

Dear delegates,

My name is Savar Suri, and I will be the director of this committee. I am an 11th grade student at Upper Canada College, and I have been doing MUN since 9th grade. I began MUN because of my interest in politics and my love for debate, and I have since been fortunate enough to travel to Dubai, Spain, and Montreal for various conferences. In addition to MUN, I enjoy watching and playing soccer, photography, and Formula One.

This year's crisis committee is the Mongolian Empire. I have found interest in the Mongolian Empire for a number of years and a number of reasons. I have been interested in how Genghis Khan was the first to allow the freedom of religion, and helped to establish a meritocracy, a form of which we have today. However, there isn't much that we know about the time. This kurultai of Genghis Khan will be dealing with the issues the Mongols faced during the death of their leader. Rebelling city-states, a leader on his deathbed, and a power struggle will be some of the issues you will have to navigate through as a committee.

In the creation of this committee, I have been supported by the chairs, Randy Chang and Benedict Wang, the Crisis Director, Sam Wilder, and the Assistant Crisis Director, Alex Woolsey. They have been extremely helpful in making this committee what it aims to be.

As this is a beginner committee, if there are any questions or concerns, we would be happy to help you, feel free to reach out at any time. We hope that you leave our committee with a new understanding of teamwork, as well as some knowledge about this relatively unknown time period in history.

We cannot wait to see you all!

Best,

Savar Suri

## **General Background**

The Mongolian Empire was founded in 1206 by Genghis Khan (born Temüjin). Born to a small clan named Borjigin, Temüjin was said to have been born holding a blood clot, a sign that he was destined to be a great leader. The Mongolian Empire, the largest contiguous land empire in history was the result of Temüjin unifying all the clashing clans in Mongolia for the first time, and declaring himself *Universal Ruler*, or Genghis Khan. The Mongolians quickly became a dominant force in Asia through their impressive archer skills and extreme mercilessness. However, Genghis was a loved leader, allowing his citizens the freedom of religion, and the ability to move through different classes on merit, and not birthright, which was revolutionary at the time. He led the Mongol empire and conquered a landmass stretching from modern-day Eastern Poland, to Korea.

## **Early History**

Although the exact date of Temüjin's birth remains uncertain, it is most commonly believed that he was born around 1162. Temüjin's mother, Hoelun was kidnapped by his father, Yesugei to be his second wife. Yesugei already had three children with his first wife, who would be Temüjin's half-brothers. From an early age, there was no sign that Temüjin would grow up to become the great warrior that he was, he was afraid of dogs, and often bullied by his older half-brothers. Due to these traits, Yesugei often did not treat Temüjin the same way he treated his other children. When he was around 8 or 9, the Yesugei made an agreement with a family of the Khongirad tribe. Temüjin was to live with and work for this family for four years, after which he would marry their daughter, Börte. Soon after Temüjin began working for Börte's family, Yesugei died. Temüjin had to go back to live with his mother and brothers, as they had nobody providing for them. The next few years were survival, the family had to work together to hunt whatever they could and survive on it for as long as they could. During this time, Temüjin's older half-brother, Behter began exercising power as the oldest male in the family and began to steal food from his family to keep for himself, as the eldest male, Behter would also have the right to claim Hoelun

(Temüjin's, but not his mother) as his wife. This led to Temüjin and his brother, Khasar killing Behter. This was one of the major events in his life, which would help turn a timid Temüjin into the great Genghis Khan. Although Temüjin did not have many friends, one person who he was able to befriend was Jamukha. In their childhood, they exchanged items two times, swearing to be blood brothers, in a world where alliances were determined by blood and not writing. Later, Temüjin created an alliance with his father's sworn blood brother, Toghrul Khan. Temüjin, Jamukha, and Toghrul Khan worked together, and soon they were the main forces in the area. A rift between the friendship of Jamukha and Temüjin caused a civil war between the two sides, with Toghrul opting to stay out of the issue. Jamukha, being from a higher class, supported traditional aristocracy, where class was decided on birth, while Temüjin supported meritocracy, where class was decided on value to society. The major ideological difference sparked a 15-20 year long civil war. During the battles of this war, Jamukha resorted to cruel tactics, for example, in one instance, he boiled 70 men alive. Ultimately, Temüjin needed the help of Toghrul Khan to win, and offered his son to marry Toghrul's daughter, which would seal a blood alliance, and force Toghrul Khan to join the war on Temüjin's side. However, this request was denied, and Toghrul joined forces with Jamukha instead. Temüjin still ended up victorious in the war. Temüjin unsuccessfully offered his friendship to Jamukha one last time. He then killed all the soldiers who betrayed Jamukha, stating that he only wants loyal soldiers in his camp, and granted the final wish of Jamukha, an honorable death with no spilled blood. As the first person to ever unite the Mongols under one leader, Temüjin chose a new name, Universal Ruler, or Genghis Khan.

