

# Theatrical Crisis Committee



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# **1. Welcome Letters**

## **1.1. Letter from the Secretary General**

Dear Delegates,

My name is Erol Erbil, and I am the Secretary General of SSBLMUN'25. It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to our conference. On behalf of the entire SSBLMUN'25 team, the whole team is honoured to host such talented and committed youthful leaders like yourselves, who are ready to leave an impact on the world by arguing for peace and diplomacy.

Over the past few months, we have worked willingly and wonderfully hard putting together a conference that you'll never forget. Model United Nations conferences are platforms for young leaders such as yourselves to come to try out ideas, to argue on the world stage and to train. I have every confidence that your energy, creativity, and commitment will make SSBLMUN'25 effective and unforgettable.

As you go through this year's sessions, I would advise you to engage each and every conversation with open-mindedness, respect and curiosity. Remember that MUN is not only a simulation of global relations but also a learning zone, a growth zone, and a platform for making lifelong friends. Do not get discouraged by little setbacks, but aim at growing as an individual and making your voice heard and appreciated through this meaningful experience that only happens once.

Our team has really gone the extra mile to make sure things have been going well. Should you have any questions or need my assistance prior to, during or after the conference, please feel free to contact me at [erol55erbil@gmail.com](mailto:erol55erbil@gmail.com).

Once again, welcome to SSBLMUN'25. I am truly looking forward to meeting all of you and witnessing the stimulating discussions and innovative ideas that are generated throughout the conference.

Best regards,  
Erol Erbil  
Secretary General

## **1.2. Letter from the Under Secretary General**

Dear Delegates,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to this year's SSBLMUN and into the marvelous Committee of TCC. I am Duru Ceren Çelik, your Under-Secretary-General, and it is both an honor and a privilege to serve in this role for this committee.

Within this committee, you will not merely represent specific characters—you will become the statesmen, viziers, and dignitaries of an Empire whose influence once spanned three continents. The Ottoman Empire, with its grandeur and complexity, provides a stage unlike any other: one where politics, diplomacy, and intrigue intertwine to shape the fate of nations.

In order to prepare you for this, we have prepared background guides for you and a detailed Rules of Procedure that will help our sessions run smoothly while paying full respect to the parliamentary tradition. If you have any questions or need any kind of clarification, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or the rest of the Secretariat.

I look forward to viewing the contributions you will make to what looks to be an exciting and intellectually pleasing committee. I hope to see your discussions to be extraordinary, your resolutions impactful, and your experience memorable.

Best regards,

Duru Ceren Çelik/durucrn55@gmail.com

Under-Secretary-General, TCC



## **2. Committee Information**

### **2.1. What is TCC Committee**

The Theatrical Crisis Committee (TCC) is a dynamic and innovative form of debate that mixes the adversarial nature of a crisis committee with the art of theater, role-playing, and improvisation. Working most widely in Model United Nations (MUN), Model Government simulations, and debating circuits, the TCC format places delegates in an environment where they are acting as actual historical, political, or fictional figures who operate under variable and tenuous situations. Whereas General Assembly committees perhaps do have more of an agenda to focus on policy choices and reaching consensus, still more traditional crisis committees, where lightning-fast action geopolitically is the only game, TCCs up the ante by demanding not only debating and negotiation but performing, dramatizing, and living fully in the personality and motivation of the individuals they are representing. A TCC delegate is not a government representative from a nation-state per se but a member of a collapsing government's cabinet, a coup general, or the worst villain in history with a hidden agenda. The committee knows that the world is going to be transformed (chaos, war, or revolution) and the delegates, through their role-turned-character decision-making process, are the ones that make it happen.

Immersive character and performance are central to TCC, and that distinguishes it from nearly every other type of committee. Delegates are encouraged, if not required, to "stay in character" throughout the simulation, using dramatic speech, adopting alternate personas, and acting on behalf of their characters' background, ideology, and agenda. Taking a specific example, an actor portraying Margaret Thatcher during the Cold War would have to be authoritatively, assertively, and ideologically sounding; a student leader portraying a revolutionary could be more passionate, revolutionist, or counter-subversive. Theatricality does not merely guide entertainment and emotional appeal of TCCs but also tests a new skill set, confidence, spontaneity, creative narration, and emotional intelligence. While formal, scripted General Assembly speeches are dramatic and stylized, TCC speeches are interactive, spontaneous, and stylized. Delegates are not only required to learn to roll with new realities but also to the mood and tone of playing the room in general, where political decisions are enacted in real time and where egos will necessarily bump up against one another in a theatrical, flamboyant way.

