

TroyMUN'23



JCC

(Joint Crisis Committee)

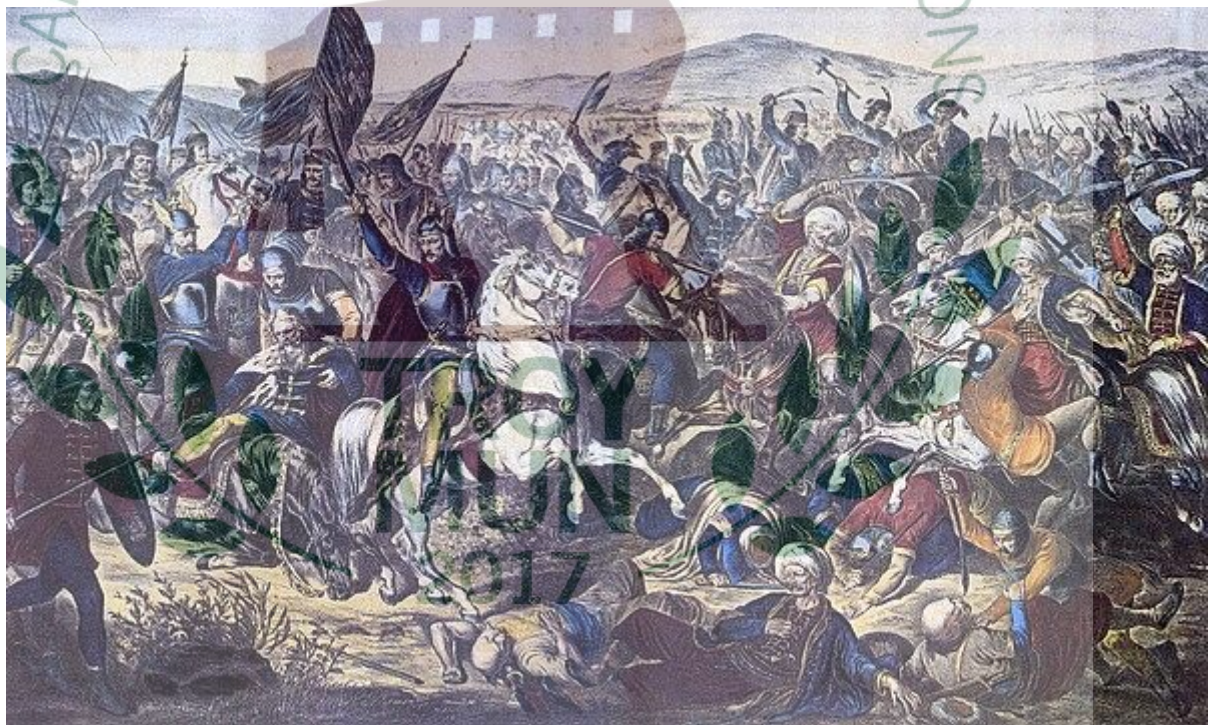
The Battle of Kosovo in 1389



**ÇANAKKALE
KOLEJİ**

JCC BATTLE OF KOSOVO

Study Guide



*Battle of Kosovo, 1389.
Adam Stefanović*

Letter from Secretary-General

Highly esteemed prospective participants,

First of all I would like to thank you for your interest and utmost consideration throughout the application process. It's a thrilling privilege and unutterable honor to welcome and serve you all to the sixth annual session of the Troy Model United Nations Conference 2023. My name is Baran Akarsu and it is my utmost honor to serve you as the Secretary-General. As well as the previous years we have the same excitement, energy, and happiness to serve you all. Our academic and operations teams made an incredible effort to provide you with an unforgettable MUN experience.

This year we have decided to broaden our horizons and prepared exciting committees and topics for you. Delegates of The Joint Crisis Committee will discuss the Battle of Kosovo which changed the flow of history in the Balkans, beginning of a dark period for the Christians and a big progress for the Ottomans on the dominance of Balkan lands. As The Academic Team, we are very excited to hear your take on this crucial agenda item. I especially want to thank our Crisis Team which includes my dear friend Alp Önce as the Head of Crisis, and our special Poyraz Kocamış who is going to guide you through the rules of procedure as Under Secretary General of Joint Crisis Committee for their trilingual work ethic, dedication and never ending energy.

Let's get along with each other this December at Çanakkale to take part in creating something new by what the ministers, presidents and government officials discuss and see if we can do things differently. Do not forget to be a part of this conference and read your study guides, find some motions and prepare some speeches. Buckle your seatbelts for three days of perfection and diplomacy. I hope this conference will take a place in your memories.

