

ŞHRMUN'24

HJCC

STUDY GUIDE

Ottoman Habsburg Wars

USG; MİRAC ÖZTÜRK



#FORABETTERWORLD

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Esteemed Participants and Respected Advisors,

Welcome to the Eskişehir Şehir Schools Model United Nations (ŞHRMUN) conference, happening this April at Eskişehir Şehir Schools. As Secretary-General, I'm honored to address you.

ŞHRMUN'24 is our second annual gathering, where students from around the world come together to explore diplomacy, international relations, and how the United Nations works. This year's theme, "For a Better World," aims to spark insightful discussions and find real solutions to global challenges.

Our committee sessions offer workshops led by experts in different fields, providing valuable insights and skills. We'll also delve into various global issues to enrich your understanding.

As we look forward to ŞHRMUN'24, I encourage you to prepare by researching your assigned countries and topics, learning the rules of procedure, and honing your speaking and negotiation skills. Your active participation is key to our success.

I'm excited for the lively discussions, meaningful connections, and memorable experiences that await us at ŞHRMUN'24. Let's seize this chance to inspire positive change and make a difference in our global community.

Warm regards,

Zeynep Tururkor

Secretary-General

Eskişehir Şehir Schools Model United Nations

Letter From Under-Secretary-General

Highly Esteemed Participants,

I would like to welcome you all to this annual session of ŞHRMUN'24, as the Under Secretary General of one of the Joint Crisis Committees, whose agenda item is “Ottoman-Habsburg Power Struggle in the 16th Century”. Currently, I am a high school at Nermin Mehmet Çekiç Anatolian High School, which is located in Ankara, also willing to share my excitement about our committee.

You, as the commanders and the leaders are going to experience the long “Kleinkriegs” between two major powers of Europe in that time. The concept “Kleinkrieg” refers to little wars over long times, shortly. Since countries must be ready for war at all times, It is an exhausting way of fighting for both sides. While at war with your enemy, you will have to solve every interior and exterior dispute with blood or with diplomatic maneuvers. Your armies can crush the enemy but without diplomacy, your victory is not guaranteed so the role of diplomacy shouldn't be forgotten.

The things which are brought by age shouldn't be forgotten too. Every era has different dynamics and It is not possible to be powerful without acting within its framework. So, you should consider them while making decisions.

You, as commanders and leaders of the most powerful nations, will lead your country and decide the future of it. With your decisions, you will rewrite the history and change the borders of the continent.

I am wishing to have an unforgettable experience with you. If you have any questions about the study guide or committee, you can contact me via my e-mail:

m.miracozturk07@gmail.com.

Best Regards,

Miraç Öztürk

Ottomans on the Stage of History

The origin of the Ottoman Empire is based on the Turks who came to Anatolia with Seljuks after the Battle of Manzikert, in 1071. After the battle, the Turkification of Anatolia started. Alp Arslan distributed the Anatolian lands to his commanders and made several battles with Byzantines. In general, Seljuks were the victorious side and after the battles, they strengthened their positions.

Seljuks were successful in defeating Byzantine armies, but nearly 2 centuries later, Mongols came. They came and they defeated the Seljuks in Anatolia like the other nations in Europe. Seljuk Empire became a vassal of Mongols and because they couldn't provide security and control over Anatolia, commanders of the Anatolian Seljuk Empire started to split from them. Osman Ghazi was one of these generals. He was located on the Byzantine border, to protect Anatolia from them. His place gave him several advantages and in the Battle of Bapheus, 1302, he defeated the Byzantine governors alone and his Beylik started to play a crucial role in North-West Anatolia. With the other Turkish generals, Osman Ghazi fought with the Byzantine Empire under the name of gaza.

Ottoman-Hungarian Struggle Before 16th Century

The centuries-long struggle between the Kingdom of Hungary and the Ottoman Empire started immediately after the Battle of Kosovo. Although that battle, from which the Ottomans emerged as clear victors, ended with the deaths of both the Serbian prince Lazar and Sultan Murad, the latter's successor, Bayezid I, continued the empire's expansion. The battle was a piece of evidence that Ottomans would be one of the main players in Balkan politics, even after the Battle of Ankara, which was a devastating defeat for Ottomans, they managed to hold on in Europe with relatively small losses, which they would re-gain.