A TCC format is volatile and adjustable. It is typically led by a Crisis Staff or Crisis Team, a group of organizers who build and manage the fictional or semi-fictional environment where the delegates are improvising. They present Crisis Updates: short, melodramatic situations introduced at fixed time intervals that change the political reality and force delegates to react in a hurry. These updates can vary from a sudden assassination, conquest of the military, viral scandal, or even supernatural occurrences in case of a fantasy TCC. For example, for a historical TCC about the decline of the Roman Empire, an update would cover news of breaking news of the invasion of the city walls by the barbarian tribes. For a sci-fi TCC, it could be an alien invasion or sudden disintegration of an interplanetary union. The randomness of the updates ensures every game differs and the delegates are kept on their feet, switching tactics and forming new coalitions as a last-ditch effort to survive in the ever-changing environment.

One of the most characteristic aspects of TCCs is the use of crisis notes (personal notes dictated by the delegates and submitted to the crisis staff as an attempt to engage in clandestine activity, plots, or requisitions). Crisis notes provide personal agendas, back-room politics, and personal agency. A manipulative adviser delegate may pen a crisis note to kill off another character, stage a coup, or bribe the army. They only exist for other delegates if they turn up suddenly in a later patch. All the notes are typed and scored by the staff for realism, originality, and effect before it is decided what happens to it, folded back into the present narrative. The system makes the TCC a live-action strategy game in which the player is both a player and a storyteller, all within incomplete knowledge, shifting power relationships, and the threat of betrayal at any time. A good crisis note can tip the committee, play a strong card, or launch all-out war.

Other than standalone comments, TCC delegates will also author and negotiate directives, brief public statements conveying the response of a delegation to an emergency situation. Targeted and unlike the formal resolutions in the other MUN committees, directives are typically quick-built, accurate, and handy. Directives may call for the deployment of soldiers, arrest a representative, or provide for emergency funds. Directives must be voted on and added to the official committee response. Delegates must balance in-camera crisis planning with speech-making, negotiation, and public diplomacy. A too bold or rash delegate can be discredited and unpopular, and a too passive delegate can be pushed out of involvement or eliminated. The struggle between public compliance and individual desires makes TCCs an emotionally charged arena, politics and performance here entwined.

TCC's source material is eclectic to the point of extremism. The range runs from such activities as repeating history (Independence War, World War II., Renaissance, etc.), through contemporary political melodrama to popular culture and fictional universes, even alternative history timelines. Consequently, the committee can be fuller in diversity and engagement for this vast range of participants, whose interests can extend from international relations and history to narrative, fantasy, or speculative fiction. All such primitive forms of decision-making and character representation are utilized, concepts change or not. The benign effect on TCCs' education cannot be overstated. TCCs learn not only debating and public speaking but also critical thinking, adaptability, teamwork, and writing. Delegates get to learn how to deal with stress, how to build an argument, and how to react to a crisis in a calm manner. Our committee encourages role-playing and use of imagination, which automatically leads to the development of leadership among those students who most specifically struggle with the formality of traditional MUN. In addition, since the TCC is a decision-making role-playing game, the students are required to be compelled to read the worldview, motivation, and history of the characters so that they will have experienced empathy, historical sense, and story knowledge. No matter if a delegate is acting Joseph Stalin, Cleopatra, Elon Musk, or Daenerys Targaryen, he or she will have to be in a state of mind to think like such that character, a valuable effective tactic in role-playing education

On the other hand, TCC also has its own disadvantages. The cutthroat, frenzied, and often over-the-top atmosphere is overwhelming, particularly for new participants. The wild pace of postings and requirement to stay "in character" can provide performance stress. There is also the risk that theatrics will feed on substance, with some delegates valuing spectacle over strategy.

Realism may be sacrificed in super fictional TCCs, and the committee may lose its way if the crisis staff fails to present an even-handed progression of the story. The role of the crisis team is thus crucial, not only to provide updates but to maintain the inherent coherence of the world, respond reasonably to crisis notes, and keep the story interesting and credible.

Despite all these challenges, Theatrical Crisis Committees remain among the most popular and thrilling simulations employed in academic and daily life. They involve students and provide an outlet for those who may not be ideal at normal diplomacy or policy committees. TCCs also create a common sense of community and creativity among the members, who typically form bonds of shared drama, comedy, and strategic failures or successes. Memories built in a TCC are more lasting and vivid than those built in more conventional committees. In so many ways, a TCC is not just a debate format; it is a collaborative, competitive storytelling experience in which all are both actor and audience, author and character, plotter and plot twist.

