



# **JejuMUN XII**

## **BACKGROUND GUIDE**

### **Joint Crisis Committee (JCC)**

*Aftermath of the fall of the Jin Dynasty*

SDGs: 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities | 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Authored by Olivia Shin, Jihoo Kim, Jisoo Hyun, Hyunjun (Eric) Jang, William (Geon) Jang, Danu Kim

November 28th-29th, 2025

Last updated on July 26, 2025

---

# Table of Contents

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Table of Contents        | 2  |
| Committee Introduction   | 3  |
| Agenda Introduction      | 4  |
| Letter from the Chairs   | 5  |
| Key Terms                | 6  |
| Historical Background    | 6  |
| Current State of Affairs | 8  |
| Stances of Parties       | 9  |
| Possible Solutions       | 10 |
| Questions to Consider    | 11 |
| Bibliography             | 12 |

# Committee Introduction

Welcome to the Joint Crisis Committee of JejuMUN XII!

To all newcomers, a Joint Crisis Committee will sound quite foreign. Here's a quick breakdown of what a Joint Crisis Committee (JCC) is. The JCC is a committee where two groups of delegates work under the same agenda with either different or similar goals in mind. An easy example is the Cuban Missile Crisis, where the delegates of the entire JCC will have the ultimate goal of stopping a global nuclear war from erupting, but there would be different, more specific objectives for the two groups (the Soviet Union and the United States), such as. Actions made through public and private directives within different rooms may affect the crisis of the delegates in the other room. Where one action may lead to cooperation or destruction, JCC requires delegates to be quick to defend against the raging crises and come up with the best way, either through diplomacy or war.

In this JCC, delegates are transported to the year 1234 Asia, immediately following the collapse of the Jin Dynasty. The Mongol Empire, having allied with the Song Dynasty to bring down the Jin, now faces a far more complicated reality. With the Jin gone, a common enemy no longer binds the Mongols and Song together. Old tensions, conflicting ambitions, and mutual suspicions rise to the surface. Both powers must now determine their next steps: will peace hold, or will new conflicts emerge from fragile alliances?

Delegates will be divided into two committees — the Mongol Empire and the Song Dynasty — each representing a range of political, military, and administrative roles. The Song delegates must navigate the difficult task of stabilizing their borders, managing internal political factions, and responding to external threats. The Mongol delegates must balance the pressures of imperial expansion with growing internal divisions and the complex diplomacy of maintaining relations with the Song.

Armed with limited information and faced with continuous crisis updates, delegates must utilize their authority, resources, and diplomatic skills to secure their side's interests — whether through cooperation, political intrigue, or renewed war.

# Agenda Introduction

With the Jin Dynasty's collapse in 1234, the temporary alliance between the Mongol Empire and the Song Dynasty entered uncertain territory. The Jin, once a dominant northern power, are gone — but now the uneasy partnership between the Mongols and Song is rapidly eroding as both sides reassess their positions.

The Jin Dynasty collapsed in 1234, and along with this significant event, the temporary alliance between the Mongols and the Song was shaken. The Jin was once a dominant power in the Northern region, but now is gone, leaving a massive power chasm between the two parties - the Mongols and the Song. Now, the uneasy partnership between the Mongols and the Song is rapidly eroding as both sides reassess their positions.

The Mongol Empire expanded deep into northern China, absorbing former Jin territories and resources. Their rapid conquests have demonstrated unmatched military strength, but also created logistical strains, political divisions among Mongol elites, and pressures to continue expansion. Meanwhile, the Song Dynasty has temporarily removed a northern rival but now faces the uncomfortable reality that its powerful former ally may become a new existential threat.

The Mongol Empire expanded its forces deeply into Northern China, resulting in its possession of former Jin territories and resources. Their rapid conquests have demonstrated an unrivaled military capability, but also created logistical strains, political divisions in the higher class of Mongolians, and pressures to pursue more land. While this conquest is continuing, the Song has temporarily relieved its tensions from the North, but now faces the reality that the powerful Mongol, who was once an ally, is now a formidable existential threat.

