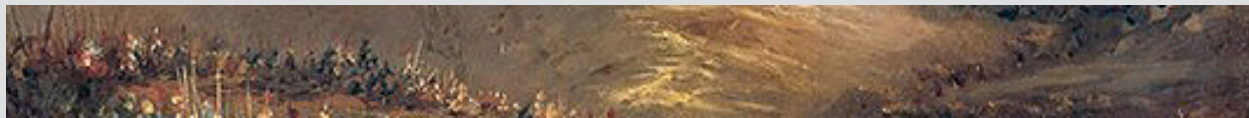


# Kingdom of Heaven

## The Court of Baldwin IV of Jerusalem



Model United Nations at Illinois XXII

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## Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

Greetings and welcome to the Model United Nations Illinois Conference for 2016. More importantly, let me welcome you to the Holy Land. My name is Andrew Minik, and I am your Simulations Director for this exciting committee. As director, I hope to engage you and by the end of this conference, pull you into the historical time period of the first millennium. Your problem solving and negotiation skills will be thoroughly expected as you strive to solve problems the men and women of the era struggled to solve themselves.

As your Simulation Director, I invite you to step into history and relive this iconic moment in history. The Crusades are one of the most misunderstood conflicts in history, and putting yourself in the place of your character may be just as challenging as achieving your lofty goals. I look forward to simulating the events of the Kingdom of Jerusalem and create solutions to the real problems affecting the people of the Levant. If you have questions, comments, or concerns let me know at [AFMinik@gmail.com](mailto:AFMinik@gmail.com). I look forward to seeing you all in March.

Best regards,

Andrew Minik

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## Committee Introduction

In 1179, eighty years after the success of the First Crusade, the lands of present day Israel, Lebanon, and Syria remain under the control of Christians. The Kingdom of Jerusalem stands as the most powerful Crusader State. Led by King Baldwin IV, the Crusader States are currently at peace with their Muslim neighbors. For most of his life, the king has suffered from leprosy, which has recently begun to become critically dangerous to life. In his current condition, rule of the kingdom has become difficult. King Baldwin has summoned advisors and agents from across the Holy Land in hope of maintain a delicate peace. These leaders must ensure the prosperity of the Kingdom while also undermining their powerful Islamic rivals. Fighting on the border continues as belligerent crusaders conduct raids against neighboring Saracens, an internal power struggle leaves Egypt unable to wage war against the Crusader States, so internal affairs are imperative. It is crucial that the kingdom get its affairs in order before the Muslim sultanates unite and wage an inevitable war.

## Background

Europe



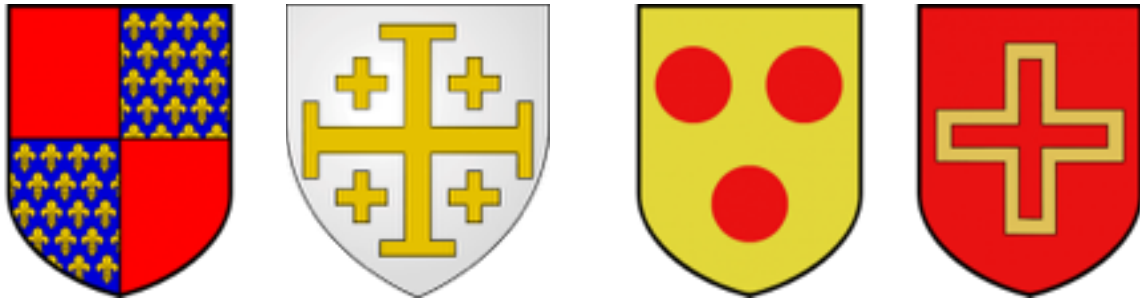
The supremacy of the Vatican in Rome keeps Europe in a state of relative peace. Christendom, the collective state of Latin Christianity, consists of all kingdoms with lords crowned by the Pope. France, England, the Holy Roman Empire (modern day Germany and Northern Italy), and the Italian states all contribute to the Crusades in a variety of ways.

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France, England, and the Holy Roman Empire provide the majority of military support through drafted armies. Together, their kingdoms sent thirty thousand knights and men-at-arms on the First Crusade. In addition to soldiers, they also send supplies and many pilgrims, which often become the economic and cultural masses of the Crusader States. The Italian states, thrilled to again have access to the treasures of the East, have created a profitable trade network with the Crusader States, while also providing sea based transportation to the Kingdom. Natural resources and weapons are sent to the Holy Land in exchange for silk, gold, and other holy treasures.

