

HISTORICAL CRISIS COMMITTEE



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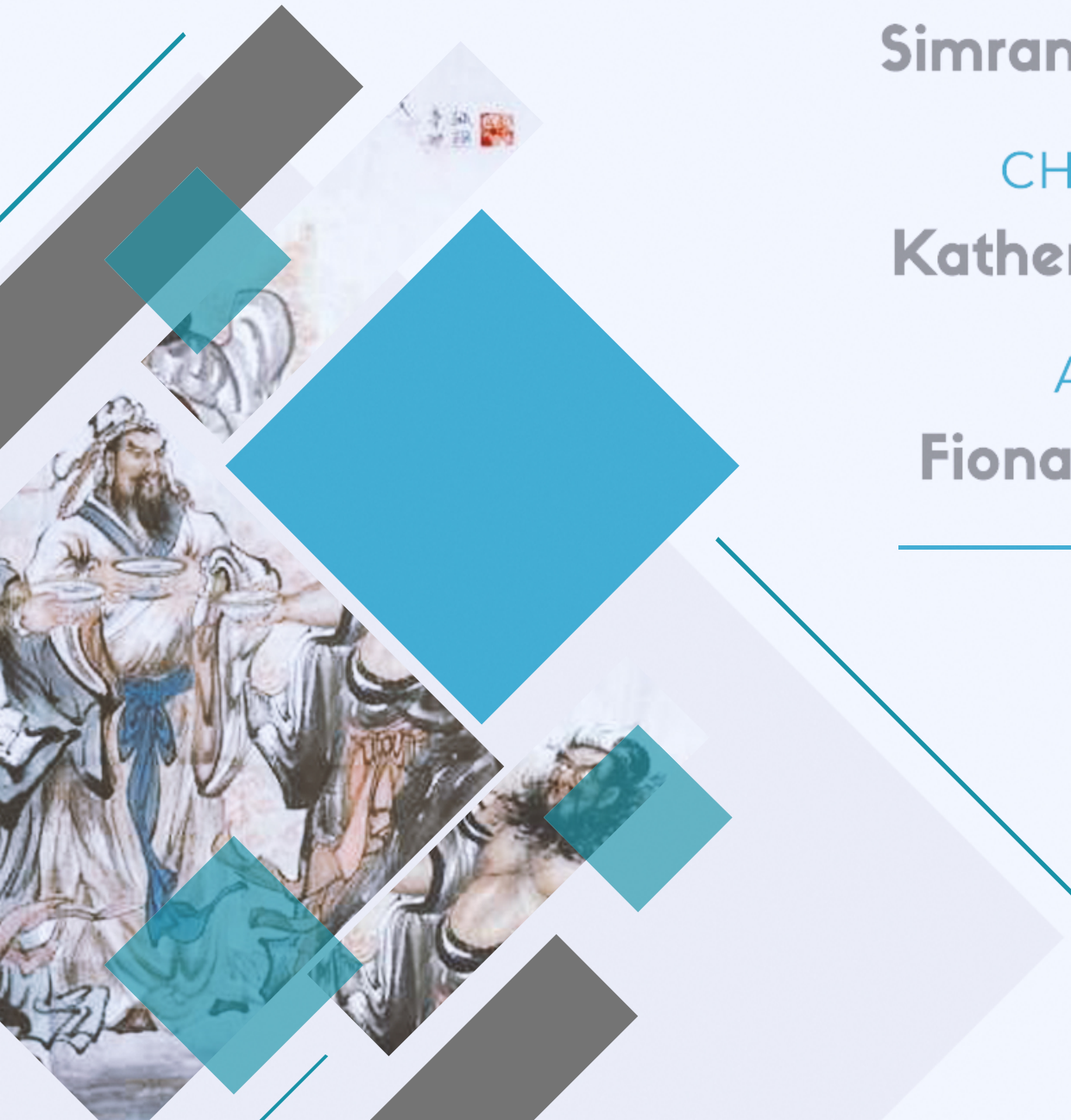




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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Pacific Model United Nations 2019 and the Historical Crisis Committee. My name is Simran Tandon and I will be your Director for this committee. Model UN has been one of my biggest passions ever since I participated in my first conference in 8th grade. I've been obsessed with it ever since, attending, staffing, and serving on the Secretariat of 14 conferences since then. I am accompanied by my wonderful staff, the incredible Chair Katherine Gu and the amazing Assistant Director Fiona Wang. I am extremely excited to be staffing the HCC at this conference, as I think it is one of the most intense and exciting committees I've ever had the pleasure of staffing.

