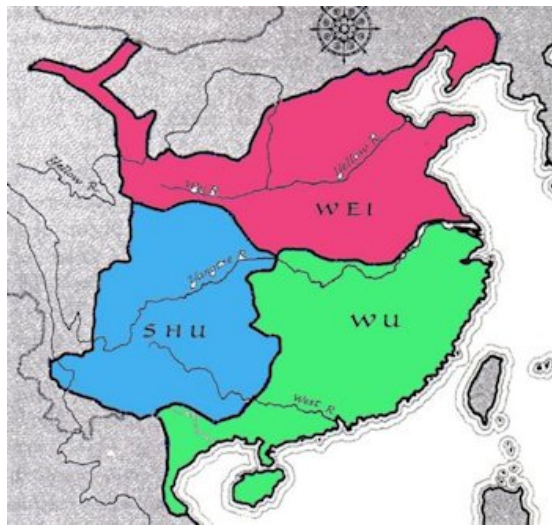


JCC Conquest of China: Shu Han

Thomas Jefferson Model United Nations Conference

TechMUN XXXI



High School Crisis Committee

Co-Chairs: Matt Sprintson and Jordan Hadjimichael

Committee Director: Aditi Kodukula

JCC Director: Rohith Yelisetty

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

April 12th-13th, 2024

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the JCC Conquest of China: Shu Han committee at TechMUN XXVI this April! We're excited for a weekend of lively debate and unique crisis arcs. This committee will be conducted in a three-way joint crisis committee format, with interconnected backrooms. This means that you can expect the events of one committee to affect another. To ensure smooth backroom logistics, we'll be utilizing a two-pad system. Each delegate will have one pad with them, while the second pad remains with the backroom team.

In regards to the types of delegates we're looking for, we want individuals who can bring creativity to the table and make a real impact, both in their speeches and behind the scenes in the backroom. Leadership matters, but we're more interested in leaders who can inspire collaboration, especially across committees, and fresh ideas. This conference is your chance to think outside the box and come up with innovative directives that can shape the direction of the committee. Don't be afraid to take calculated risks and explore new approaches. Lastly, no forms of harassment, bullying, or plagiarism will be tolerated.

No matter your background or experience level, our goal is to make sure TechMUN XXVI is a conference you'll remember. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact us at shuhantechmun2024@gmail.com. Let's make this conference a memorable experience filled with creativity and teamwork!

Best regards,

Matt Sprintson, Jordan Hadjimichael, and Aditi Kodukula

JCC Conquest of China: Shu Han

Introduction of the Shu Han Empire

The Three Dynasties Period (220-280 A.D.) ushered in a turbulent period in Chinese history after the destruction of the once mighty Han Dynasty. Of the three major dynasties that emerged during this turbulent period, the Shu Han dynasty played a major role in shaping the political fabric of ancient China. When it was founded by the charming Liu Bei in 221, Shu Han sought to restore the Han heritage, emphasizing benevolent rule and religion as its guiding principles.

Shu Han had its ups and downs under Liu Bei's successors, especially his son Liu Shan and the master strategist Zhuge Liang. Zhuge Liang's military intelligence and diplomatic prowess played a key role in the challenges of the allies contest, especially the northern powerful Cao Wei with the competition brought within forces. Become a center of organizing.**

Despite his many victories, Shu Han struggled with internal strife and a lack of resources. The ambitious northern campaigns led by Zhuge Liang to conquer the Wei area were initially successful but ultimately defeated in 234 CE. Zhuge Liang's death in 271. Liu Shan's death in 271 further weakened Shu Han's resolve. In 280 CE, Wei General Sima Zhao struck the final blow, leading to the overthrow of Shu Han and the eventual reunification of China under the Jin Dynasty in 280 CE.

This committee begins in 230 AD, when the Three Kingdoms first emerged. With that in mind, this JCC will navigate the power struggle among the Wei dynasty, Shu Han, and Eastern Wu as they vie for control over the heartlands of China. In regards to the timeline for this committee, you can expect it to traverse from the beginning of the Three Kingdoms to their turbulent ending. That being said, the committee arc will be flexible and it will primarily be dictated by the decisions you all make.