## Imperial Expansion



Encyclopædia Britannica. "Mongol Empire." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, 2012,

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Mongol-empire/The-period-of-relative-unity-1227-60#/media/1/389325/235959>. Accessed 18 Mar. 2022.

## Western Xia

Under Genghis Khan, the Mongolian empire successfully embarked on a rapid expansion in all directions. In 1209, the Mongolian empire launched a full-scale invasion of Western Xia, located in modern day northwestern China (Man 133). They rapidly defeated and captured numerous cities along the Yellow River until they reached Kiemen, the bastion that defended the only pass through the Helan Mountains (Man 131). If the Mongols defeated the roughly 120,000 defenders of the city, they would be able to capture the capital of Yinchuan. The Mongols feigned retreat which lured the defenders onto open fields, and easily defeated the defenders using their superior organization and competence. Khan then moved to take the capital. However, he was unable to defeat the 150,000 men defending the city, which was almost double the size of his forces, after a siege lasting nearly half a year (May 1211). Despite the complications, Western Xia nevertheless became a vassal of the Mongolians once their crops were

destroyed by the flooding of the irrigation canals. This was the first major campaign initiated by Genghis Khan since he united the Mongols in 1206, and his success demonstrated the effectiveness of his leadership.

In 1217, Genghis Khan launched a campaign in Central Asia and requested military aid from Western Xia to help with the conquest. However, Western Xia refused to send troops, which led to the Mongols besieging the capital as a warning (Dunnell XXV). In 1219 and 1223, Khan again requested military aid and was refused by the emperor both times. This enraged Khan and prompted him to launch a second invasion of Western Xia as a punishment in 1225, with over 180,000 fighters. The Mongols advanced rapidly, facing next to no resistance. They captured the major cities of Suzhou and Ganzhou after long sieges and then advanced towards the second largest city, Wuwei, which surrendered after receiving no aid from the capital (Man 213). After this victory, the Mongol army crossed the Helan Mountains and utterly devastated a force of 300,000 Western Xia troops 30 kilometers from the capital. Khan and his army then moved on to the capital, Yinchuan, and besieged the city for six months (Man 219). At the time of this committee, over 30,000 Mongols have been killed or wounded, and the capital is still under siege and shows no sign of surrendering.

## Jin Dynasty

The conquest of Western Xia allowed Khan to move on to the Jin Dynasty. In 1210, emissaries from the Jin Empire ordered the Mongols to submit to the Jins (Weatherford 83). This infuriated Khan, and prompted him to launch one of the largest military invasions in history. In 1211, Genghis Khan and 100,000 of his men crossed the Great Wall and moved into the interior of the Jin Empire, following a safe road shown by the chief of the Ongut, Ala 'Qush. The Mongols won a series of decisive battles in the Jin empire, notably at Yehuling in 1211, where they massacred thousands of troops after a Jin messenger defected. They then advanced through the Jin heartlands, rapidly taking city after city. When they arrived at the capital in 1213, Zhongdu (Beijing), they besieged the city (Weatherford 96). However, they were

