

Medieval Council

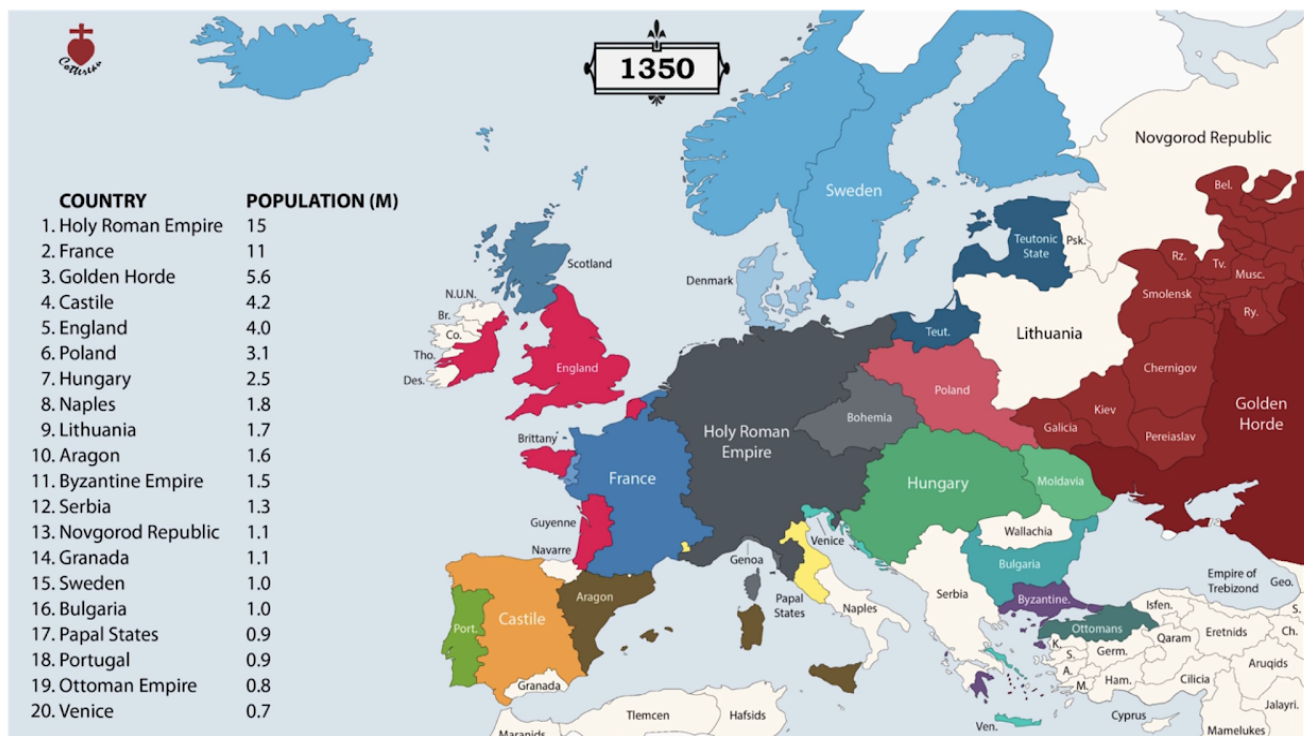
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Committee Background:

This Medieval Council takes place in the year 1350. It's part of the medieval era so members of the council are kingdoms. As a result of the constant wars and diseases mainly in Europe, these kingdoms have decided to join and try to find a solution. This Council was established in order to create a space for international dialogue in decision making. However, kingdoms are not easily willing to give up honor, they would rather fight. Since this committee takes place in the year 1350, any information after that is invalid. Thus, the 100 Years War will not be referred to as that in the simulations, it'll be called The Great War. Additionally, kingdoms may not propose solutions that do not match their era, like modern medicine.

The kingdoms that make up this committee are: France (House of Valois) **with Philip VI, the Fortunate**; the Avignon Papacy with **Pope Clement VI**; the Kingdom of Scotland with **King David II**, the Crown of Castile with **Alfonso XI of Castile**, the Republic of Genoa with its **delegate of Genoa (because of the community's nature)**, the Crown of Aragon with **Peter IV of Aragon**, the Kingdom of England with **Edward III of England**, the Kingdom of Portugal **Afonso IV of Portugal**, the Kingdom of Navarre with **Charles II the Bad**, the Mongol Empire with **Toghon Temür**, the Byzantine Empire with **John VI Kantakouzenos**, the Kingdom of Poland with **Casimir III the Great**, the Serbian Empire with **Stefan Dušan**, the Bulgarian



Empire with **Ivan Alexander**, the Kingdom of Hungary with **Louis I the Great**, the Holy Roman Empire with **Charles IV**, the Kingdom of Sicily with King Louis, the Teutonic Order with **Heinrich Dusemer**, and the Kingdom of Sweden with **Magnus IV of Sweden** (Cottreau 2018). The participants, except for the delegate of Genoa, may **use a crown** during the sessions.

As always, your job as a delegate is to represent your assigned delegation; therefore, delegates must be aware of the behavior and ethics of their kingdom. Due to the monarchical nature of the kingdoms, the kings must do what is best to the continuation of their empire and the royal lineage. Relationships should be created with consideration to growth and the achievement of power.