Roughly 40 to 50 million former Jin subjects have been absorbed or displaced, creating serious governance, refugee, and stability challenges across northern China. Trade routes, tax systems, and local administrations remain in flux, with both the Mongols and Song seeking to secure their respective zones of influence.

For both empires, the immediate question is whether to stabilize the fragile balance or to pursue further gains at the other's expense. This agenda begins at the critical juncture following Caizhou's fall in 1234, where every decision risks either preserving fragile peace or igniting new conflict.

# Letter from the Chairs

Greetings, delegates!

It is our pleasure to serve as your chairs for the Joint Crisis Committee of JejuMUN XII. Due to the unique nature of a JC Committee, some of you will be seeing a group of us more often than others. If you are assigned to Room 1, Jisoo Hyun and William (Geon) Jang will be serving as your chairs, and Olivia Shin will be directing the crisis of the room. On the other hand, in Room 2, Jihoo Kim will be managing the crisis updates and directives, while Hyunjun (Eric) Jang and Danu Kim will be serving as your chairs.

As a team of chairs tasked with the revival of the Joint Crisis Committee, we have been working to the best of our ability to create room for an enjoyable debate for all delegates. We are more than excited to present you all with the experience we've prepared, and hope that every one of you returns with something fruitful in your mind or hands. Whether it is an award, new friends, or a fresh perspective on the world, the chairs highly encourage all delegates to participate to make a difference in the committee room.

The chairs do recognize the fact that the committee will proceed while divided into two different rooms, and this might come as a new challenge for delegates. However, the chairs with little doubt believe that this challenge will be an additional touch of enjoyment to the committee, and will do so much to enhance the quality of debate. The style and type of committee will allow delegates to not only interact with delegates within the same room, but also outside of their room. We hope that delegates can make their own best experience out of it.

The success of this committee is straightforward — collaboration is key. Your fellow delegates will bring the complete experience of the committee. Directors and chairs will also be the most helpful source when it comes to guiding the delegates towards their goals. We sincerely hope that this conference will provide all individual delegates with a memorable experience. Feel free to contact any of the six of us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the agenda or the MUN itself. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Best regards,

Olivia Shin | Director (Room 1- The Song) | [syshin26@kis.ac](mailto:syshin26@kis.ac)

Jisoo Hyun | Head Chair (Room 1- The Song) | [isoohyun26@kis.ac](mailto:isoohyun26@kis.ac)

William (Geon) Jang | Deputy Chair (Room 1- The Song) | [gjang30@kis.ac](mailto:gjang30@kis.ac)

Jihoo Kim | Director (Room 2- The Mongols) | [jhkim26@kis.ac](mailto:jhkim26@kis.ac)

Hyunjun (Eric) Jang | Head Chair (Room 2- The Mongols) | [s20297234@sjaeju.kr](mailto:s20297234@sjaeju.kr)

Danu Kim | Deputy Chair (Room 2- The Mongols) | [dukim27@kis.ac](mailto:dukim27@kis.ac)

# Key Terms

## Jin Dynasty

A dynasty that controlled northern China after defeating the Northern Song, ruling from 1115 to 1234. The dynasty was known for its strength in its military, particularly its cavalry and Jurchen warrior tradition. At the time of its fall in early 1234, the Jin were led by Emperor Aizong, who fled to Caizhou after the Mongols and Southern Song formed an alliance against him; he ultimately committed suicide as the city fell, marking the dynasty's collapse.

## Southern Song Dynasty

After the Jinkang Incident, the Song Dynasty lost control of Northern China to the Jurchen-led Jin Dynasty, forcing the imperial government to retreat south to the Yangtze River and reestablish its capital at Lin'an (modern Hangzhou).

## Mongol-Jin Wars

A series of brutal and violent campaigns by the Mongol Empire under Genghis Khan's lead. This eventually led to the destruction of the Jin Dynasty in 1234.

## Ögedei Khan

Genghis Khan's son and successor to his lineage. Ögedei Khan completed the conquest of the Jin Dynasty and further spread Mongol influence into China and Central Asia.