This year, we have picked a complex and multi-faceted crisis for you to explore: The War of Three Kingdoms in China. The War of Three Kingdoms describes the period of conflict and confusion in Chinese History following the fall of the Han Dynasty. The rise of warlords, the death of an emperor, and the corruption of the royal court led to a series of battles, social feuds, and political conflicts that became known as the Warring States Period. The mix of war and political drama creates the perfect environment for creative and intensive debate. We are excited to see how delegates interpret the war, represent some of the most influential historical figures in China, and win the favor of the people, the heavens, and most importantly, the dais.

The following background guide will provide you with a detailed description of the history, background, and current situation of the event. It will include descriptions of the roles of your characters, and an overview of how the historical crisis committee functions. The background guide will provide you with plenty of information to enhance your understanding of the War of Three Kingdoms, but it is always helpful to do further research on your individual roles, the history of China, and the war itself. We look forward to seeing how all of you interpret your roles and how you choose to use your power and knowledge in the conflict.

Feel free to email us at hcc@pacificmun.com with any questions! We can't wait to meet all of you and see the intense and fast-paced debate as you attempt to gain political and social power, defeat your enemies, and ultimately become the true ruler of China.

Cheers,

Simran Tandon

Director | Historical Crisis Committee

Pacific Model United Nations 2019



COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

As one of the many specialized committees that PACMUN has to offer, the Historical Crisis Committee (HCC) differs from typical Model UN committees as delegates research and prepare to represent a specific person in a time of conflict, with each delegate having special abilities they can utilize to make real-time challenge throughout the conference. With a smaller than average committee size, HCC is a more advanced committee that requires active participation throughout the entire committee session and quick-witted delegates who can contribute to the fast-paced debate as unexpected situations develop. Although committee members must stay within the limits of the historical time period and their assigned position's jurisdiction, there are very few other restrictions, allowing delegates to expand their creative thinking beyond historical precedent.

The main difference between HCC and other MUN committees is that the committee remains in a perpetual moderated caucus, where delegates work together to pass directives rather than resolutions. The three main directive types include public, private covert, and private overt directives. While public directives are announced and voted on by the entire committee and require sponsors and signatories similar to resolutions, private directives require no signatories, and the actions taken are to complete discretion of the sponsor and their own jurisdiction. Within private directives include covert directives which are kept secret, and overt directives, which are announced to the committee. However, even if a private directive fails, the results may still be announced, allowing delegates the opportunity to arrange alternate solutions or peace treaties later in committee.

Position papers for this committee, similar to ROP, are also structured slightly differently than principal and regional committees. While delegates will only need to cover one topic, it is crucial they conduct an in-depth research of the topic, while staying respectful of a 2-page limit, as well as their own role to guarantee a full understanding of the topic. Delegates must also only include events which have preceded the start date of the event (unless referring to possible future actions or solutions). They may use first person pronouns in their papers as well as during



debate to maintain an accurate portrayal of their role. These position papers are due by the deadline to the committee email: hcc@pacificmun.com.

*The information included in this background guide is, for all intents and purposes of this conference, canon history. There have been changes made to help advance the timeline, including the existence of the leaders' gathering and revival of certain characters where relevant (the in-character reasoning for this will be explained in committee). In addition, the year 201 AD (one year prior to the start of the conference) actually encompasses all significant events that occurred from 201-211 AD. As such, certain characters will have far more power than their historical self did at 201 AD, whilst other characters will have a harder time coming into power, since they've been "dead" (Missing In Action) for a far longer time.

TOPIC A

War of the Three Kingdoms

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Alliances and enemies, loyalty and betrayal, conflict and coalition. These were the defining factors of the War of Three Kingdoms. As one of the most chaotic and complex conflicts in history, the war served as a time period where beliefs were questioned, views were shifted, and China was changed forever.

China's history is marked as unique because of the dynastic system that categorizes the different time periods of China, a dynasty and time period is often named for the ruling family at the time. Dynastic changes occur when the Mandate of Heaven¹, a doctrine that was used to justify the rule of the emperor, changes hands from one ruler to another. The belief that a ruler held the Mandate of Heaven

¹ The Mandate of Heaven is a significant part of Chinese history that proclaimed the emperor received his power from the heavens, making him and his successors the 'Sons of Heaven'. When a current ruling family was overthrown, it was often justified by citing immoral or corrupt behavior or natural disasters.



served as the ultimate justification for their rule for thousands of years. Though the divinity of the title of emperor dwindled throughout the dynasties, the political power of the Mandate remained.