Topic 1: Battle of the Three Dynasties

Background:

Embarking on an adventure through the passageways of China, the Three Kingdoms Period comes alive as a captivating segment spanning from 220 to 280 CE, characterized by political complexities, tales of warfare, and the unyielding quest for dynastic dominance. The beginning of this era can be linked to the collapse of the powerful Han Dynasty leading to the division of the Chinese empire into three key states – Wei, Wu, and Shu Han. This significant division, triggered by conflicts, regional power struggles, and the emergence of leaders laid the groundwork for a prolonged and eventful period in Chinese history. Influential factors like palace intrigues, economic challenges, and a succession of rulers, within the Han Dynasty played a role in this separation resulting in a power vacuum that local chiefs aimed to exploit. In 221 CE amidst these circumstances, Liu Bei founded the Shu Han Dynasty with foresight. Became a guiding light amid times. As we explore the intricacies of these state dynamics during the early 3rd century CE era when strategies clashed with diplomacy and military skills took center stage – we witness a defining aspect of this fascinating historical narrative.

Current Situation:

The grand empire that once stood united was shattered into three pieces - Wei ruling the north, Wu commanding the east, and Shu Han holding sway in the southwest. This fracturing opened the floodgates of bitter rivalry as each kingdom thirsted to become the supreme ruler of all China. Control over territory became the fiercest battleground. Wei, Wu, and Shu Han each hungered to spread their dominion far and wide across the vast lands. But their struggle went beyond mere land - it cut to the heart of an ancient debate on heaven's mandate and who held the legitimate claim to the sacred imperial throne. This spiritual dimension layered complexity atop an already tangled web of military clashes, shifting alliances, and cunning power plays.

Nestled in its strategic heartland of Chengdu, Shu Han found itself a prime target for the machinations of both Wu and Wei. Each kingdom angled for advantageous alliances while probing for weaknesses to exploit in their rival's armor. This kaleidoscope of military posturing and diplomatic intrigue unfolded under the shadow of a fractured realm plagued by the woes of resource scarcity and civil strife - formidable foes that continually dogged Shu Han's ambitions. The competition for scarce resources amid the devastation of prolonged war left all three kingdoms grappling to keep their economic lifeblood flowing. But Shu Han's southwestern territory dealt it a particularly harsh hand when it came to sustaining agricultural productivity and securing critical resources. This scarcity constrained not just their military might, but also shaped their diplomatic strategies as rulers fought to forge alliances vital to upholding their geopolitical dreams.

Within Shu Han's own borders, further turmoil brewed. The deaths of key figures, succession crises, and the wavering allegiances of powerful generals tore rifts through the kingdom's unity. Such internal strife eroded Shu Han's position from within even as external pressures mounted. With a weakened hand, they found their ability to bargain from a place of strength sorely diminished. It becomes clear that the interplay between Shu Han, Wu, and Wei was molded by more than just military force and diplomatic maneuvers. Internal plagues of dissent and resource constraints powerfully shaped the struggle as each kingdom clawed for supremacy over the shattered realm of China. The Three Kingdoms period had begun its epoch of bitter rivalries, heroic battles, and Machiavellian intrigues that would etch its legends into history's tapestry.

Possible Solutions:

As you navigate the intricate relationships with Wei and Wu during our time in the Three Kingdoms period, consider employing a multifaceted approach. Seek diplomatic solutions by forging alliances strategically, and balancing the power dynamics between our rivals. Military campaigns can be instrumental – target one rival to weaken them, making negotiations with the other more favorable. Embrace political maneuvering, form alliances with smaller states, and exploit divisions within Wei and Wu for strategic advantage. Cultivate cultural and economic ties to establish a stable foundation for relations, reducing the risk of conflict. Most importantly, remain adaptable, adjusting strategies to the ever-changing circumstances on the battlefield and in the political arena. By combining these approaches, we may navigate this complex period with greater success.