## Kurultai

A kurultai was a traditional Mongol council or assembly of nobles and princes convened to make major decisions, such as electing a new khan. If Ögedei Khan dies, a kurultai is necessary to select his successor, leading to a pause in military campaigns and intense factional rivalry among the imperial lineages.

## Song-Mongol Alliance

A military partnership formed by the Song dynasty and the Mongol Empire in 1233 to defeat their common enemy, the Jin dynasty.

## Siege Warfare

During the Mongol-Jin war, siege warfare involved the Mongols using advanced tactics and powerful siege weapons, such as catapults and trebuchets, to systematically surround, bombard, and capture heavily fortified Jin cities.

## Siege of Caizhou

The Siege of Caizhou, fought in early 1234, was the final campaign of the Jurchen-led Jin dynasty. Mongol and Southern Song forces jointly surrounded Caizhou, where Emperor Aizong of Jin ultimately committed suicide, bringing an end to the dynasty.

## Henan Region

After the Jin dynasty collapsed in February 1234, the Henan region—once the heartland of the Northern Song—became a political and military vacuum. The Southern Song

strongly wants to reclaim this territory, but the Mongols also sought control of the region, leading to growing tensions and eventual conflict between the former allies.

# Historical Background

## Start of the Jin Dynasty:

The Jin Dynasty started in 1115 when the Jurchen Tribes of Manchuria, led by Wanyan Aguda, rebelled against the Khitan-led Liao Dynasty. Aguda proclaimed himself the emperor of the Jin Dynasty, uniting the Jurchen clans under a centralized rule. By 1125, the Jin Dynasty's forces conquered the Liao Dynasty and pushed to the south, defeating the Northern Song Dynasty in 1127 during the Jingkang Incident, capturing the Song capital Kaifeng and the emperor. The victory allowed the Jin to claim Northern China, establishing a regime that implemented the Jin legal code and promoted dual administration.

## Fall of the Jin Dynasty:

The Jin Dynasty managed to sustain its land from the Mongolian attacks for over two decades, yet in the end, it collapsed from both internal and external conflicts. The Jin Dynasty was structured with different ethnic populations, such as the Jurchens ruling over citizens who were mainly Han Chinese. The clash of cultures created constant tensions within the nation, making it susceptible to internal struggles. Such weaknesses further affected its politics, as the Dual Administration system the nation pursued was inefficient for a nation that lacked unity and loyalty. Further in the Mongol-Jin War, the Jin Dynasty was met with peasant revolts due to heavy taxation, poor economy, and rural unrest due to Mongolian raids. The Mongol-Jin War lasted for 23 years, starting with Genghis Khan and his trusted general Muqali. Towards the end of the Mongol-Jin war, the biggest external threat was the alliance between the Southern Song and the Mongolian Empire, formed in 1233, which posed a great hazard to the Jin Dynasty. As Song provided war supplies to the Mongols, and without any foreign support due to multiple failed diplomacy attempts and a self-destructing nation, the Jin Dynasty met its demise under Mongolian and Southern Song attacks in 1234, during the reign of Ögedei Khan.

## Song and Mongol Relations:

In the early 1230s, facing increased pressure from Mongol attacks, the Jin emperor sought aid from the Song dynasty. Jin envoys warned the Song that after defeating the Jin, the Mongols could target the Song next. Despite the warning, the Song decided to side with the Mongols instead, providing supplies to the Mongols while getting some of the Henan province in return.

Their shared goal was to defeat the Jin Dynasty. Both the Mongol Empire and the Southern Song viewed the Jin as a formidable enemy. The Mongols wanted to destroy a rival blocking their expansion into China, while the Song saw an opportunity to reclaim lost territories and end a century-long struggle with the Jin. The Mongol's goals were to overcome the Jin resistance efficiently and to secure cooperation in regional control. On the other hand, the Song's goals were to recover lost lands, eliminate the Jin, and ensure short-term security.