However, the War of the Three Kingdoms was an exception to this pattern. The death of the Han Emperor resulted in his young son inheriting the throne, despite the fact that he was in no place to rule a country. At the same time, many rebellions began across the country and countless eunuchs and warlords entered the court in an attempt to gain influence over the emperor. However, the conflict and court drama resulted in a mini-war that threw the emperor and his family out of the palace. Though they still technically had the right to rule, it was becoming clear that the Han Dynasty was going to fall. Despite this, the Mandate was not cleanly passed on to another family following the fall of the Han. Instead, there were only rumors that the Han had lost the Mandate spread by Daoist monks. But without a new emperor to take the mandate, it was impossible to have a clean transition of power.

Instead of restarting with a new dynasty, the fall of the Han was prolonged by the constant court battles as different players vied to become the puppetmaster of the young and impressionable emperor with uprisings squashed by warlords, who were busy fighting for political influence and power over the Royal Court of China. This fight for political power eventually devolved into pure war with the most powerful warlords proclaiming large swaths of territory as their own, turning the unified nation into a smattering of individual kingdoms. As the battles continued, three warlords came out on top as the rulers of the three largest provinces; Cao Cao as the ruler of Wei, Liu Bei as the ruler of Shu, and Sun Quan as the ruler of Wu. The continuous conflict between the three warlords for the rightful rule of China became known as the War of the Three Kingdoms.

The War of Three Kingdoms is littered with court intrigue, political alliances, rivalries, and bloody battles. The dissolution of China into the varying kingdoms was a period of instability and constant conflict in the region. Citizens and rulers alike could only hope to achieve some kind of unification once again, so that peace could be restored to the nation.



HISTORY

After the death of Emperor Zhang in 88 AD., the Crown Prince became the emperor at the age of 10. His mother thus ruled over the Han Dynasty, and brought with her the ever-present fight of the royal-relatives and the eunuchs. As this woman was the unofficial leader of the Han Kingdom at that time, she abused her power to give her relatives high-ranking positions. These relatives were comparable to the eunuchs, given a decent political position if they were to please the emperor. However, both parties scorned the other, deeming them unworthy of their positions²

Approximately one hundred years later, the lower class were finally fed up with all the corruption. Three brothers of Taiping Taoist societies began aiding peasants and propagating their faith. In a bit more than ten years, over half the nation (hundreds of thousands of peasants) had converted to Taoism. With this massive group of followers supporting their cause, the three brothers proclaimed that they were God-divined leaders and that “苍天已死，黄天当立，岁在甲子，天下大吉”³. The first phrase refers to the cyan coloring of the government officials’ clothing, and how the Han Dynasty had lost the Heaven Mandate. In contrast, the second phrase states that the yellow turbans⁴ shall rise to power. The third phrase speaks of the specific year⁵ they plan to rebel, and the fourth phrase claims that everyone will prosper under this new rule. This uprising was known as the Yellow Turban Rebellion.

To counter this rebellion, the court was forced to give power to local lords and allow local militia. A year later, the rebellion was mostly dead, but much of the land was controlled by various feudal lords, elected by local lords to preserve their political and military strength. However, the central power still rested in the hands of the

²Rarely would a royal-relative or a eunuch actually deserve the positions they held.

³ This roughly translates to “The cyan heaven has perished, the yellow heaven will soon rise, in this year of Jia Zi (184 AD), let there be prosperity in the world”.

⁴ This rebellion, the Yellow Turban Rebellion, was so named because of the yellow turbans that members would wear.

⁵ Jia Zi indicates the first year of a sixty-year cycle according to the Sexagenary Circle, which was used in addition to years an emperor has been in power to keep track of years.



eunuchs, more specifically, the Ten Attendants. They were corrupt and power hungry, yet the current emperor, Emperor Ling, had such a blind faith in the eunuchs that he even called two of them his surrogate parents, and executed the advisors that dare speak up against the eunuch's control.

There was heavy conflict between the royal relatives and the eunuchs after Emperor Ling's death four years later. His successor, Emperor Shao, was still a child, and his mother's relatives tried taking power from the highly influential Ten Attendants, by plotting with Yuan Shao to bring Dong Zhuo⁶ into the capitol to remove the eunuchs.

With such chaos in the capitol, Emperor Shao and his half-brother fled for safety. Meanwhile, Dong Zhuo surrounded the capitol with his troops. He was stopped from completely taking over the city by Lv Bu, son⁷ of Ding Yuan, but Dong Zhuo then sent Lv Bu's formal classmate with "Red Rabbit Horse"⁸ to sway Lv Bu to his side. Dong Zhuo's successful recruitment of Lv Bu⁹ led to the death of Ding Yuan, at the hands of his own adopted son, who then was "adopted" by Dong Zhuo.¹⁰ With Lv Bu on his side, Dong Zhuo entered the capitol and set Emperor Shao's half-brother as the new emperor. Emperor Xian would be easier to control, because he is younger and his mother isn't as powerful. As even the emperor was under his control, Dong Zhuo became highly powerful, and slowly descended to corruption¹¹.