Questions to Consider:

- 1) What are the key root causes of discrepancies between the three kingdoms?
- 2) How can ordinary people in the dynasty contribute to its well-being?
- 3) What is more important - diplomacy or military strength in these conquests?

Helpful Links:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Shu-Han-dynasty>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Three-Kingdoms-ancient-kingdoms-China>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26EivpCPHnQ>

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https://en.chinaculture.org/library/2008-02/10/content_22749.htm. Accessed 4 March 2024.

“Shu Han Dynasty | History, Accomplishments & Decline.” *Study.com*, 21 January 2023,

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/shu-han-overview-dynasty-decline.html>. Accessed 4 March 2024.

“Three Kingdoms | History, Chinese States, & Facts.” *Britannica*, 29 February 2024,

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Three-Kingdoms-ancient-kingdoms-China>. Accessed 4 March 2024.

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Topic 2: The Toll of War on the Shu Han Economy

Background:

In the turbulent era of the Three Kingdoms, the Shu Han Dynasty finds itself grappling with the profound toll of incessant warfare on its once-thriving economy. At the heart of Shu Han's economic structure lies a predominantly agrarian foundation, with agriculture serving as the backbone of the kingdom's prosperity. The fertile lands along the Yangtze River and the Chengdu Plain have historically yielded bountiful harvests, sustaining both the populace and the royal coffers. However, the relentless conflicts with the Wei and Wu dynasties have disrupted the agricultural rhythm, plunging Shu Han into a ceaseless struggle to maintain agricultural productivity. The incessant mobilization of manpower for military campaigns depletes the workforce available for farming, leading to diminished crop yields and increased strain on the kingdom's ability to feed its people. The economic woes are further exacerbated by the extensive infrastructure damages incurred during military engagements. The construction of roads, bridges, and irrigation systems—essential for the efficient functioning of the agrarian economy—falls victim to the ravages of war. The maintenance of these crucial components becomes a luxury amid the urgent demands of defense and military mobilization.

Trade routes, once bustling with commerce, now face disruptions due to the constant threat of incursions from rival forces. Merchants, once the lifeblood of Shu Han's economy, find themselves navigating perilous territories, and the flow of goods diminishes. As a consequence, the kingdom's revenue from trade diminishes, compounding the strain on the already overstretched financial resources. The depletion of the treasury is a pressing concern for Shu Han's rulers, as it limits their capacity to fund both military endeavors and essential public services. Taxes levied on the populace to finance the wars further burden the citizens, creating a

cyclical strain on the economy as the people struggle to meet their basic needs. The toll on the economy also extends to the currency. Devaluations and the issuance of inflated currency, driven by the urgency to meet the financial demands of the military, contribute to a weakening economic foundation. Hyperinflation, coupled with scarcity of resources, inflicts hardships upon the common people, straining the delicate balance between rulers and the ruled. The scars of war are not solely financial; they extend to the fabric of society itself. Displaced populations, fleeing the ravages of conflict, strain the resources of regions untouched by warfare. The demand for basic necessities skyrockets, leading to an inflationary spiral that exacerbates the economic challenges faced by Shu Han. In essence, the Shu Han Dynasty, once flourishing with economic vitality, now contends with the grim reality of a war-ravaged landscape. The echoes of military campaigns reverberate through the kingdom's economic foundations, challenging its leaders to find innovative solutions to rebuild what has been fractured and to navigate a path toward recovery in the face of relentless conflict.

Current Situation:

In addition to the various effects mentioned above, one of the most poignant manifestations of the toll of war on the Shu Han economy is the distressing phenomenon of widespread job loss. As conflict unfolds, industries critical for employment and economic stability suffer debilitating blows. Factories and manufacturing plants, essential components of vibrant economies, face disruptions due to damage inflicted by warfare or a redirection of resources toward the military. Trade, often a source of livelihood for countless individuals, contracts as routes become perilous, leading to layoffs in the transportation and logistics sectors. The agricultural workforce, traditionally a substantial employer, dwindles as able-bodied individuals are conscripted into military service. The spiraling economic downturn prompts

businesses to scale back or shut down entirely, exacerbating unemployment rates. The once bustling urban centers witness the closure of shops, restaurants, and services, leaving many jobless. The ripple effect extends to service industries, as reduced consumer spending and financial instability force cutbacks. Joblessness, a grim consequence of war, not only strips individuals of their livelihoods but also inflicts lasting scars on the socio-economic fabric of communities, compounding the broader challenges faced by a nation at war.