While Christendom may be across the sea, as leaders of the Crusader States you govern in the same style. As lord of a city or castle you must remember that the safety of your lands is just as important as the welfare of the kingdom as a whole. Even though you are Christian, the vast majority of your subjects are Muslim and Jewish. Whether you hope to expand your territory through trade or military conquest, you must tread lightly. Like the courts of Europe, rivals exist within and without the halls of Jerusalem. Take care to not make too many enemies, both foreign and domestic.

As a courtier of the crusader kingdom, you must take advantage of the many opportunities Europe has to offer. If you require military aid, encourage European allies to take of the crusader call and lend their support to the Holy Land in exchange for the absolution of sins and other blessings. The spiritual (or financial) opportunities of discovering and selling relics is massive. Existing trade routes between the Holy Land and neighboring Muslim states are ripe for both raids and investment, yielding profitable foreign wares, such as precious metals, exotic goods and military equipment.



### **Outremer**

Upon capture of the sacred city of Jerusalem and the surrounding lands, the territories of Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria have become known to the crusaders as Outremer (French for ‘overseas’). The territory is comprised of four crusader states: The Kingdom of Jerusalem, the Principality of Antioch, the County of Edessa, and the County of Tripoli. Each state ranges in size and strength, but every lord is dedicated to the mission of preserving the Holy Land for Christendom.

As the largest of the crusader states, the King of Jerusalem is respected by most as the highest authority of the Holy Land. His baronies as well as the lords of Antioch, Edessa, and Tripoli respect his calls to war and peace. However, other factions such as the crusader and Muslim lords maintain their friendship with King Baldwin when it is within their best interests. The army of Jerusalem consists of approximately 300 knights and 3,000 men at arms. However, if the kingdom falls in peril, the barons of the surrounding cities are honor bound to follow the king into battle.

Because the Holy Land had been controlled by Muslims for several hundred years, the early Latin population of Outremer was quite small. As new generations grew up in the kingdom, they

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began to think of themselves as natives, rather than immigrants. Although they never gave up their core identity as Western Europeans or Franks, their clothing, diet, and commercialism integrated much Oriental, particularly Byzantine, influence.

The crusaders and their descendants often learned to speak Greek, Arabic, and other eastern languages, and intermarried with the native Christians (whether Greek, Syrian, or Armenian) and sometimes with converted Muslims. Nonetheless, the Frankish principalities remained a distinctive Western European colony in the heart of Islam.

It is due to this adoption of eastern cultures that have allowed the crusader states to remain in power for so long. The landed nobility, descendants of European nobility, quickly realized that peace and coexistence is crucial to the survival of the small Christian peoples inhabiting Outremer.

However, an official call of crusade by the Pope is not the only force driving more Christians to the east. Pilgrimages and personal calls to take up arms and travel to the Holy Land were common. These new crusaders often clashed with landed nobles, who prefer the profitability of peace. Because absolution of sins was promised for anyone who took up the crusader vow, violent acts became far more common by recent crusaders than Christians who have inhabited Outremer for multiple generations. Compromise between bellicose Europeans on crusade and nobles who desire lasting peace will certainly be a goal.



Fulcher of Chartres, *A History of the Expedition to Jerusalem*, trans. Frances Rita Ryan, University of Tennessee Press, 1969

### **Military Orders**

As the number of Europeans on crusade and pilgrimage to the Holy Land swelled, so too did the need to protect and care for their safety. If an innocent pilgrim was in danger or required hospital



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care, the military and hospital orders of the Christian Church led the charge. Knights and doctors dedicated to the cause of the crusade traded their national coats of arms for the simple robes of the knightly orders. The largest and most influential orders operating in the Holy Land are the Knights Templar, Hospitaller, Teutonic, and Knights of Saint Lazarus.



The Knights Templar is the wealthiest and most powerful of the orders. Particularly influential in France, the cause of the Templars has quickly become a favored charity throughout Christendom and grows rapidly in membership and power, thus making them popular in Christian finance in the Levant. Templar Knights, in their distinctive white mantles with a red cross, are among the most skilled fighting units of the Crusades.