Your Sincerely,
Baran Akarsu

Letter from Under Secretary-General

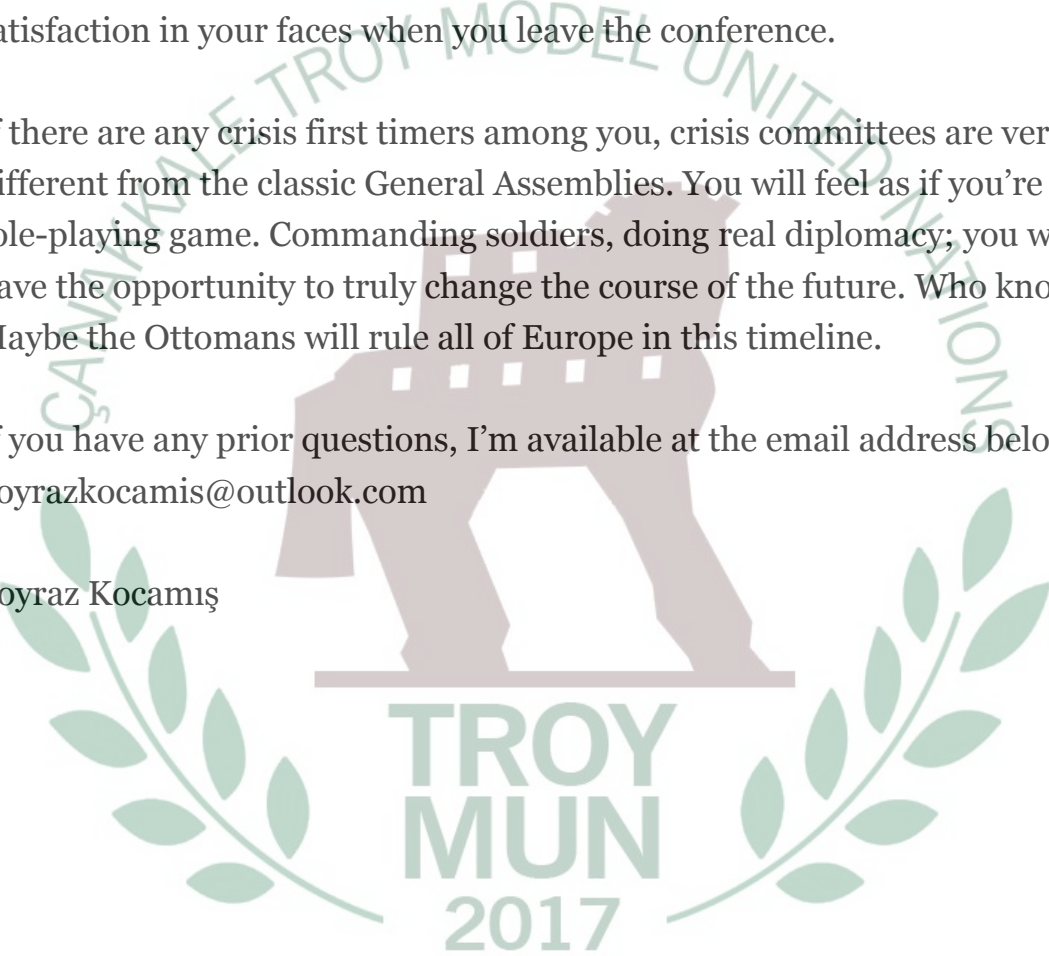
Hello there,

I proudly present to you the most exciting and the best committee of TroyMUN'23—don't listen to what other USG's have to say, Joint Crisis Committee: Battle of Kosovo! Buckle up and get ready for the time of your life. We worked our heads off to make sure that we will see the smile of satisfaction in your faces when you leave the conference.

If there are any crisis first timers among you, crisis committees are very different from the classic General Assemblies. You will feel as if you're in a role-playing game. Commanding soldiers, doing real diplomacy; you will have the opportunity to truly change the course of the future. Who knows? Maybe the Ottomans will rule all of Europe in this timeline.

If you have any prior questions, I'm available at the email address below.
poyrazkocamis@outlook.com

Poyraz Kocamış



Letter from Head of Crisis

Hi guys,

First of all I would like to say that you're so lucky to be in our committee in order to discuss the Battle of Kosovo. The Battle of Kosovo is a very significant and critical event for the lands of Balkan. As the Crisis Team our aim is to provide you with an unforgettable crisis experience. Do not forget to be a part of this committee and read your study guides, find some suitable directives and prepare some speeches. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to ask.

Alp Önce



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Background

A. Ottoman Empire before the 1389

Once upon a time, in the heart of the Balkans, there existed a mighty empire that cast its shadow over the lands far and wide...the Ottoman Empire. It was an era of grandeur and power, where the sultans ruled with an iron fist, and their armies marched with the thunderous echoes of conquest.

The empire had expanded its borders, absorbing territories and cultures into its diverse tapestry. The bustling city of Constantinople, with its towering minarets and bustling bazaars, served as the majestic heart of the Ottoman realm. The sultan's court was a place of intrigue, where whispers of war and whispers of peace mingled in the air.

Sultan Murad, with a gaze as sharp as the blades of his Janissaries, looked toward the northwest, where the Serbian Kingdom stood proud and defiant. The Serbian ruler, Prince Lazar, harbored a resistance that dared to challenge the Ottoman might.

The Ottoman Empire was at the height of its military prowess. Janissaries, the elite infantry force, trained rigorously under the watchful eye of their skilled commanders. The Ottoman cavalry, with their swift steeds and gleaming armor, stood ready to gallop across the vast expanse of the Balkan landscape.

As the empire prepared for the impending conflict, the people whispered tales of a great war that loomed on the horizon. The air was thick with anticipation, and the scent of uncertainty wafted through the empire like the perfume of distant spices.

In the sultan's tent, maps unfurled like ancient scrolls, revealing the intricate dance of troop movements and strategic considerations. Murad I, with his furrowed brow, pondered the future of his realm and the legacy he would leave behind.

Little did the Ottoman Empire know that the fields of Kosovo would soon bear witness to a clash that would echo through the annals of history.

B. Situation of the Balkans before the 1389

In the heart of Europe, the Balkans stood as a tumultuous tapestry of strife and intrigue. It was an era where kingdoms and despotates jostled for supremacy, where the past loomed heavily over the present, and where the future held its secrets close. The very land itself seemed to bear witness to the constant struggles that ebbed and flowed like the turbulent rivers that cut through its terrain. In this era of volatility, the Balkan region was a mosaic of diversity, with each kingdom and despotate fiercely guarding its sovereignty. The region was a patchwork of rivalries, where alliances were often formed only to crumble beneath the weight of ambition.

A Byzantine Empire, once a dominant force, had begun to wither, losing its grip on these lands, while the Bulgarian Empire, which had once carved a mighty swath across the Balkans, was a shadow of its former self. The Ottoman Empire, on the other hand, stood as an ever-present threat, its ambitions reaching like tendrils into the heart of the Balkans. Ottoman expansionism had become a defining feature of the era, as they sought to bring the entire region under their sway. It was a perilous dance, with the Balkans at the center of this power struggle.

Ottoman forces advanced, and the Balkan kingdoms resisted with fierce determination. Battles raged, borders shifted, and the Balkan landscape bore the scars of countless conflicts. Amidst this chaos, the people of the Balkans endured, their lives interwoven with the intricate politics of the time. Families were divided, and loyalties tested as neighboring powers vied for dominance. Traveling merchants carried stories of distant lands and whispered tales of legends, instilling hope even in the darkest of times. The Balkans, however, were not only defined by strife. Beneath the tumultuous surface, there existed a rich tapestry of cultures, each

contributing to the vibrant mosaic that was the region. It was a place where art, music, and literature thrived, even amidst the tumult.

The echoes of history resonated through ancient fortresses and magnificent churches, where the past whispered its secrets to those who would listen. The story of the Balkans during this period was one of ambition and rivalry, of power gained and lost, and of the indomitable spirit of its people. It was a land where every turn of history's wheel held the promise of change and renewal, where the struggle for dominance and identity played out in a complex and ever-evolving narrative, a testament to the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity.

C. Conquest of Adrianople (Edirne) 1361

The Ottoman Empire, under the rule of Sultan Murad I, had been steadily expanding its territories in the Balkans during the late 14th century. And Adrianople was a crucial target because of its strategic location and its historical significance as a Roman and Byzantine city. Sultan Murad I, set his sight on this magnificent city, a jewel of the Byzantine Empire.