Although the two groups were under an alliance, the term of cooperation was brief. After the fall of the Jin Dynasty, the Song and Mongolian forces were under immediate tension to resolve the problems with territorial occupations. The Mongols and Song now shared borders, such as the Central Plains and the Huai River valley. Without a proper border treaty, conflict will be imminent.

**Past Diplomacies:**

The Song Dynasty had friendly relations with the Mongols in order to avoid territorial conflict and becoming the next target of war. The nation sent envoys and tribute to the Mongolian Empire. During the Jin-Mongol War, the Song allied with the Mongols against the Jin under the impression that they would aid the Mongols in the fight, and would expect to reclaim the northern lands that were previously lost to the Jin.

The Mongols always gave room to isolate their targets of battle. The Mongols always favored surrender, such as offering autonomy to those who rebelled against the Jin, or suggesting “peace for submission” to the Jin before they officially attacked.

# Current State of Affairs

## The Mongolian Forces

The Mongols, after their conquest of the Jin Dynasty, are consolidating control over northern China. Key cities like Kaifeng and Luoyang are under Mongol occupation, enabling strategic dominance. While Mongol forces recover from siege attrition and suppress lingering Jin resistance, their primary objective remains extending rule across northern China—setting the stage for inevitable conflict with the Song.

Amid these efforts, Ögedei Khan's declining health fuels political uncertainty. Rival factions—loyalists to Ögedei's lineage and supporters of his nephew Möngke (grandson of Genghis Khan)—begin maneuvering for influence. This looming succession crisis threatens to destabilize the empire even as Mongol troops secure newly conquered territories.

After the conquest of the land of the once Jin Dynasty, they are now consolidating control over Northern China. Major cities such as Kaifeng and Luoyang are currently under Mongol control, enabling the wide strategic dominance of the Mongols over China. While Mongol forces recover from the extensive use of resources in sieges and suppressing remaining Jin resistance, their primary goal is still expanding their rule and influence across Northern China, making the conflict with the Song inevitable.

Along with these ongoing efforts and conquests, Ögedei Khan's declining health pushes political instability and uncertainty, especially among the Mongol elite. Rival factions - the elite loyal to Ögedei's lineage and supporters of his nephew Möngke - began slowly rising to gain influence. This rising uncertainty for succession threatens to destabilize the Mongol Empire, even as the Mongol Empire gains new territories.

## The Song Dynasty

One important objective of the nation was to recover the northern territories that were taken by the Jin, including the areas of the Central Plains. Yet, the Song has various internal problems that would hinder their arrival at this objective. Above all, the Song's military is not in a ready condition. The military is focused on the nation's defense, and yet is poorly coordinated. While exceptional in defense, it lacks offensive capabilities, along with cavalry for open field combat, compared to the Mongols. The nation would have to develop its military further to survive any sort of military conflict with the Mongols. Furthermore, the Song court was divided into two, arranged by the Peace faction and the War hawks. Due to various arguments, the nature of the court, and the underestimation of the Mongol threat, the Song is currently in a great pause of decision-making.

## The remains of the Jin Dynasty:

After the collapse of the Jin Dynasty, some of the remains were scattered throughout the former territory. Those of the Jurchen Elite faced death, and the few that survived fled to the Song or other neighboring, nonsubstantial nations. Others integrated into the Mongolian society.

Those of the lower class met different ends. The Han population in Northern China was taken over by the Mongols, and went through heavy taxation and forced labor. The Mongol now attempts to redistribute both the remaining Jurchen elite and the Han population over the former Jin territory.

# Stances of Parties

## The Mongols

### **Töregene Khatun**

Widow of Ögedei Khan and mother of Güyük, Töregene was a formidable political force at court. In 1234, she managed administrative affairs, cultivated alliances, and positioned herself for a potential regency. Her immediate goal was to secure the Ögedeid family's dominance, especially her son's succession, while stabilizing Mongol rule in newly conquered northern China. Her influence extended to the appointment of key military and administrative officials.