Non-combatant members of the order managed a large economic infrastructure throughout Christendom, developing innovative financial techniques that were an early form of banking, and building fortifications across Europe and the Holy Land. The order is in command of 300 knights, 2,000 men at arms, and the largest bank in the Holy Land.



The Knights Hospitaller have existed as hospital stewards for centuries, but it is upon the recapture of Jerusalem that the order adopted militaristic ideologies. They currently operate a militia organized into ranks of knights, men at arms, and chaplains. The order from this time participated in the Crusades as a military order, in particular

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distinguishing itself in the Siege of Ascalon of 1153. The statutes of Roger de Moulins deal primarily with the service of the sick. The order is in control of major hospitals in Jerusalem, Acre, and Tyre, in addition to commanding 100 knights, 1,000 men at arms, and 50 chaplains.



The Teutonic Order functions primarily in the construction and maintenance of hospitals across Outremer. The order was formed to aid Christians on their pilgrimages to the Holy Land and to establish hospitals. Its members are commonly known as Teutonic Knights, having a small voluntary and mercenary military membership, serving as a crusading military order for protection of Christians in the Holy Land. The Teutonic Order has a large influence over German speakers and the Holy Roman Emperor. They command 50 knights and 200 men at arms and possess five hospitals across the Holy Land, the largest of which being their headquarters in Acre.



The Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem originated as a leper hospital founded in the twelfth century by crusaders of the Latin Kingdom. Drawing most of its members from the Italian states, the Order of Saint Lazarus maintains the most active hospitals of the large orders. Most members of the order come from Portugal and are fiercely dedicated to service of the Roman Church. They possess ten hospitals across the Holy

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Land and receive a large patronage from King Baldwin, as he is personally afflicted with leprosy.

A letter from Baldwin IV to Pope Alexander III

Your Eminence,

I must first thank you for your continued support of the Holy Land. The Saracens are pressed with their backs to the desert and the Kingdom thrives in a state of peace. However, I must temper my gratitude with frustration. The winds of war seem to be returning to Outremer.

The zealotry with which you inspire crusaders causes concern among the barons of my kingdom. A Muslim caravan en route from Ibelin to Aleppo was ambushed by raiders of the Knights Templar. While I support these raids when they are of strategic value, the actions of the knights leaves me worried.

Rather than sack the caravan and allow the traders to leave in peace, the raiders under the command of the Grand Master slaughtered all men involved. When I summoned Odo de St. Amand to answer for his crime, he bore no guilt and told me that he and the knightly orders within the kingdom answer to none but you, your excellency. Odo and I fought beside each other at Montgiscard, yet he and other holy orders distance themselves from my authority as our visions of the Holy Land diverge.

My utmost loyalty is to you and the guardianship of the Holy Sepulchre. You may be the key to their salvation, but I must ensure day-to-day affairs are protected. I implore you to temper the zeal of the knights. If their actions continue in this way I fear the flames will flare too high. Once Egypt and Syria are united, I fear that these actions will no longer go unnoticed.

In God's Holy name,

Baldwin IV

King of Jerusalem

Guardian of Christendom

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## The Muslim World



Despite being under the control of Muslims for several hundred years, the crusaders were not prompted to recapture Jerusalem and Outremer until Christian pilgrims found themselves under attack. The Muslim world of the twelfth century can be divided broadly into three factions: Turks in the

north, Egyptians in the south, and independent sultanates in the middle.



The Turks are the primary cause of the Crusades. Originally nomads from Persia, Turkish warriors saw the weakening Byzantine Empire as an opportunity to expand west and create a new homeland for themselves. Indeed, the Greek

empire was unable to hold back Turkish advances. By the time of the First Crusade, half of Anatolia (present day Turkey) was under the control of Turkish invaders. Their belligerent nature soon turned to Christian pilgrims which prompted Pope Urban II to call the First Crusade.

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To the south are the Egyptians. Traditionally peaceful, Egypt is the largest and most powerful state in the Middle East. Despite this, the sultanate lacked the organization to prevent crusaders from establishing a state in the Levant. More importantly, unlike the Kingdom of Jerusalem, the death of a sultan means a long, bloody power struggle to find a replacement. Egypt is currently in the midst of such a conflict. Until a new sultan rises to power, the crusader states do not need to worry about attempts to unify the smaller Muslim states to their east.