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The Battle of Varna, romantically called ‘The Last Crusade’, was another important episode in the long conflict between the Hungarian Kingdom and the Ottoman Turks. The idea of a crusade started again in Rome after the Council of Florence of 1439. Religion affected the kings but the main reason was helping the Byzantines in Constantinople with a combined army. Religion and the power of the Pope used to provide enough followers and money for the expedition into Muslim Ottoman lands.

The Battle was called “The Last Crusade” because it was the last hope for defeating the Ottomans and throwing them away from the Balkans and Christian Crusaders couldn’t reach their objectives. Wladyslaw III and John Hunyadi fought against the armies of Murad II. With heavy losses, the Ottoman side was victorious and proved themselves on the battlefield once again. Losses were high but the gains of the battle were more than losses. After defeating the Crusaders, Murad II once again reminded them that they were going to be in Europe, for centuries.



Map of the Ottoman Empire in the early 1400s

Gates of Europe: Constantinople

Constantinople was the main objective for Muslims for a long time and it was no different for the Ottomans. Through nine centuries, the capital of the Byzantine Empire was sieged multiple times, five of the besieging armies were Muslim armies.

Constantinople was important for cultural and historical sides. But it was a gate to the Balkans. If Muslims can break through the fortresses of Constantinople, they won't face any big threats until Belgrad.

Ottoman Sultans tried to conquer the city several times but they couldn't succeed because of some different reasons. But, the conditions were perfect for Mehmed II, for the conqueror of the city. The Western forces knew his ambitions and they were taking some actions against him but they couldn't stop him. He prepared the biggest cannons of their time for this siege, his men were ready for any threat from Europe.

Byzantines were prepared for this siege but they were defeated clearly. Ottomans entered the city on 29 May 1453 and with that victory, significant changes had occurred in continental Europe.

Expeditions of Mehmed II into the Balkans

After gaining the title of "The Conqueror", Mehmed II's second goal was to be

"Sultan-ül-barrayn," Sultan of Anatolia, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean. he didn't stop after the conquest. He started to make larger his Empire in both ways, west and east.

Mediterranean dominance was an important goal for Mehmed II but he knew the fact that Ottoman trade with the West had a crucial role in Ottoman economics. He played his game well and used the trade power of Venice, Genoa, and Florence.

Ottomans and Venetians had strong trade relations, both sides avoided conflicts until 1463.

After a series of wars between Venetians and Ottomans, Mehmed II increased his power in East-Mediterean. He conquered Morea and gained some land on the Dalmatian Coast. While

his relations with Venice had problems, he used other Italians for trade and continued to make his treasury.

Ottoman “Akıncı” forces, raiders, were a big threat against Hungarians. They were raiding Hungarian lands in even peacetime. Even during the strongest periods of the Hungarian Kingdom, raids were successful and wore out the Hungarians. With these raids, Ottomans were demoralizing and tiring the Hungarians.

In the period of Mehmed II, Ottomans knew the newly established Serbian Despotate was a threat against their Balkan dominance. Because Despotate had closed ties with Hungarians. After a series of conflicts Ottoman forces ended the Despotate but their siege of Belgrade was not successful. Breaking the influence of Hungarians was a great achievement for Mehmed. Mehmed weakened the Hungarian authority in the Balkans in several fields. After ending the rule of the pro-Hungarian Serbian Despotate, marched into Wallachian lands. Wallachia was a buffer zone between Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. Because of that reason, both sides wanted to control Wallachian lands via vassals. Vlad III, Dracula, was the vassal of Mehmed II but when he refused to pay his money and killed the ambassadors of Mehmed II, he had to take some actions against Vlad. After several bloody battles, Wallachia was under Ottoman control as a vassal state.