In an attempt to remove Dong Zhuo from that position, the various ministers of the court attempted to bring in a lesser known man for an assassination. Cao Cao, adopted grandson of one of the Ten Attendants, was chosen for the job. He was given a special sword, but was discovered by Lv Bu, forcing him to flee the city. While

⁶ A prominent war lord and warrior.

⁷ As familial relations were highly valued in Ancient China, sometimes people would become "adopted" by others as a method of trust/a show of loyalty.

⁸ A really speedy horse (which was important given that fighting on a horse was common for warriors back then) (let's just say it's the ancient equivalent of a limited-edition tank with a bunch of upgrades).

⁹ Arguably the greatest warrior in that era.

¹⁰ This was, of course, not because Lv Bu was a child that needed a legal guardian. Once again, this was to show Lv Bu's loyalty. (People scorned Lv Bu, calling him "Three-surname slave" [family names are highly important]).

¹¹ He was once a great warrior, yet his days of being pampered made him much weaker.



on the run, a family friend took him in, but Cao Cao's suspicious nature led him to killing the family over a few misunderstood words. It was then that he said, "Rather let me betray someone, than let them betray me."¹²

Cao Cao, upon escape, released a royal decree that was intended to stop Dong Zhuo's reign. In total, eighteen war lords¹³, in addition to Liu Bei and his two brothers¹⁴, gathered at the capitol. Civil wars ensued. 191 AD, Dong Zhuo was forced to flee the capitol, and he was killed by Lv Bu¹⁵ a year later.

The destruction of Dong Zhuo led to the further increase in power of various warlords, and the downfall of many others. In 193 AD, Yuan Shu¹⁶ fled south of the Huai River, and in 194 AD, Tao Qian was defeated. In 196 AD, Liu Bei surrendered to Cao Cao, and in that same year, Cao Cao moved Emperor Xian and the capitol to Xu Chang. There, he ruled with the emperor under his control¹⁷, whilst self-proclaiming to be a loyal minister.

The rest of the country was in deep turmoil. Food was scarce, due to the countless farmers that joined the army and all the fighting and looting that had occurred. Many warlords were defeated because of a food shortage, not in direct combat. A few of Cao Cao's advisors suggested that they allowed for the usage of soldiers' down time to grow crops. This system was highly successful and spread throughout the country. With food no longer an issue, Cao Cao resumed his pursuit of total domination. Using the proxy emperor's name, he began attacking the various warlords still remaining out of control.

¹² Famous lines which perfectly portrayed Cao Cao's personality and set a precedent for his actions later on. In certain versions of history it is said to be "the whole world" instead of "someone", but that creates a ruthless feeling, which although Cao Cao possesses, is too exaggerated; at this point he still feels a degree of apology, which is reflected in his saying; it implied "I did it for my own safety, it wasn't my fault, I just didn't want to take any risks on my life".

¹³ Which somehow included Cao Cao in the count, despite him fleeing the capitol alone (he gathered enough troops to come back as a warlord).

¹⁴ Once again, this was just a declaration of great friendship/loyalty.

¹⁵ Lv Bu is extremely untrustworthy as a person- if he could kill his father, twice, at a time when familial relationships are of utmost importance, who's to say he won't break any alliances/promises?

¹⁶ Yuan Shao's half-brother - they shared a very intense rivalry.

¹⁷ Much like Dong Zhuo did several years earlier.



In the summer of 200 AD, Yuan Shao sent approximately 100,000 infantry and 10,000 cavalry southwards, towards Cao Cao. Although Yuan Shao had far more troops, he still faced horrid failure. Cao Cao's men first killed Yuan Shao's two most powerful warriors, then burned Yuan Shao's supply lines. Several of Yuan Shao's generals ended up surrendering, and Cao Cao's counterattack killed 10,000 and captured 70,000. Yuan Shao's army was forced to retreat north, leaving much of his territory to Cao Cao, and allowed Cao Cao to develop into a massive power.

CURRENT SITUATION

Following the catastrophic Battle of Guandu and Yuan Shao's defeat, it became apparent to citizens across the region that a continuation of brutal war and conflict would lead to nothing but further chaos and destruction. Each leader and his kingdom found themselves in a uniquely difficult place upon the eve of the year 202 C.E.

