



UCBMUN XXI



The Teutonic Knights of 1226: The Fate of Europe

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INTRODUCTION

Committee Overview

Established in 1190 in the Levantine city-state of Acre, the Teutonic Order can trace its beginnings to the Third Crusade, where it began as an offshoot branch of the Hospitallers of the Blessed Virgin. Its mandate was to build hospitals and protect European Christians on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Following the events of the Siege of Acre, from 1189 to 1191, during the Third Crusade—which saw a decisive Crusader victory—the Order migrated to Transylvania in 1211 at the behest of the Hungarian Monarch. They were to guard the Southern border of the Kingdom of Hungary from the Cumans. However, the Teutonic Order was expelled by force from Hungary by King Andrew II shortly after this relocation following their request to the Pope for an independent, Christian state. Following their expulsion from Hungary, the Order was given the exclusive rights Chelmno Land, located in present day Poland by papal edict.

This committee begins on the heels of this relocation to Chelmno Land, as the Knights struggles to maintain order in a land surrounded by pagans, expand their fledgling state, and maintain legitimacy in the eyes of the Church. Knights, priests and sergeants alike must assemble to take command in creating the theo-democracy

from newly attained land while also defeating enemies of the true Faith. The Teutonic Order will convene to discuss issues relating to combat, nation building over newly acquired lands, foreign policy, and internal politics within the Knighthood to bring Christianity to the pagans across Northern Europe. The Teutonic Order will face many challenges in the coming years – can you be trusted to take the helm?

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Teutonic Knights of 1226: The Fate of Europe committee at UCBMUN XXI! My name is Ananya Sreekanth and I am honored to serve as this committee's Head Chair. Here's a little about myself: I was born in Hong Kong and have lived in Singapore, India and Saudi Arabia. I am a second year student at Cal and an intended Economics major. This is my second year in MUN as well as my second year serving as a dais member (I vice-chaired DISEC at last year's UCBMUN conference). Outside of MUN I work at the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board, I watch copious amounts of Netflix, I enjoy reading the works of Jhumpa Lahiri and Khaled Hosseini and I'm currently obsessing over the Hamilton soundtrack.

This committee is designed to address four core issues that the State of the Teutonic Order faced including but not limited to, nation building and combat. While this is a historic committee, delegates will find quite a few common themes in the topics debated seen in society today. With that being said, delegates should expect a fast-paced yet flexible committee that delves into the intricacies of 13th century European politics. The expectation is that delegates understand how the knighthood operated as well as the scope of the State of the Teutonic Order. Furthermore, it is expected that delegates know the major positions the Teutonic Order held in European politics. I strongly suggest reading this background guide thoroughly in order to plan which direction you'd like to take your character as well as how you'd like to alter the history of Europe. Please contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding the committee. I am very excited to be chairing and hope delegates are looking forward to UCBMUN XXI!

--Ananya Sreekanth, Head Chair, The Teutonic Order of 1226 (teutonic@ucbmun.org)

Message From the CD

I hope all of you are ready for an action-packed weekend of pillaging pagan communities and fighting in holy wars — all in the name of Catholicism of course. My name is Jarry Xiao, and I am incredibly excited to be your crisis director for this committee. I am currently a junior double majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Statistics at Berkeley. I joined UCBMUN the second semester of my freshman year, and served as a Vice Chair for the Non Alignment Movement and an ACD for Thatcher's Cabinet in our past two conferences. In addition to MUN and classes, I am also the Project Manager of Data Analytics for The Berkeley Forum, which is a group that puts together talks, panels, and debates on campus. In my position, I analyze our website traffic and event attendance data, write scripts to automate tedious and redundant tasks, and design algorithms to optimize our organization's reach and to make predictions regarding future events. I am interested in anything from data science to quantitative finance to game theory to political philosophy. On the rare occasion that I have free time, I enjoy rock climbing, watching TV, going to concerts, and wasting time on the internet.

I expect everyone to bring their A-game this weekend because we have a fast-moving and dynamic crisis planned for you. While we aim for a level of historical accuracy in this committee, I want to make it clear that the fate of Europe is in your hands. Your committee will have the ability to exert influence not only militarily, but religiously, economically, and politically as well. Will Catholicism proliferate across the continent, or will barbarians and pagans stop you in your mission—desecrating the once great Holy Roman Empire? Every action you take will have an immediate consequence on how these events will unfold. But Teutonic Knights do not succumb to the whims of false idols. I have faith that all of you are up for the task. Deus Vult!

