



37th Annual MVHSMUN Conference

“opus justitiae pax”

The Work of Justice Shall be Peace

Crisis 1

Hello, my name is Grace Dluzak and I will be your Head Chair for the MVHS MUN Conference in 2020! I have been a member of MUN for four years now, and I am a Senior here at Mission. I love being a member of MUN because I have always found it to be a fun way to learn about international relations. In my free-time, I like to eat soup, hang out with friends, and talk about the 2004 action/adventure Walt Disney Pictures movie, nominated for the Teen Choice Movie: Action and Adventure award and winner of the BMI Film Music Award, *National Treasure*. I am very excited for this conference and am willing to help with any questions you may have. To ask any questions or submit position papers, don't hesitate to email me at mvhsmuncrisis1@gmail.com.

Hi! My name is Brad Higashi and I will be your Vice Chair for the 2020 MVHS MUN Conference. I have been part of the MUN program for four years and I am a senior at Laguna Hills High. MUN has introduced me to international conflicts I would have never known about which is one of the reasons why I really enjoy the program. When I am not overwhelmed by writing essays and studying for tests, I cook Japanese cuisine and take naps. I am thrilled to help Mission Viejo with this conference and I can't wait to see you all there!

People's Crusade



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I. Background on the Crusades

The Crusades were military expeditions which took place from the beginning of the eleventh century to the end of the fifteenth. These expeditions were prompted by western European Christians taking response to Muslim actions. The justification behind these Crusades was to prevent the expansion of the Muslim states and to reclaim the Holy Land that the Muslims ruled over. People who participated in these Crusades also viewed the expeditions as an atonement for their sins. The First Crusade lasted from 1096-1099.

Four armies, comprised of soldiers from a multitude of Western regions, were led by Ramond of Saint-Giles, or Raymond IV. These armies departed for Byzantium in 1096. Earlier, Peter the Hermit, a popular minister, disregarded emperor Alexios I's guidance and advanced his own army. Peter Hermit was the first to make contact with Muslim supportive military forces, which resulted in the demolition of the Western European military. Another crusade took place in Rhineland. Count Emicho of Flonheim led a slaughter of numerous Jews.

When the four main armies reached Constantinople, the leaders of each army were summoned to a meeting with Alexios I. All but Bohemond of Taranto rejected Alexios' request to be acknowledged as the ruler of all reclaimed land by the Turks. During the year 1097, Crusaders striked Nicea who later surrendered.



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The Crusaders made their way towards Jerusalem in 1099 and further worsened relations between Christians and Jews. Despite Tancred's promise to spare the people of Jerusalem, the Crusaders slaughtered numerous citizens. The First Crusade subsided by the end of 1099. After the bloodbath in Jerusalem, the Crusaders were deemed victorious. Four crusader states, Edessa, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Tripoli, were established as well.

II. People's Crusade Involvement

The People's Crusade officially began in April 1096 by Pope Urban II, who intended to take back the Holy Land that was occupied by the Fatimids. However, Pope Urban II initially discussed the idea of recapturing Jerusalem back in November of 1095, with the idea of giving back lost Byzantine land. The People's Crusade was also called The Peasants' Crusade, The Popular Crusade, or The Crusade of the Poor People, and is aptly named because Christian peasants primarily led it. In Pope Urban II's speeches, he intended for the Crusades to be led by upper-class warriors with military experience and set the time of departure for August of 1096. This plan did not work because Peter the Hermit's preaching of the Crusades inspired the masses, despite not having the proper resources- the idea being that “they believed they were on a holy mission, and that God would provide” (Thought Co.). Supplies of food and weapons were sparse, which made the troops' march towards Jerusalem difficult.

Even though Pope Urban II planned for the Crusades to begin in the middle of summer, the first group of Crusaders left in March of 1096, led by Walter Sans Avoir. Their journey was fairly



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trouble-free, despite the Byzantine Empire not expecting their arrival so early. The Byzantines had not adequately prepared for the People’s Crusade, nor were they expecting a group of peasants. These Crusaders were sent away and pillaged nearby towns for supplies instead. The next journey of the Crusades was more significant than the group led by Walter Sans Avoir. The expedition led by Peter the Hermit gathered many peasants by saying Christ had given him authority to recapture the Holy Land. Throughout Peter’s journey, he gradually lost control of the Crusaders’ desire to plunder and pillage.

Due to their violent actions and the possibility of starvation, tens of thousands of Crusaders died. When the remaining Crusaders made their way to Constantinople, the Byzantine Empire was quick to ship the Crusaders to Asia Minor. Here they were quickly taken over by the Turks, and soon enough, the remaining Crusaders were forced to convert to Islam or die. While The People’s Crusade was mostly unsuccessful, it was able to rally many people towards achieving a common goal.

Guiding Questions

1. What your character’s intention/ goal for the Crusade? Is it money? Religion? Prestige?
2. What can your character do to work towards having a successful Crusade?
3. What steps will your character take to use their available resources and soldiers to be able to take back the Holy Land?



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4. Think about the voyage that your character left on. Was their specific Crusade successful?

What steps could you take to change the outcome?

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