



Douglas S. Freeman High School Model United Nations Conference

Historical Crisis: The Fall of the Ming Dynasty

Crisis Simulation

Dossier

Emperor of the Ming Dynasty - Chongzhen Emperor- Zhu Youjian

The Emperor of the Ming Dynasty has inherited a collapsing country. As head of the country, he has power over all decisions made by the Ming, but is currently facing internal corruption, which is weakening his strength. He wants to fix the problems that are destroying his country from the inside and the outside.

Grand Secretary - Sun Chengzong

He is the grand secretary of the Ming Dynasty and holds significant power in court as well as with the Emperor. Advocates for defense-in-depth and reform of the northern frontier armies; mentor to Yuan Chonghuan.

Khagan of the Northern Yuan Dynasty - Ligdan Khan

As the Khagan of the Northern Yuan Dynasty, he has command over the Northern Yuan people. He is trying to reunite the Mongol Empire with some success. However, due to his harsh treatment of the Mongol tribes, he is unpopular. While he is an ally of the Ming, the relationship is strained.

King of Joseon - Injo of Joseon

The King of Joseon came into power after a coup and was widely considered incompetent. Though he was king, he did not have much authority; the power was held by the nobles of the Westerner faction that dethroned the previous king.

Politician and the Leader of the Western Faction- Yi Gwi

After a coup in 1623, the Western faction rose to power with the new king as its leader, and the Western Faction's Yi Gwi gained control over the king and, consequently, the country.

Khan of the Later Jin Dynasty - Hong Taiji

As the Khan of the Later Jin Dynasty, Hong Taiji has power over his formidable armies. He is currently seeking to expand his empire and consolidate power by raiding the Ming and Joseon dynasties.

Major General of the Ming Navy- Zheng Zhilong

As the sole leader of the Chinese pirates with European backing, Zheng Zhilong had vast amounts of power. He controlled an armada more powerful than the Chinese Imperial Navy as well as tens of thousands of men. Now, as a Ming General, he has the same skills but in servitude to the Ming Dynasty.

Ming General - Yuan Chonghuan

Yuan Chonghuan is one of the Ming's most capable military commanders. He successfully defended Ningyuan against the Jurchens and continues to fortify the northern frontier against Hong Taiji's attacks. Yuan advocates for modernizing artillery and disciplined defense rather than reckless expansion. Despite his loyalty, he faces distrust at court.

Ming General - Qin Liangyu

Qin Liangyu commands her family's White Cavalry in the southwestern frontier. She is respected for her military discipline and ability to maintain stability in Sichuan and Guizhou during growing peasant unrest. Qin is loyal to the Chongzhen Emperor and provides critical support against both internal rebellion and external threats.

Jin Prince - Dorgon

Dorgon, a younger brother of Hong Taiji, is a rising noble and commander within the Later Jin hierarchy. Though still in his early twenties, he already commands troops and holds significant influence among the Jurchen banners.

Later Jin Noble and General - Amin

Amin led the 1627 Later Jin invasion of Joseon. Although his campaign initially succeeded in subduing much of northern Korea, his brutality and indiscipline strained relations between Jin and Joseon. Now under close watch by Hong Taiji, Amin remains a skilled but controversial commander within the Jin ranks.

Administration Vice Commissioner- Hong Chengchou

He is currently the Administration Vice Commissioner in charge of taxes in Shaanxi, where there are a large number of peasant rebels. He wishes to suppress the peasant rebellions.

Peasant Rebel - Li Zicheng

Once a postal worker and soldier, Li Zicheng has turned to rebellion amid famine and corruption in Shaanxi. He leads a growing band of peasants calling for justice and relief from oppressive taxes.

Peasant Rebel - Zhang Xianzhong

Zhang Xianzhong, a former soldier from Shaanxi, has joined the rising wave of peasant rebellions sweeping western China. Though not yet a major national threat, his forces have begun terrorizing officials and merchants in the Sichuan region.

Yi Chieftain - She Chongming

She Chongming is a local Yi (Lolo) tribal leader in Yunnan who maintains semi-independent control over his territory. He cooperates with the Ming government but resists full assimilation, seeking to preserve his authority and autonomy.

Yi Chieftain - An Bangyan

An Bangyan is another prominent Yi leader in Yunnan and Guizhou who often rivals She Chongming for influence. While nominally loyal to the Ming, he has exploited imperial weakness to expand his domain.

Shogun of the Tokugawa Shogunate - Tokugawa Iemitsu

Tokugawa Iemitsu, newly ascended as the third shogun of Japan, is solidifying his authority and the isolationist policies of the Tokugawa regime. He enforces strict control over foreign trade and Christianity, reducing the influence of European merchants and missionaries.

Dutch Governor of Formosa - Pieter Nuyts

As the Dutch Governor of Formosa (Taiwan), Pieter Nuyts oversees trade expansion in East Asia on behalf of the Dutch East India Company. His ambitions to control commerce with China and Japan often lead to conflict with local powers and European rivals.

Governor of Macau - Francisco Mascarenhas

Francisco Mascarenhas governs the Portuguese colony of Macau, a key trade and missionary outpost. He must balance the interests of the Ming Dynasty, Portuguese merchants, and Jesuit missionaries while fending off Dutch aggression.

Macau Jesuit / Diplomat / Writer - Manuel Tavares Bocarro

Manuel Tavares Bocarro is a Jesuit scholar and diplomat stationed in Macau, known for his writings on Chinese culture and astronomy. He serves as an intermediary between the Ming court and European merchants, promoting Christianity through cultural and scientific exchange.