- Jarry Xiao, Crisis Director, The Teutonic Order of 1226 (teutonic@ucbmun.org)

Modified Rules

This committee will be conducted as a crisis committee with changes to better fit the rules and procedures of UCBMUN XXI and the nature of this 13th century historical committee. Personal and Committee Directives will be presented to the crisis team and committee body respectively, however all Committee Directives should be signed by a minimum of four sponsors. This will ensure that a variety of directives are discussed while also establishing a cap to eliminate inappropriate directives the committee do not want to examine. In line with the Knighthood of the Teutonic Order, there are certain rules pertaining to elections for selecting a new *Hochmeister* (Grand Master). The Grand Master and the Deputy of the Grand Master (Vice Master) act as the leaders of the Knighthood of the Teutonic Order. The Grand Master holds the supreme office and makes all final decisions pertaining to combat and foreign diplomacy. Additionally, the Grand Master alone can communicate with members of the Catholic Church including the Pope. The Vice Master is responsible for both ensuring the Grand Master's wishes are executed and for calling on a capitulum to assemble an Electoral College to elect a new Grand Master. The rules on how the election process works are detailed below:

1. An election for a new Grand Master can only take place if the previous Grand Master dies or abdicates.
2. Upon the departure of the previous Grand Master, the Vice Master will call on a capitulum (this will be addressed in the form of a procedural matter and will not be voted on in committee) and will himself select an Electoral College of five members consisting of two knights, two sergeants and one priest.
3. The general chapter must then debate amongst themselves to produce two candidates for Grand Master. This debate amongst the general chapter will be addressed in the form of a moderated caucus, which can be motioned for by any member of the general chapter. A Committee Directive detailing which two candidates will stand for the position of Grand Master must be submitted and passed in order for the Electoral College to make the final decision. Bear in mind members of the Electoral College cannot vote on this committee directive. The candidates must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Candidate must be a senior administrator for the Order, a

Großgebietiger. which refers to the positions of Deputy of the Grand Master, Treasurer, Hospital Affairs Executive, Dressing and Armament Executive and Chief of Military Affairs

votes wins and becomes the next Grand Master.

The traditional elections procedure has been modified to be a process capable of being run at UCBMUN. Delegates should come prepared to participate in these elections to further their position in committee!

4. Upon receiving the most recently passed directive stating which two candidates will stand for Grand Master. The two candidates must address the general chapter on what they hope to accomplish as Grand Master and who their Vice Master will be, this will be done in the form of a moderated caucus where the candidates must speak and other members of the Order can make endorsements.
5. During the moderated caucus, candidates must write and submit a Committee Directive (with a minimum of four sponsors) outlining their plan for the Teutonic Order and who would be their Vice Master. The directives will then be presented to the general chapter but only voted on by members of the Electoral College in voting bloc.
6. Only members of the Electoral College will cast their vote and the candidate with the more electoral

HISTORICAL INFORMATION



The area of the state of the Teutonic Order from 1260-1410.

Formation of the Teutonic Order

The Order of the Teutonic Knights of St. Mary's Hospital was established in Levantine city-state of Acre in 1190. The Teutonic Order was originally formed as a Catholic military order that could aid Christians on their pilgrimage to the Holy

Land and to build hospitals to care for the sick and injured. Members of the Teutonic Order are referred to as Teutonic Knights. With a voluntary and mercenary military membership, the Teutonic Knights aided in protecting Christians in the Holy Land and the Baltic states during the Middle Ages. The Teutonic Order can be traced back to the Third Crusade, where wealthy countrymen built a hospital to treat sick

pilgrims. Over time these men gathered to fight for the Holy Land while continuing to help the sick and poor. Charity was the foundation and origin of the rise of the Teutonic Order. They joined an organization under the pattern of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem with the title Hospitallers. The Hospitallers sustained their work in the hospital and battlefield until Saladin captured Jerusalem in 1187. Appreciating the Hospitallers altruistic work, Saladin allowed some of the Hospitallers to remain in Jerusalem to continue their work while others migrated elsewhere. It was not until the Siege of Acre from 1189-1191 that the former Hospitallers aided with the decisive victory for the Crusaders. The Teutonic Order was born during the Siege of Acre. The Teutonic Knights diverged from the Hospitallers and soon became one of the great military religious orders of Europe.

Migration to Transylvania

In 1211 the Teutonic Order migrated to Transylvania (specifically Burzenland). King Andrew II of Hungary granted the Teutonic Order Burzenland to defend the southeastern border of the Kingdom of Hungary from the Cumans. While the Teutonic Knights were the occupants of Burzenland, the King retained the right to claim all gold, silver and precious metal deposits in the area. The order was

responsible for establishing markets and a justice system in the region, and were exempt from paying all taxes and tolls in return for their services. They greatly reduced the threat of the nomadic Cumans, making Burzenland a safer area. During this time, Burzenland thrived, farms and villages were developed and the prosperous agrarian yields led to more immigrants settling in Burzenland.

This prosperity came to an end, however, when the Teutonic Order was expelled from Hungary in 1225 due to an attempt to place themselves under Papal instead of Hungarian sovereignty. The shift to Papal sovereignty would make the Teutonic Order an independent state only answerable to the Pope, resulting in Hungary losing Burzenland. Following their expulsion from Hungary, the Teutonic Order received the rights to Chełmno Land through a document called the Golden Bull of Rimini.

Conquest of Prussia

The Golden Bull of Rimini incited the Teutonic Order's conquest of Prussia. Duke Konrad I of Masovia had attempted to conquer Chełmo Land (located in Prussia at the time) and failed. The Old Prussians retaliated by attacking the Duke's Duchy of Masovia. In an attempt to strengthen his forces, Duke Konrad negotiated with Grand Master Hermann von Salza to aid him in

stabilizing his Masovian land. However, von Salza waited until the Holy Roman Emperor, King Frederick II, confirmed the Order's claims to Chełmo Land via the Golden Bull of Rimini in 1230.

