



WMUN II

Joint-Crisis Committee

Ayyubid Sultanate

L. Douglas Wilder Middle School Model United Nations

Background Guide

Munzir Eldai Salih

Co-Chair

Sriansh Pabolu

Co-Chair

Letter from the Chairs:

Welcome, honored delegates, to the second iteration of Wilder Model United Nations. If you didn't know already, you're in the JCC Crusades committee. Munzir Salih and Sriansh Pabolu will be your chairs, leading the Islamic Resistance side of the Crusades. Among the committee, there are a few big leaders such as Saladin or even Shams ad-Din. There are some lesser-known leaders, such as the Mamluk Cavalry Commander. You will be trying to take down the Latin Christian side as a team. Good luck. And try not to kill each other.

Munzir is a chair in the GYSA program in Wilder Model UN. He is from Sudan, in the 7th grade, and this is his first year as a chair. In his free time, he enjoys playing video games and playing soccer. Even playing the drums sometimes. He's in some other clubs outside of MUN, such as SCA as the treasurer, and the drum line. He has just started becoming a soccer referee and will soon start his role as a referee. Some people may not agree, but he is an anime enthusiast, being heavily influenced by his brother. His brother even influenced him in music, video games, and even more. He's like his hero.

Sriansh is a chair in the GYSA program in the Wilder Model UN. He is in the 7th grade, and this is his first year as a chair. He is from the United States of America. Whenever he has some spare time, he plays soccer and plays video games. He also plays the piano and the cello. Sriansh also enjoys cooking in his free time.

During this conference, the main topic will be the third JCC Crusade on the Muslim side. The main goal of this conference is to have fun and be successful. To achieve these goals, we must be respectful of each other and of the chairs. Make sure to do extra research on your specific role and find more information than just this background guide. To be eligible for

awards, you must submit a position paper based on your role. Please do not use AI as we can tell if you do. You will be disqualified when we find out. Cite your information in MLA 9 format. Awards are given not only on position papers but your overall performance, assistance, and behavior in the conference.

The conference will take place on March 6-7th

If you have any questions feel free to contact your chairs at:

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Yours truly, Sriansh Pabolu & Munzir Salih

WMUN II

There are 2 topics:

Topic 1: Cause Of the Third Crusade

Topic 2: Battle against Western Europe

Committee Overview:

A Joint Crisis Committee Crusades (JCC Crusades) is when 2 crisis simulation committees in Model United Nations get the same crisis and fight each other. The JCC Crusade simulates The Third Crusade, which lasted from 1189 through 1192, also widely known as the Kings Crusade. This battle was a major military mission led by many Western European leaders to retake Jerusalem, subsequent to its capture by a Muslim commander with great power named Saladin. The Third Crusade was the cause of the fall of Jerusalem in 1187 to the Ayyubid sultan,

Saladin. This deprivation, following the conclusive Crusader defeat at the Battle of Hattin, dismayed Western Europe and encouraged an instantaneous religious and military response.

TOPIC I

Cause Of the Third Crusade

The Third Crusade, AKA Kings' Crusade, started all because of a huge change of power in the Middle East during the late 12th century. For years, the Crusader States had control over Jerusalem. Saladin, a powerful leader, united the regions of Egypt and Syria. This unity allowed Saladin to challenge the Christians residence in the area. In July 1187, Saladin's army managed a major victory at the Battle of Hattin. Then, Saladin captured the King of Jerusalem and defeated almost all of the Christian army. This win for Saladin and his army left Jerusalem unable to defend themselves, leading to them surrendering to Saladin in October of that same year.

Unlike battles in the past that caused utter destruction, Saladin was known for being a fair commander. He let many residents buy their freedom and leave alive.

When Europe was informed of the defeat of Jerusalem, it shocked many, and sadness spread. Pope Gregory VIII responded to Saladin by issuing a certain book called Audita

tremendi. The book informed the people that losing the Holy City was a punishment from God for their sins. The Pope insisted all Christian knights stop fighting among themselves and join a new military campaign to reclaim the city. To encourage people to join, he promised forgiveness of sins for anyone who joined the crusade. This religious motivation made many want to join during the Middle Ages and quickly persuaded the most powerful rulers in Europe to support the cause.