met with a 10,000 strong militia and faced several defeats. Nevertheless, the Mongols were able to surmount the Jin resistance and surrounded the Golden court in 1214. After the emperor was killed by a Jin General and replaced with his nephew Xuangzong, the Jin dynasty agreed to become a tributary state of the Mongols by paying a large tribute. Believing the war had ended, the Mongols started to withdraw. The Jins moved the capital to the South and left a large garrison to defend it. Learning that the capital was moved, a Jin army defected to the Mongols and besieged the city. Upon receiving news about the siege, Genghis Khan sent troops to support the defectors. Once the Mongol reinforcements arrived, the second-in-command general surrendered his troops leading to chaos in the city. This allowed the Mongols to take Zongdu in 1215 (Broadbridge 94). In 1223, the Mongol general Muqali launched another assault on the Jin in Shaanxi, which failed when the Western Xia forces sent to support the Mongols deserted. At the time of this committee, the Mongols are facing strong resistance from the Jin Empire in the south.

## Central Asia

In the 1210s, the Kara Khitai, led by Kuchlug invaded and besieged the city of Almaliq, which was a Mongolian vassal state. In response to this attack, the Mongolians invaded the Kara Khitai in 1218. General Jebe, along with 20,000 troops liberated Almaliq and moved on to the capital of the Kara Khitai, Balasagun where they destroyed an army of 30,000 defenders and forced Kuchlug to flee to Kashgar. Once they took Balasagun, Jebe announced that religious persecution had ended, which led to widespread public support from the Mongols. When the Mongols arrived at Kashgar to capture Kuchlug, the population revolted and delivered him to the Genghis, who beheaded him and ended the war. This victory allowed the Mongols to have a foothold in Central Asia bordering the Khwarezmian Empire (Beckwith 188).

In the late 1210s, Genghis Khan sent a caravan of 500 people to negotiate with the Khwarezmian Empire and establish a trade network. However, the Khwarezmians arrested and executed the members of the caravan. Khan then sent another group of envoys, who were again arrested and killed. This enraged

Genghis, as he saw ambassadors as sacred and protected, and he decided to invade the Khwarezmian Empire. The Khwarezmian Empire at the time was unstable and relatively young: the government had just been replaced, and the Shah distrusted most of his military leaders (Jackson 31). This meant that the Empire was weak and unable to mount a strong defense from the Mongol invasion. Ghengis exploited the internal divisions and weaknesses of the Khwarezmian Empire to a devastating degree. As soon as war was declared, 20,000-30,000 men led by General Jebe and his son Jochi crossed the dangerous Tian Shan mountains and moved into the Ferghana Valley. Their presence surprised the Khwarazmians, as they expected the Mongols to take the easier route through the Dzungarian Gate (McLynn). The element of surprise gave the Mongols the initiative for the rest of the war: the Mongols won battles at Otrar, Transoxiana, Urgench, and Khorasan, and forced the Shah to flee to the Caspian Sea, while the Shah's son fled to India. The Mongols pursued the Shah, and devastated the Georgian countryside. The Shah died in 1220 to unknown natural causes. Although the war lasted two years, it led to over 10 million Khwarezmian casualties, many of which were civilians (Ward). This heavily contributed to Khwarezmian resistance after the war ended: Kush Tegin Pahlawan launched an insurgency that successfully took Merv and Bukhara. The people of Herat also rebelled and overthrew the Mongol rulers. In response to the resistance, Genghis Khan sent a force led by Yelu Ahai to restore order. It successfully achieved its goal in 1223 by wiping out all major resistance. The conquest of the Khwarezmian Empire raised many questions about succession in the Mongol Empire. During the invasion, there was a fierce rivalry between Khan's sons, which forced Genghis to depend on his third son Ogedei to finish key battles in Urgench. This led to him being appointed Genghis's successor. After the war, Khan's son Jochi never forgave his father for this, and the resentment that he harbored was passed down to his sons Batu and Berke (Nicolle 86). The conquest of Khwarezmia proved to be a key part in the establishment of the Mongol Empire, and its effects are still felt at the time of Genghis Khan's death.

