antioch was particularly significant, as it paved the way for the Crusader advance toward Jerusalem.

In 1099, Jerusalem fell to the Crusaders after a brief but intense siege. The Fatimids, who had recently regained control of the city from the Seljuks, were caught unprepared and unable to mount an effective defense. Al-Afdal, the vizier of the Fatimid Caliphate, attempted to mobilize a relief army from Egypt, but his forces arrived too late to save the city. The capture of Jerusalem was a devastating blow to the Muslim world and sparked widespread outrage across the Islamic world.

Political and Religious Consequences

The loss of Jerusalem highlighted the severe political disunity within the Muslim world. The rivalry between the Fatimids and Abbasids, along with internal power struggles among the Seljuks, made it difficult for Muslim leaders to coordinate a response to the Crusaders. The lack of unity and

the failure to present a coordinated military front were critical factors in the success of the Crusaders during the First Crusade.

Additionally, the Crusaders' conquests disrupted the centuries-long coexistence of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities under Islamic rule. The Crusaders established the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, instituting Christian rule over the city and expelling many Muslim and Jewish inhabitants. This radically altered the religious and political dynamics of the region. Over time, the shock of the Crusader victories and the loss of Jerusalem would spur efforts to reclaim lost territories. Leaders like Imad ad-Din Zengi, Nur ad-Din, and later Saladin would rise to prominence in the 12th century by uniting various Muslim factions to launch successful counter-crusades, but this unity was lacking during the First Crusade.

Internal Muslim Divisions

One of the most critical aspects of the First Crusade was the way it exploited existing political divisions within the Muslim world. While the Crusaders were motivated by religious zeal and the promise of spiritual rewards, the Muslim world was embroiled in a series of internal conflicts that left it ill-prepared to confront the external threat. The Abbasid Caliphate was nominally the leading power in the Muslim world, but its authority had been greatly diminished by the rise of regional dynasties like the Fatimids in Egypt and the Seljuks in Anatolia and Syria. These groups were more concerned with consolidating their own power than with defending Jerusalem or cooperating to repel the Crusaders.

In summary, the First Crusade succeeded largely due to the political fragmentation and lack of coordination within the Muslim world. The Abbasids and Fatimids were too divided to present a

unified front, and local rulers like the Seljuks were more focused on internal struggles. This lack of unity was a decisive factor in the Crusader victories and the subsequent establishment of Christian rule in Jerusalem.

Possible Solutions

To address the growing threat posed by the Crusaders and reclaim lost territories, Muslim leaders must adopt a two-pronged approach:

1. **Political and Military Unification:** The fragmentation of Muslim powers, particularly the rivalries between the Abbasids and Fatimids, must be resolved to create a unified military front. Historical evidence shows that divisions between Muslim rulers allowed the Crusaders to advance with little resistance. A coordinated effort—similar to later successful counter-crusades led by figures like Saladin—could enhance military effectiveness and improve diplomatic cohesion within the Muslim world (Project MUSE, 2024).
2. **Strategic Alliances:** Muslim leaders could explore alliances with neighboring powers, including non-Muslim states, to balance the Crusader threat. Previous alliances with local Christian factions, such as those seen in later Crusades, were successful in repelling European forces. Similarly, partnerships with local powers could help Muslim rulers stabilize regions, thus allowing them to focus on the larger external threat (Westminster University, 2024).

Both solutions would require overcoming longstanding divisions and rivalries within the Muslim world. By fostering greater unity and strategic cooperation, the Muslim response to the Crusaders could become more effective, ensuring the protection of territories and populations under Islamic rule.

Bloc Positions

1. **Berkyaruq** (بيركياروك) - Sultan of the Seljuk Empire
2. **Kilij Arslan I** (قلج أرسلان آي) - Sultan of the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum
3. **Al-Musta'li Billah** (المستعلي بالله) - Imam-Caliph of the Fatimid Caliphate
4. **Al-Afdal Shahanshah** (الأفضل شاهنشاه) - Vizier of the Fatimid Caliphate
5. **Al-Mustazhir** (المستظهر) - Caliph of the Abbasid Caliphate
6. **Shams al-Muluk Duqaq** (شمس الملوك دقاق) - Emir of Damascus
7. **Zahir al-Din Toghtekin** (ظاهر الدين طغتكين) - Atabeg of Damascus
8. **Fakhr al-Mulk Ridwan** (فخر الملك رضوان) - Emir of Aleppo
9. **Ibn al-Khashshab** (ابن الخشاب) - Rais of Aleppo
10. **Sadaqa ibn Mansur** (صدقة بن منصور) - Emir of Iraq
11. **Qiwam al-Dawla Kerbogha** (قوام الدولة كربغا) - Atabeg of Mosul
12. **Yaghi-Siyan** (ياغي سيان) - Governor of Antioch
13. **Belek Ghazi** (بيليك غازي) - Governor of Suruç
14. **Sökmen** (سوكمين) - Co-Governor of Jerusalem

15. **Ilghazi** (إلغازي) - Co-Governor of Jerusalem
16. **Yusuf ibn Tashfin** (يوسف بن تاشفين) - Amir of the Almoravids
17. **Gazi Gümüshtigin** (غازي جوموشتيجين) - Melik of the Danishmendids
18. **Jalal al-Mulk Abu'l-Hasan** (جلال الملك أبو الحسن) - Qadi of Tripoli
19. **Arwa al-Sulayhi** (أروى الصليحي) - Queen of Yemen
20. **Muhammad I Tapar** (محمد بن ملكشاه) - Sultan Claimaint of the Seljuk Empire
21. **Iftikhar ad-Dawla** (افتخار الدولة) - Fatimid Governor of Jerusalem
22. **Ibrahim of Ghazna** (ابراهيم الغزنوي) - Sultan of Ghaznavid Empire