To summarize all of this,, The Theatrical Crisis Committee gather strategy, storytelling, performance, and diplomatic practice together. In TCC, delegates are not expected only to argue and persuade, they also responsible for roling make audacious choices, and altering the unfolding story on the spot. This format forces the participants to reflect, perform and adjust to changing circumstances. It redefines the importance of debate and Model UN which is providing an arena where creates creativity and reason for learning and research. For the young who desire a debating activity, improving themselves in the area of thinking quickly and strategically, peer learning, The Theatrical Crisis Committee is an exciting and memorable opportunity.

## 2.2 Directives

One proposed solution to a crisis break is written into a document called a directive. Directives are handwritten and relatively short. A directive is typically about one to four pages long, but the dais will specify their expectations. Directives are a series of actions that the committee will take to respond to the crisis break. These actions should be specific and direct, outlining exactly what resources the committee will use, and how these resources will be deployed.

Delegates should take notes during the crisis break so that they can start writing directives once the crisis break has finished. While delegates are speaking during moderated caucuses, directives are passed around the committee so that people can read them and sign on as signatories. Once directives have enough signatories, they are passed up to the dais. If the dais sees that there are many directives, or that most directives have similar directives, they will suggest that delegates merge directives. Delegates can motion for an unmoderated caucus, and after this is granted, directives can be merged to fill any quotas set by the dais (in terms of signatories, number of directives, and page numbers per directive). Delegates can then motion to introduce directives, where the chair will read the directives out to the committee.

After directives have been introduced, delegates can motion to vote on directives, along with the number of speeches in “for and against.” Directives can be voted on immediately, but a common practice is to first hear speeches for and against the directives. “One for one against” means that one person will speak in favor of passing the directive, and one person will speak against passing it. Similarly, “two for two against” means that two people will speak in favor, and two people will speak against, with the for and against speeches alternating. After all for and against speeches, directives are then voted on. Delegates can vote for, against, or abstain. A directive passes if it receives a simple majority of votes.

Once a directive has been passed, the committee has officially taken the actions outlined in it. If two directives pass that take contradictory actions, the directive that was passed later takes precedence. It is assumed that the official actions of the committee will be from the later directive, rather than the previous one. Passed directives are sent to the crisis room, where your crisis staff will decide what impact the committee's actions had on the simulated world. They will then create a new crisis break based on the directive. Your CD and ACs will come back into the committee room to inform the committee of the impact their directive had on the crisis situation, and will present the new crisis break, giving the committee a new problem to solve. Delegates will then discuss solutions to this new problem, restarting the cycle of committee.



### 3. Topic Explanation

#### 3.1 Background Information Focused on Ottoman Empire History

The foundation of the Ottoman Empire took place gradually during the late 13th and early 14th centuries. The beginning of this gradual process was the Battle of Manzikert in 1071. After this battle, the Anatolian Seljuk State was established and conquered almost all of Byzantium's territories in Anatolia. However, the Anatolian Seljuks, who expanded so rapidly, fragmented just as quickly. As a result of the Mongol invasions of Anatolia, the Anatolian Seljuk State collapsed. In its place, many small principalities known as "beyliks" were founded. One of these principalities was the Ottoman Beylik.

The founder of the Ottoman Beylik was Osman Bey, the youngest son of Ertuğrul Gazi, who belonged to the Kayı tribe. The exact reason for Osman Bey and his tribe's migration into Anatolia is not fully known, but there are several theories. Among these, the most likely explanation is the Mongol pressure. Osman Bey and his lineage settled around Söğüt and established the Ottoman Beylik there. Due to its location, Söğüt was both far from the Mongols and close to Byzantium. Thanks to this position, it also received significant support from other beyliks for the purpose of *gaza* (holy war), and many Byzantine lands were conquered.

Through his *gaza* strategy, Osman Bey not only conquered many territories but also encouraged many Muslims to migrate into the Ottoman Beylik. Growing both in strength and in population, the Ottomans fought the Battle of Bapheus against Byzantium in 1302. As a result of this battle, they captured Bilecik, which proved that the Ottomans were no longer merely a tribe but a state. This also led many warriors and migrants in the region to give their support to the Ottoman State.

After Osman Bey, Orhan Bey came to power. Like his father, he launched many campaigns against Byzantium. In 1326, Orhan Bey captured Bursa and moved the capital there. Declaring Bursa the capital, he developed tax systems, established a standing army, and minted coins in his own name, thus strengthening the state structure of the Ottomans.

One of the reasons the Ottomans rose so rapidly was their wise policies. Examples of these include: not interfering with Christian worship, allowing the local population to remain free while creating an environment of open trade, and relocating their own people into conquered regions. Through these policies, they gained the trust of the local populations and ensured unity and coexistence.