## Issues at Hand

As mentioned in the previous sections, Gengis Khan and the now united Mongols launched a great campaign of expansion, first into West Xia before later proceeding into Central Asia and lastly defeating the Khwarezmian empire. However after this great deal of success, the Mongol empire faces one of its biggest decisions in its history, who will be Gengis Khan's successor. The year is 1227, and Gengis Khan is now on his deathbed and it is the duty of this great committee to decide his successor and the next ruler of the Mongolian Empire. In central Asian culture, it lies up to the Kurultai (direct translation gathering or assembly) to decide the next leader to the empire. (Di Cosmo 177) These Kurultai were an assembly of local leaders from across the region who would gather and discuss issues of importance. (Di Cosmo 177) In order to project his authority and in an attempt to centralize the empire, Gengis Khan ordered Kurultai to be conveyed on a semi-annual basis to discuss political matters. (Hope 2012: 88) However the topic of their gathering were not limited to political or succession matters alone, with gathering to celebrate religious and cultural festivals or plan military campaigns also being common reasons for their conveying (Atwood 462). However their most famous and arguably important purpose was to select new leaders.

Even though Western scholars are very aware of their importance in Mongolian culture, they are currently unaware of their exact composition or procedures. This is caused by the fact that the Kurultai meetings were covered by a veil of secrecy and no primary source accounts from within the meetings were recorded in the first three decades of the Mongolian Empire. (Franke 20)

However, this crisis will be a recreation of the Kurultai deciding the successor to Genghis Khan. Even though our understanding is limited on what occurred in these Kurultais. Scholars do know for certain that hereditary transmission was one of several criterias in deciding the next reigning leader (Hope 189), so it must not be assumed that the bloodline of Gengis Khan will be guaranteed to receive the next spot on the throne. However to make matters more complicated, reports are emerging from the frontiers of the empire indicating that numerous states sensing weakness and opportunity have begun open revolt or are planning open revolt against the Empire. It is up to this committee to select a new leader and put

down the growing sense of rebellion amongst its citizens. History has shown that times of succession are often times of volatility and crises. Will this Kurultai stand true to this age-old archetype of crisis or will Mongolian Empire enter a stronger state than it was before under Genghis Khan?

## **Character List**

### **Checheikhen**

Checheikhen is one of the daughters of Borte and Genghis Khan. In 1207, she was married to Torolchi, one of the sons of the Oirat chieftain. Through this marriage, she secured important connections throughout Siberia, Xinjiang, and Western Mongolia. She and her husband helped rule the empire alongside her father, though she did not inherit any land. That being said, she has great control over her husband's actions and her decrees are equivalent to those of her husband. Notably, her connections to the Oirats gave her control over the northern trade routes, securing the silk road alongside her sisters, with whom she remains in constant communication despite being scattered throughout the empire. The economic and diplomatic benefits of her marriage were crucial to solidifying the empire. Her constant connection to her sisters throughout the silk road give her significant influence over the trading route, and the ability to disrupt or better trade. These contacts are crucially important to maintain the power of the empire, and underestimating her influence may create supply chain issues for other regions.

### **Jochi**

Jochi is the eldest son to Borte and Genghis; however, there is dispute over whether Genghis was truly Jochi's father. Though he traditionally would have the right to the throne, his mother, Borte, was subjected to circumstances during her capture that called into question who his father truly was. He was treated as the eldest son in other regards, and designated his own land after the death of his father called the Golden

Horde. However, the tension between himself and his brothers would continue to form a rift that never healed. Jochi was married to a number of wives, and has over fifteen children. Jochi is a formidable warrior, embarking on campaigns that extended the northern border of the empire as well as playing a large role in the war against the Khwarezm empire. His designated land is in the northwestern region of the empire, which eventually became a turkanized state, with many connections to the Islamic community. One of Jochi's sons was one of the first Mongols to convert to Islam, cementing his connection to the community. As a powerful military leader, he has many loyal battalions of men willing to fight for him. His connections to the Islamic community also make him a formidable opponent as the empire expands into the east, with the ability to gauge reactions from and communicate to his contacts throughout western Asia

