

HMDC Presents... MONGOL 1225: Sample Draft Resolution

HMDC Presents... Sample Draft Resolution: Historical Crisis: Mongol Empire 1225, Death of Genghis Khan

THIS IS A MODEL TO LEARN FROM, NOT TO COPY. We study this sample at home to learn the shape of a resolution and the kind of ideas that belong in it, and then we write every clause live, in our own words, with our bloc.

HOW A RESOLUTION IS BUILT

A resolution has two kinds of clauses. **Preambulatory clauses** come first: they explain why the committee is acting by recalling past agreements, laws and facts. Each one begins with an *italic* opening word or phrase, such as *Recalling* or *Deeply concerned*, and ends with a comma.

Operative clauses come second: they say what the committee will actually do. Each one is numbered, begins with a **bold** (or underlined) verb, such as **Requests** or **Establishes**, and ends with a semicolon, except the final clause, which ends with a period.

Two things are different in a historical crisis. First, crisis committees often pass shorter papers, so we learn the full form here and shorten it in the room. Second, the United Nations will not exist for more than seven hundred years. So our preambulatory clauses recall the real assemblies, trade settlements and laws of the Mongol court instead of modern UN resolutions. Modern treaties, such as the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, help us understand the topic, but we never cite them inside a 1225 paper.

THE SAMPLE DRAFT RESOLUTION

Committee: Historical Crisis: Mongol Empire 1225, Death of Genghis Khan **Topic:** Succession and the Government of the Conquered Lands **Sponsors:** Yelü Chucai (Khitans adviser to the court), Chinkai (Kerait Christian adviser to the court), Ögedei (third son of the Great Khan) **Signatories:** [signatories]

The Court of the Great Khan,

Recalling the kuriltai of 1206, at which the assembled Mongol nobles gave Temujin the title Chinggis Khan and promised him their loyalty (Columbia University Asia for Educators, Last Accessed: October 2026),

Recalling further the settlement of 1209, in which the Tanguts of Xi Xia lowered the tariffs they charged on trade and the Great Khan returned home without taking their land, and the trade won from the Jin by 1215 (Columbia University Asia for Educators, Last Accessed: October 2026),

Guided by the Great Khan's order of 1204 creating the first Mongol written language from the Uyghur script, and by the Jasagh, the Mongol body of rules and punishments (Columbia University Asia for Educators, Last Accessed: October 2026),

Deeply concerned that the empire rests on no orderly system of succession and no principle other than personal loyalty to one figure (Columbia University Asia for Educators, Last Accessed: October 2026),

Alarmed that the killing of a Mongol merchant caravan and the execution of a Mongol envoy at Otrar in 1218 led to the invasion of Khwarazm and the sack of Bukhara and Samarkand (Encyclopaedia Iranica, December 15, 1990),

Noting with regret that in Khorasan cities were razed and the underground water channels called qanats decayed as farmers fled, destroying the wealth the empire now needs (Encyclopaedia Iranica, December 15, 1990),

Recognising that relay stations about every twenty miles already carry the Great Khan's orders and supply food, horses and lodging to merchants on the roads (Columbia University Asia for Educators, Last Accessed: October 2026),

1. **Requests** that the Great Khan name his heir before the whole court while he still lives, and that each of his sons swear in public to obey that heir;
 2. **Calls for** a kuriltai of the princes and nobles to confirm the named heir, with the oath written down in the Mongol script and kept by the writing office;
 3. **Establishes** a written rule of succession for all future reigns, under which:
 - a. The reigning khan names an heir from among his sons, choosing the one seen as ablest and most acceptable to his brothers;
 - b. A kuriltai confirms the heir within a fixed time after the khan's death;
 - c. The keeper of the homeland serves as regent until the kuriltai meets, and holds no power to change this rule;
 - d. Princes on distant campaigns may send a sworn representative to the kuriltai instead of bringing their armies home;
 4. **Grants** each son of the Great Khan a family domain (ulus), on the condition that every domain:
 - a. Sends soldiers when the Great Khan calls for them;
 - b. Shares a set portion of its taxes with the Great Khan;
 - c. Accepts the Great Khan's orders on war and peace;
 5. **Directs** that the conquered lands of North China and Central Asia be governed through a regular and orderly tax system, run by trained officials who answer to the Great Khan;
 6. **Orders** that the people of every city that surrenders be spared, so that their farmers, craftsmen and merchants can pay taxes and supply skills to the empire;
 7. **Invites** the farmers who fled Khorasan to return to their lands, and assigns officials to repair the qanats on which their fields depend;
 8. **Confirms** the empire's tolerance of every faith, including tax relief for Buddhist monasteries and other religious institutions, throughout the succession;
 9. **Guarantees** safe passage to all envoys and merchants, and orders that the relay stations stay stocked and open while the court gathers for the kuriltai.
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WHERE EACH CLAUSE COMES FROM

We keep a short map like this one in our notes, so that in committee we can answer any question about a clause with its source. The preambulatory clauses come from four places in the HMDC report: - Section 1B: the 1206 kuriltai - Part 3, Sections 3A and 3B: the trade settlements, Otrar and the relay stations - Section 1F: the 1204 script and the Jasagh - Section 1A: the missing succession system and Khorasan

The operative clauses come from these places: - Clauses 1 and 2: Major Solution 1 (Section 1B) - Clause 3: Section 1B, the Britannica entry on naming the ablest son (Section 1D), Major Solution 2 on the regency (Section 1C), and the Batu entry (Section 1A) - Clause 4: Major Solution 3 (Section 1D) - Clauses 5 and 6: Major Solution 4 (Section 1E) and the terror entry (Section 1A) - Clause 7: the Khorasan entry (Section 1A) - Clause 8: Major Solution 5 (Section 1F) - Clause 9: Part 3, Sections 3A and 3B

HOW WE MERGE AND AMEND IN COMMITTEE

1. **Merging with the house of Tolui:** Tolui holds the homeland and is known as the "guardian of the hearth and fire" (Encyclopaedia Britannica, July 14, 2026), so his family may write its own paper that makes him regent. We can offer a merge: our clause 3c names the keeper of the homeland as regent, and in return Tolui's bloc accepts our clauses 5 and 6 on taxation. We keep the words "holds no power to change this rule", because a regent with an army could become a rival.
2. **Choosing words the traditionalists can accept:** Many Mongols want to keep the nomadic way of life rather than adopt the institutions of settled peoples (Columbia University Asia for Educators, Last Accessed: October 2026). If the commanders resist clause 5, we can add that pasture lands stay with the herds, so the tax system covers farms and cities only. Clause 6 spares only cities that surrender, which lets the commanders keep their threat against cities that resist and makes the clause easier to pass.
3. **Amending one clause at a time:** If the house of Jochi or the house of Chagatai objects only to clause 1, we can let the committee vote on that clause alone. Clause 1 favours the khan's own choice over the eldest son. Voting on it separately lets the rest of our resolution still pass.

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