The Golden Bull of Rimini served as the catalyst for the Prussian Crusade. The Teutonic Order had an official claim to Chełmo Land by papal edict. However before campaigning against the pagan Old Prussians, the Knights signed the Treaty of Kruszwica, which granted the Teutonic Order Culmerland and any future conquests. Grand Master Hermann von Salza dispatched his envoy Conrad von Landsberg with a small force of Teutonic Knights to Masovia, where they aided Duke Konrad in taking possession of Vogelsang. After seizing Vogelsang, Landsberg commanded a raid against the remaining pagans. During this time the remaining forces of the Teutonic Order were based in Outremer and Armenia.

The premise of the Conquest of Prussia in 1230 was for the Teutonic Knights to Christianize the pagan Old Prussians. Supported by the Pope(s) and the majority of Christian Europe, the Teutonic Knights spent 50 years of bloodshed conquering and converting the pagan Prussians. Within the first ten years of the conquest, the Teutonic Knights conquered and governed five of the seven major Prussian clans. This

included the regions of Pomesania, Pogesania, Bartia, Warmia and Natangia. Typically, the Teutonic Knights accepted baptism as a form of submission. Prussians who remained unbaptized were killed or exiled.

Under charters issued by the Pope and Holy Roman Emperor, the Order ruled Prussia as a sovereign monastic state. These charters included the Golden Bull of Rimini, the Treaty of Kruszwica (both mentioned above) and the Golden Bull of Rieti. Pope Gregory IX issued the Golden Bull of Rieti in 1234, confirming that the Prussian lands conquered by the Teutonic Order were only subject to the Pope.

The Prussian population had diminished greatly after 50 years of strife from the campaigns, uprisings and plague. To counter this problem, the Teutonic Order encouraged immigration of colonists from the Holy Roman Empire (German, Flemish, Dutch) and Masovia (Polish). The Order built numerous castles to maintain stability within the vast amount of land they conquered.

The Teutonic Order met major insurgency from the Prussians during 1249-1283. The Prussian Uprisings, as they were known, consisted of five revolts. Duke Swietopelk II, the Duke of Pomerania (a province of Prussia under the governance of the Teutonic Order) incited the first uprising in

1249. The most notable battle from the first uprising was the Battle of Krücken, where the rebel Natangians tortured and executed 54 knights moments after accepting their surrender. Though initially successful, the Prussians were forced to make peace with the Teutonic Knights after suffering numerous military defeats. Pope Innocent IV had both parties to sign a peace treaty, however the treaty was never enforced.

The second uprising, also known as The Great Prussian Uprising, was largest in scale and resulted in the Teutonic Order suffering its largest defeat. It took place in 1260, during the Livonian Crusade and was impelled by the Battle of Durbe. The Samogitians revolted and defeated the Teutonic Knights and the Livion Order. Over 150 knights were slaughtered, prompting the Teutonic Knights to take action in quelling this uprising. Reinforcements for the Teutonic Order arrived slowly despite support from the Pope and other Christian states. The insurgent Prussian clans submitted to the governance of the Teutonic Order once reinforcements in the form of additional knights, cavalry, weapons and food reached Prussia in 1265. The Great Prussian Uprising officially ended in 1274.

The other three uprisings were minor in comparison and were subdued quickly. The final uprising in 1295 concluded the Prussian Crusade. Prussia was now a

German-speaking, Christian land where native Prussians (who converted to Christianity) and immigrants from other German states settled.

Further Expansion

The Teutonic Order began to campaign against the pagans in Lithuania in 1291 before completing their conquest of Prussia. This massive campaign lasted nearly 200 years. Similar to premise of the Prussian Conquest, the Lithuanian Conquest was a means for the Teutonic Order to convert pagan Lithuania to Christianity. These campaigns were primarily against the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Teutonic Order won decisive victories at the Battle of Strėva in 1348 and at the Battle of Rudau in 1370. Conflict between the Teutonic Order and Lithuanians was particularly violent. During 14th century Europe, enslavement of non-Christians was acceptable, hence captured pagan Lithuanians were forced into servitude to the conquered native Prussians who demanded land. The land controlled by the Teutonic Order grew exponentially following the Lithuanian conquest.

The Teutonic Order simultaneously was embroiled in conflict regarding the succession to the Duchy of Pomerania (a region in modern day Poland). The Margraves of Brandenburg claimed the duchy and Duke Władysław of Poland also

made a claim. Duke Władysław was opposed by a number of Pomeranian nobles who believed the Brandenburgs had a superior claim. The Duke enlisted the aid of the Teutonic Knights to assert his claim on the duchy. The Teutonic Knights took over the citadel of Danzig and expelled the Brandenburgs and massacred all inhabitants, thereby ensuring Duke Władysław was the successor to the Duchy of Pomerania. The takeover at Danzig marked a turning point in the history of the Teutonic Knights. Since Polish nobles had always been an ally to the Knights in their conquest of Lithuania and Prussia, the Teutonic Order faced a revengeful Poland in addition to campaigns against Lithuania. In 1343 Polish nobles and the Teutonic Order signed the Treaty of Kalisz to end their feud. The Knights retained control of Pomerania with Danzig and Chełmno Land.