Cao Cao, having just defeated Yuan Shao, currently controls most of the northern territory. His newfound control over the vast territory increased his power and influence considerably. However, Yuan Tan and Yuan Shang, the sons of Yuan Shao, refused to peacefully abdicate to Cao Cao. Cao Cao's distrust and dislike of the Yuan family is prevalent, though he has yet to act on these sentiments and take them out. His focus has shifted more towards successfully conquering Southern China, now that he has full control of the north. Though he has gained much in the past few years, he still has plenty more lands to conquer and battles to fight.

Meanwhile, Liu Bei has just fled to the Jing Province following his betrayal of Cao Cao at the Battle of Guandu. With an army loyal to him and a deep hatred for Cao Cao, he took up defense in the Northern ends of the province. However, his time as a minor warlord under the ruling Liu Biao of the region soon came to an end. Liu Biao died and left his son as successor, who promptly surrendered to Cao Cao. Liu Bei refused to allow this to happen and worked with another son of Liu Biao's to capture and maintain as much of the former Jing Province as possible, effectively propelling him into his current status of Warlord of the region.



Right next to the territory of Liu Bei lies Sun Quan's kingdom. Sun Quan managed to stay out of much of the larger recent conflicts but was unable to stay completely idle. He only came into his position as ruler after inheriting it from his older brother, Sun Ce. Though he is surrounded by constant warfare, Sun Quan manages to remain a more neutral figure in the conflict. Rather than aiming to rule all of China or conspiring to defeat an enemy, Sun Quan wishes more for independence of his Kingdom and a peaceful rule. Nevertheless, the situation at hand requires Sun Quan to take a more drastic stance in order to preserve his sovereignty and bring peace to the region.

With Liu Bei, Cao Cao, and Sun Quan all vying for power over one another, peace in the region seemed like a distant dream. As food shortages, fear, and devastation continued to grow, the leaders of the three kingdoms began to realize the constant fighting was unsustainable.

Despite the heightening tensions of the war and the continued aggressions against one another, Sun Quan made the first step towards finding an end to the ceaseless conflict. He called for a meeting of the three warlords to discuss amongst themselves who truly deserved to be the new Emperor of a unified China. He requested that Cao Cao bring the former Han Emperor, Emperor Xian, and that each ruler bring with him a small entourage for the insurance of each leader's safety. Finally, Sun Quan gave Liu Bei and Cao Cao a convincing motive for attending the meeting; the fabled Imperial Jade Seal, an ornate seal that is regarded as a physical manifestation of the Mandate of Heaven.

Thus, the War of the Three Kingdoms finds itself at an intermittent period as the rulers of the nations come together to meet under peaceful terms for the first time and decide the fate of China once and for all.



BLOC POSITIONS

The Cao Wei Kingdom:

As the Chinese political leaders grew uneasy after the failure to eradicate the yellow turbans, they began to lead revolts against the Ten Attendants. During the turmoil, Cao Cao saw his opportunity to seize power. His adopted son killed Dong and he convinced the emperor to move the capital to Xuchang. The largest prevailing issue in the Cao Wei kingdom is the instability of the Western territory, as the territory of Chang'an was not under the subservience of Cao Cao when he separated the territory or under Cao Pi when he proclaimed himself emperor. He faced lots of resistance, not only from the Xianbei (a clan of nomadic Mongols) and the Qiang people, but also the Shu Han Kingdom. Though Sima Yi and Cao Zhen are supposedly rectifying these issues for the Cao Wei kingdom, they are more likely to be fighting for supremacy over each other as opposed to peace.

Even though Cao Cao was not a legitimate member of the northern Chinese aristocracy, he was still accepted as a leader due to his military and political successes. Using brutal force, he outsmarted his political opponents among the aristocracy, provoking the hostility of the powerful distinguished families. Cao's ultimate goal was to create a stable China. He would've let Liu Bei become emperor as Liu had the power to move all the people's hearts to a more prosperous and stable nation, but after Liu openly rebelled against Cao Cao, he felt that he was the only one who could make China stable.

The Shu Han Kingdom:

Liu Bei, a former warlord and Han dynasty court member leads the Shu Han kingdom. After Dong Zhou took the capital from the Yuan, Liu Bei ended up establishing a long rivalry with Cao Cao, joining the forces of Tao Qian against those of Liu Bei. The rise of Lu Bu within his own kingdom allowed Liu Bei to raise a force in resistance to the Cao movement through gaining the support of the Chen and the



Mi, the two more important clans of the area. Liu Bei only had Hanzhong left to represent himself as a major power.