Possible Solutions:

In the face of the pervasive issue of job loss during these turbulent times, residents of our great dynasty can collectively explore innovative solutions to alleviate the economic strain. Firstly, fostering local agricultural initiatives could help mitigate the impact on the agrarian workforce by ensuring sustainable farming practices. Collaborative efforts to repair and fortify damaged infrastructure would not only stimulate job creation but also rejuvenate essential economic networks. Encouraging the development of small-scale industries and trade within our own territories could counterbalance the losses incurred from disrupted external commerce. Additionally, investing in vocational training programs and diversifying skill sets would empower individuals to transition to new employment opportunities emerging from evolving economic needs. Forming community-based support networks to aid businesses facing closure could further safeguard local employment. By implementing these localized and collaborative solutions, we stand a chance at revitalizing our economy, fostering resilience, and mitigating the adverse effects of widespread job loss in our cherished dynasty.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can we approach saving the economy from the military side, rather than the economic side?

2. How do “ordinary people” in the government directly relate to this issue, and how can they help solve it?
3. What should be prioritized - military resources or jobs for civilians?

Helpful Links:

<http://www.chinaknowledge.de/History/Division/shuhan.html>

<https://www.asiaculturaltravel.co.uk/the-kingdome-of-shu-han/>

<https://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/warringstates.htm>

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Dossier (All individuals are fictitious)

Dio Nah - Military General

Born into a prestigious military family and trained from a young age in the art of war, his loyalty and bravery on the battlefield earned him the title of General in the Shu Han army. His interests lie in ensuring the kingdom is never threatened by foreign attacks.

Li Mei - Herbal Healer

A talented healer who dedicated her life to studying medicine, she travels with the army. Working on tending to wounded soldiers, she is therefore extremely critical in Shu Han's military department. She and Dio Nah share a deep bond, as he once saved her from an ambush.

Guo Xiu - Shu Han Scholar

Being a highly educated scholar, he advises the government on strategy and governance matters. He was childhood friends with Dio Nah, and their paths crossed again when they both joined the cause to protect the kingdom.

Liu Mei - Provincial Governor

As a wise and just governor, he manages the affairs of the Shu Han province. He was childhood friends with Guo Xiu and Dio Nah, and their friendship strengthened their commitment to the kingdom. His priorities remain within his people, especially when responding to danger and other issues.

Bān Da - Spy Master

A cunning and resourceful spy master, his work entails gathering intelligence to safeguard Shu Han's interests. He has a mysterious past, and rumored to have connections within the government. His intentions towards the kingdom will never truly be known, but he has maintained his loyalty for now.

Wang Lei - Blacksmith

Though born a commoner, he possesses exceptional skills in blacksmithing. His weapons are sought after by the Shu Han army for their precision and beauty, making him well known by military workers.

Lady Su Bao - Noblewoman

As a noblewoman, she is widely known for her generosity and charitable works. She supports Li Mei's medical efforts and often collaborates with Liu Mei on social welfare projects. Some of these charitable events often involve tea parties, for which she works with Seh Tiu to plan.

Zhang Wei - Military Strategist

A brilliant strategist, his tactical genius has played a crucial role in Shu Han's military successes for the last 15 years. He is always consulted before large changes in military decisions are made and knows the ins and outs of the army. He is a close friend of Guo Xiu and often seeks his advice on political matters.

Ma Liang - Painter

He is a renowned painter, whose artwork captures the essence of Shu Han's beauty. His art is appreciated by all in Shu Han, especially those studying philosophy and culture, due to his brilliant usage of traditional ink and brush painting.