Byzantium, on the other hand, had lost much of its power during this period. It was both pressured by the Catholics and troubled by the Turkish campaigns from Anatolia. Because of this weakness, the Ottomans gained strength very quickly against Byzantium.

Another major development in the 14th century was the establishment of the Janissary corps and the introduction of the devshirme system. Through these systems, Christian children were taken, converted to Islam, and raised as extremely loyal members of both the army and the state.

In summary, the foundation of the Ottoman Empire cannot simply be explained as Osman Bey founding a state in 1299. This process was the result of many factors, such as the collapse of Byzantium and the Seljuks, the Ottomans' strategic frontier location, intelligent and powerful leaders like Osman and Orhan, military victories against Byzantium, and a flexible and inclusive governance system in conquered lands. The Ottomans made use of every political, military, and religious opportunity to lay the foundations of a 600-year-long empire. At first, the Ottomans were neither the strongest nor had the most powerful army, but with patience, skill, and timing, they surpassed all their rivals and established dominance. In this sense, the foundation of the Ottomans is not only a historical event but also a lesson in how unity, harmony, and vision can transform a small tribe into a world empire.

The rise of the Ottoman Empire was one of the most influential events in world history. Many reasons can be listed for this, but one of the greatest was the conquest of Constantinople on May 29, 1453, by Mehmed II (Mehmed the Conqueror). With this victory, the thousand-year-old Eastern Roman Empire was destroyed, the Middle Ages ended, and the New Age began. Through this achievement, the Turks not only closed one era and opened another but also renamed Constantinople as Istanbul and made it their capital, transforming it into the world's most geopolitically and culturally significant city.

Mehmed the Conqueror did not only capture Istanbul. He also carried out many campaigns in both Anatolia and Europe. Unfortunately, the conquests did not progress at the same level during the reign of his son, Bayezid II. However, Bayezid's son, Selim I (Selim the Grim), redirected the empire's conquest policy toward the East, capturing the Hijaz, Jerusalem, and North Africa. By defeating the Mamluks, he brought the caliphate under Ottoman control and conquered all the lands regarded as holy for the four great religions.

With such great and important achievements, the Ottoman Empire came to prominence in history. However, neither Mehmed II nor Selim I were the sultans under whom the empire reached its peak. The true golden age of the Ottoman Empire came under Suleiman I, known in the West as "Suleiman the Magnificent" and in the East as "Kanuni Sultan Süleyman."

Suleiman the Magnificent ruled for 46 years. During this period, he introduced numerous reforms in political, economic, cultural, and social spheres. He tightened the rules of the Janissary corps, raised the Ottoman navy to unprecedented levels to keep up with the advancing European maritime powers, and united Islamic law (sharia) with customary law (*örf*), earning the title "Kanuni" (the Lawgiver).

Immediately after ascending the throne, Suleiman launched campaigns toward the West. His first campaign targeted Belgrade, which ended successfully, giving the Ottomans major influence over Western Europe. In 1526, the Battle of Mohács took place between the Ottomans and Hungary, resulting in Hungary becoming an Ottoman province. In 1529, the Ottomans laid siege to Vienna due to conflicts with Austria, but the city could not be captured. These victories in the West were matched by similar achievements in the East. Campaigns were launched against the Safavids, who sought to stir rebellion in Anatolia, and Iraq was conquered. Thus, the Ottomans became the sole leader of the Islamic world.

At the same time, the Ottomans achieved great success at sea. Under the command of Barbarossa Hayreddin Pasha, all naval battles ended in victory, and with the conquest of Rhodes, the Ottomans seized all the major trade centers of the Mediterranean. Alongside these victories, Sultan Suleiman also oversaw significant cultural developments. Ceramics, calligraphy, poetry, and architecture flourished during this time. Ottoman architecture was completely transformed, especially through the works of Mimar Sinan.

From the outside, the Ottoman Empire seemed to be passing through a brilliant era, but internal strife within the dynasty and succession disputes never ceased. Endless power struggles between princes often led to unwanted consequences. The most tragic and well-known of these was the execution of Prince Mustafa. After this event, both the people and the Janissaries suffered deep sorrow. Prince Mustafa had always been seen as the closest candidate to the throne, and to fill this void, Selim II came forward. However, Selim II's life has always been criticized. He was devoted to pleasure, indulgence, and alcohol, earning him the nickname "the drunkard" from the Ottoman people. Since he was not as capable as his ancestors, the Ottoman Empire entered the period of stagnation.

### 3.2 Roles

**Kanuni Sultan Süleyman:** Kanuni Sultan Süleyman (1494–1566) was the 10th and longest-reigning Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. Known in Europe as Suleiman the Magnificent and in the Islamic world as Kanuni (the Lawgiver), he expanded the empire to its greatest territorial extent, stretching across Europe, Asia, and Africa. He was not only a powerful military leader but also a reformer who developed laws in administration, justice, and society. His era is often called the “Golden Age” of the Ottoman Empire, marked by cultural, architectural, and artistic achievements.