In addition to conquering several pagan regions in the name of Christianity, the Teutonic Order was given land in exchange for their services. King Albert of Sweden yielded Gotland to the Teutonic Order in the hope they would eliminate the threat of pirates in the Baltic Sea. Through similar events, the land mass controlled by the Teutonic Order grew. At the height of their power in 1407, the Teutonic Order governed Prussia, Pomerania, Samogitia, Courland,

Livonia, Estonia, Gotland, Dagö, Ösel and Neumark.

Decline

Although the Teutonic Order controlled a vast region by the early 15th century, this vast control of area proved to be unstable and ungovernable. In 1410 the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania combined forces to attack the Teutonic Order in the Polish-Lithuanian Teutonic Wars. During the Battle of Grunwald the Teutonic Knights faced their largest defeat with a majority of their leadership killed or imprisoned. Nevertheless, the Teutonic Knights withstood the forces of the Poles and Lithuanians by retreating to their capital in Marienburg. In 1411 the Teutonic Order signed the first Peace of Thorn, which compelled them to return Dobrzyń Land to Poland. The Teutonic Order returned regions in Samogitia to the Duchy of Lithuania as well. Additional territorial disputes ensued between the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania resulting in the Hunger War in 1414 and the Gollub War in 1422. The Treaty of Melno resolved these territorial disputes and the Teutonic Order yielded Samogitia to the Duchy of Lithuania. One primary reason why the Teutonic Knights were unable to maintain their land was due to political infighting. The Teutonic Knights imposed

high taxes to fund their campaigns against the Polish and Lithuanians, which bred more instability within the State of the Teutonic Order.

The Prussian Confederation revolted against the Order in 1454 following the Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic War. The Prussian Confederation was led by the cities of Elbing, Kulm (Chełmno) and Danzig. This began the Thirteen Years' War, which ended in victory for the Prussian Confederation with the Second Peace of Thorn in 1466. In this peace treaty the Teutonic Knights relinquished Pomerelia with Danzig, Chełmno Land (including regions of Kulm, Thorn, Elbing and Marienburg) and Warmia. This resulted in the Teutonic Order losing large parts of their state. In 1525 Grand Master Albert, Duke of Prussia converted to Lutheranism and ousted the Order from Prussia. Herein eastern Prussia became known as the Duchy of Prussia.

Although the Teutonic Order lost their Prussian lands they still controlled regions in the Holy Roman Empire and Livonia. To compensate for their loss of land, the Order reformed their administrative system where several smaller regions were combined to form a bailiwick. Overall there were twelve German bailiwicks. However due to multiple revolts from the Peasants' War in 1525 to the Livonian War in 1561 the Order

gradually lost its power. In 1809 only the bailiwicks in Austria and Tyrol remained. The Teutonic Order lost all power and territory in 1809 when Napoleon Bonaparte ordered the dissolution of the bailiwicks.

Timeline

- 1198 Formation of the Teutonic Order
- 1218 Siege of Damietta
- 1228–1229 The Sixth Crusade
- 1237 Absorption of The Livonian Brothers of the Sword
- 1241 The Battle of Legnica
- 1242 The Battle on the Ice
- 1242-1249 First Prussian Uprising
- 1249 Treaty of Christburg with the Pagan Prussians
- 1249 Battle of Krücken
- 1260 Battle of Durbe
- 1260–1274 Great Prussian Uprising
- 1262 Siege of Königsberg
- 1263 Battle of Löbau
- 1264 Siege of Bartenstein
- 1270 Battle of Karuse
- 1271 Battle of Pagastin
- 1279 Battle of Aizkraukle
- 1308–1309 Teutonic takeover of Danzig and Treaty of Soldin
- 1326–1332 First Polish-Teutonic War, for Kuyavia, Lithuanian and Hungarian involvement
- 1331 Battle of Płowce

1343 Treaty of Kalisz, exchange of Kuyavia for Kulm and other territories
 1343–1345 St. George's Night Uprising
 1346 Purchase of Duchy of Estonia from Denmark
 1348 Battle of Strėva
 1370 Battle of Rudau
 1409–1411 Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic War, the Teutonic knights are defeated at Battle of Tannenberg
 1414 Hunger War
 1422 Gollub War ending with the Treaty of Melno
 1431–1435 Second Polish-Teutonic War
 1454–1466 Thirteen Years' War
 1466 Second Peace of Thorn
 1467–1479 War of the Priests
 1519–1521 Third Polish-Teutonic War
 1525 Order loses State of the Teutonic Order

TOPIC 1: COMBAT

Topic Overview

One of the core topics that will be addressed in committee is the role of combat and warfare in the Teutonic Order. As a religious military order, combat and war were the cornerstones for the Teutonic Knights. They were involved in several conquests particularly the conquests of Prussia in 1230 and Lithuania in 1291. This section will explore the military organization of the Order, the strategies and weapons

used, the economic costs of conquests and war and the various alliances and treaties the Teutonic Order made to secure their newly acquired land.

Military Organization

While the *Hochmeister* (Grand Master) is the leader of the Teutonic Order, the military is managed by a *Großgebietiger* (high officer) who is appointed by the Grand Master. The Marschall (*Summus Marescalcus*) is the chief of military affairs of the Teutonic Order and actively presides over deploying the Order's troops and strategizing battles.