### **Güyük Khan**

As Ögedei's eldest son, Güyük was a senior prince and military commander. He had participated in the campaigns against the Jin and was active in consolidating Mongol control over the conquered territories. In 1234, his ambitions centered on securing his succession and further expanding Mongol authority, particularly as the empire's attention shifted toward the Song frontier.

### **Kadan Khan**

Kadan, another son of Ögedei, was recognized for his aggressive tactics and battlefield leadership. He played a direct role in the final campaigns against the Jin and was poised to participate in the early confrontations with the Song. His goals included proving his military prowess and earning greater command responsibilities within the Mongol hierarchy.

### **Khochu**

Khochu, also a son of Ögedei, held command over troops in northern China during the final phase of the Jin campaigns. His responsibilities included securing Mongol control over occupied cities and ensuring the loyalty of local populations. His allegiance was firmly with the Ögedeid faction, and his ambitions were to strengthen Mongol authority in the region and distinguish himself among his brothers.

### **Tachir**

Mongol general, descendant of Bo'orchu. Tachir is a seasoned Mongol commander notable for his lineage and his role in the immediate aftermath of Jin's fall. He is the grandson of Bo'orchu, who was a famed companion of Genghis Khan, though Tachir himself is not of the imperial Borjigin line. As of 1234, Tachir commands a task force along with Subutai in Henan.

### **Subutai**

Subutai is the Mongol Empire's premier general and chief strategist under Genghis and Ögedei. He commanded numerous campaigns—including the decisive invasion of the Jin in 1231–1232, winning battles at Sanfengshan, Yangyi, and T'iehling—and currently commands a Mongolian task force on the Yellow River near Kaifeng.

### **Shi Tianze (史天澤)**

A Han Chinese general who defected to the Mongols, Shi Tianze commanded Han troops in the Mongol army and was instrumental in the conquest of the Jin. In 1234, he was a key figure in the administration and pacification of northern China, and his knowledge of local conditions made him valuable for future operations against the Song.

### **Zhang Rou**

Zhang Rou was originally a Chinese rebel warlord in Shandong who submitted to Genghis Khan. By Ögedei's reign, he has become one of the trusted Han generals commanding Mongol-allied Chinese troops. His past actions include fighting against the Jin dynasty on behalf of the Mongols: Zhang Rou and his fellow defector generals (such as Shi Tianze) led Han armies under Mongol command. He helped capture Jin cities and pacify regions of North China for the empire. By 1234, Zhang Rou held a high rank as a general-governor in the north, entrusted with both military and civil authority over Chinese districts.

### **Yelü Chucai**

As a Chinese Khitan statesman, Yelü Chucai was indispensable in managing the civil administration of northern China. He advocated for leniency and effective taxation, helping to stabilize Mongol rule. In 1234, he focused on integrating Chinese officials into the Mongol system and reducing the devastation of war.

### **Sorghaghtani Beki**

Wife of Tolui, the son of Genghis Khan. Sorghaghtani was one of the primary figures of the Toluid Faction, playing a crucial role in ascending her sons to the throne. She was dedicated to education and the religious tolerance of her sons, Möngke and Kublai, significantly influencing the future of the Mongolian Empire.

### **Möngke Khan**

Möngke is the grandson of Genghis Khan. He is a major figure of the Toluid Faction, as the Senior Prince of the Toluid Lineage and the first son of Genghis Khan's youngest son, Tolui. He is a brave soldier, beginning his warrior career in 1230, when Möngke went to war against the Jin dynasty with his father and uncle, Ögedei. Along with Ögedei's declining health, Möngke becomes a favored candidate for anti-Ögedeid Factions.

### **Kublai Khan**

As the second son of Tolui and the grandson of Genghis Khan, Kublai Khan is another major figure of the Toluid Faction. As of 1234, he was not yet a formal general nor an influential politician. He was a prince receiving early soldier training. As a young prince, Kublai was interested in Chinese culture, including Confucianism and Buddhism.