Adrianople stood as a beacon of grandeur, its mighty walls and splendid architecture were a testament to the opulence that Byzantium had once known. But the Byzantine Empire was in a state of decline, weakened by internal strife and external threats. The Ottomans, with their ambitious sultan at the helm, were more than ready to expand their burgeoning empire into Europe.

As the Ottoman army approached, the residents of Adrianopolis knew that their fate hung in the balance. Their once-mighty Byzantine Empire could no longer provide the defense it once could. But they were determined to fight for their beloved city.

The siege of Adrianopolis began, and for months, the Ottomans relentlessly pressed on the city's formidable walls. Sultan Murad, known for his tactical brilliance, led his troops with unwavering determination.

The days turned into weeks and then months, Adrianopolis's defenses began to crumble. The Ottomans had slowly chipped away at the city's strength, making inroads with their relentless siege.

Finally, on that fateful day in March 1369, the Ottoman forces breached the city's walls. The defenders had fought fiercely, but they could hold out no longer. Adrianopolis had fallen to the Ottomans.

Sultan Murad I, standing amid the triumphant Ottoman army, gazed upon the city he had long coveted. Adrianopolis was now Edirne and its capture marked a turning point in the empire's history. The once-mighty Byzantine city would now serve as a capital for the Ottomans, a symbol of their expanding power and ambition.

The logo for Troy Model United Nations 2017 is centered in the background. It features a stylized purple silhouette of a Trojan horse standing on a base, flanked by two green laurel branches. Below the horse, the words "TROY" and "MUN" are written in large, bold, green capital letters, with "2017" in a smaller font below them.

D. Battle of Chernomen 1371

In the turbulent era of the 14th century, the rise of the Ottoman Empire cast a long shadow over the Balkans. When the Ottomans captured the strategic city of Adrianople in 1362, a vital road connecting Constantinople to Europe was severed. And a wave of nomadic Turkoman immigrants swiftly settled in Thrace, further expanding the Ottoman presence.

With each new conquest, the Ottomans provoked their neighbors, launching attacks into Serbian, Bulgarian, and Byzantine territories. Tensions escalated, and it became clear that a coordinated response was

needed to stem the Ottoman tide.

After the capture of Plovdiv in 1363, the Byzantine garrison commander sought refuge in Serbia, urging the Serbians and Bulgarians to unite and strike the outnumbered Ottomans. Inspired by his counsel, the Serbians and Bulgarians formed an alliance to reclaim their lands.

To bolster this alliance, Pope Urban V rallied support from Wallachia and Bosnia, while Louis I of Hungary dispatched troops, seeing an opportunity to assert his influence in the Balkans.

A crusading army consisting of 30,000–60,000 men began to move on Edirne; at that time the Ottoman sultan Murad I was fighting the Catalan mercenaries in the Byzantine army at Biga, (Çanakkale). Most of the Ottoman army was in Asia Minor. Lala Sahin Pasha who was the first Beylerbey of Rumelia appointed Hacı İlbey to be the commander of an expeditionary force that was supposed to monitor and slow down the allied army. Hacı İlbey was dispatched as the vanguard with his forces to assess the enemy's strength and position. The crusaders made a camp near Maritsa River very close to Edirne. They were overconfident and careless, indulging in drinking and revelry.

Taking advantage of the cover of night, Hacı İlbeyi launched a vigorous surprise attack on the enemy. The crusaders, mistaking Hacı İlbey's forces with the main Ottoman army panicked and suffered a severe defeat. Vukašin Mrnjavčević and Jovan Uglješa were killed. Many drowned in the Maritsa River.

The Hungarian King Louis I barely escaped. According to a legend, he attributed his survival to a depiction of the Virgin Mary hanging around his neck, and as an expression of gratitude, he had a church built in her name.

This battle went down in History as the Battle of Sırpsındığı, the battle that destroyed the Serbs.

E. Battle of Plocnik 1386

In the turbulent years of the 14th century, the Balkans witnessed the growing might of the Ottoman Empire, casting a long shadow over the region. In response to this looming threat, a remarkable alliance was quietly forged.

Bosnian King Tvrtko, Serbian Despot Lazar, and a coalition of Croatian and Albanian princes had been secretly preparing for five to six years. Their primary objective was to mount an offensive against the incoming Hungarian forces from the north and the advancing Turkish armies from the south. They harbored a shrewd strategy to strike at the Ottomans when they were preoccupied elsewhere, and they had even secured an agreement with the formidable Karamanoğlu to support their cause.

However, the sands of history are always shifting. The Ottoman ruler moved swiftly to reconcile with Karamanoğlu, defusing a potential threat. Then, in a bold maneuver, he dispatched a formidable force of around twenty thousand Akıncıs, skilled raiders, under the command of Şahin Paşa to launch an attack on the territories of their ally, the Bosnian King.

There, on that fateful day, the forces of Serbian Despot Lazar and Bosnian King Tvrtko, totaling around thirty thousand valiant warriors, stood firm against the oncoming Ottoman tide. In a resolute battle, they confronted the Ottoman forces and inflicted a significant defeat, pushing them back and scattering their ranks. Only about five thousand Turkish soldiers managed to escape the relentless onslaught.

The story of this remarkable alliance and their daring stand against the Ottomans would echo through the centuries as a testament to the power of unity, strategy, and the enduring spirit of those who refused to bow in the face of adversity.

F. Battle of Bileca 1388

The Battle of Bileća in 1388 was a historical conflict that took place during the late Middle Ages in the Balkans. This battle was part of the larger ongoing struggle between the Ottoman Empire, led by Sultan Murad I, and various Christian kingdoms and principalities in the region.

The flames of war continue to intensify, casting an ominous shadow over the world, and with each passing day, the tension escalates. The uncertainty surrounding the ultimate outcome of this conflict hangs like a heavy veil, shrouding us in a cloud of apprehension. As we navigate this perilous journey through the storm of war, the future remains uncertain, and the consequences of our actions remain a mystery, leaving us to wonder what the ultimate resolution will be. The world watches with bated breath, caught in the grip of this relentless struggle, as we grapple with the ever-increasing complexity and unpredictability of the situation.

G. Causes of Tensions to Occur

The Balkan principalities, which were Serbian and defeated in the Çirmen war, felt intimidated. The Muslim Turks whom the Ottomans migrated from Anatolia to the Balkans were also causing great discomfort to the local Balkan people. But the outcome of the Battle of Ploshnick in 1386 in favor of the Serbs gave rise to hope that the Ottomans could be expelled from the Balkans.