I. The Terrible Black (Black Death).

Previous History

There had been a major plague in our world's history, The Plague of Justinian, one of the most devastating plagues in the world, a plague that although occurred several millennia ago is still present in the book's pages (**John Horgan**, 2014), but this one, which is the third, is something that we haven't seen before. The disease is transmitted when a person is bit by a rat that carried the Terrible black; first from where the person was bitten, a painful liquid filled sack forms, after a while the areas around start to turn black in color (**Ole Benedictow**, 2005), as if the feces of the devil himself was used to paint the body of the victims. Most people die after a couple of weeks from when the bite occurred (**Ole Benedictow**, 2005).

The Terrible Black is thought to have originated in the landing station of Kaffa in Crimea. When in 1346 the Mongols raided the a group of merchants merchants, the mysterious illness penetrated into the towns; and when spring arrived and the merchants fled to the where they came from (**Ole Benedictow**, 2005). The ships from Kaffa arrived in Constantinople in May 1347 with the Black Death on board. The epidemic broke loose in early July. In North Africa and the Middle East, it started around September 1st, having arrived in Alexandria with ship transport from Constantinople. Its spread from Constantinople to European Mediterranean commercial hubs also started in the autumn of 1347. It reached Marseilles by about the second week of September, probably with a ship from the city. Then the Constantinople merchants appear to have left Constantinople several months later and arrived in their home towns of Genoa and Venice with plague on board, some time in November. On their way home, ships from Genoa also contaminated Florence's seaport city of Pisa. The spread out of Pisa is characterized by a number of metastatic leaps. These great commercial cities also functioned as bridgeheads

from where the disease conquered Europe (**Ole Benedictow**, 2005). It is said that the reason why the Terrible Black spread so quickly-in a matter of months-, is because the devilish rodents that carried it were traveling in the new bigger and faster ships of the time (Ole Benedictow, 2005).

Current Events

By now an uncountable amount of people have suffered the consequences of the Terrible Blackness that has consumed their flesh, a description of the dark event is described by the poet Petrarch, and it goes like this:

Where a normal burial could be arranged, it could only be afforded by the rich because of the steep rise in the costs of all services associated with a funeral. Candles, coffins and mourning clothes all rose sharply in price. Those who could be persuaded to dispose of the bodies became rich on the rates they charged. (Hatty, n.d).

Nowadays, four long years since the start of the massive deaths some information is known about this hellish illness, it is a well known fact the plague is the least effective in the winter, and the closer a community is to the north and the mountains, the less effect it becomes (Ole Benedictow, 2005). This and many other solutions have been proposed, yet the crisis continues, a solutions must be found, and it must be found quickly.

I. The Great War (The hundred years war).

Previous History

The Great War had already a complicated political relation between the House of Valois(France Royal Dynasty) and the House of Plantagenets (English Royal Dynasty) far back in the first half of the 14th century, exactly 1066, when William the Conqueror (also known as William the Bastard) became king after the victory at the battle of Hastings (part of The House of Plantagenets) he united the House of Plantagenets with Normandy in the House of Valois; where William had total control on both sides. This cause a great impact on the Anglo-Saxons' lands, owners of the Plantagenets' properties, who were declining and the Norman ones were increasing so much that it was a position of nobility. Nonetheless the problem continued in the age of Henry II, in which House of Plantagenets get more control over the Kingdom of England. When Edward III became king of House of Plantagenets, it only had control over two areas of the areas of the House of Valois which were Gascony and Ponthieu.

When Charles IV le Bel of House of Valois (France Royal Dynasty) died without any male successor, thus it was left to an assembly of magnates to decide who will be the new king. The two major principles claimants were the Charles' first cousin, King Philip VI le Fortuné from count of Valois, and Edward III from the count of Plantagenets, also known as the son of Isabella of France who was Charles IV's sister. Nonetheless, the assembly decided in favour of the Count of Valois, what made Philip VI the king of House of Valois (France) in 1328. The Great War didn't start until May 24, 1337 when Philip VI made the first step to began the war, when he confiscated the duchy of Guyenne, properties of the House of Plantagenets, which made that Edward III protested and responded by pressing his right to the French Throne.

Current Events

In the time when the Great War began, The House of Valois was positioned as the clear winner because of its great financial power as its military sources overall western Europe, compared to the House of Plantagenets. Nonetheless it surprised in the Great War because its army, which with discipline and using their longbows to stop cavalry charges given to them some victorious over the House of Valois forces. The victorious that had given the House of Plantagenets advantage were the Battle of Sluys and the Battle of Crecy. The Battle of Sluys (June 24, 1340) was remember because it was the first major contact between the two side on a naval battle where the House of Plantagenets got victory and ended the threat of a naval invasion from the part of the House of Valois; also brought it dominance of the Channel (English Channel). Then happened the Battle of Crecy (August 26, 1346) which was unforgettable in the history of the Great War because of the horrible defeat that the House of Plantagenets put on the House of Valois, considering the numerical superiority that they. Also this battle was useful for Edward III to enter to Calais and obligate the defenders to surrender one year later. (England victory) Now a days, in 1350 king Philippe VI passed away and Jean II took the House of Valois' throne.

To conclude, this war, as all wars are, is costly. Due to this and several other factors that add up, it is not a good idea for the wellbeing of Europe's kingdom's. This is a crisis, and the kings must make decisions to solve it.

Youtube videos for a better understanding of the Great war:

<https://youtu.be/i0NXWfCLIfI>

<https://youtu.be/w5K2K-S013U>

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