### **Baiju Noyan**

A senior Toluid general, Baiju, was active in the campaigns against the Jin and was beginning to participate in operations near the Song border. Known for his tactical skill, he was trusted with significant responsibilities. His allegiance was to the Toluid family, and his goal was to distinguish himself in the Mongol-Song wars and secure further command.

## **The Song**

### **Zheng Qingzhi (鄭清之)**

Zheng Qingzhi was the chief councilor of Emperor Lizong around 1234 and a key proponent of an aggressive policy against the Mongols. After the fall of the Jin Dynasty, Zheng urged the Song court to seize the opportunity to recover lost northern territories. He supported launching a Northern Expedition alongside allied Mongol forces to split Jin lands, believing the Mongols were temporarily unprepared and could be outmaneuvered. Though many officials were wary, Zheng's influence helped push Emperor Lizong to break the peace and declare war on the Jurchen Jin in 1234. Now, Zheng aims to reclaim Henan and the Central Plains for Song. He envisioned a restored Song presence in the north and was willing to risk conflict with the Mongols, confident that bold action could secure a strategic advantage.

### **Zhao Fan (趙范)**

Zhao Fan was a high-ranking official in charge of the Two Huai (Lianghuai) region in 1234. He and his younger brother, Zhao Kui (both imperial clan members) were prominent advocates for retaking the central plains territory. Zhao Fan, as Commissioner of the Lianghuai and deputy along the Yangtze, co-authored the "hold the passes, guard the river" strategy – essentially a proposal to seize Henan up to the Yellow River and establish a new defensive line. In discussions after Jin's demise, Zhao Fan pressed Emperor Lizong to act boldly. His past actions include logistics and military oversight in the Huai River theater, where he ensured Song troops were supplied for the upcoming campaign. Although personally more of a planner than a field commander, Zhao Fan's stance was unequivocally a hawk – he believed a *swift offensive* would secure Song's northern border and glory.

### **Zhao Kui (趙葵)**

Zhao Kui, the younger brother of Zhao Fan, was a seasoned general and imperial kinsman tasked with leading the push into former Song lands. In 1234, he was the Military Commissioner of Huainan East and Governor of Yangzhou. A veteran of frontier defense, Zhao Kui had proven himself against bandit forces and in skirmishes with Jin. He was inspired by Yue Fei's unrealized dream of reclaiming the north. Immediately after the Jin emperor's fall, Zhao Kui memorialized that Song forces should advance into Henan and personally volunteered to head the expedition. Zhao Kui was confident in Song's arms, although the Mongols' fierce counterattacks would soon test his optimism if he invaded.

### **Lü Wende (呂文德)**

Lü Wende was a rising military commander in the 1230s who would later be celebrated as a top Mongol fighter. In 1234, he was a regional defense officer in charge of Chizhou on the Yangtze and served under General Zhao Kui in the Huai River theater. In the year 1234, Lü Wende was focused on reinforcing the Jianghuai line. Highly supportive of Zhao Kui's invasion of Henan, he believes in aggressive support to any threatened city and mobile defense. Even as a relatively junior general then, Lü was preparing his troops for quick deployment. His ambition was to prove that with coordinated action and courage, the Mongols could be defeated in battle.

### **Du Gao (杜杲)**

A career military officer, Du Gao supported pressing the advantage against the weakened Jin and occupying the central plains before the Mongols consolidated control. He believed that strong leadership and swift deployment could shift the regional balance in Song's favor. He helped prepare garrisons and supplies for the campaign.

### **Yang Yi (楊沂) - Fictional character**

Tasked with leading a support force behind the northern vanguard, Yang Yi shared in the optimism of the hawkish generals. He believed rapid occupation of Henan cities could turn the tide of Song fortunes. As of early 1234, Yang Yi was preparing for active involvement in the campaign, aligned with the belief that victory could be achieved with a rapid strike into Henan.

### **Meng Gong (孟珙)**

In February 1234, General Meng Gong was a celebrated field commander who had just led Song forces, in alliance with the Mongols, to destroy the Jin dynasty. He captured the Jin general Wu Xian and besieged Caizhou, where the last Jin emperor met his end. Having seen the Mongols' fighting capability up close, Meng Gong counseled against further northern adventurism. He argued that Song's army, lacking cavalry and stretched thin, was not ready to confront the Mongols in open warfare. While highly supportive of recovering lost Song cities, he is still wary of any full-scale invasion into Mongol-held Henan.