The native troops of Teutonic Order comprised the majority of the Order's fighting force. This contingent was lightly equipped with a spear and shield but provided the bulk of the army. The quality and effectiveness of the native troops was highly variable. For example, the bordering provinces of conquered Livonian areas were home to the Teutonic Order's most skillful force. However, the native troops of the Order did not do well with traditional European styled warfare and fared better during raids and counter raids.

The Marschall commanded all of the Teutonic Order's knights as well as the soldiers of other military organizations that were absorbed into the Teutonic Order. For example, some of the members of the

Orders Brethren joined the military wing of the Teutonic Order. There were three distinct groups of the Brethren who were a part of the Teutonic Order's army, the RitterBrudern, the Diendebrudern and the HalbBrudern. While the statute of the Teutonic Order permitted any male to join their forces, new members had to speak German and be Catholic.

The RitterBrudern (also known as the Brother Knights) comprised the elite of the Teutonic Order's military. They supposedly had the best artillery and equipment available at the time in Eastern Europe, comparable to the most skilled knights in Western Europe. The number of RitterBrudern who served as part of the Teutonic Order's forces rose nearly to 750 during the Battle of Tannenberg.

The Diendebrudern were not of noble birth, unlike the RitterBrudern. Their role in the military was confined to serving as lesser men at arms forming the rear ranks or as infantry. Their crest was a tau cross upon a light grey background.

The HalbBrudern (also known as Half Brothers) were considered members of the Order but had a shorter period of service and duties and, unlike the RitterBrudern and DiendeBrudern, did not take monastic vow for life. Some historians argue that the HalbBrudern might have been an attempt to encourage those unwilling to join the

Teutonic Order for life to serve in the military for a shorter term. The crest of the HalbBrudern was a tau cross on a light grey background, however was often combined with personal family coat of arms.

In addition to the military services of the Orders Brethren, the Teutonic Order also employed mercenaries, the MitBrudern (Lay Knights), the German colonists and even volunteers. The Order's mercenaries were often of German origin and while the precise details of how many mercenaries the Teutonic Order used, it is estimated that 4,000 hired troops were present at the Battle of Tannenberg out of 30,000. The MitBrudern (Lay Knights) were nobility that held land which was granted by the Order. Depending on the area of the land held, the Mit Brudern had to provide varying amounts of equipment (included armor, horses, food and occasionally troops). Upon the earliest conquests in the Baltic, the Teutonic Order encouraged the German colonists to settle into the new lands. This in turn created numerous new German towns and the Order was able to call upon the men in these towns to create their own militias. Depending on their wealth, the men comprising the militia was either a foot-soldier or mounted knight. Additionally, the Teutonic Order sometimes recruited volunteers for their campaigns. Most of these volunteers were German and even

nobility volunteered to serve. These volunteers served for different reasons, sometimes to fulfill crusading vows, prestige or to loot.

Weapons and Strategies

A Teutonic Knight traditionally was armed with a sword but occasionally they would also be armed with maces, war hammers or lances. A sword however was more utilized by the knights in battle. Also knights also carried a shield to protect themselves from enemy's strikes. Many-a-times knights kept a concealed dagger for close range combat. In terms of armor, Teutonic Knights wore chain mail, helmets and full plate armor in battle. In some battles the horses would also wear full plate armor for additional protection.

The strategies used by the Teutonic Order placed emphasis on Knights being able to break apart the enemy army. Due to the discipline of the Order, the army was able to sophisticatedly strategize their tactics. The Teutonic Order divided their army into two wings and a center. It seems as though a defensive position was main strategy used by the Teutonic Order in battle. Infantry and artillery would be deployed first in front of those knights mounted on horseback. The infantry and artillery were used to soften and eventually break apart the attackers. Upon this, those mounted knights would

charge effectively breaking the formation of the enemy army. From historical evidence it seems as though mounted knights were used as a reserve in battle. Furthermore, the discipline of the Order gave the knights a certain sense of flexibility allowing the knights on horseback to attack from the wings or the center.

Rivals

Since its formation in 1190, the Order of the Teutonic Knights has been involved in numerous conflicts against many rivals. In 1211 the Knights were commissioned by the King of Hungary to defend the Southern borders against the Cumans. Upon the Knight's relocation to Chełmno Land, they launched an attack against the Muslims in Outremer.

One of the Teutonic Order's greatest opponents were the Prussians. The conquest of Prussia lasted over fifty years and pagan Prussians who refused to convert to Catholicism were killed. The Prussian Uprisings from 1260-1283 shows the height of conflict between the Prussians and the Teutonic Knights. During this time many belonging to Prussian nobility emigrated while those people remaining lost their rights or converted to Catholicism.

The Order had been rivals with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Kingdom of Poland in the 14th and 15th centuries.

Warfare between the Order and the Lithuanians became brutal, as Lithuania remained a non-Christian state. The Teutonic Order saw non-Christians as lacking rights and many Lithuanians were enslaved and used for forced labor. The war between the Teutonic Order and Lithuania lasted over 200 years. In 1306 the Order found themselves in a conflict with the Duchy of Pomerelia (modern day Poland). It was only till 1343 with the Treaty of Kalisz that ended the war between the Teutonic Knights and Poland. The Treaty stated that the lands of Kuyavia and Dobrzyń Land were to be returned to Poland while Culmerland and Danzig would be retained by the Teutonic Knights.