### **Chagatai**

Chagatai is the second son to Genghis and Borte, and was designated his own Khanate in Central Asia. In his personal life, he has several wives and over fifteen children. He was appointed to oversee the execution of the Yasa, and eventually became the king of Turkey. He is a temperamental member of the family and known for being hot-headed, especially as the member who has questioned Jochi's paternity the most. As the second-eldest, Chagatai has the most to gain from Jochi not being the true heir to the throne. Similar to his other brothers, he has embarked on many campaigns with his father, including a campaign against the Jin empire. However, due to his conflicts with his older brother, he was often assigned to different missions and prospects. His tribesmen were very traditional in their cultural values, and so he established the capital of his khanate in a remote area. As a ruler, he is more well-mannered and just, however, he came into conflict with his Muslim subjects as his enforcement of the Yasa at times directly conflicted with Islamic traditions and Sharia law. He is a dignified leader, though his personal conflicts often overshadowed his achievements. As the overseer of the Yasa (legal code), his final interpretation of the law is significantly important. As the Mongol Empire seeks to codify more laws and determine succession, Chagatai's interpretation is crucially important- his interpretation of the law is the law.

### **Ogedei**

Ogedei is the third son of Borte and Genghis, and favored successor to the throne. His favorability was due not only to the conflict between his two older brothers, but also his dignified leadership style. He is a powerful leader and military general, with connections throughout northern China and western Asia. In a battle against Jamuka he suffered severe wounds, but lived to survive. Though it was clear his father wishes him to become the successor to the throne, he has already declined at least three times, even with his elder brothers' blessings. His charisma, humility, courteousness, generosity, and pragmatism has portrayed him as the favored son, though he was not without his flaws. Under his administration, several horrible atrocities were recorded, including the capturing of young girls, directly violating laws his father had decreed. Though such capture will not be discussed in detail in committee, Ogedei's violation of his father's laws has been subject to discussion amongst the council. In his personal life, he has several wives and over sixty concubines. His wife, Toregene was extremely powerful and influential in her own right. Though she is his second wife, she is the mother to his first five sons, and favored by Ogedei. Ogedei was

also a known alcoholic, and managed to drink despite having officials assigned to watch him. Though such actions are detrimental to his health, they also demonstrate his ability to evade the watchful eyes of others and his ability to charm even the best trained officials. His power of negotiation and charm makes him a popular figure within the empire, able to convince almost anyone to bend to his will — even his father.

### **Tolui**

Tolui is the fourth son of Genghis Khan and Borte. He was appointed to be the civil administrator, and his designated land is his homelands in Mongolia. Tolui is the best warrior of his brothers, and his military skills are well-renowned. He commands the largest and most powerful army in central Mongolia, providing him with unparalleled military forces. Though he was too young to be involved in military campaigns when Genghis was rising up through the ranks, he stands as a bold military leader as an adult. Like his father and brothers, he has several wives and children, but his sons are also extremely capable leaders, including Mongke and Kublai. His first wife is also connected by blood to the late Ong Khan, one of Genghis' first allies and a strong leader in the Mongolian homeland. As a civil administrator, his connections to the bureaucracy and bureaucratic process are similarly powerful to his military ability. Though he lacked the political prowess of his older brother Ogedei, his understanding of the inner workings of the government allowed him to be competent in administration. His power to truly understand and exploit the bureaucratic processes of the government give him the ability to shift policy in his favor. Furthermore, his expansive military power provides him with an army of warriors ready to defend the homeland.

### **Börte**

Börte is Genghis Khan's first wife. Genghis was very attached to Borte, to whom he had been engaged since the age of 9. Shortly after her marriage to Genghis, she was kidnapped by a rival clan, and eventually rescued by her husband, the beginning of his foundation of alliances and conquests that would build his empire. After the founding of the empire, Genghis designated Borte the head of the first Court of Genghis Khan, and the Grand Empress of his empire. She is the mother of eight of Genghis's children, and heavily influenced his decisions on several occasions. She was very influential in the Mongol homeland, and stayed back while Genghis was on missions to rule over it. Only Borte's children were considered as successors to the throne, a clear indication of her power and connection to Genghis. Her poise, strength, intelligence, fierceness, and strong will made her an admirable leader and opponent, as well as a major founder of the empire beside her husband. With such influence, keeping the power within the family serves Borte's best interest, but deciding to whom the power should go is still unclear. As a beloved leader of the Mongol homeland and wife to Genghis, Borte has direct access to request rulings from Genghis, as well as great power over her subjects.

