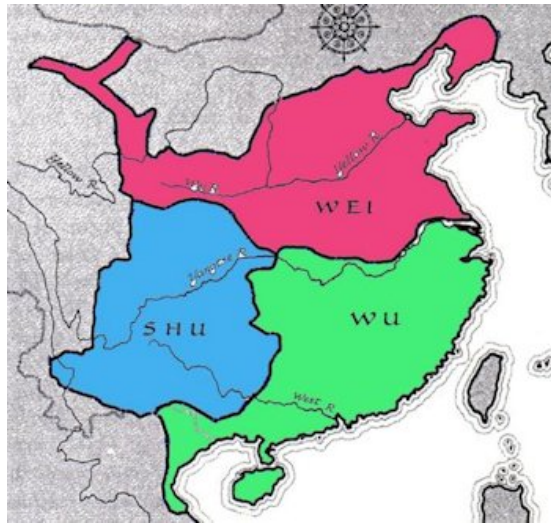


JCC Conquest of China: Cao Wei

Thomas Jefferson Model United Nations Conference

TechMUN XXXI



High School Crisis Committee

Co-Chairs: Zac Baker and Zarif Azher

Committee Director: Raghav Kasi

JCC Director: Rohith Yelisetty

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

April 12th-13th, 2023

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the JCC Conquest of China: Cao Wei 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 caoweitechmun2024@gmail.com Let's make this conference a memorable experience filled with creativity and teamwork!

Best regards,

Zac Baker, Zarif Azher, and Raghav Kasi

JCC Conquest of China: Cao Wei

Introduction of Cao Wei

The early 3rd century saw the birth of the Cao Wei Empire, a significant player during the Three Kingdoms period of Chinese history. Its foundations were laid by Cao Cao, a military general and warlord who rose to power amidst the chaos following the decline of the Eastern Han Dynasty, which officially ended in 220 AD. Under the leadership of Cao Cao and later his son, Cao Pi, the empire was formally established when Cao Pi forced the last Han emperor to abdicate in his favor, declaring himself the first emperor of the Wei dynasty in 220 AD. This act marked the end of the Han Dynasty and the beginning of a new era divided among three rival states: Wei, Shu, and Wu, each gunning for control over China.

The Cao Wei Empire's territory primarily covered the northern and central parts of China, an area known for its fertile lands and strategic importance. From its capital, Luoyang, the empire was governed through a centralized bureaucracy, a system that enabled efficient administration and military organization. This period was marked by significant achievements in various fields, including military innovations, literature, and arts, contributing to the rich cultural legacy of ancient China. Despite its strengths, the Cao Wei Empire faced continuous threats from its rivals, leading to numerous military campaigns and alliances.

This committee starts in 230 AD, shortly after 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:

The fall of the Han Dynasty, caused by a combination of internal and external pressures, was a turning point for Chinese history. Reigning for nearly 400 years, the Han Dynasty brought a period of economic stability and advancements in the arts and sciences. However, as the dynasty aged, it began to suffer from several problems that would eventually lead to its downfall.

For one, the Han Dynasty faced rampant corruption throughout the imperial court with officials and the eunuchs wielding disproportionate power and influence over the royal family. This corruption weakened the central government's ability to effectively govern and maintain control over its vast territories. Additionally, heavy taxation led to widespread discontent and social unrest from the lower classes, further destabilizing the empire. Secondly, the Han Dynasty was challenged by the increasing threat of nomadic tribes from the north and west, most notably the Xiongnu. Despite military campaigns to resist these invasions, the constant warfare drained the empire's resources and contributed to its financial strain.

The culmination of these internal and external pressures led to a series of peasant rebellions, the most famous being the Yellow Turban Rebellion in 184 CE. Although the rebellion was eventually quelled, it significantly weakened the Han Dynasty, paving the way for regional ministers and warlords to attempt for power. The continuous struggle among these warlords ultimately fragmented the empire, marking the end of the Han Dynasty and the beginning of the Three Kingdoms period. Although short lived, these three kingdoms were crucial to the timeline of modern Chinese history.

Current Situation:

With all three of the kingdoms attempting to unite China under one central government, tensions rose. As aforementioned, this committee will take place around 230 AD, right after all

three kingdoms were formed. The Cao Wei empire, commonly regarded as the most powerful of the three, was pressured by the Wu and the Shu from the south. This led to a variety of different tensions within China itself. Moreover, with the northern groups above the Chinese territory placing additional pressure, the safety of the Cao Wei empire was at stake. The strong naval capabilities of the Eastern Wu also proved to be a risk for the Cao Wei Dynasty's security. It is vital that peace be kept, and that solutions exist to allow for all three kingdoms to coexist, peacefully.