**Pargalı İbrahim:** Pargalı İbrahim Pasha (1493–1536) was the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire during the reign of Kanuni Sultan Süleyman. Originally a Greek-born slave, he was brought to the palace and became one of Suleiman’s closest friends and advisors. Known for his intelligence, diplomatic skills, and military leadership, İbrahim Pasha played an important role in the empire’s expansion into Europe and the Middle East. However, due to growing power and influence, he fell out of favor and was executed in 1536 by the order of Sultan Süleyman.

**Şehzade Mustafa:** Şehzade Mustafa (1515–1553) was the eldest son of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. He was known for his bravery, fairness, and was highly admired by the people of the Ottoman Empire.

**II. Selim:** Sultan Selim II (1524–1574) was the 11th Sultan of the Ottoman Empire and the son of Suleiman the Magnificent and Hürrem Sultan. His reign is remembered for cultural and architectural achievements, especially the works of the famous architect Mimar Sinan, such as the Selimiye Mosque in Edirne.

**Şehzade Bayezid:** Şehzade Bayezid (1525–1561) was one of the sons of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. He was known for his ambition and military skill, and he governed several important provinces of the Ottoman Empire during his father’s reign.

**Şehzade Mehmed:** Şehzade Mehmed (1521–1543) was the beloved son of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and Hürrem Sultan. He was known for his intelligence and kindness.

**Hürrem Sultan:** Hürrem Sultan (1500–1558), also known as Roxelana, was the wife of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and one of the most influential women in Ottoman history. She played an important role in politics and palace affairs, and she is remembered as the first sultana to break traditions by officially marrying the Sultan.

**Mahidevran:** Mahidevran Sultan (1500–1581) was one of the wives of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and the mother of Şehzade Mustafa. She was known for her beauty and dignity.

**Mihrimah Sultan:** Mihrimah Sultan (1522–1578) was the daughter of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and Hürrem Sultan. She was known for her intelligence, charity works, and close influence in the politics of the Ottoman court.

**Cerenifer Hatun:** Cerenifer Hatun (1500-1560) was wife of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. She is one of the most invisible woman in Ottoman history. She is mother of Şehzade Bayezid.

**Hafsa Sultan:** Mihrimah Sultan (1522–1578) was the daughter of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and Hürrem Sultan. She was known for her intelligence, charity works, and close influence in the politics of the Ottoman court.

**Mistress Nigar:** Nigar Kalfa is a palace employee who, while hidden from the public eye, maintains the entire functioning and order of the harem. She acts as a kind of overseer for the concubines, instructing them in their education, morality, and Ottoman customs. Having risen to the rank of "kalfa" within the harem hierarchy, her experience, discipline, intelligence, and loyalty to the palace and the sultan, along with the training she received during her years as a concubine, have earned her the favor of the senior masters in the palace, especially the Valide Sultan. This allows her to become Valide's trusted aide, ensuring her orders are carried out flawlessly. Nigar Kalfa strives to maintain balance in the turbulent harem environment, where gossip and intrigue are constantly abounding. For her, loyalty means devotion to the sultan and the palace order. Her loyalty to the sultan, in turn, reveals her allegiance. Nigar Kalfa takes her place behind the palace's closed doors as the most reliable witness, the confidant within the palace walls, and one of its most experienced guides. Her words sometimes resolve a dispute, and sometimes become the key to information that will change the fate of the harem.

**Sümbül Ağa:** Sümbül Ağa, a harem official with the title of Grand Eunuch of the Ottoman Palace, was responsible for the security and internal order of the Imperial Harem. Brought to the palace at a young age, he completed his Enderun training and was assigned to the Harem. Shortly after his appointment, he distinguished himself for his discipline, diligence, and loyalty. In addition to this loyalty and diligence, he possessed a sharp mind that maintained balance within the harem and also helped to resonate with the harem's intrigues. His most important duty within the palace was to control access to the harem and regulate communications with the outside world. While keeping the harem's gates closed to the outside world, Sümbül Ağa memorized every conversation within the harem. For him, knowledge was his greatest weapon. Rather than directly intervene in a matter, he preferred to convey information to the right person at the right time. In this respect, he could be both a friend and a potential threat.