TOPIC 2: NATION BUILDING

Topic Overview

The second core topic that will be addressed in committee is the role of nation building in the Teutonic Order. Through their various conquests the Teutonic Order acquired a land amount of land. They built upon this land for their vassals to tend and implemented policies to bolster their economy in order to create and develop the State of the Teutonic Order. This section will explore the various land the Order annexed, the economy and the expansion of the State of the Teutonic Order.

Annexation of land

As a religious military organization, the Teutonic Order led multiple conquests and in doing so annexed large areas of land. The two major conquests the Teutonic Order led were against the pagans in Prussia in 1230 and Lithuania in 1291. After the Golden Bull of Rimini was issued the Teutonic Order was granted Culmerland in Prussia. In order to claim Culmerland, the Teutonic Knights campaigned from 1230 to 1243 and took possession of Vogelsang (and in time built a castle there as a base), the southern region of the Vitsula River, Toruń and Rogów. In 1233 the Knights led an army of 10,000 to take control over Pomesania and commanded a smaller force to invade Pomesania in 1234. In 1234 a fortress at Rehden was built to solidify the Teutonic Order's claim on Culmerland.

Additionally, the Teutonic Knights wished to absorb the Order of Dobrzyń, a small knighthood, into the Teutonic Knights in order to lay claim to Dobrzyń Land. The Duke Conrad of Masovia opposed this proposal and demanded the return of Dobrzyń Land and withheld further aid to the Teutonic Knights. However, with assistance from the Pope, the Bishop of Płock and the papal legate, William of Modena, the Teutonic Knights absorbed the Order of Dobrzyń in 1235 and lay claim to Dobrzyń Land.

From 1238-1240 the Teutonic Knights campaigned against the Bartians, Natangians and Warmians (all Old Prussian tribes). With reinforcements from Otto I the Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg the Teutonic Order took control over Bartia and Natangia. By 1243 Pope Innocent IV had divided the conquered Prussian territories into Culm, Pomesania, Ermeland and Samland and commanded the Teutonic Order to oversee the development and stability of these conquered lands.

The Teutonic Order campaigned against the Lithuanians in 1291. This enormous campaign lasted nearly 200 years. These campaigns were against the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Teutonic Order were successful at the Battle of Strėva in 1348 and at the Battle of Rudau in 1370. The land controlled by the Teutonic Order grew tenfold after the Lithuanian conquest.

The Teutonic Order also attempted to annex Pomerania (in modern day Poland). They saw their first decisive victory in Danzig and took over the citadel. Since Polish nobles had been an avid supporter of the Teutonic Knights in the past with their conflicts against the Prussians and the Lithuanians. This launched a feud between Polish nobles and the Teutonic Order, however in 1342 the Polish nobles and the Teutonic Knights signed the Treaty of Kalisz to end their

conflict with the Teutonic Knights still controlling Pomerania with Danzig.

Through multiple conquests, the land controlled by the Teutonic Order expanded. In 1407, the Teutonic Order governed Prussia, Pomerania, Samogitia, Courland, Livonia, Estonia, Gotland, Dagö, Ösel and Neumark.

Economy

While the Teutonic Order was primarily a military order, a sector of the knighthood was dedicated to managing the finances. One of the Großgebietiger (high officials) is the Treßler, the treasurer, who is responsible for managing all of the Order's financial issues, receiving and paying money in order to fund the Knight's various conquests.

Initially when the Teutonic Order fled Acre, they did not have enough money to run their charity. Since caring of sick soldiers requires money and resources many wealthy members of the Order became benefactors of the knighthood and donated large sums of money to keep the hospital running. One of the earliest benefactors was Frederick the Duke of Swabia who died at the siege of Acre and was buried at the Church of the Knights.

The treasurer was also responsible for collecting payments from the vassals living on land controlled by the Order. Feudalism

reigned in territories conquered by the Teutonic Knights. Nobles received grain from their vassals who cultivated the land and nobles paid money to the governing Knights in exchange for their protection. The economy in the territories controlled by the Teutonic Order followed similar structures with slight variations. Often these variations would be increased or decreased taxes in order for Teutonic Order to generate revenue to fund their campaigns.

Additionally, the Treasurer was responsible for the import, export, crediting, commerce and real estate investment the Order carried out by using its vast network of bailiwicks that spanned over much of Eastern Europe and the Holy Land. The Treasurer was meant to be kept abreast over which areas had a monopoly over which materials. For example, Marienburg had the grain export monopoly while Königsberg held the amber export monopoly. Another major responsibility of the Treasurer was knowing who to trade with. Due to piracy in the 1380s in the Baltic Sea, the Grand Master Conrad of Wallenrode blocked trade of fish and seafaring to Prussia. Then resulting in fish prices tripling in Prussia. The role of the economy and trade were extremely significant in determining the well-being of the Teutonic Order.

While the Teutonic Order received donations from benefactors and revenue

from the nobles living off their land, they also received ample monetary funds from the Catholic Church, namely the Pope. The Catholic Church had the ability to provide money, armor, cavalry, infantry, weapons and food to sustain the Teutonic Knights. The Catholic Church was the only higher power the Teutonic Knights were subject to and it is only through papal edict that the Teutonic Knights were able to launch their conquests in Prussia, Livonia and Lithuania.