Possible Solutions:

Throughout this committee, we ask you all to find solutions that can allow for the mutual development of all three kingdoms. One such solution is mutual non-aggression pacts between the kingdoms which can create a more stable regional environment, allowing each state to focus on internal development rather than external threats. These agreements, coupled with a system for conflict resolution and arbitration, could significantly lower the chances of armed conflict. Secondly, establishing a tripartite council comprising representatives from Wei, Shu, and Wu could facilitate regular dialogue and negotiation, reducing the likelihood of misunderstandings and conflicts. This council would serve as a platform for discussing grievances, territorial disputes, and other issues in a structured and peaceful manner. Consider the implications for the common people and how external threats from other regions can be mitigated.

Questions to Consider:

- 1) How can peace be maintained between all three kingdoms?
- 2) What are the implications of armed conflict for the common people such as peasants and the working-class?

3) How can risks from other regions (For example, states north of China) be mitigated while also ensuring the Cao Wei Kingdom's sovereignty.

Helpful Links:

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26EivpCPHnQ&t=330s>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Wei-kingdom>

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



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“Kingdom of Wei.” *ChinaCulture*,

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

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

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

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“Timeline of the Three Kingdoms period.” *Wikipedia*,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Three_Kingdoms_period. Accessed 4 March 2024.

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Topic 2: Navigating Ethnic Tensions in Cao Wei

Background:

Throughout the reign of the Cao Wei Empire, there was a distinction between the Han Chinese majority and various non-Han ethnic groups, including the Xianbei, Qiang, and Di peoples. Occupying the peripheral regions of the empire, these groups often wielded semi-autonomous power, posing challenges to the central authority of the Wei rulers. The Han Chinese, with their long-established cultural and political dominance, held suspicions towards these non-Han citizens, frequently labeling them as barbarians, despite the significant contributions these groups made to the well being of the empire.

The non-Han groups brought with them diverse practices, military tactics, and cultural perspectives that enriched the Cao Wei Empire. They played crucial roles in defending the empire's borders and expanding its territories, demonstrating remarkable bravery and skills in battles against external threats and in quelling internal rebellions. Their prowess on the battlefield was often instrumental in securing victories for the empire, highlighting their indispensable role in maintaining the empire's stability and security.

Furthermore, the interactions between the Han Chinese and the non-Han groups led to significant cultural exchanges. These exchanges included the adoption of non-Han clothing styles, music, and dance by the Han Chinese, and vice versa, indicating a level of cultural assimilation and appreciation that went beyond mere military alliances. These cultural blends were particularly evident in the border regions, where communities often comprised a mix of ethnicities living and working together.

In the governmental sector, some non-Han individuals rose to prominent positions within the Cao Wei government, contributing their expertise and local knowledge to the governance of

the empire. Despite these contributions, the non-Han peoples' status within the empire remained ambivalent. The Han Chinese elite's perception of cultural superiority persisted, often overshadowing the recognition of the non-Han groups' contributions. This perception was reinforced by historical narratives that emphasized the Han Chinese's role in establishing and maintaining the empire, while the narratives of the non-Han peoples were marginalized or portrayed in a negative light.

Current Situation:

The Cao Wei dynasty's strategy to mitigate the impacts of ethnic tensions within its people employed two primary methods. On one hand, it pursued a military approach, launching campaigns and building fortifications to suppress uprisings and secure its frontiers against non-Han groups. On the other hand, it sought to assimilate these communities through policies that included marriage alliances, conferral of official titles, and encouraging the adoption of Han Chinese cultural norms. This approach aimed at integrating non-Han peoples into the imperial fold, yet it faced significant challenges and was not always effective in mitigating ethnic tensions. Periodic rebellions led by non-Han leaders underscored the persistent divides and the limitations of the Wei governance model.

Moreover, the dynasty's reliance on non-Han military leaders and soldiers introduced additional complexities. While this practice enhanced the military strength of the Wei, it also ignited resentment among Han Chinese elites, who were wary of non-Han individuals ascending to positions of influence. This internal friction was compounded by the dynasty's efforts at sinicization — imposing Han administrative systems, language, and customs on conquered peoples. Although intended to foster unity, these measures often spurred resistance and a desire among non-Han communities to maintain their unique identities.

Despite these hurdles, there were instances of successful cooperation and assimilation between Han Chinese and non-Han groups within the Cao Wei empire. Marriages, alliances, and the inclusion of non-Han leaders in the imperial aristocracy facilitated some degree of integration and mutual understanding. However, the underlying ethnic tensions persisted, highlighting the complexities of ruling a diverse empire in a period marked by significant upheaval.