Directly east of the crusader states lie a collection of Sultanates loyal to neither the Turks or the Egyptians. The two largest city-states of this region are Damascus and Homs. After the establishment of Christian states, these sultans have recognized that it is within their interests to align with their Christian neighbors. Both the Turks and Egyptians are highly expansionist. At this time, any attempt to align with these powers will most likely result in invasion and the death of the current sultans. Damascus and Homs are ancient cities rich in culture and wealth. King Baldwin IV relies on their friendship to secure the economic and security interests of his kingdom.

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## The Current Situation

You have been summoned to the court of King Baldwin IV because several issues require the attention of the kingdom's most influential officials. While Egypt and Turkey have the military arms necessary to successfully invade Outremer, internal strife leaves them unable to plot an invasion. Therefore, your attention must first be focused on the inner workings of Jerusalem itself.

Within the sacred city there is increasing tension between Christian and Muslim residents. Since the recapture of the city, policy on the worship of non-Latin faiths has caused much disagreement among residents. Jerusalem contains three major religious sites: the church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; the Dome of the Rock, where Abraham almost sacrificed his son Isaac; and the Temple Mount. These are among the holiest monuments for Christianity, Judaism, and Islam respectively. Some leaders in the Holy Land believe that worship within the city should be restricted to exclude all non-Christians. Currently Muslim residents conduct their prayers outside the city walls to avoid harassment by crusaders and pilgrims. Whether the solution is the acceptance of all religious worship, heavy taxation of non-

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Christians, or an outright ban, a decision must be made before the people rise up against a lack of authority.

Outside the walls of Jerusalem violence continues to propagate itself. Merchant caravans transporting valuable goods from east to west face continued raids from both Saracens and crusaders. The crusaders warn the king that if their attacks cease, Muslims will be emboldened to commit greater acts of violence against the kingdom and that these caravans are supplying weapons to forces who conspire against Jerusalem and Christendom. Other leaders cite the outrage by innocent merchants, both Christian and Muslim, that the violence is destroying the economy of the Crusader States. There is no doubt that a rich supply of goods is available within the kingdom. However, if the security concerns go unaddressed, there is no telling what it means for the future of the kingdom.

Egypt is currently in a state of disarray. The death of the last sultan has opened a power vacuum that leaves several Egyptian lords struggling to earn the throne. Rumors across Outremer speak of a ferocious warrior known as Saladin. He currently is the most influential leader in the region. If he is able to unite Egypt and Syria beneath his banner the Holy Land as it stands may not be

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secure for long. The current leaders in the lands of Syria fear his power and flock to Baldwin's banner, but as he consolidates power in the south there is uncertainty over his next move.

### **Character List**

Raymond III of Tripoli – Lord of Tripoli and advisor to King Baldwin. Known as Raymond the Young, he assumed the lordship of Tripoli at age 12 with his mother ruling in his stead. As a native of the Holy Land, Raymond believes that peace is the ultimate goal of the Kingdom of Heaven. He is wary of the highly influential military orders and is opposed to any attempt to increase their power. The battalion of Tripoli is made up of 150 knights and 400 men at arms. His marriage to Eschiva of Bures has allowed him to take control of much of Northern part of the kingdom.

Raynald of Châtillon – Prince of Antioch, one of the wealthiest barons due to his control over the caravan routes between Syria and Egypt. Additionally, he commands the army of Antioch which is comprised of 100 household knights and 500 men at arms. Promoted to Regent by King Baldwin IV, he led the Crusader Army to defeat Saladin and the only Christian to pursue an offensive strategy against the Sultan and the Muslims. Raynald is a major donor to the cause of



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the Knights Templar. He often collaborates with the Templars to perform military operations and raids not sanctioned by King Baldwin.

Miles of Plancy – Seneschal of Jerusalem and close advisor to the old king, Amalric. Removed from power once Raymond III returned to claim the regency. Miles is fiercely loyal to the line of King Baldwin. William of Tyre did not like him, calling him "a brawler and a slanderer, ever active in stirring up trouble." He is vehemently opposed to any attempt by the knightly orders or any other leader to seize control from King Baldwin. His war host consists of 200 household knights. He believes that force is a last resort and must be used defensively if at all.