The preparation for the crusade involved three of the most popular kings in history. Emperor Frederick Barbarossa of the Holy Roman Empire was the first to assemble a large army and begin the long march. At the same time, King Philip II of France and King Richard I of England, often rivals, agreed to work together just for the crusade. To fund the costly weapons, ships, and supplies needed for the journey, the kings introduced a new tax called the Saladin Tithe. This tax required citizens to contribute one-tenth of their income to the war effort, demonstrating how serious the European powers were about getting the lost territory back.

By 1189, the early stages of the conflict already started in the Middle East. While the kings traveled from Europe, a former ruler named King Guy of Lusignan began a long siege of the port city of Acre. This city was important for strategy because whoever had control over the docks could receive supplies and reinforcements by sea. Saladin's army surrounded the Crusaders attacking the city, creating a complicated situation where both sides were trapped. This siege became the main focus of the war and set the stage for the arrival of the European kings, marking the official start of the legendary fight between Richard the Lionheart and Saladin.

The Third Crusade included several quite important battles that would determine the outcome of the Holy Land. After the death of Emperor Frederick Barbarossa (who drowned in a river during his journey), the main fighting went to the French and English forces under Philip II and Richard I. The siege of Acre lasted for two whole years and became one of the most brutal conflicts of the entire crusade. Both sides suffered greatly, with disease, starvation, and constant fighting taking a toll on the armies.

King Richard, known as Richard the Lionheart, proved to be an intimidating military commander. He won several victories against Saladin's forces, including the Battle of Arsuf in 1191. However, Saladin had clever tactics, avoiding meeting face to face when possible and using hit-and-run attacks to harass the Crusader forces. The Muslim army used their knowledge of the land to their advantage, setting up ambushes and cutting off supply lines.

One of the most significant parts of this conflict was the personal rivalry that developed between Richard and Saladin. Both leaders respected each other's military abilities, and there are historical accounts of polite exchanges between them, even as their armies fought harshly. This mutual respect added a unique side to the warfare, with both sides showing mercy or engaging in diplomatic discussions every now and then.

Topic 1: Cause Of the Third Crusade

Topic 2: Battle Against Western Europe

TOPIC II

Battle Against Western Europe

When the three leading Christian monarchs finally reached the eastern Mediterranean, the conflict escalated quickly. Emperor Frederick Barbarossa arrived first, but after he drowned in the River Saleph, his forces broke apart and returned back to Germany. The remaining kings, Richard I of England and Philip II of France, continued by sea and landed outside Acre in June 1191. Their arrival transformed the existing siege into a full-scale battle.

Acre had been under siege since the previous summer. Muslim troops had pressed the Latin attackers against the walls. However, the intruders brought massive timber towers, traction catapults, and experienced engineers. Ships supplied the Crusaders each night, offsetting Ayyubid attempts to cut the seaborne lifeline. After six weeks of barrages and mining, the city's defenses failed. Upon the Muslims' surrendering, Richard ordered the public execution of 2,700 Muslim prisoners when payment of the agreed ransom was delayed. The act hardened Muslim determination and increased resistance.

Saladin responded by withdrawing inland along the ridge that links the coast to Jerusalem. Units of lightly armored horse-archers attacked the Latin columns day after day, raining down on them with arrows and retreating before a counter-attack could form. Wells and reservoirs were filled or poisoned to deny water to the advancing enemy. Near the forest of

Arsuf, the Ayyubid right wing executed a fake retreat that nearly collapsed Richard's left. Only a trained charge by the Knights Templar restored the Christian line, but deaths on both sides were severe enough to stop further movement for nearly a month.

To protect Jerusalem, engineers created fresh earthworks on the plateau above Hattin, site of the 1187 victory. Trenches with wooden stakes were dug each evening so that any cavalry assault would encounter broken ground. Messengers rode south to Egypt for additional Mamluk pay and east to Yemen for grain convoys. The sultan's council agreed to preserve the holy city without risking the army in a single decisive battle unless Richard attempted a siege.

Weeks of dodging followed. The Crusaders advanced close enough to glimpse the Dome of the Rock, a shrine in Jerusalem, yet their army decreased daily from sickness, shipwreck, and abandonment. European leaders, anxious about inheritance arguments at home, re-embarked for the West. Tiredness finally drove both parties to negotiate. Beneath a palm grove outside Ramla, representatives created a treaty in the autumn of 1192. Jerusalem remained controlled under Muslim governance, while unarmed Latin pilgrims happily received safe passage for three years. The coastal strip from Jaffa all the way to Tyre was demilitarized, and Richard sailed away. The Third Crusade ended without the holy city changing hands, and the Muslim position in Syria and Egypt emerged intact.