In addition, the kidnapping of Princess Tamara, the daughter of Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Alexander, by the Ottomans and her marriage to the Ottoman Sultan Murad I further increased the hatred of the Balkan principalities against the Ottomans. The heavy and brutal taxes imposed by the Ottomans on the Balkan principalities were suffocating the Balkan principalities.

He was trying to provoke Serbian principalities, Serbian nobles, Bosnians, Holy Knights and the Muzaka family, which was an Albanian

noble. Their aim was to remove the Ottoman Empire from the Balkans without letting it into Europe. The Serbs, who also requested help from the powerful European dynasties, had difficulty in getting what they hoped for in this respect.

H. Timeline

- 1313 - Serbian forces under King Stefan Uroš II Milutin expanded their territories in the Balkans, challenging Ottoman presence.
- 1314 - Ottoman forces under Osman I successfully captured Bursa, establishing it as their capital.
- 1326 - The Ottoman Empire captured Bilecik, a key strategic town on the road to Bursa.
- 1330 - Ottoman territories in Anatolia continued to grow, with the capture of Nicomedia.
- 1337 - Ottoman expansion reached İzmit, a critical point on the route to Constantinople.
- 1345 - The Ottoman Empire extended its influence over the Karesioglu Principality, gaining control of their advanced naval forces.
- 1352 - The Ottomans obtained the Çimpe Castle in Gelibolu and made inroads into the Gelibolu Peninsula.
- 1354 - Gelibolu was conquered by the Ottomans following a devastating earthquake, and Ottoman migration policies in the region started to resemble those in the Balkans.

- 1361 - The Karesioglu Principality came fully under Ottoman control..
- 1370 - The Ottoman Empire consolidated its hold over Rumelia.
- 1371 - The Battle of Çirmen further solidified Ottoman control in the region.

Composition of the Cabinets

A. Ottomans

1. Murad I



Murad I, also known as Murad Hüdavendigâr, was a prominent figure in the history of the Ottoman Empire. His reign marked a pivotal period in the expansion and consolidation of Ottoman power in the Balkans, and his military campaigns and administrative reforms laid the foundation for the empire's

future successes.

Murad I was born in 1319 to Sultan Orhan and an unknown mother. He ascended to the Ottoman throne in 1362 following his father's death and immediately set his sights on expanding the empire's territory and influence.

Under Murad's leadership, the Ottoman Empire continued its westward expansion into the Balkans. His reign saw the conquest of important cities, including Adrianople (modern-day Edirne), which became the new Ottoman capital, and Thessalonica. These conquests solidified

Ottoman control over crucial trade routes and key regions in the Balkans. One of the most significant events during Murad's reign was the ongoing conflict with the Serbian Empire, ruled by Tsar Lazar Hrebeljanović.

2. Yıldırım Bayezid

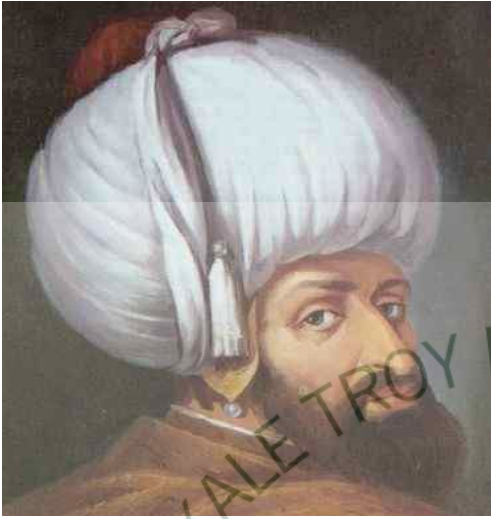


Yıldırım Bayezid, commonly referred to as Bayezid I, stands as a significant figure in Ottoman history, serving as the fourth Sultan of the Ottoman Empire during the years spanning from 1389 to 1402.

His reign was characterized by a relentless pursuit of territorial expansion, a policy that led to the gradual incorporation of Anatolia and the Balkans into the Ottoman Empire. However, this expansionist approach also gave rise to heightened tensions and conflicts with various European powers, particularly the Christian kingdoms and the Byzantine Empire.

Bayezid's ambitions knew no bounds as he relentlessly pushed the Ottoman frontiers and, in doing so, raised the stakes of the empire's interactions on the European stage.

3. Yakub Çelebi



Yakub Çelebi, commonly known as Yakub Shah, was a prominent figure in the 14th-century Ottoman Empire. Born in the mid-14th century, he was the offspring of Sultan Murad I and the younger brother of Sultan Bayezid I. Yakub Çelebi's life was deeply intertwined with the intricate dynamics of Ottoman succession struggles that unfolded following the demise of his father, Sultan Murad I. These struggles were a reflection of the burgeoning

empire's evolving power structure and the challenges it faced in maintaining unity and stability as it expanded its territorial dominion across the Balkans and Anatolia. Yakub Çelebi's actions and choices during this tumultuous period would have a lasting impact on the empire's future direction and its place in history

4. Lala Şahin Pasha



Lala Şahin Pasha, a notable figure in 14th-century Ottoman history, held the dual titles of both Lala and Grand Vizier, signifying his exceptional influence and significance within the Ottoman Empire during the reign of Sultan Murad I. His rise to prominence was closely intertwined with the empire's ambitious expansion and power consolidation efforts in the Balkans.

As a statesman and military commander, Lala Şahin Pasha left an indelible mark on the Ottoman Empire's history. One of his most remarkable accomplishments was his leadership in various campaigns aimed at extending the empire's dominion into European territories. He exhibited exemplary strategic acumen during these military expeditions, which led to the successful conquest of multiple Balkan regions, including substantial portions of Bulgaria and Serbia.

These conquests not only expanded the Ottoman territory but also added to the empire's economic and political influence. Beyond his military successes, Lala Şahin Pasha made significant contributions to the Ottoman administrative machinery. He recognized the importance of strong and efficient institutions to govern a vast and diverse empire.

5. İsfendiyar Bey



İsfendiyar Bey, also known as Isfendiyar, was a prominent figure in the late 14th and early 15th centuries during the period of Ottoman history known as the Interregnum. He played a crucial role in the complex power struggles and succession disputes that characterized this tumultuous era. İsfendiyar

Bey was a nobleman and military leader who hailed from the Anatolian region and was associated with the Germiyanid

dynasty.

He is best known for his support of Süleyman Çelebi, one of the rival claimants to the Ottoman throne following the death of Sultan Murad I. İsfendiyar Bey provided important military assistance to Süleyman Çelebi during his bid for the Ottoman throne, and his loyalty played a vital role in Süleyman's ascension to power. However, İsfendiyar Bey's involvement in these political struggles would ultimately lead to significant consequences and challenges for the Ottoman Empire, although these events, fall outside

the scope of your article. Nonetheless, İsfendiyar Bey's actions exemplify the intricate web of alliances and rivalries that characterized the Interregnum period in Ottoman history.