**Habsburg Dynasty:** The Habsburg Dynasty, one of the most powerful political dynasties in 16th-century Europe, wielded significant influence over the Archduchy of Austria, the Holy Roman Empire, and the Kingdom of Spain. The Habsburg Dynasty was the Ottoman Empire's greatest rival. Especially during the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, the Habsburgs struggled with the Ottomans for supremacy both in land warfare and at the diplomatic table. The political relations between the two major powers in European politics were significantly intensified by Suleiman's confrontation with the Safavids in the east and the Habsburgs in the west. The 1529 Siege of Vienna is one of the most symbolic clashes between the Ottomans and the Habsburgs. The dynasty aimed to halt the Ottoman advances and unite the Christian states of Central Europe under its leadership. The Habsburg Dynasty was not only a military power but also a cornerstone of international diplomacy for the Ottoman Empire. It sought to influence Ottoman domestic

politics through alliances, spy networks, and ambassadors. Representatives of the dynasty took a position against the Ottomans, sometimes through open warfare and sometimes through cunning negotiations conducted at the table.

**France:** In the mid-16th century, France was one of the most important actors in European politics. It maintained significant diplomatic relations with the Ottoman Empire, particularly during the reigns of Francis I and Henry II. Despite being a Catholic kingdom, it did not succumb to the pressures of the Habsburg Dynasty and did not hesitate to form an alliance with the Ottomans to break their monopoly on power in Europe. During this period, France enjoyed a golden age of culture and art under the influence of the Renaissance, but was also on the brink of religious wars. The Franco-Ottoman Alliance signed with the Ottoman Empire in 1536 increased commercial and military cooperation in the Mediterranean, gaining France both an advantage in Eastern Mediterranean trade and a powerful ally against the Habsburgs. The French representative would be present to protect the kingdom's interests, offset the Habsburg threat, and leverage friendly relations with the Ottomans into a strategic advantage.

**Şeyhülislam:** During Suleiman the Magnificent, the office of Sheikh al-Islam was extremely powerful as the highest authority in the Ottoman religious and legal establishment. Its longest and most celebrated incumbent was Ebussuud Efendi, who was highly regarded for scholarly erudition and his fatwas. Ebussuud Efendi, a madrasa scholar, was well-versed in fiqh and tafsir (Islamic jurisprudence). He not only contributed to the harmonization of Sharia and customary law within the Ottoman legal system but also played a significant role in preparing Suleiman's famous Kanunname (Code of Law). As a link between the palace and the ulema, he legitimized the sultan's policies on religious grounds and shaped the public perception of justice. As the Sheikh al-Islam of his time, he proclaimed the Ottoman religious opinion on local and foreign matters in the Divan-ı Muhteşem (Magnificent) and was an influential and closely listened-to figure.

**Orthodox Church:** In the 16th century, the Orthodox Church had a significant role as the spiritual leader of the millions of Greek, Serbian, Bulgarian, and other Orthodox people in Ottoman lands, especially after the conquest of Constantinople. The seat of the Patriarchate was at Fener and was subject to the protection of the Ottoman sultans. Since the time of Mehmed the Conqueror, patriarchs continued to oversee the religious matters, education, and legal affairs of their people under the millet system. This made the Orthodox Church a powerful institution of the Ottoman state. But simultaneously, as being Byzantine in origin, it was devoted to Christian Europe, and by extension, to the Orthodox Slavic population. Under Süleyman the Magnificent, the Orthodox Church was a state policy instrument to administrate the religious diversity of the Ottoman State and win Christian subjects' loyalty. The Divan-ı Muhteşem Hukuku member who was an Orthodox Church member would be one who was protecting his own group's interests while requiring a delicate relationship with the Ottoman state.

**Rustem Pasha:** Rüstem Pasha proved to be one of the most dominant and influential Ottoman political figures during Suleiman the Magnificent's reign. Of Croatian birth, he was brought into the palace by the devshirme system, Rüstem Pasha was soon appointed to serve as Grand Vizier



because of his brilliant intelligence, administrative skill, and more importantly, experience with fiscal affairs. His marriage to Mihrimah Sultan, the daughter of Suleiman the Magnificent, not only solidified his relations with the palace but also further consolidated his political authority. During his time as Grand Vizier, he implemented some significant reforms in Ottoman finance, which started reforms to increase the revenue of the state and create a more structured system of trade routes and taxation. Rüstem Pasha was also famous for his conservative, sluggish, and sometimes hesitant decision-making style, which reinforced the state's economic strength and directly affected Ottoman foreign policy. Although he is accepted as a controversial political leader due to his ambitious and obdurate style, he played the political games of the period skillfully, was a forceful figure in palace politics, and was an indispensable statesman for Ottoman Empire stability to be nurtured. Rüstem Pasha is portrayed as the key driver of Ottoman foreign and domestic policy guided by his political will, pragmatist mind, and palace power.