### **Suutun**

Suutun was the top scholar at this time. He was extremely intelligent, and worked closely with Ukhaan in order to build and create new tools, specifically for war. His extreme intelligence also meant that he was a competent military strategist and often came up with new strategies for the military to follow. His most important skill however, was his ability to read and write. Literacy was extremely rare for the Mongols, and having somebody who could read and write wasn't common, it was even more rare for this person to be a Mongol, and not a Chinese descendant. Suutun's lineage also meant that there was no question as to where his loyalties lie. He was an important advisor to Genghis Khan, and aided with maintaining records of different kinds. His ability to read and write has also allowed him access to knowledge that not many have, and he was an important legal figure in the Mongol Empire.

### **Head priest.**

Qiu Chuji, or Master Changchun, is a Taoist disciple and religious consultant to Genghis Khan. He is very powerful within the Taoist community, even starting his own branch, Dragon Gate, that incorporates traditional Chinese Confucianism and elements of Buddhism into the Taoist tradition. Chuji's continues to amass more and more followers as the days pass by. To some, Chuji is all-knowing and the only hope to save Genghis from death. Genghis has honored Master Changchun with the title Spirit Immortal for all his assistance, and has placed Chuji in charge of all the religious persons within the empire. Chuji is consistently called upon by Genghis for advisory in matters of immortality, spirituality, and religiosity. His connections throughout the empire to his followers and the religious community give him great influence. His religious connections give him the sole power of being the spiritual advisor, guide, and healer of the cabinet. While some disagree with his practices, his influence over the rulings of the empire and direct connection to Genghis have led many to begin following his teachings and listen to his advice, even those making incredibly important decisions that may change the fate of the empire.

### **Muqali**

Muqali is a trusted Mongol general and commander, who is in Genghis Khan's inner circle. He is Genghis Khan's second-in-command, and has been promoted to the viceroy of China, entrusted with much power as Genghis continued to move into Central Asia to continue his conquests. He is one of the best military commanders in history, with an undefeated track record, allowing the empire to continue to grow and flourish. However, he prefers more conciliatory needs when in conflict, despite his aptitude for military conquest. He and his family have served the great Khans of the empire, and remained significant within the organization of the empire. His direct connection to Genghis and alliances throughout China and Mongolia are important considerations. Despite not being directly related to Genghis, he is a strong contender to become first-in-command. As a servant to the empire, he and his family are incredibly well-respected, garnering support from those who lack the aristocratic power of the elites within society. Even to those who hold family titles, his loyalty and devotion to the empire and its missions betters his credibility. Furthermore, his military strategy is unparalleled. His ability to construct and deploy military missions is unlike any other military leader within the empire, and many seek out his advice to ensure their own plans are well thought-through.

### **Khutulun**

Khutulun, the great niece to Genghis Khan and cousin of Kublai Khan is a noblewoman and wrestler, who has accompanied her father Kaidu on several military campaigns. She is a fierce warrior and her military prowess gave her connections throughout the military and the allegiance of several troops. She rules in India, and is considered the “people’s princess”, highly popular with all her subjects. Given her foothold in India, she has strong connections along the Silk Road and has taken advantage of the much-desired spices and goods from her regions.

Her father adores her, and plans to name her as his successor, much to the discontent of her male relatives. Despite the time period, Khutulun is a very powerful leader and warrior whose intellect and prowess is not to be underestimated. Though many relatives attempt to undermine her power, her charisma and character have ultimately prevailed. Furthermore, Khutulun has strong support amongst Mongol women, who look up to her as someone who is both able to embrace her femininity while demonstrating military prowess. Her dedication to the women of the empire allows her to infiltrate households in a unique way: through the wives and daughters of powerful leaders.