6. Sadrazam Çandarlı Ali Pasha



Sadrazam Çandarlı Ali Pasha, a prominent figure in the history of the Ottoman Empire, played a significant role in shaping the empire's destiny in the 14th century. Born in 1333, Çandarlı Ali Pasha rose to prominence during the reign of Sultan Murad I. He served as the Grand Vizier, the highest administrative and political office in the Ottoman government.

Under his leadership, the empire experienced a period of consolidation and expansion, notably through military campaigns in Anatolia and the Balkans. Ali Pasha was instrumental in reforming the Ottoman military, strengthening the central administration, and consolidating the empire's power.

His tenure marked the emergence of the Çandarlı family as a powerful political dynasty, with several of his family members holding key positions in the Ottoman government. Çandarlı Ali Pasha's influence extended beyond politics; he was also a patron of the arts and played a role in the development of Ottoman architecture and culture during his time.

Throughout his career, Çandarlı Ali Pasha navigated the complex world of Ottoman politics, dealing with various internal and external challenges. However, his tenure came to an end in 1387 when he faced a political rival in the form of the charismatic and ambitious Bayezid, who would later become Bayezid I.

7. Rumeli Beylerbey Timurtaş Pasha



Rumeli Beylerbey Timurtaş Pasha, a prominent Ottoman military and political figure, left an indelible mark on the late 14th and early 15th centuries.

Serving as the Beylerbey (Governor-General) of Rumelia, the strategically vital Ottoman province in the Balkans, during the reign of Sultan Bayezid I, Timurtaş Pasha emerged as a distinguished leader. He earned a reputation as a trusted and capable

commander, playing a pivotal role in various military campaigns that shaped the Ottoman Empire's expansion in the Balkans. His leadership and strategic acumen were instrumental in consolidating Ottoman control over the region, leading to significant territorial gains. His legacy extends beyond his military prowess, as he also held key administrative responsibilities in the rapidly expanding Ottoman state, demonstrating his proficiency in both military and political spheres.

8. Evrenos Bey



Ottoman military commander Gazi Evrenos went by the name Gavrinos as well, and it was thought that he was descended from Greeks. Gazi Evrenos was a bey in the Karasi principality at one time and a nobleman. He joined the Ottomans only after the Ottomans conquered the beylik in 1345. According to reports, he was once a Byzantine Greek feudal ruler in Anatolia. After Bursa was

taken, he joined the Ottoman army, converted to Islam, and rose to prominence as a military leader under both Orhan and Murat. Being among the most prosperous Ottoman generals, Evrenos established many endowments and amassed a significant fortune.

9. Balaban Bey



An influential person in Ottoman history is Balaban Bey, the son of Balabancık Bey, one of Orhan Bey's better commanders. He was one of the commanders Osman Bey entrusted to one of the two fortifications constructed for the Siege of Bursa, and his outstanding performance earned him a castle named for him. And for the most part, he was a soldier in the Ottoman army under Murat I. Following his brave actions, he took on

the name Tokat Beylerbeyi.

10. Saruca Pasha



Saruca Pasha was an Ottoman statesman and the first Chief Admiral. He has been an important figure in the history of Gallipoli. Saruca Pasha, who founded Gallipoli once more and helped the architects build new buildings and foundations. During Murad I's rule, he attained the status of sancak beyi. He was thereafter elevated to the rank of Anatolian Beylerbeyi. The title of vizier

was awarded to him. He commanded the right arm of the Ottoman army during Murat I's war with Karamanoğlu.

11. Ahi Ayna Bey

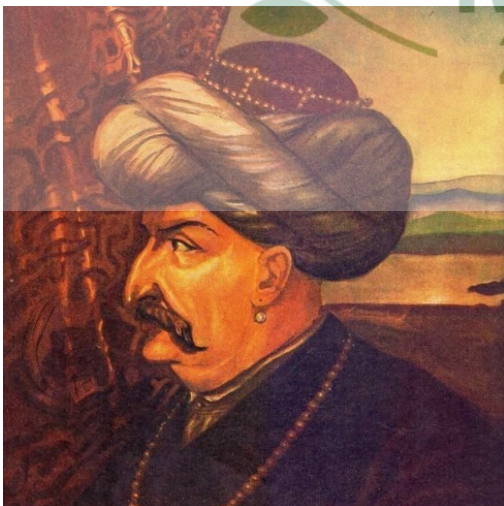


One of the most important emirs of the Eretna era was Ahi Ayna Bey. Under this principality, he dominated Erzincan and later extended his influence to Erzurum and Bayburt.

The fact that Esterâbâdî states in Bezm u Rezm that Ahi Ayna Bey purchased Erzincan proves he was a powerful emir in the area.

Along with Akkoyunlu Tur Ali Bey and Bayburt Emir Mehmed Rikâbdâr, Ahi Ayna took part in the 1348 Trabzon expedition. During his reign, Ahi Ayna conquered several neighboring Christian kingdoms. He led an expedition into Georgia, where he took control of castles and towns like Azgur, Samsâhâ, and Ahalshâ.

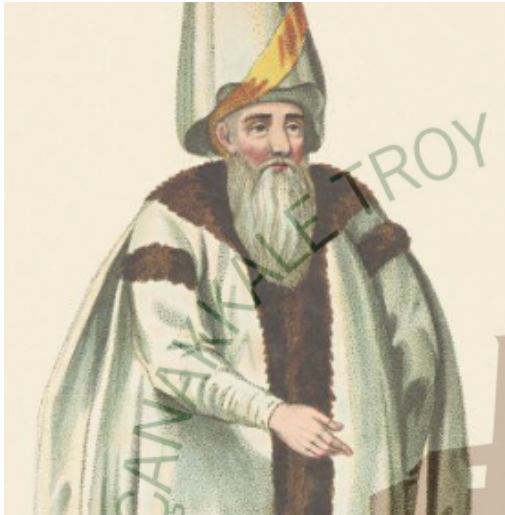
12. İsa Bey



İsa Bey, who participated in the conquests in the Balkans alongside his father, İshak Bey, who was the sanjak governor of Skopje, fought with his brothers in Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, and Bosnia. İsa Bey was among the most significant people for the conquest and stabilization of the Ottoman Power in these areas. Over time, he gained fame as both a commander and an

administrator. In addition to Sarajevo, Īsa Bey is also known as the founder of Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, and Novi Pazar, the largest city in Serbia Sandzak region.