**Irina from Rutheni:** She is an experienced woman who emigrated from Ruthenia to Istanbul and has spent years in trade. Known for her trade in red furs and fabrics, Irina's commercial acumen is almost unobtrusive, with a quiet and dignified demeanor. She exhibits an observant attitude; she listens carefully to her surroundings, notes people's behavior, and avoids making impulsive, impulsive comments. She is known for her honesty and patience, and people believe her to be someone they trust. On the Committee, she is solely responsible for protecting trade routes; she also acts as a visible observer, keeping abreast of the public's concerns and demands in daily life.

**Merchant Osman:** Despite his age, he was a cunning and ambitious merchant, even surpassing his mother in trade. He possessed all the subtleties of the prosperous commercial life of the Ottoman capital, spoke confidently, and attracted attention with his confident demeanor wherever he went. Many are left wondering how he has become so influential in the business world in such a short time; Osman attributes this to the energy and aggressiveness unleashed by his young age. Above all else, his boldness and negotiating ability, especially at the negotiating table, have made him an even more commanding presence than his mother. Among the many roles the committee had was not only discussing trade benefits but also being a voice that articulated the ideas, aspirations, and concerns of the man in the street. Osman, in this context, besides being a merchant, served as a bridge between the people and the capital.

### 3.3. Block Information

Suleiman the Magnificent ruled during the time when the Ottoman Empire expanded into one of its most powerful periods. The region established its territorial limits through military victories and successful campaigns which led to the acquisition of new lands. The exceptional growth occurred because of multiple distinct factors which brought it about.

The Ottoman Empire gained strong power during this time while dealing with various internal conflicts and unstable situations and multiple uprisings. The foreign diplomatic records which focus on the Habsburg Dynasty in Central Europe appear as part of larger complex document series. The conflict determined the direction of military operations and strategic choices throughout the empire's existence. The Ottomans pressed forward into Hungary while they solidified their rule over the Balkans but the Habsburgs fought back through military operations and diplomatic alliances which included the Papacy and other Christian states.

The Ottoman Empire encountered two different threats during this time because Venice and Spain and the Papal States fought against their expansion into the Mediterranean which resulted in naval battles and strategic alliances and ongoing struggles for control of trade routes and territories. The Ottoman Empire required substantial resources to maintain its power because European nations began working together to seize control of the Ottoman Empire. Western powers developed organized strategies to stop Ottoman territorial growth.

The Safavid Empire stood as an enemy to the east because military competition between Sunni Ottomans and Shia Safavids stemmed from their religious and ideological differences. The empire had to divide its focus and resources between multiple fronts because of the ongoing conflicts in Anatolia and Iran.

The Papal-led Christian world perceived the Ottoman Empire as a complete danger to their civilization so they fought in the crusades even though these military campaigns proved less successful than before. The empire's geopolitical defense system created a new ideological framework which demanded more from its citizens. The empire encountered two major obstacles during this time which included its domestic problems and its foreign threats. The empire encountered two major obstacles during this time which included its domestic problems and its foreign threats.

The Ottoman Empire chose not to establish a permanent primogeniture system because it maintained several princes as potential successors to the throne. The various elite groups inside the palace including viziers and Janissary aghas and harem members joined forces with the princes to establish their own support base. The different palace factions created an equilibrium of power but their political systems remained in a state of ongoing rivalry and power struggles.

The Ottoman Empire required these specific conditions to maintain its long-lasting rule and achieve its power. The empire kept its large land holdings through European competition but

military attacks forced it to spend excessive resources on redirecting its forces. The Süleyman government through diplomatic means protected the Empire from foreign enemies while it learned to handle different foreign combinations. The Free Turks encountered opposition from France and certain European powers who joined forces against the Free Turks but other European nations maintained continuous opposition to the Ottoman Empire. The balance of power together with Safavid pressure from the east and sea nourishment stand as genetic and artificial burdens which Istanbul keeps in its memory.

The palace faced an unsolvable succession problem which made all decisions difficult because it forced the involvement of viziers and military operations and foreign investors who bet on the empire's business activities. The Ottoman Empire reached its highest cultural and territorial expansion under Sultan Suleiman yet faced opposing forces from outside and power struggles within its borders. The empire spread its legal reforms and architectural achievements throughout Central Europe and North Africa and the Middle East but its base proved to be unprofitable.

The Ottomans achieved their powerful status through their complete control of military forces and palace weaknesses and their ability to display strength to the public. During his time as Sultan the Ottoman Empire faced various political and military obstacles. The market showed three different equilibrium points which led to uncertain conditions and various levels of competition between positive and negative forces.