Odo de St Amand – Grand Master of the Knight Templar. As leader, St. Amand took part in many expeditions. Odo famously fought beside King Baldwin IV at the famous battle of Montgisard. This victory cemented the military might of the Templar Order. Though companions in battle, King Baldwin's declining health and St. Amand's desire for battle has created a rift between the crown and the Templars. Ruthless and headstrong, he was a fierce threat to Saladin's forces.

William of Montferrat – Jerusalem noble also known as William Longsword, brother-in-law to

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King Baldwin by marriage to his sister, Sybilla. William is the Lord of Jaffa and Ascalon. He is the eldest son of the most powerful family in Italy. As a devout Christian, he is a chivalrous and devout man, choosing the noble path of peace before war.

Guy of Lusignan - A French knight and newcomer to the Holy Land. Thanks to his status in the French nobility, he has become a close friend and ally to the Knights Templar. Guy has brought with him 300 knights, 1,000 men at arms, and enough wealth and influence to increase his role in the kingdom and perhaps earn lordship of a non-Christian castle. With his sights set on Karak, Guy hopes to secure a powerful post in the Holy Land. Moreover, he has also drawn the eye of Sybilla, sister of King Baldwin and wife of William of Montferrat.

Zain ad-Dawlah – Sultan of Damascus, ally of Jerusalem. As Sultan ad-Dawlah holds a peculiar stance. Damascus is the largest Muslim city-state not under the control of the Egyptians or Turks. He is aware the crusaders lack the resources for an offensive war and, at this time, pose no threat to his lands. On the contrary, should he break away from Outremer, the Egyptians and Turks would surely replace him and Damascus would fall out of his control.

Anna Comnenus – Princess of the Byzantine Empire, historian, and scholar. As the eldest of

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seven siblings, Anna was always the favorite of her father the Byzantine Emperor. Due to this Anna believes herself to be the rightful heiress to the imperial throne. She is actively involved in many plots to assume power from her brother and current heir, John. Additionally, she is highly influential in the actions of the Greek Orthodox state of Cilicia directly on the border of the Principality of Antioch. As the closest ally of the crusader states, the Greek Orthodox Byzantines remain loyal as long as their own state is not threatened by the Turks.

William of Tyre – Holy Land scholar. Previously the tutor to the young King Baldwin IV, he soon rose to become the chancellor and archbishop of Tyre. He is the chronicler of the Kingdom of Jerusalem and vital to the dynastic struggle during King Baldwin IV's rule. William has seen the Holy Land struggle in war and peace. He has learned from the failure of the Second Crusade to not adopt aggressive attitudes towards the kingdom's neighbors. His skill at writing is regarded around the kingdom, and is one of the most influential scholars in Outremer.

Roger de Moulins – Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaller. As the largest order next to the Knights Templar, he is often opposed the Raynald of Châtillon and Guy of Lusignan despite sharing their religious zeal. As Grand Master, the Knights Hospitaller are far more involved with

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politics in Jerusalem. Primarily in charge of hospitals and civil welfare, Roger hopes to engage the Knights Hospitaller in the survival of Jerusalem from within before addressing the kingdom's enemies.

Baldwin of Ibelin – Lord of Ibelin and Bethlehem. He is a political rival of Miles of Plancy and Guy. Supported Raymond III over Miles of Plancy for chief advisor to King Baldwin IV. Heavily involved in the politics of the kingdom, Baldwin supports the King and pushes for peace within Jerusalem and increased trade with their Muslim neighbors.

Theodoros Comnenus – General of the Byzantine Empire. While a loyal subject of the Byzantine Monarchy, Theodoros refused to heed Princess Anna's call to overthrow her brother, the king. As Anna is his princess, he will side with her and the stance of the Byzantine army on many issues, but he will not allow the interests of the military to intrude into personal affairs. Under the command of Emperor Alexios I, Theodoros is instructed to lead his army in defense of Jerusalem and ensure that the policies of the Latin Christian kingdom do not put Byzantium in danger. He leads 1,500 men at arms stationed in Cilicia and 10 war ships currently off the coast of Cyprus. He does not trust Raynald of Chatillon due to his conflicts with the empire in the past.