The impact of these ethnic dynamics on Cao Wei's relations with the rival kingdoms of Shu and Wu cannot be understated. In addressing these tensions, it is crucial for the Wei to navigate the delicate balance between military enforcement and cultural integration, understanding that the loyalty and unity of its diverse populace are essential for maintaining stability and projecting strength outward. These internal challenges underscore the broader task of governing a vast and heterogeneous empire, reflecting the nuanced and multifaceted nature of imperial rule during one of China's most tumultuous eras.

Possible Solutions:

Addressing such issues can be intricate, as it necessitates a thoughtful consideration of the ethical principles involved in tackling these challenges. Cultural norms, deeply ingrained in certain communities, cannot be altered solely through policy changes. Moreover, diminishing the influence of a dominant group could lead to social unrest. It's imperative to weigh various factors, and I encourage you all to investigate every potential avenue for resolution.

In this context, one potential approach could be the adoption of a zero-tolerance policy towards discrimination, coupled with the assurance of equal pay and labor rights for individuals across all groups, irrespective of their caste or sub-caste. However, this strategy might entail its own set of repercussions. Given the historical context, it's crucial to devise solutions that aim to accommodate the needs and satisfactions of the broadest possible spectrum of individuals. This

approach requires a delicate balance, seeking to harmonize respect for cultural traditions with the imperative for social justice and equality.

Questions to Consider:

How do the ethnic tensions within the Cao Wei Empire influence its foreign policy and diplomatic relations with neighboring states?

What impact does ethnic tensions have on the stability and governance of the Cao Wei Empire?

How can the presence of multiple ethnic groups influence the military strategies of the Cao Wei Empire?

Helpful Links:

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26EivpCPHnQ&t=330s>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Wei-kingdom>

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Dossier (All individuals are fictitious)

Ta-Ni Shan - Imperial Strategist

Ta-Ni is the mastermind behind the kingdom's military and political strategies, and he is trusted by the emperor. He has connections through much of the military. He is also in charge of training new members of the kingdom's administrators. Although short in nature, Ta-Ni Shan walks into battle before the horn is even blown.

Na Ru - Minister of Commerce

Na Ru plays an important role in the kingdom's communication with the rest of Asia. However, she resents her supposed lover, Ta-Ni Shan due to his short stature. Na Ru is also known for her mystique and charm throughout the empire, and has had affairs with members of the other kingdoms. Her loyalty to the Cao Wei Empire is often questionable.

Ru Shi - Keeper of Records

Guardian of the kingdom's archives, Ru Shi's role is pivotal in advising on historical precedents. He manages the Kingdom's expansive libraries, which include many classified texts. He is also well known throughout the kingdom for his superb memory. He believes that the Cao Wei Empire should reunite with the other kingdoms for peace.

Tao Wa - Royal Steward

Responsible for the royal household, Tao Wa is responsible for overseeing all the servants of the royal palace. In her free time, she also coordinates for the palace's dance programs, which are renowned throughout the kingdom and often include dangerous acts using fire. She is currently the wife of Xin Ta, who is the treasury official.

Ri An - Agriculture Chief

Ri An's expertise in crop management and agricultural innovation feeds the kingdom. He was once a social man, however, many people disliked him due to his unorthodox nature. He owns a few small farms throughout the south-east Cao Wei empire. Ri An now prefers solitude oftentimes and occasionally throws tantrums throughout his job.

Xin Ta- Treasury Official

With an astute eye for detail and a firm grasp of fiscal matters, Xin Ta ensures the stability and prosperity of the kingdom's economy, safeguarding its wealth for the benefit of all its citizens. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Tao Wa.

Cai Lin - Foreign Affairs Envoy

Cai Lin's diplomacy shapes the kingdom's relations with neighbors. Cai Lin was once a concubine of Pu Jia-Ri. Cai Lin spends her time strolling through the kingdom often neglecting

duty. Because of this, she has many friends throughout the local governments. She also runs a local gossiping network that spreads the latest information using letters through the kingdom.

Ru Han - Court Astrologer

Ru Han provides divine guidance, and thought to the royalty. He is often the shortest person in the room, which allows him to navigate through the most crowded of places. He is known to be very superstitious and a conspiracy theorist with many radical followers. But as he says it, he follows the destiny of the stars. He also participates in many of the dance performances made by Tao Wa.

Ni-Sha Cao - Western Territory Governor

Ni-Sha Cao's governance ensures the western territories remain loyal and prosperous. She is known for being very intimidating, due to her large nature. Many people throughout the kingdom fear her as she has very close connections with Cai Lin. She owns a large garden which contains the finest flowers from the meadows of western Cao-Wei. People often come from far and wide to purchase her plants.