TOPIC 3: INTERNAL POLITICS

Topic Overview

The third core topic that will be addressed in committee is the function of internal politics in forming and strengthening the Teutonic Order. As the knighthood began to expand in terms of territory and membership, the internal government structure had to be cohesive to provide stability and prevent rebellions. This section will discuss the criteria for membership, the political hierarchies within the Teutonic Order and the traditional election process to vote in a new Grand Master and high officials to lead the Order.

Membership

Upon its conception in 1198 the Teutonic Order was split into two types of members, the knights and the clergy. Both members had to be of exclusive German birth

however only knights were required to be from a noble family. Members of the Teutonic Order took monastic vows and swore to celibacy. Furthermore, members had to pledge that they would devote themselves to take care of the sick and to fight against enemies of the Faith. Knights were dressed in black with a white cloak with a black cross and often carried a sword. Members of the clergy often wore simple, plain robes as their duties were more confined to caring for the sick in hospitals or on the battlefield and administering order in their churches.

The original rules the Teutonic Order had to follow were stringent, all members lived in common and slept in the same dormitories on small beds. They were all required to attend daily services and recite specific prayers. Members were not allowed to leave their convent and were not permitted to receive or send any personal letters without permission of their superior officer. Their clothes and armor were to be made of the simplest material and costly ornaments to adorn their swords and armor were strictly prohibited. However, in battle each knight was given three or four horses and a squire to carry his shield and lance.

Hierarchies within the Teutonic Order

The leadership within the Teutonic Order can be divided into five departments; the

Universal Leadership, the National Leadership, the Regional Leadership, the Local Leadership and Special Offices.

Under the Universal Leadership there exists the Generalkapitel (the General Chapter), the Hochmeister (the Grand Master) and the Großgebietiger (the High Officials/Senior Administrators). The General Chapter is the collection of all the knights, priests and sergeants. Due to logistical problems to assemble all the members of the General Chapter due to being spread over large distances, the General Chapter was designed to meet once a year although these meetings were often limited to electing a new Grand Master. The decisions of the General Chapter had a binding effect on the Senior officers of the Teutonic Order. The Hochmeister (Grand Master) was the most senior official of the Order. The Grand Master was considered the Sovereign Prince of Prussia until 1466 and until 1525 he was elected by the General Chapter. The Grand Master had complete control over all of the Teutonic Order's resources and approved and oversaw all of the Order's proceedings.

The Großgebietiger (High Officials) were senior administrators appointed by the Grand Master for specific purposes. Each High Officer had the ability to control all the resources in their department. There were five officers:

The Großkomtur, the deputy of the Hochmeister also called the Vice Master

The Treßler, the treasurer

The Spitler, responsible for all hospital affairs

The Trapier, responsible for dressing and armament

The Marschall, the chief of military affairs.

The National Leadership of the Order was divided into three national chapters, Prussia, Livland and the territory of the Holy Roman Empire. The highest officer of each chapter was called a Landmeister (Country Master). Landmesiters were elected by their regional chapters. Within their own territory, the Grand Master cannot oppose the Landmeister's decisions. There were three such Landmeisters, the Landmeister of Livlan, the Landmeister of Prussia and the Deutschmeister (The Landmeister of the Holy Empire). Once Prussia and Livland were lost to the Teutonic Order, the Deutschmeister also became the Hochmeister.

Since the landmass accumulated by the Teutonic Order did not form a cohesive territory but instead was spread apart over Europe, an additional regional form of government was needed. Officers in the Regional Leadership branch were responsible for overseeing the general welfare of individual cities or towns.

The Local Leadership of the Teutonic Order was comprised of members known as the Kommende. The Kommende was ruled by a Komtur who had all administrative rights and control over local districts. Within the Kommende all brothers lived together, noblemen served as knights and priests or vice versa.

Despite these specific branches of the hierarchy of the Teutonic Order, there were a few special offices. These included:

The Kanzler (Chancellor) of the Hochmeister who served as the recording clerk of the various chapters.

The Münzmeister (Master of Mint) who was responsible for producing coin (In 1246 the Teutonic Order received the right to produce its own money).

The Pfundmeister (Customs Master) where the Pfund was a local customs duty.

The Generalprokurator, the representative of the Teutonic Order in the Vatican.

The Großschäffer, the trading representative with special authority.

Traditional Election Process

The traditional elections process conducted by the members of the Teutonic Order ensured a smooth transition of power. Upon the death of the Grand Master, the Vice Master would call upon a capitulum of the leading officers of the Order. The General Chapter would then select a twelve-person electoral college comprised of seven

knights, four sergeants and one priest. Once a majority Grand Master candidate was chosen, the minority electors would concede to support unanimity. The elections process would provide a new Grand Master within three months. Contrary to many medieval governments, candidates for Grand Master who had experience as senior officials were usually elected based off merit not lineage.

TOPIC 4: FOREIGN POLICY

Topic Overview

The fourth and final core topic that will be addressed in committee is the role of foreign policy in maintaining peace and stability across the State of the Teutonic Order. While simultaneously fighting the pagans, building upon annexed land and dealing with internal politics, the Teutonic Order also had to establish diplomatic ties with foreign nationals and the Catholic Church. This section will explore the most significant alliances and treaties made by the Teutonic Order and the important relationship the Teutonic Knights had with the Catholic Church.