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Gérard de Montclar – Grand Master of the Order of Saint Lazarus. This order was established by the Holy See at a leper hospital in Jerusalem. It was recognized as both a Hospitaller and a military order protecting the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Of all the grand masters, the Order of Saint Lazarus is highly supported by King Baldwin due to their ministry over lepers. Gerard is regarded within the kingdom as a steward of service and beloved of the people.

Godfrey Boulogne d'Arcy – Pilgrim leader, Catholic radical. d'Arcy fully supports the survival of Christianity through the Crusades. He believes that the city of Jerusalem must remain in the hands of Baldwin and Christianity and that no other religion can be allowed in the Land. He is in possession of the Lance of Longinus, the spear which pierced the stomach of Jesus Christ during the crucifixion. His influence over the Christian population is strong. Before being summoned to the court of the King Baldwin, Godfrey could be found outside the church of the Holy Sepulcher preaching the absolution of sins for killing infidels.

Agnes of Courtenay – Mother of King Baldwin IV and Sibylla. She is a rival of William of Tyre who believes she should not meddle in the affairs of her son. However, with her son seated upon the throne, Agnes is once again able to hold significant power in court. She is a devout Christian.

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Her greatest ambition is to ensure that once her son Baldwin dies, his nephew, the son of Sybilla and William Longsword, ascends to the throne.

Heinrich von Bassenheim – Grand Master of the Knights Teutonic. As a German, Heinrich has many influential allies within the Holy Roman Empire, especially the Emperor himself Frederick I Barbarossa. The Grand Master commands 150 German knights and is in charge of five hospitals across the Holy Land. The order's headquarters in Acre leaves Heinrich with much influence over the city's affairs and has a close relationship with the city's bishop, Joscius.

Conrad of Montferrat – Holy Land noble, ally of Byzantium. Brother of William of Montferrat.

Conrad is a dear friend of Anna Comnenus and supports her in her quest for the throne. While he has connections through Princess Anna, the short marriage of his brother to Sibylla allowed him access into Baldwin's courts. He must decide where his support should fall, with his friends or with his family?

Al-Ashraf Musa – Sultan of Homs, ally of Jerusalem. Much like the case with Sultan Zain ad-Dawlah, the Sultan of Homs is an ally of Jerusalem. While they do not depend on each other, the two Sultans must ensure the safety of their lands and people against both expansionist Christians

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and the bellicose Turks and Egyptians.

Abdullah ibn al-Gaza – Holy Land merchant. Much like the European merchants, the Muslim merchants are more business-orientated rather than religious. All merchants are threatened by the crusaders, however with the double threat of both being killed as well as having his livelihood destroyed, al-Gaza wants nothing more than for the Crusades to be over. He is a powerful merchant and chief supplier of spices to the crusader kings and Italian merchants. His supply is constantly threatened by crusaders and is highly supportive of any laws against raids within Christian territory. Abdullah's business is increasingly threatened by European merchants hoping to make gains in the conquered territory.

Sebastian alla Mastropiero – Italian merchant. As the Crusades needed to be funded, taxes were increased on many goods, which affected sales of European merchants. As a wealthy Italian merchant, the last thing Mastropiero wants is for taxes to be raised on the goods he sells to survive. The lucrative spice and silk markets have caught the eye of Sebastian and his colleagues in Italy. Muslim merchants control a large supply, but as the crusaders move east Sebastian hopes to increase his own business while cutting down his infidel rivals.

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Joscius – Bishop of Acre. As the first major city to fall to the crusaders, Acre is regarded as the most zealous crusader stronghold. The city's fortifications leave it highly defensible against the Saracens. Joscius stands as the guardian of Christianity within the city, encouraging new arrivals to the Holy Land to press on in their struggle. While Joscius has seen many good men die horrible deaths, he believes the Crusades are vital for the upkeep of Christianity and the security of the Christian monuments.

Hamed Abad al-Amir – Imam of Jerusalem. al-Amir wants nothing more than for there to be peace for his people and fighting to cease between the warring religions. He is staunchly opposed to acts of violence against Muslims within the kingdom. Hamed is mindful that the majority of the kingdom's population is Muslim, and it would be unwise of the king to continue ignoring violence against his people. The Holy City currently has harsh restrictions against Islam.



## Citations

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