Fa Deng - Royal Falconer

Fa Deng, keeper of the royal falcons, is a symbol of nobility. Fa Deng is known for his unique skill to control falcons. He is known to supply the kingdom with the finest of meats, such as beef and even exotic animals. On the side, he runs a rug company where he creates fine pieces of art from the hides of the animal he hunts.

Qi Mei- Infrastructure Coordinator

Responsible for the kingdom's physical development. Qi Me loves to build things, and has many friends in the construction industry. With meticulous planning and strategic foresight, she navigates the intricate network of roads, bridges, and buildings, ensuring the seamless functioning of the kingdom's infrastructure and facilitating its growth and resilience. Sister of Zhi Mei.

Zhi Mei - Minister of the Guard

Through rigorous training and strategic deployment, he fortifies the realm's security, safeguarding its borders and citizens against external threats while maintaining internal order with steadfast resolve and integrity. He is responsible for managing troops through the borders. Brother of Qi Mei.

Tu Yung - Cartographer

Tu Yung maps the kingdom's landscapes, and works to create strategic battle plans. He knows geography extremely well, and knows the location of geographical weaknesses. He also owns a pen shop, in which he supplies some of the kingdom's finest quilts.

Ji Tsu - Tribal Relations Ambassador

Ji Tsu fosters alliances with neighboring tribes. Ji Tsu was a former warrior trained in the martial arts and sword wielding. Although now, you can find him filling his belly with bowls of rice at the kingdom's local taverns. Most locals rub his belly as a sign of good luck.

Di Sai - Alchemist

Di Sai's pursuit of mystical knowledge and potions expands on the kingdom's research. He is a quiet fellow, and likes to surround himself by like minded individuals. However, he is a firm believer in showing dominance towards the other kingdoms. He is a strong critical thinker. In fact, he has a small club where they look at creating new theories and laws that can dictate the Cao Wei world.

Ye Du - Ancestral Temple Priestess

Ye Du conducts ceremonies to honor the ancestors. He is known for his elaborate celebrations and decorations. When he is not in the temple, he likes to spend his time in a little hut in the forest. He is very spiritual, and believes that peace is the only way to success. He joins with other like-minded individuals to protest against the violence of the government.

Gao Li - Judicial Head

Gao Li oversees legal matters, ensuring justice throughout the kingdom. She is very responsible and many people in the kingdom seek her advice when going through tough decisions. She works under the imperial court. Known for her extraordinary acting skills, she is the head of the plays run through the Cao Wei kingdom for its international guests.

Xi Lin - Intelligence Director

Xi Lin gathers and analyzes intelligence, crucial for the Kingdom's strategic decisions. She is considered to be the emperor's most trusted person, as she has the newest information about neighboring groups.

Dao Ming - Northern Pass Defender

Dao Ming's command of the Northern Pass is vital for the kingdom's security. She is very close to Xi Lin, and by association, the emperor. She enjoys sitting near the gates, and is known throughout her local town for her elaborate floral decorations.

Luo Shen - Sacred Librarian

Keeper of the kingdom's sacred texts, Luo Shen enjoys reading ancient texts, and he also is intrigued by the discovery of supernatural forces. He is part of Ru Han's conspiracy theory group.

Kai Jun - Canal Inspector

Kai Jun ensures the kingdom's canals are well-maintained. He is responsible for the kingdom's transportation. He owns several boats, in which he likes to take weekend trips through the mountains. His personality can be described to be quiet, as he prefers the solitude of the birds chirping in the beautiful mountains of Cao Wei.

Ping Zhi - Chief Swordsmith

Ping Zhi crafts weapons for the kingdom's army, supporting many of the troops. He is a master blacksmith, and has a team of swordsmiths at his disposal. His blacksmith shop is often very smokey, and the locals often complain about the carcinogens produced by his shops. Nevertheless, his swords are sharp, just like his mind.

Qiao Bei-Ting - Royal Philosopher

Qiao Bei-Ting advises the emperor on moral and ethical issues. She works with Gao Li to resolve conflicts within the Imperial Court. She is tall and well respected throughout the kingdom. She is a renowned author, and many of her texts can be found throughout much of the kingdom.

Pu-Ja Ri - Fire Safety Director

Pu-Ja Ri develops fire safety protocols for the entire kingdom. He also ensures the safety of royal and public structures. His knowledge of architecture is well known throughout the kingdom. No one is sure of what he does outside the kingdom, but he has been spotted with Ji Tsu eating rice at the Kingdom's local taverns.

Ye Li- Royal Zookeeper

Ye Li manages the royal menagerie, providing exotic animals for the kingdom's needs as well as contributing to the kingdom's knowledge of natural history. He is extremely intelligent, however, spending time with his wild animals has driven him to be a little crazy. He is also a master locksmith because he likes to rescue locked-up animals.