Alliances and Treaties

The Teutonic Order swore allegiance to the Holy Roman Empire (from 1190-1806) and to the Papacy (1190-onwards). Their various conquests and campaigns were all

done in the name of the Catholic Church. As in such, all other alliances the Teutonic Order made with foreign nationals were made at the behest of the Catholic Church. During the First Prussian Uprising, the Teutonic Knights were supported by the Pope, the Catholic Church and the rulers of Christian Europe while they fought against the pagan Baltic tribes (who were supported by Duke Swietopelk II, Duke of Pomerania). After the rebels suffered multiple defeats, Pope Innocent IV attempted to negotiate a peace treaty between the Teutonic Knights and Prussians. This treaty was called the Treaty of Christburg and was signed on February 2, 1249. This peace treaty guaranteed all rights to Prussians who converted to Christianity but did not establish peace between Prussians who did not wish to convert to Christianity. The Treaty of Christburg was never enforced especially following the events of the Battle of Krücken, where Prussians killed 54 knights after they had surrendered.

Following the Prussian Uprisings, the Teutonic Knights were involved in the conflict regarding the succession to the Duchy of Pomerania. In 1308 the Teutonic Knights agreed to aid Polish forces in retaking the city of Danzig from the Brandenburgians in exchange for being allowed to take charge of nearby fort. However, during the siege of Danzig, there

were disputes as to how much of the fort would be given to the Teutonic Knights. After Danzig was captured, the Teutonic Knights massacred all its inhabitants and took the city for themselves. This resulted in the conflict between the Poles and the Teutonic Knights. In order to claim to Danzig, the Teutonic Knights purchased the land from the Brandenburgs. The Treaty of Soldin was signed in 1309 by Waldemar, Margrave of Brandenburg-Stendal and the Teutonic Knights. The treaty was confirmed in 1311 but due to the controversial nature of the annexation of land, Polish leaders did not accept the Teutonic takeover of Danzig. This provided the catalyst to the Polish-Teutonic Wars.

The Polish-Teutonic Wars from 1326-1332 was ended by the Treaty of Kalisz signed in 1343 by King Casimir III the Great of Poland and the Teutonic Knights. The Treaty of Kalisz stated that the Polish king had to renounce all claims to Chełmno Land and Pomerania. In exchange Poland received the lands of Kuyavia and the Lands of Dobrzyń. The Treaty of Kalisz also stated that the Polish had to acknowledge other territorial acquisitions of the Teutonic Order (like the lands gained by the Treaty of Soldin). Also as part of the treaty, the King of Poland was to become a patron of the Order. Meaning the Teutonic Knights were required to aid Poland militarily and if the

Order ever went to war against the Polish kings they would lose all rights to the lands that were granted by the Treaty of Kalisz. Following the Polish-Teutonic Wars, the Teutonic Order was involved in the Gollub War (1422) against the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. It was ended by the Treaty of Melno signed in 1422. The Treaty of Melno resolved territorial disagreements between the Knights and Lithuania over the area of Samogitia.

Relationship with the Holy Roman Empire

The relationship between the Teutonic Order and the Holy Roman Empire and Catholic Church has always been one based on fealty. The Grand Master would consult the Holy Roman Emperor (until the position was abolished in 1806) and the Pope prior to beginning any campaigns. The title of Holy Roman Emperor evolved into an elected monarchy where the emperor was considered first among equals and was elected by the Prince-electors. The title of Holy Roman Emperor also came with rule of the Kingdom of Germany and Kingdom of Italy. The Holy Roman Emperor worked in conjunction with the Pope in instructing the Teutonic Order on which Baltic tribes to campaign against. The Holy Roman Emperor as an individual was only as

powerful and strong as his alliances. The premise of the relationship between the Teutonic Order and the Holy Roman Empire and the Catholic Church was to rid Europe of pagans non-Christians. As a Catholic military order the Teutonic Knights were formed to serve as a crusading military force to protect Christians in the Holy Land and the Baltics in the Middle Ages. The Holy Roman Emperor would provide aid in the form of money, troops, cavalry, infantry from his Catholic monarch allies while the Pope would issue edicts and decree to legalize the Teutonic Order's campaigns and conquests.

CONCLUSION

Closing Remarks

We hope through this background guide, delegates obtain a comprehensive understanding of the Teutonic Order so that they can plan how they wish to impact and change 13th century Eastern Europe! Using your best combative and diplomatic skills we hope that you, the Knights of the Teutonic Order, will fight to spread the one true Faith to all of Europe while dealing with treacherous enemies of different creeds and ethnicities. The four core topics of combat, nation building, internal politics and foreign diplomacy will be addressed continuously in committee so we recommend, depending on your character's position, that you

strategize accordingly to determine which of the four areas you will have the most influence in. While this committee will aim to be historically accurate, it should be noted that the fate of Europe is in your hands. You will have the ability to wield your influence through the military, the Holy Roman Empire, the economy and through the inner workings of the Teutonic Order itself.

We wish all delegates to have a unique and memorable Model UN experience in this medieval, multi-faceted, fast-paced committee. Above all we hope delegates are excited to have a wonderful, action-packed weekend at UCBMUN XXI!

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