### 3.4. How to Write a Ferman Paper?

Decisions to be made in the committee will be written in a "Ferman Paper" format, unlike the classic MUN "resolution" format. Delegates drafting such documents will ensure a formal appearance consistent with the state traditions of the period while preserving the logic of today's resolutions.

The general framework of the decree should be divided into three main sections under one heading:

#### **Introduction:**

The reasons for the convening of the council are stated and the issues it will address. This section emphasizes the fact that the council was convened by the sultan for the welfare of the state and the peace of the ummah.

#### **Resolution of Issues:**

A list of issues to be resolved. After defining the issue, its impact on the public, the state, or foreign relations should be emphasized in this section.

#### **Decisions (Orders):**

This is the main section. Delegates write their proposals in itemized form, using phrases such as "It is commanded that..." or "It is commanded that..." Each article must contain a single, enforceable decision.

Delegates should focus on the following topics to focus on the topic under discussion, according to the order listed above:

#### **Internal Order and Justice:**

Public grievances (without specifying the city/region name, coup plotter, etc.),

How the courts functioned (which decisions were issued and how),

Unfair taxation,

Bribery and abuse. Border Security and External Threats:

The Ottoman Empire's relations with its neighbors, preparations for campaigns, and alliance/dissolution negotiations.

#### **Economic Order:**

Justice in tax collection, ensuring the security of trade routes, and balanced grain and grain prices.

#### **Social Order:**

Religious unity, peaceful coexistence among elements, the happiness of the people, and the right to education.

Writing the Decisions.

Delegates should consider the following in their decisions: Each article should be based on several implementation plans. Each article should be implementable and measurable. Decisions

should be submitted to the relevant state bodies or the requested responsible parties. The elements should be ranked in order; internal order and justice come first, external issues second, and economic and social order third.

**The importance of the decree:**

Delegates must remember that the decree is not merely a decree but also represents the will of the council and state policy sealed by the sultan. Therefore, the decisions made in the decrees should be considered long-term for the survival of the Ottoman Empire and the well-being of the Muslim community.

### 3.5. Key Terminology and Important Wars

**Battle of Manzikert (1071):** The battle in which the Seljuks defeated Byzantium; opened the gates of Anatolia to the Turks.

**Battle of Köse Dağ (1243):** The battle in which the Seljuks were defeated by the Mongols, losing their authority.

**Beyliks:** Small Turkish principalities that emerged in Anatolia after the collapse of the Seljuks.

**Osman Bey:** Founder of the Ottoman Beylik, from the Kayı tribe.

**Orhan Bey:** The sultan who carried out the first city conquests of the Ottomans (Bursa, 1326).

**Gaza:** The concept of holy war against non-Muslims.

**Dream of Osman:** A dream seen by Osman Bey, symbolizing the future of the Ottoman Empire as a world power.

**Janissary Corps:** The elite Ottoman military class, composed of non-Muslim children recruited through the devshirme system.

**Devshirme System:** The collection and training of non-Muslim children to become soldiers or bureaucrats.

**Conquest of Constantinople (1453):** Mehmed II's capture of Istanbul, elevating the Ottomans to the level of an empire.

**Suleiman the Magnificent (1520–1566):** The ruler of the Ottoman Empire during its peak; known in the West as “Suleiman the Magnificent” and in the East as “Kanuni.”

**Kanunname:** The body of laws created by Suleiman, combining Islamic (sharia) law with customary (*örfi*) law.

**Battle of Mohács (1526):** The battle in which the Ottomans conquered Hungary, altering the balance of power in Europe.

**Siege of Vienna (1529):** The peak of Ottoman expansion into Central Europe, though ultimately an unsuccessful siege.

**Treaty of Amasya (1555):** The first official treaty defining the border between the Ottomans and the Safavids.

**Battle of Preveza (1538):** The naval battle in which Barbarossa Hayreddin Pasha secured Ottoman dominance in the Mediterranean.

**Franco-Ottoman Alliance (1536):** A strategic alliance between France and the Ottoman Empire against the Habsburgs.



**Millet System:** The Ottoman system that allowed non-Muslim communities to govern themselves through their own religious leaders.

**Imperial Council (Divan-ı Hümayun):** The Ottoman ruling council.

**Şeyhülislam:** The highest religious and legal authority of the Ottoman Empire.

**Habsburg Dynasty:** The Ottomans' greatest Western rival; rulers of Austria, the Holy Roman Empire, and Spain.

**Safavid Empire:** The Ottomans' Shi'a rival in the East; conflicts especially occurred over Iraq and Azerbaijan.

**Zigetvar Campaign (1566):** Suleiman's final campaign, which ended with his death at the fortress of Szigetvár.

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