The Sun Wu Kingdom:

While Cao Cao was slowly taking over the Han Dynasty, Sun Ce was able to gain influence and military power through the war lord Yuan Shu, gaining territories in Wu and in Jiangdong. Sun Ce crowned himself emperor of his territory, soon leaving his power and territories to Sun Quan as his own son was too young. Sun Quan, making major efforts to align himself with Liu Bei's forces helped him expand the Wu territory in the Jing province. However, the military campaign that Liu Bei led against the Wu to retake the Jing province caused the peace between the Cao Wei and Wu to weaken. As both kingdoms claim the territory as theirs, local warlords and clans are faced with a decision on which side to pick between the two emperors.

Like any kingdom, the SunWu Kingdom had several goals - to seize control of China and to consolidate its position. Sun Jian, Sun Ce, and Sun Quan all had the dream of establishing their state and enter the fight for control of Chinese territory. With the great geographical position along the Yangtze River, the kingdom's greatest rival in the north, Cao Cao, was not able to vanquish him, while Liu Bei was too weak to destroy Sun. Rather than focusing on territorial expansion, the Sun Kingdom focused on internal development instead and consolidated control of the rural parts of the Wu kingdom.

ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

Han Dynasty:

Emperor Shao: Emperor Shao of Han, also known as Liu Bian was the son of Emperor Ling, succeeding the throne at 13 years of age after Ling's death to the dismay of many who wanted Liu Xie instated as emperor instead. As the rightful emperor of



Han, some of the loyal ministers support his pursuit to regain his throne¹⁸. His largest source of power comes from his mother, Empress Dowager He, and the fact that he is not under any warlord's control, unlike his half-brother Emperor Xian. **As such, he can freely communicate with ministers and warlords to advance his support¹⁹.**

Empress Dowager He: The second wife of Han Emperor Ling, Empress Dowager He took advantage of her position, and gained great influence in the kingdom after her son, Prince Bian, succeeded the throne. She was quick to expel any who opposed their authority, including Jian Shuo²⁰ and Grand Empress Dowager Dong. Although her status indicates that at peaceful times she would be (at best) thrown into a temple to waste away, in war time she represents a lingering belief in the Han Dynasty. **She, like her son, is free to communicate to those who may support her- given her gender, however, she can only speak with noblewomen in hopes that they pass a message to their husbands.**

Emperor Xian: As the final Emperor of the Han Dynasty, Emperor Xian was in high demand. Despite the dynasty's fall, having the Emperor under your thumb served as a powerful message to other warlords. Currently under the control of Cao Cao, the Emperor still retains some control over his former empire, and the common citizens are still loyal to him. Warlords may have territory, but Xian is still the Emperor and ruler of the Han. **As the current emperor of the Han Dynasty, although he lacks real power, his words are likely to gain the support of surviving eunuchs and ministers, as to them, the Emperor's word is an unwritten royal decree.**

Independent:

Chen Gong: Chen Gong was a former advisor of Cao Cao, but betrayed him after he murdered several scholars. He then went to serve Lv Bu, yet his plans were often overlooked by the overly confident warrior. **He is technically in charge of everything that Lv Bu ignores- recruitment, advertising, strategy, etc.²¹**

Gong-Sun Zan: A minor warlord in Northeastern China and the leader of the legendary White Riders, Gong-Sun Zan was regarded as a great warrior and ally. He may not be the leader of one of the larger kingdoms, but his ability to retain his territory serves as a testament to his military prowess. His rivalry with the Yuan

¹⁸ These, of course, were the same ministers who supported his original acceptance of the throne.

¹⁹ As for how many of them will listen... a lot of persuasion will be required

²⁰ A eunuch who wanted Liu Xie instated as emperor instead of Prince Bian

²¹ In reality the most power this gives him is the ability to sway gullible peasants to Lv Bu's side.



family angles him towards working with Cao Cao to defeat them, but his history with Liu Bei may have the potential to sway his allegiance.

Liu Zhang: Liu Zhang is a minor warlord in Southern China. He controls the territory known as the Yi Province, and generally has a peaceful rule. However, his peace may be threatened by the ongoing conflicts plaguing the kingdoms. He lacks military prowess and must rely on diplomacy to maintain his rule.

Lu Bu: A legendary warrior known for both his military prowess and his almost as impressive temperament; Lu Bu was a key figure throughout the war. He took over territories with ease, though it was often from his supposed allies²². Despite his constant betrayals and forever changing alliances, his unmatched battle skills make him a valuable ally in the moment. Lu Bu is a powerful force to have on the side of any kingdom, albeit a dangerous one.