Bosnia was one of the biggest gains for Ottomans in the 15th century. Because of its population and geographical location. Bosnia was under the influence of Ottomans and Hungarians for a long time. When a civil war happens on the Bosnian throne, the war turns into a conflict between Hungarians and Ottomans.

In 1463, Mehmed II came and conquered the Bosnian lands and executed the previous rulers. After the occupation, Bosnia became the headquarters of Ottoman raid forces. They used Bosnia for their raids and Hungarians tried to suppress them. They were taking some parts of Bosnia but the Sancakbeys (governors) of Bosnia always re-taking the occupied parts.

Also since Bosnians converted to Islam under Ottoman rule, their cultural ties were more than other nations in the Balkans and Ottomans used this advantage for themselves.



Map of the Ottoman Empire after the Mehmed II

The Habsburg Dynasty

The Habsburg Dynasty was one of the most powerful dynasties in the Renaissance period and after that. Some resources claim they originate from some Roman noble families and some others attribute their origins to a castle located in modern-day Switzerland.

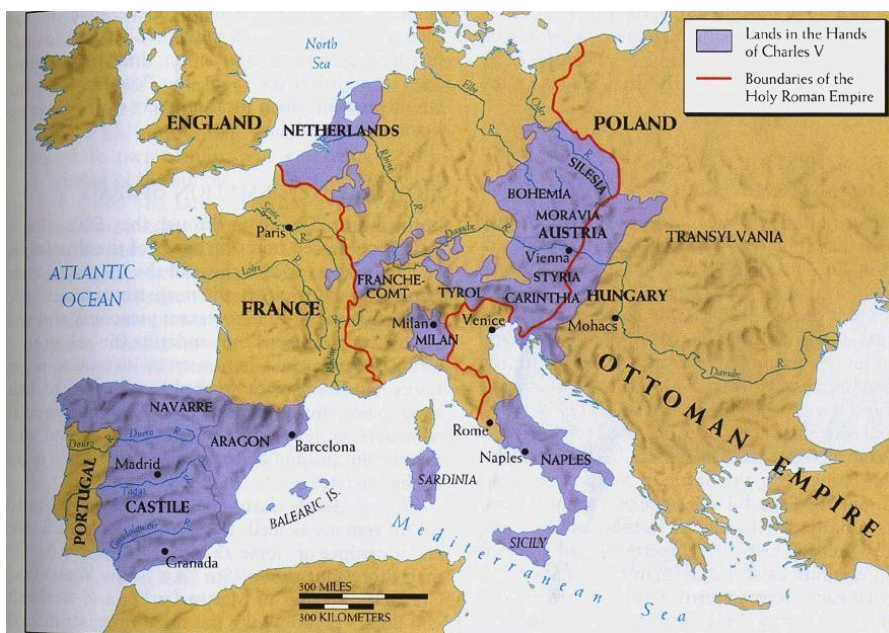
Over the centuries, the Habsburgs expanded their territorial holdings through marriage alliances and military conquests. They acquired significant territories in Central Europe, including Austria, parts of Germany, Switzerland, and the Low Countries with Spain and Its colonies. Of course, the military was the backbone of their Empire but their strategic royal marriages were their main way to gain power.

The rule of the Habsburgs started in 1256 when they started to control Austria. They were like the other noble families but with the election of Rudolf I, the family became one of the

dominant families of the Holy Roman Empire. After several conflicts, Rudolf accepted his rule over the Holy Roman Empire to all princes who were subject to the empire.

Their ambitions after taking the Throne of the Holy Roman Empire didn't end. After taking control of the Holy Roman Empire and especially Austria, Habsburgs started to add more titles to their names. They controlled Principalities with kingdoms. They combined the resources of the controlled areas and expanded even more. Because of these ambitions, they were always in competition with other powers in Europe.

One of the great examples of the family's expansion strategy is the subjugation of the Kingdom of Spain. In 1516, Charles I became the ruler of the Kingdom of Spain with dynastic connections. Since the Spanish had control over low countries and Italy, the Habsburgs gained power in the Mediterranean Sea. Also, the Spanish Kingdom played a big role in colonizing the new world under the rule of the Habsburgs.