Xia Hou - Diplomat

A skilled diplomat, he negotiates alliances and treaties on behalf of Shu Han. He was once a childhood friend of Liu Mei and now uses those connections to strengthen the kingdom's position. Xia Hou is the first confronted when discussing relations between the other two kingdoms.

Cai Yan - Cultural Artist

As a talented poet and musician, her work inspires the people of Shu Han. She and Ma Liang often collaborate, creating cultural masterpieces that celebrate the kingdom's spirit, featured during the yearly Lantern Festival, bringing together the entire kingdom.

Yang Feng - Cavalry Commander

As a seasoned cavalry commander of 27 years, he has been tasked with protecting Shu Han's state borders. He has a professional relationship with Dio Nah, relying on the general's leadership in joint military operations. His priorities remain on recruiting more young men to join his cause.

Chen Jie - Pan-China Affairs Minister

Being an eloquent and diplomatic emissary who represents Shu Han in dealings with other kingdoms, he works directly under Xia Hou when making his visits, and also has many connections in both Wei and Wu.

Sun Li - Farmer and Ex-Warrior

Once a feared warrior, he is a humble farmer who retired from the Shu Han military after being severely wounded in battle. His resilience and hard work caught the attention of Liu Mei, who appointed him as an advisor on agricultural matters. He remains close friends with government officials, who thank him for his service.

Lu Yan - Architect

A visionary architect, he is responsible for designing and constructing important buildings and other structures in Shu Han. He is often tasked by the government in times of war when building security borders and other preventative structures is necessary.

Yi Shua - Ceremonial Master

He is responsible for organizing and overseeing important ceremonies and events in Shu Han, especially the Lunar New Year and Lantern Festival. He shares a bond with Cai Yan, who often performs at these events, as well as with Ma Liang, also featured.

Xu Jing - Cartographer

As a skilled cartographer, his job is to map out the kingdom's territories. His accurate maps aid the military in strategic planning. Zhang Wei often consults with him to gain insights into the geography of the region.

Ruo Gua - Finance Director

He is a meticulous financial expert responsible for managing Shu Han's treasury. His expertise ensures the kingdom's economic stability. Due to the state of war constantly taking a toll on government expenses, Ruo Gua has been tasked with minimizing those. He often collaborates with Zhang Wei to balance financial and political strategies.

Zhu Jin - Artisan

As a master artisan renowned for crafting exquisite pieces, he is most famous for his work with bronze and clay sculpting. His creations are often gifted to foreign dignitaries with the help of Xia Hou. Lady Su Bao also supports his work as part of Shu Han's cultural diplomacy efforts.

Deng Yi - Court Astrologer

As a court astrologer, he interprets celestial signs to guide decision-making. His predictions have proven invaluable in military campaigns. Guo Xiu values his insights into the cosmic balance.

Ya Ni Ruo - Botanist

He is a passionate botanist studying the flora of Shu Han. His expertise aids Li Mei in discovering medicinal herbs, contributing to the kingdom's healthcare and well-being.

Huang Rong - Messenger

As a swift and reliable courier, he is responsible for delivering critical messages between generals and officials. His quick thinking and resourcefulness have saved lives on numerous occasions. At any given point, he has access to messages going in and out of the government.

Chen Feng - Scroll Guardian

He is the guardian of Shu Han's vast collection of historical texts and scrolls. He plays a crucial role in preserving the kingdom's knowledge and cultural heritage.

Wu Ying - Animal Trainer

She is a skilled animal trainer, who works with the Shu Han cavalry. Her bond with horses and other animals is extremely unique, and her expertise enhances the kingdom's military capabilities. She works closely with Yang Feng, the cavalry commander.

Seh Tiu - Tea Master

Being a revered tea master, his blends are enjoyed by both commoners and officials. His tea ceremonies serve as a symbol of unity and harmony in Shu Han's diverse society. Lady Su Bao often hosts tea gatherings to foster social bonds, during which he works with her.