13. Pasha Yigit



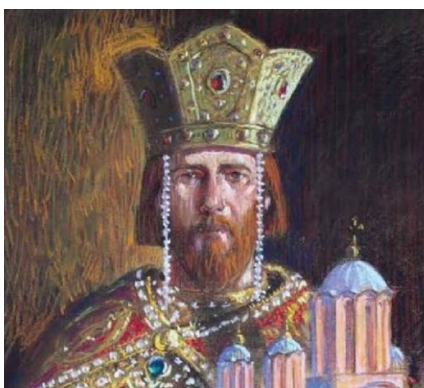
In the heart of the Ottoman Empire, a man of Yörük descent named Pasha Yiğit Bey, born in the historic city of Manisa, showed exceptional qualities from a young age. Impressed by his loyalty and skills, a Sultan granted him and his close friend, Ishak Bey, vast land estates.

As the Ottoman Empire expanded and faced challenges, Pasha Yiğit Bey, became a seasoned military leader.

Pasha Yiğit Bey's dedication to the empire and the lands he oversaw protected and contributed to its flourishing. His story, a legend of braver and heroism, became a testament to those who shaped the grandeur and lasting legacy of the Ottoman Empire.

G. Christians

1. Tvrtko 1 (Kotromanić)



Stephen Tvrtko the first was the first king of Bosnia. A member of the House of Kotromanić, he succeeded his uncle Stephen II in the ban of Bosnia in 1353. As he was a

minor at the time, Tvrtko's father, Vladislav, briefly ruled as regent, followed by Tvrtko's mother, Jelena. Early in his personal rule, Tvrtko quarreled with his country's Roman Catholic clergy but later enjoyed cordial relations with all the religious communities in his realm. After initial difficulties, the loss of large parts of Bosnia to his overlord, King Louis I of Hungary, and being briefly deposed by his magnates, Tvrtko's power grew considerably. He conquered some remnants of the neighboring Serbian Empire in 1373, after the death of its last ruler and his distant relative, Uroš the Weak. In 1377, he had himself crowned king of Bosnia and Serbia, claiming to be the heir of Serbia's extinct Nemanjić dynasty.

As the Kingdom of Bosnia continued to expand, Tvrtko's attention shifted to the Adriatic coast. He gained control of the entire Pomorje and the major maritime cities of the area, established new settlements and started building a navy, but never succeeded in subjugating the lords of the independent Serbian territories. The death of King Louis and the accession of Queen Mary in 1382 allowed Tvrtko to take advantage of the ensuing succession crisis in Hungary and Croatia.

Tvrtko is widely considered one of Bosnia's greatest medieval rulers, having enlarged the country's borders to their greatest extent, left a strong economy, and improved the living standards of his subjects. He was survived by at least one son, Tvrtko II, but was succeeded by Dabiša, under whom Tvrtko's burgeoning realm began to decay.

2. Lazar Hrebeljanović (Lazarević)



Lazar Hrebeljanović was a medieval Serbian ruler who created the largest and most powerful state on the territory of the disintegrated Serbian Empire.

Lazar's state, referred to by historians as Moravian Serbia, comprised the basins of the Great Morava, West Morava, and

South Morava rivers. Lazar ruled Moravian Serbia from 1373. He sought to resurrect the Serbian Empire and place himself at its helm, claiming to be the direct successor of the Nemanjić dynasty. Lazar's programme had the full support of the Serbian Orthodox Church, but the Serbian nobility did not recognize him as their supreme ruler. He is often referred to as Tsar Lazar Hrebeljanović; however, he only held the title of prince.

3. Vlatko Vuković (Kosača)

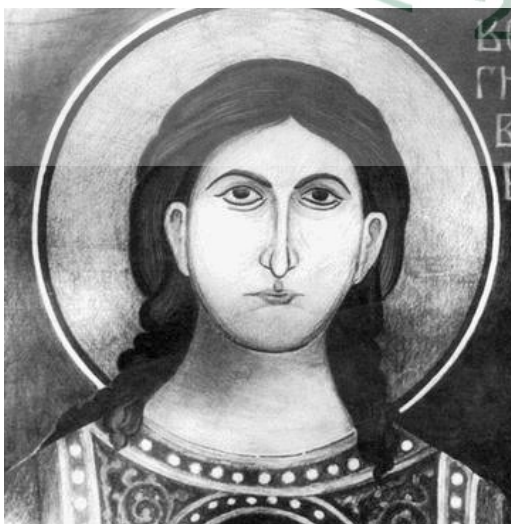


Vlatko Vuković (Kosača) was a good commander and an important person. An ally of the Serbian Prince Lazar. Also, the person who took over the duchy of the Kosaca family.

On August 27, 1388 he became very famous when his army won the great victory against the Turkish army which was led by Lala Şahin Pasha, in the Battle of Bileća. After the war, the Turkish army didn't try any further attacks on Herzegovina for a long time.

After that magnificent victory, he gained great autonomy from Tvrtko I.

4. Vuk Branković



In the heart of Kosovo's Drenica region, the venerable Brankovic family thrived, their lineage steeped in history and tradition. Among them, Vuk Brankovic emerged as a prominent figure.

Following his father's passing, Vuk assumed the mantle of leadership over Drenica, a duty he embraced with unwavering devotion.

However, he aspired to expand his influence beyond the confines of his inherited land, and through strategic alliances and astute diplomacy, he began to extend his dominion over Kosovo and its surrounding regions. A pivotal alliance was formed when Vuk married Mara, the daughter of Prince Lazar, a revered figure in the region.

This union not only strengthened Vuk's position but also symbolized the unity of two powerful families. As a result of his shrewd political maneuvers and respect for tradition, Vuk Brankovic's influence reached far beyond Drenica, establishing him as a prominent figure in the history of Kosovo and its surrounding territories. His legacy, intertwined with the enduring power of honor and ambition, would be remembered for generations to come.

5. Marko Mrnjavčević



Marko Mrnjavčević is also known by the epithet "Kraljević," which means "Prince" or "King's son" in Serbian. Marko Mrnjavčević lived during the 14th century, a period marked by significant political and social changes in the Balkans.

Marko was a Serbian ruler, part of the Mrnjavčević dynasty. He held the title of "knez," which can be translated as "prince" or "duke." He was renowned for his military prowess and participated in various battles against the Ottoman Turks and other regional adversaries. Also he is a central figure in Serbian epic poetry. Numerous epic poems, collectively known as the "Cycle of Marko Kraljević," celebrate his heroic deeds and adventures. According to historical accounts, Marko faced internal conflicts and was

eventually captured and blinded by his brother-in-law, Vuk Branković, allegedly due to betrayal.