### **Qiao Xingjian (喬行簡)**

As of early 1234, Qiao Xingjian is the Vice Grand Councilor (參知政事) and acting head of the Privy Council of Southern Song. A Neo-Confucian-trained minister, he had long advocated caution in military matters. During the final Jin–Song war, he urged patience, arguing that Jin was collapsing on its own and that Song should “observe changes quietly”. In 1233–34, Qiao firmly opposed proposals to invade Mongol-occupied north China, warning of overstretched logistics and the Mongols' strength. His past service as a regional administrator and policy advisor informed his dovish stance, favoring defense and consolidation over risky offensives against the Mongols.

### **Shi Songzhi (史嵩之)**

Shi Songzhi, a nephew of the former Chancellor Shi Miyuan, was a key official and military commissioner in the Jinghu region in 1234. He had contributed to Jin's defeat (notably besieging Jin-held towns in 1233) and was charged with supply and defense along the central Yangtze. When hawkish colleagues pressed to seize former Song capitals from the Mongols, Shi Songzhi opposed them. Citing the devastation of the North China Plain and Song's lack of cavalry, he argued that occupying Henan would overextend Song's forces and provoke a Mongol attack. As a seasoned administrator familiar with the war's toll, Shi Songzhi insisted on maintaining the Huai River defensive line rather than risking a northern campaign.

### **Yu Jie (余玠)**

Governor of Sichuan, Yu Jie, was primarily concerned with fortifying his frontier region, which bordered Mongol-controlled territory. In early 1234, he had begun reinforcing mountain passes and strongholds to prepare for possible incursions. He did not support sending Sichuan

troops to join a northern campaign, advocating instead for strategic defense in the rugged southwest.

### **Wu Qian (吳潛)**

A senior official and outspoken critic of the proposed northern campaign, Wu Qian took a principled stand against invading Mongol-occupied territory. In April 1234, during court debates, he openly opposed the irredentist plan spearheaded by Grand Councilor Zheng Qingzhi. Wu argued that the Mongols posed a looming threat and that aiding their war or venturing into their newly won lands was perilous.

### **Zou Shenzhi (鄒伸之) - Fictional character**

Zou Shenzhi was a diplomat and an official who, in 1233–1234, served as the Southern Song's envoy to the Mongols. He played a key role in coordinating the Mongol–Song joint operations against Jin and was thus keenly aware of Mongol power. After Jin's fall, Zou Shenzhi urged maintaining a working relationship with the Mongols and warned against betraying the recent alliance. In early 1234, he was active in diplomacy, having led delegations to Mongol headquarters to negotiate terms. Zou argues that stabilizing newly recovered territories through negotiation was wiser than pressing further north.

# Possible Solutions

## Negotiating a Border Treaty

Delegates could explore various ways to promote peaceful negotiations with the other nation. The Mongol Empire needs time to consolidate its newly acquired territories, and the Song dynasty needs to secure its northern threats. This may encourage the representatives from both countries to reach a peaceful consensus. Taking this approach would prevent violence in the conflict, but it is not guaranteed that the representatives will accept the opposing side's wants. Although this solution is peaceful, it is unknown whether the conflict will be solved.

## Progressing with quick military action

Another potential solution is to quickly mobilize the military before the other country can react. Despite the troubles in their own empire, the ongoing border disputes, and the growing tensions between the two countries, the leaders began using violence. Although this approach may lead to numerous casualties and complete destruction of one or both nations, this may be the only way to truly end the conflict between the Mongols and the Song.

The Song court, dissatisfied with their share of land after the fall of the Jin Dynasty, wants the entirety of the Henan region, thus restoring their three capitals during the Northern Song era. While the Song Emperor desperately wants to reclaim their ancestor's tombs, moving troops to occupy that region would mean certain war. However, the Mongol forces are spread thin across Northern China, and this may be the only time when the Song would be able to regain its long-lost territories once again.