Yuan Shang: Yuan Shang was the third son of Yuan Shao, favored as the successor of Yuan Shao due to his good looks. He quickly broke out into war with Yuan Tan²³ over who was to succeed the throne. **He has partial control over Yuan Shao's political power.**

Yuan Tan: Yuan Tan was Yuan Shao's eldest son and the governor of Qing Province. Despite being a famed general, he was a very poor governor and only was a decent competitor against his younger brother Yuan Shang for succession of Yuan Shao's forces due to the help of warlord Cao Cao²⁴. Yuan Tan's momentary usefulness to Cao Cao means that until he fully controls Yuan Shao's forces, he will have a strong, supportive ally in Cao Cao. **He has partial control over Yuan Shao's military power.**

Shu Kingdom:

Guan Yu: Guan Yu is a fiercely loyal General of Liu Bei's army, and a close friend of Liu Bei himself. He has contributed greatly to all of Liu Bei's military successes, dating back to their time under Cao Cao. Guan Yu was a strong warrior and strategist and is known for his unwavering promise to serve Liu Bei, a promise that he refused to break. However, Cao Cao has long held wishes of gaining this valuable warrior. Given the opportunity, Cao Cao will go to extreme measures to sabotage the Liu-Guan relationship.

²² With his little regard for his sole advisor, however, land was lost as easily as he gained them.

²³ The eldest son of Yuan Shao, who was aided by Cao Cao

²⁴ This led to the eventual demise of the Yuan family



Liu Bei: The Warlord Ruler of Shu Han, Liu Bei is characterized as a humane and just ruler, as well as a bold military leader. As a former member of the Han government under Cao Cao's control, Liu Bei rebelled and betrayed Cao Cao, resulting in a deep-set hatred and dispute between the two throughout the war. Liu Bei aims to defeat Cao Cao and establish a just rule in China through his leadership.

Zhu-Ge Liang: Zhu-Ge Liang was an extremely wise key advisor of Liu Bei, responsible for plotting strategy on behalf of Liu Bei and was known for his unmistakable loyalty to his masters. He helped Liu plan an alliance between him and ruler Sun Quan who controlled a large portion of southeast territory, ultimately leading to the defeat of Cao Cao's army during the Battle of Red Cliffs. A mathematical and mechanical genius, he is credited for inventing a bow that allowed for several arrows to be shot at once, and also perfecting the Eight Dispositions, a well-known series of military tactics. **His ideas take precedence in almost all affairs of the Shu Kingdom (not that he will interfere with minor details), and even Liu Bei listens to his advice.**

Zhao Yun: Zhao Yun was a military general for Warlord Liu Bei. Distinguishing himself at the Battle of Changban with the rescue of Liu Bei's son, Liu Shan, as well as conquering the territories of Jiangnan after the Battle of Red Cliffs, he later became one of Liu's leading lieutenants, being awarded with the position of major-general. **He leads the army when out attacking other powers, only giving away this control when Zhu-Ge Liang follows the army.**

Wei Kingdom:

Cao Cao: The Warlord ruler of Cao Wei, Cao Cao is regarded as a fierce leader and a brilliant military strategist. He served as a former Chancellor for the Han Dynasty, and has gained many allies and enemies throughout his journey since the fall of the empire. He aims to unite China once again under his leadership, by any means necessary.

Si-Ma Yi: The eight children of Si-Ma Fang (of the Si-Ma noble family) were well known for their wisdom. The second son in particular, Si-Ma Yi, was by far the best. He was a brilliant strategist, and thus Cao Cao attempted to recruit him. When the recruiting failed, Cao Cao resorted to blackmailing him. This partially contributes to his will to rebel.

Xia-Hou Dun: Xia-Hou Dun was one of the earliest warriors for Cao Cao. In a battle against Lv Bu, he was shot in the eye with an arrow, leaving him partially blind. This became the trait for which he was the most known.



Xun Yu: Xun Yu was loyal to Han, but for the sake of his family²⁵ he first found shelter with Yuan Shao, then went to Cao Cao. He was one of the few healthy advisors that was fully loyal to Cao Cao, yet he was not fully trusted by his suspicious leader.

Yang Chou: Yang Chou was a general of Zhang Yang. He wanted to aid Lu Bu against Cao Cao, but ended up having a quarrel with Lu, so he killed Zhang instead and attempted to join Cao Cao.