6. Konstantin Dragaš (Dejanovic)



Konstantin Dejanović, commonly known as Konstantin Dragaš, was a notable figure in medieval Serbia during the 14th century. Holding the prestigious title of "despot" within the Serbian Empire, he played a crucial role as the governor under the reign of Emperor Dušan the Mighty. Konstantin solidified his position in the ruling elite by marrying Princess Jelena, the sister of Emperor Dušan.

Engaging in the complex political landscape of the time, he navigated alliances and conflicts within the Serbian Empire, particularly during the power struggles that ensued after Emperor Dušan's death in 1355. Konstantin Dragaš was intricately involved in relations with the expanding Ottoman Empire, at times forming alliances and at other times resisting Ottoman advances. Notably, he participated in the Battle of Maritsa in 1371, a significant conflict resulting in a decisive Ottoman victory.

7. Teodor II Muzaka



In the heart of the Balkans, a noble family known as the Muzakas held sway over the Principality of Muzaka.

Among them was Teodor II Muzaka, a man whose name would be remembered for his commitment to faith and the community. In 1383, Teodor II and his

brother Stoya embarked on a remarkable mission in Kastoria, Greece. Guided by the devoted monk Dionysius, they decided to restore an ancient Greek Orthodox church, dedicating it to Athanasius the Great.

This architectural marvel, adorned with Byzantine art, became a symbol of unity and hope for the people of Kastoria, drawing worshipers from far and wide. The church of Athanasius the Great was a testament to the Muzaka family's unwavering commitment to their faith and the well-being of their community. Teodor II, Stoya, and Dionysius left a lasting legacy, their names forever remembered in the annals of Albanian history as beacons of light during a time of great change.

8. King Sigismund



In the heart of medieval Europe, a captivating story unfolded in 1387 when King Sigismund ascended to the thrones of Croatia and Hungary through his marriage to Queen Mary of Hungary. His unconventional path to kingship stirred both intrigue and resentment within the dynasty. King Sigismund's rise to power through matrimony was a source of discontent among the nobility.

They harbored deep reservations about a ruler who hadn't earned his crown through traditional means of valor or conquest. Yet, as the king and queen embarked on their joint rule, their ambitions led to the establishment of the Crusader Union, an alliance aimed at uniting Christian nations against external threats. However, it wasn't long before the division within their court became apparent. The king, renowned for his reluctance in battle, hesitated when the Crusader Union called upon its members to contribute military troops and resources. His perceived cowardice was the source of whispered conversations among his subjects and the nobility.

While Queen Mary, known for her valor and passion, urged her husband to honor their commitment to the alliance, Sigismund remained hesitant. The court watched with bated breath as the destiny of their kingdom and the broader Christian world hung in the balance. The story of Sigismund and Mary became a tale of love, ambition, and the struggle between personal fears and the demands of royalty. The fate of Hungary and Croatia, along with the alliances they forged, depended on the choices of this enigmatic monarch as he grappled with his own apprehensions on the path to leadership.

9. John V Palaiologos



In the tumultuous world of Byzantium, a young boy named John V Palaiologos found himself thrust into the highest seat of power at the tender age of eight. It was the year 1341, and his unexpected ascension to the throne sent shockwaves through the empire, igniting the flames of a bitter civil war that would define his early years as the Byzantine emperor. John V's reign began with a power struggle between his regent, John

VI Kantakouzenos, and a rival council. As the young emperor, he was but a pawn in their political machinations.

The situation became so dire that his mother, Anna, took a drastic step to finance the ongoing conflict. She pawned the precious Byzantine crown jewels to the Venetians, in a desperate bid to fund her son's reign and secure their position. Yet, just as the dust was settling from this internal strife, the empire was struck by another devastating blow.

The dreaded Black Death descended upon Constantinople in 1346, unleashing a merciless plague that would claim the lives of countless

Byzantine subjects, further straining John V's leadership. Amidst this chaos and suffering, the year 1352 brought yet another civil war, as if the empire's troubles were never-ending. Fearing for his own rule and the stability of his realm, John V sought help from the formidable Serbian Empire. The Serbs answered his call, providing much-needed support to bolster his claim to the throne and bring an end to the civil unrest. In 1354, after a series of dramatic events, John V Palaiologos managed to claw his way back into power, reclaiming the Byzantine throne from the clutches of John VI Kantakouzenos and his son Matthew.

It was a triumphant moment for the young emperor, marking the end of an era of internal strife and the beginning of a new chapter for the Byzantine Empire. As John V settled back into his role as emperor, the scars of his tumultuous early years still lingered. His reign would continue to be defined by the challenges and threats that beset his beloved Byzantium, but he had proven himself resilient and determined, willing to navigate the treacherous waters of Byzantine politics in order to ensure the survival of his empire. John V Palaiologos's story, filled with twists and turns, was one of a young boy who rose to power in a time of strife, weathered the storms of civil war and the plague, and ultimately emerged as a symbol of Byzantine resilience and determination.

10. Milos Obilic



In the center of medieval Serbia, amidst the rolling hills and sprawling meadows, lived a man whose name would echo through the corridors of history. Miloš Obilić, a bold and patriotic Serbian knight, was a figure whose deeds would become legendary, etching his name into the annals of Balkan history. Little is known of his early years, as though he had sprung from the very soil of Serbia, a land rich in tradition and noble lineage.

Miloš was born into the Serbian nobility, his bloodline woven with the threads of valor and honor that ran through the region's history. Miloš Obilić's story begins with his service to a man whose name would forever be linked with his own destiny – Prince Lazar Hrebeljanović. This noble and wise ruler had united the Serbian principalities in a bid to confront the challenges facing their land.

In these troubled times, Miloš had married Prince Lazar's daughter, forging a familial bond that ran deeper than mere loyalty. Miloš was renowned not only for his loyalty but also for his courage, qualities that would be tested in the crucible of life. His unwavering determination and valor made him a symbol of Serbian resilience. Miloš Obilić's legacy, enshrined in Serbian epic poetry and folklore, remains a testament to his unwavering spirit and dedication to his people and his homeland. His name, like the very soil from which he hailed, became a beacon of inspiration for generations to come, a reminder of the indomitable spirit of the Serbian people.

11. Balša III



In the year 1378, a young and inexperienced ruler named Balša ascended to the throne of Zeta following his father's passing. He was just seventeen years old, and his mother, Jelena, became his trusted advisor. Together, they set out to reshape the religious landscape of their kingdom. Zeta, at the time, was divided between Orthodox Christianity and Catholicism, with underlying tensions. Jelena, a devout Orthodox Christian, believed in uniting the people through religious reform.