### **Subutai**

Subutai, or Subugatai, is the primary military strategist of Genghis Khan. He is a major innovator in the art of war, and has directed more than 20 campaigns and 65 pitched battles, exemplifying his key role in the empire’s conquests. His imaginative military strategies have allowed the Mongols to outsmart and outscheme their opponents time and time again. He works closely with Muqali and other generals to ensure that the Mongols are fully prepared for every battle that they partake in. The military endeavors that he embarked on took place in a number of locations, and yet, his strategy continued to prevail. He conquered Turkey, and Western Russia up to the Carpathians. Due to his military skill, he is very close with Genghis Khan, and consults him on all military missions. He was born a commoner, but has risen through the ranks quickly by merit; as a result, Subutai is a strong proponent of meritocracy. Subutai is a master at finding divisions within enemy forces and fragmenting them to weaken the opponent, utilizing spies and other methods. Not much slips by Subutai, who is very well-versed in Genghis’s family matters; his knowledge of Genghis’s family politics is second to none. As someone who has earned his title through hard work rather than family title, Subutai is a popular contender to both succeed and support the next successor to the throne. His skill for warfare is second to none, making him prefer to settle things with fists, not words

### **Buutsai**

Buutsai was a horse breeder from Mongolia. Originally a farmer, he became powerful and wealthy because of the meritocracy installed by Genghis Khan. His horses are well known for their strength, speed, and stamina. Horses were viewed as more than simply animals by the Mongols, they understood the horse’s importance in battle and were viewed as extremely important. Each Mongol warrior would often carry more than one horse, so that they could consistently travel at full speed, horses were the backbone of any Mongol battle, and the empire would collapse without a steady supply of proper horses. Buutsai’s horses were the best of the best, and used by many members of the military, and even Genghis Khan himself. However, they were expensive, which led to Buutsai becoming extremely wealthy.

### **Ukhaan**

Ukhaan was a scientist and innovator during the time of the Mongol Empire. Genghis Khan was a leader who understood the importance of intellect and science as well as the importance of war in gaining and maintaining power, and put a lot of effort in developing technologically. Ukhaan was renowned across the Mongol Empire for his brilliant mind and would often come up with new innovative ideas that helped the Mongols win battles. He was respected by Genghis Khan and integral in the empire maintaining power.

### **Baibars**

Baibars was the leader of Egypt during the time of the Mongol Empire. With the Mongolian Empire closing in on Egypt and the holy land, it was vital for him to have a role in the Mongol leadership, as he would be a formidable opponent, even for the Mongols. Baibars has the force of Egypt on his side, and acts in Egypt's best interest. However, with the death of Genghis Khan and the disturbance across the Mongol Empire, he also sees an opportunity to gain power. Baibars is somebody who has always tried to gain power in any given situation. Baibars is an intelligent commander, who always comes up with unique methods to win fights, he even defeated the Mongols one time in the battle of Ain Jalut.

### **Ivan I of Moscow**

Ivan I is a Russian prince and Grand Duke of Moscow and Vladimir. To attain these titles, he had to have approval from the Golden Horde, the Mongols who ruled this territory. He came from a royal Russian line and has multiple wives and children. His connections throughout Russia are formidable, and alliance with the Mongols may help him achieve the approval necessary to become the king of Russia, attaining more power than the rest of his competitors. His alliance with the Mongols and the Golden Horde have led him to garner great power within Russia, and eliminate his opponents. Throughout his rule, he struck many deals with the Mongolians to ensure the safety of trade routes to Russia, as well as the safety of his people from raids. His greatest deal, however, was securing the leadership of his land to be passed down to his children. In terms of religion, he was well-connected to the Eastern Orthodox church in Russia, convincing the head of the Russian church to move to Moscow to live safely under the rule of Ivan I. Ivan I is no doubt an incredibly powerful leader and formidable military opponent — convincing the Mongols that relinquishing power in the region to him was a difficult feat. Despite his wins, he still yearns to expand his influence over Russia, and dreams of one day bringing the glory that Genghis Khan has brought to Mongolia to his Motherland

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