

HMDC Presents... MONGOL 1225: Opening Speech Outline

HMDC Presents... Opening Speech Outline: Historical Crisis: Mongol Empire 1225, Death of Genghis Khan

THIS IS A MODEL TO LEARN FROM, NOT TO COPY. We use this sample speech for Yelü Chucai, the Khitan adviser to the Great Khan, to hear how a short crisis speech sounds. Then we build our own speech for our own character with the fill-in-the-blank outline below. We plan for about one minute of speaking time, so every word has to earn its place.

THE FIVE PARTS OF THE SPEECH

1. **Hook:** One short sentence that makes the room look up, usually a surprising fact or a picture the listeners can see in their minds.
 2. **Our character's stake:** One or two sentences on who we are at the court and why this crisis matters to us. In a crisis committee, "our country" becomes "our character".
 3. **One key fact with source:** A single fact, spoken with its source, that proves the problem is real.
 4. **Our two solutions:** Two actions we want the court to take, each in one sentence.
 5. **Call to allies:** One sentence inviting the characters who share our goals to work with us in caucus.
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THE SAMPLE SPEECH

Character: Yelü Chucai, Khitan adviser to the Mongol court. About 140 words, about one minute at a calm speaking pace.

Honourable Chair, members of the court.

A burned field feeds an army for one day. A taxed field feeds it every year.

I am Yelü Chucai, adviser to the Great Khan. My duty is to make sure this empire outlives the man who built it.

According to Columbia University Asia for Educators, our Great Khan has left no orderly system of succession, only the personal loyalty of his chiefs to himself.

I ask this court for two things. First, let the khan name his heir now, and let a kuriltai confirm that heir in public while the khan still lives. Second, let us rule the conquered lands by regular taxes, and spare every city that surrenders.

I invite Chinkai, my fellow adviser, the house of Ögedei, and every member who wants a lasting empire to join me in caucus.

Thank you.

Where the facts come from: The hook is our own picture of Yelü Chucai's argument in Part 1, Section 1E of the HMDC report (Encyclopaedia Britannica, Last Accessed: October 2026). The key fact comes from Section 1A, "Leaving no succession system" (Columbia University Asia for Educators, Last Accessed: October 2026). The first solution comes from Major Solution 1 in Section 1B (Encyclopaedia Britannica, September 21, 2026). The second comes from Major Solution 4 in Section 1E. The allies come from the advisers' faction and the house of Ögedei in Part 2, Section 2H (Encyclopaedia Britannica, August 1, 2026).

OUR FILL-IN-THE-BLANK OUTLINE

We copy this outline onto a card, fill each blank from the HMDC report and our own character research, and then read it aloud with a timer until it fits inside sixty seconds.

1. **Hook:** "Honourable Chair, members of the court. _____ [one surprising fact or picture from Part 1, Section 1A that touches our own character's lands, family or duties]."
2. **Our character's stake:** "I am _____ [our character], _____ [our title or family, for example 'son of the Great Khan' or 'commander of ten thousand']. For me, this crisis matters because _____."
3. **One key fact with source:** "According to _____ [publication], _____ [one fact that proves the danger]."
4. **Our two solutions:** "I ask this court for two things. First, _____. Second, _____. [We choose two of the five major solutions in Part 1, Sections 1B to 1F that our character could accept.]
5. **Call to allies:** "I invite _____ [two or three characters or factions from Part 2, Section 2H] and every member who _____ to join me in caucus. Thank you."

THREE DELIVERY TIPS

1. **Speaking as our character:** We say "I" and "our Great Khan" because we are a person at the court in 1225, not a modern diplomat. We never mention events after 1225 as if we already know them, such as Ögedei becoming khan in 1229, because our character cannot see the future.
2. **Pausing after the hook:** We stop for one full breath after the hook, before we say our name. That short silence makes the chair and the other delegates look up, and it gives our name more weight.
3. **Practising with a timer and a camera:** We record ourselves on the same computer we will use for Zoom, with the timer set to sixty seconds. If the timer ends before "Thank you," we cut words from the stake sentence first, because the fact and the two solutions carry our position.

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