With Balša's support, they passed a groundbreaking statute, making

Orthodox Christianity the official state religion, while Catholicism was granted more freedom. Their decision was met with mixed reactions. Orthodox Christians welcomed the change for its sense of security, while Catholics, who had enjoyed privileges, were cautious. Over time, the kingdom saw a gradual reduction in religious tensions as the two communities learned to coexist more harmoniously. Balša and Jelena's vision for religious unity had a lasting impact, shaping the future of their realm.

12. Pal Kastrioti



In the heart of the Balkans during the late fourteenth century, there lived a remarkable figure named Pal, known as Gjergj Kastrioti. He was a northern Albanian who embodied the spirit of his people in a time of shifting empires and kingdoms. The Kastrioti family, like many of their fellow Albanians in the north, held fast to the Roman Catholic faith. Their ties to the outside world were crucial for their survival and the preservation of their traditions.

They were closely connected to the Republic of Venice, a beacon of culture and trade in the Mediterranean, the Kingdom of Naples, and the Pope, the spiritual leader of the Catholic world. Pal Kastrioti was a man of courage and tenacity, emerging as the first renowned member of his family.

He cultivated his skills as a leader and warrior, navigating the complex web of alliances in a region marked by turbulent conflicts. While Pal's life was marked by battles and strife, his story is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Albanian people, the power of faith, and the enduring bonds

that unite us in times of challenge. His legacy remains as a symbol of honor and heroism, reminding us that even in the most tumultuous eras, there are those who rise to become legends, shaping the destiny of their people and leaving an indelible mark on history.

13. Princess Milica



In a distant era, within the heart of medieval Serbia, lived a remarkable woman named Milica Hrebeljanović. Born into the prestigious Nemanjić family, she had a destiny that would take her from beloved princess to revered empress and queen regent. Milica's life began with a fairy-tale wedding to Prince Lazar Hrebeljanović, a wise and noble ruler of Serbia.

They enjoyed a life filled with love and hope until the kingdom faced tumultuous times. Tragedy struck when Prince Lazar met an untimely end, leaving Milica widowed and heartbroken. With unwavering strength, she took on the role of queen regent, guiding Serbia through the challenges that followed her husband's passing. Her rule was marked by wisdom and grace, as she safeguarded the throne for her son Stefan Lazarević until he reached maturity.

Despite her royal duties, Milica's heart ached for her departed husband, and she turned to poetry to express her love and grief.

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1. What is a JCC and how does it work?

A Joint Crisis Committee usually comprises two groups of delegates/representatives in separate rooms, debating the same, perpetual crisis.

Typically these factions have opposing positions in the crisis and either try to dominate the other side or seek common ground. As a rule, there are no boundaries to a faction's course of action, besides having to remain realistic.

The crisis is presented to the delegates, who can react to it in the form of directives, short one-clause resolutions. These directives influence the outplay of the scenario. Directives will be further explained in the rules of procedure, but here is an example:

"Public Directive: US Blockade of Cuba

US hereby decides that the 3rd carrier strike group shall blockade any shipping bound for Cuba, by all means necessary.

- *US Secretary of Defense*”

If this Directive is submitted, the crisis will change accordingly. For example, if the opposing faction decides to breach the blockade by force, an armed conflict may be sparked. It is through these decisions/actions, that the crisis develops.

Your chairs will act like a delegate whenever it's necessary. More about it in the workshop.

Crisis Updates:

Throughout a crisis session there will be multiple spontaneous crisis updates given by the crisis team. These include the latest developments of the crisis at hand, as well as the results and repercussions of submitted directives.

As an Example:

“Crisis Update No. X October 30th 1962

The reconnaissance plane (sent out in the previous directive) has spotted a soviet submarine near the coast of Florida.

Public opinion of JFK is at an all-time low, due to inaction in the face of the crisis...”

Events:

The scenario's outplay is also affected by random events, such as natural disasters, leaks, other countries' actions, and so on...

Intelligence:

Having more knowledge as the opposing faction is key in facing the crisis. E.g. The reconnaissance planes' findings (from the example above) are not known to the opposing faction, (they don't know their submarine has been spotted). Directives can involve intelligence actions, e.g. spy operations, but are at risk of detection.

Procedure of debate: The debate in this JCC will be held in the following two ways only:

1. **Unmoderated Caucus:** Unmoderated Caucuses in JCC will function identically to those found in conventional Model UN committees: they will serve as informal periods of debate where delegates can physically move across the committee room to approach fellow delegates in colloquial conversation.
2. **Directive Breaks:** Directive Breaks are short recesses in which the crisis team will be given the opportunity to confer and process directives. While directives are being processed by the staff, delegates are encouraged to engage in colloquial debate without leaving their respective seats in the committee room.

Directives

This JCC involves two types of directives:

1. Private Directives:

- A. A private directive can be issued by any delegate and involves actions that are to be taken by assets or institutions under his jurisdiction. E.g. The Prime Minister of Italy may issue a private directive to his intelligence agency to observe/infiltrate a specific place or institution, but he cannot issue a private directive commanding UN Peacekeepers, as those are not under his jurisdiction.

- B. A private directive can be issued without informing other members of the faction.
- C. The outcome of a private directive will be decided by the chairs and the submitter will be given notice individually.

2. Public Directives:

- A. A public directive can be issued by any delegate and involves actions that are to be taken by any assets or institutions under the entire blocks jurisdiction. E.g. The Sec. General of the USSR may issue a public directive to move troops of the Warsaw Pact from Place A to place B
- B. A public directive has to be submitted, proposed to the committee in a speech, and has to be voted on and passed by a simple majority of all members of the faction.
- C. The outcome of a public directive will be decided by the crisis team and the entire faction will be given notice through the next crisis update

Where to go now ?

While the study guide provides much of the knowledge you need to move forward in the committee, we strongly advise you to conduct further research on your roles and delve deeper into the historical contexts in order to fully participate in your committee. It will be worthwhile, we assure you—obviously, to dominate the opposing side!

We will brief you on the process and the subject during the workshop that kicks off the conference. Keep in mind that having prior knowledge will set you apart from other delegates.

If you want to see some live action, you can watch the movie Boj na Kosovu, which is about the Battle of Kosovo. You can also study published books on the subject and learn about the circumstances of the nations that took part in the conflict. For additional study, you can also click on the websites we supplied. Please come prepared; it's an essential for the sustainability of the committee. We wish you the best!

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