Wu Kingdom:

Lv Meng: Lv Meng is a general for Wu. He was renowned for his various strategies, which put him only second to Zhou Yu amongst all the great strategists found in Wu. However, this aptitude in strategizing wasn't always present. Lv Meng used to be a minor warrior general for Wu, and it wasn't until he was criticized for his lack of education that he decided to learn more about army leadership and governmental affairs. **Currently, he is in charge of the military that defends the territories of the Wu Kingdom, and will only give power to Sun Ce, Sun Quan, or rarely, Zhou Yu.**

Shi Xie: Born from a minor local noble family, Shi Xie was once a loyal subject of the Han Dynasty. When Sun Quan took over the area which Shi Xie ruled, he surrendered, becoming a Wu governor in hopes of securing a more stable future for his descendants. He was highly famed for his intellect and governing abilities, and he was an avid advocate for the spreading of Confucianism. **Although his control over Wu territory is limited, he maintains an amicable relationship with local nobility and Confucianism scholars.**

Sun Ce: Sun Ce became the 'leader' of the not-yet-formed Wu at the young age of 16, after his father was killed in combat. He sought to avenge his father and continue the family legacy. He practically built Wu from scratch, recruiting men along the way and trading the Imperial Jade Seal for troops. Sun Ce was a powerful warrior and a great strategist, although his wisdom was often overlooked. He was close friends with Zhou Yu, who later became his (and then his brother's) Head Advisor.

Sun Quan: Sun Quan is the official leader of Wu. He valued development in manufacturing and agriculture. He put much effort into establishing trade routes by water and enabled future dynasties to navigate around the minority groups that blockaded the land routes.

²⁵ to preserve the Xun family and keep his descendants safe from war by finding a powerful leader



Sun Shang-Xiang: Although a female, Sun Shang-Xiang was a warrior that should not be messed with. She made a reputation at a young age and was feared even by some grown men. Her beauty and status as Sun Quan's sister made her a great asset to Wu.

Zhou Yu: Zhou Yu was a military general serving under Sun Ce, primarily known for his leading role in the defeat of Cao Cao's army during the Battle of Red Cliffs and Battle of Jiangling. A highly regarded warrior who possessed great talent in war and literature, Zhou's potential was greatly feared by Cao Cao and Liu Bei. His devout fellowship with Sun Ce and Sun's son, Sun Quan made him an incredibly reliable commander.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Which of Yuan Shao's sons *really* deserves his inheritance?
 - a. Yuan Shang, as the third son, according to Chinese traditions, does not have a right to the inheritance. Nevertheless, Yuan Shao favors him, and most of the advisors of Yuan Shao's court support him. Can the support of a weaker yet more reasonable force overthrow Chinese traditions and put the third son in power?
 - b. Yuan Tan is a poor governor, and even surrendered to Cao Cao, indicating that the Yuan family may cease to be in power after his control. However, he is the rightful inheritor according to tradition, due to his age, and is backed by Cao Cao. Does a strong ally and his justification overturn his weak backbone and horrid governing abilities?
2. To whom does the Imperial Jade Seal belong to (rightfully or otherwise), and does that truly give them the Heaven Mandate
 - a. If so, what role does the young emperor play?
 - b. If not, what is the seal's (new) purpose?
 - c. Is the Heaven Mandate even significant? How? Why?



3. Are alliances worth having if betrayal appears to be the only end result?
4. Can there only be one true victor in a war of domination?
5. If war and fighting is “a man’s task,” how are arranged marriages justifiable?
 - a. Is fighting over a woman reason enough to start a war/break an alliance?

FURTHER RESEARCH

[HTTP://WWW.EASTASIANHISTORY.ORG/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/ARTICLE-CONTENT/01/EAH01_01.PDF](http://www.eastasianhistory.org/sites/default/files/article-content/01/EAH01_01.pdf)

Pages 1-36 provide a detailed summary of the War of Three Kingdoms Events which details the successes and downfalls of different leaders, battles over Chinese territory, and campaigns which lead to betrayals and loyalty changes between generals

[HTTP://WWW.CHINAKNOWLEDGE.DE/HISTORY/DIVISION/SANGUO-MAP.HTML](http://www.chinaknowledge.de/history/division/sanguo-map.html)

Provides a map of the different regions of China and which territories were owned by the different empires throughout the Three Kingdoms Period, and talks about the different battles, including the “Red Cliff” Battle

[HTTP://WWW.CHINAKNOWLEDGE.DE/HISTORY/DIVISION/SANGUO-ECON.HTML](http://www.chinaknowledge.de/history/division/sanguo-econ.html)

This source provides the economical statuses of Shu-Han Empire Sun-Wu Empire throughout the Three Kingdoms Period, and what kind of resources the kingdoms had to aid them in battles

[HTTP://WWW.CHINAKNOWLEDGE.DE/HISTORY/DIVISION/SANGUO-EVENT.HTML](http://www.chinaknowledge.de/history/division/sanguo-event.html)

Breakdown of Political History of Cao-Wei, Shu-Han, and Wu Empires which details the different emperors’ reigns and the successors

CITATIONS

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