The Mongols, on the other hand, have their forces spread out thin as they consolidate the region for their empire. However, they still possess two task forces with a number of local garrisons. While it may be hard, the Song dynasty is known for its weak offensive capabilities. A successful counter-offensive would cripple the Song army, possibly subduing them.

# Questions to Consider

1. How should the leaders balance the interests of different social and ethnic groups to maintain stability?
2. What are the risks and rewards of prioritizing military action over domestic reforms?
  - a. Are the risks of military actions worth it, considering their rewards? Consider risks and benefits from various perspectives: economic, social, political, etc.
3. How can trust and cooperation within a nation be restored?
  - a. What can the government and the leaders offer, utilizing their positions, to expedite national collaboration in this crisis?
4. What policies can handle the mass migration and social disruption?
  - a. In cases of mass migration, can the policies guarantee the preservation of the individual rights of migrants? What could the national leaders do to protect the civilians other than relocation?
  - b. What is causing the social disruption? Is it the tension between the two countries, fear of conquest, the succession crisis, or other factors?
5. Should the leaders of each nation prioritize the individual rights of the civilians or the greater good of their nation?
6. What geographical advantages or disadvantages does each nation have in implementing military operations?
  - a. What direct and indirect influences (ex., natural barrier, economic support, etc.) could geographical characteristics play in this crisis?
7. What diplomatic strategies could the leaders of each country pursue to mitigate the border tensions?
  - a. Would the negotiation be peaceful or threatening? How does each choice influence the nations?
8. What are the benefits and drawbacks of a diplomatic approach compared to military action to resolve the conflict between the two countries?

# Bibliography

Admin. "Biography of Kublai Khan." The First Encyclopedia, 26 Jan. 2023,

[firstency.com/biography-of-kublai-khan](https://firstency.com/biography-of-kublai-khan).

Cartwright, Mark. "Möngke Khan." World History Encyclopedia,

<https://www.worldhistory.org/#organization>, 20 Mar. 2024,

[www.worldhistory.org/Mongke\\_Khan/](https://www.worldhistory.org/Mongke_Khan/).

"Möngke Khan Facts for Kids." Möngke Khan Facts for Kids,

[kids.kiddle.co/M%C3%B6ngke\\_Khan#Early\\_Life\\_and\\_Rise\\_to\\_Power](https://kids.kiddle.co/M%C3%B6ngke_Khan#Early_Life_and_Rise_to_Power). Accessed 9

July 2025.

"Sorghaghtani Beki: EBSCO." EBSCO Information Services, Inc. | Wwww.Ebsco.Com,

[www.ebsco.com/research-starters/biography/sorghaghtani-beki](https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/biography/sorghaghtani-beki). Accessed 9 July

2025.

The Weaknesses of Song China and the Legacy of Mongol ...,

[digitalcommons.wku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=stu\\_res\\_jour](https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=stu_res_jour).

Accessed 10 July 2025.

"World Civilization." Expansion Throughout Eastern Asia | World Civilization,

[courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldcivilization/chapter/expansion-throughou](https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldcivilization/chapter/expansion-throughout-eastern-asia/#:~:text=Key%20Points,neighboring%20Xia%20and%20Jin%20regions)

[t-eastern-asia/#:~:text=Key%20Points,neighboring%20Xia%20and%20Jin%20region](https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldcivilization/chapter/expansion-throughout-eastern-asia/#:~:text=Key%20Points,neighboring%20Xia%20and%20Jin%20regions)

[s](https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldcivilization/chapter/expansion-throughout-eastern-asia/#:~:text=Key%20Points,neighboring%20Xia%20and%20Jin%20regions). Accessed 24 July 2025.

몽골-남송 전쟁 - 나무위키, [namu.wiki/w/몽골-남송 전쟁](https://namu.wiki/w/몽골-남송_전쟁). Accessed 10 July 2025.