Map of the lands controlled by Charles V in 1519

Habsburg-French Conflicts

Not even a Turk could be so cruel as to wish the Christians greater misfortune than the suffering they inflict upon each other ... For a Christian prince it is more glorious to give up some piece of territory in order to preserve the state's peace than to score brilliant and advantageous triumphs that are paid for with the happiness of so many ordinary people.

-The humanist Erasmus of Rotterdam appealed to the monarchs during the Franco-Habsburg war at the beginning of the 1520s

Charles V, the Holy Roman Empire had an aim to unite the West Roman Empire again but the biggest resistance against him was the Kingdom of France. A bloody conflict between Habsburgs and rulers of the French Empire started at the beginning of the 1500s and lasted centuries until the French-Habsburg alliance in the 18th century. The main battles between the two sides happened in modern-day Italy and France.

In the Imperial election for the Holy Empire in the early 1500s, Charles V and Francis I were the main candidates. With financial support in favor of Charles V, he became the elected king of the empire. After the elections, Francis was not comfortable with highly powered Habsburgs, and conflicts between France and the House of Habsburgs started.

After a series of Battles, Francis was forced to make peace and accept the dominance of his rivalry but It wasn't numb with him and his kingdom and he continued to be against on every battlefield with Habsburgs.

Protestant Movement in the Holy Roman Empire

Habsburg family was a Catholic Christian family and the people under their rule were like them. They were in cooperation with the Pope and it was easy for them to control their areas with the influence of the Pope in exchange for some favors. In the 16th century, the Catholic Church faced a big crisis, a crisis which led to the restriction of the power of the Church in the world, the Protestant Movement.

The Protestant Reformation began in 1517 in Wittenberg, the Holy Roman Empire. With the books and writings of Martin Luther, European people started to oppose Catholic rule. Since the Habsburgs were the controllers of most of the Catholics in Europe, they were against Martin Luther and his theses about the Reformation. Because accepting another church was a power demonstration of Princes to the Emperor, Habsburgs knew that and they quickly started to suppress them.

The Protestant movement was very beneficial for the Ottomans and the French. Because their rival had an important problem and it was time to act.

Even the French were Catholic and obstructing the Protestant movements in their Kingdom, they supported the Reformation movement because of their rivalries with the Habsburgs.

Ottomans were of course Muslims but they offered help to Protestants for the same reasons as France. Because they had the same reasons and enemies, France and the Ottoman Empire had an alliance and close relationships.

An alliance called the “Schmalkaldic Alliance” between the Princes of the Holy Roman Empire who accepted the thoughts of Martin Luther formed and got support from France and the Ottoman Empire. The alliance was growing and Princes of the empire starting to accept Lutheran thoughts. In 1555, Charles had to sign the Peace of Augsburg because of the external conflicts. With that agreement, Protestant Principalities were recognized and they had more rights.

Ottoman-French Alliance

The elector princes of the Holy Roman Empire elected Charles V as a king. One of his opponents, Francis I, promised a crusade against Ottomans, but this promised crusade never happened. Their common goal was to be the emperor of divided Italian lands. These two nations were fighting since a century ago and these two kings were ambitious to continue. Charles V wanted to create a single European empire and plan a crusade against their enemies but national kingdoms already existed in Europe such as France and England. So, his plan wasn't executable.

Charles V defeated the army of Francis I horribly and captured him. Of course, there was only one power in Europe at that time: Suleiman the Magnificent. He was released after accepting the terms of Charles and gave up his claims over Italy.

The mother of Francis I sent a letter to Suleiman I, this was an alliance offer, and for Suleiman, it was an acceptable offer. Because their enemy was common, the Habsburgs. The French side requested a conquest against Habsburg rule and probably this was suitable for Suleiman and he started an expedition against Hungary.

The Ottoman-French Alliance continued after the battle and lasted nearly two centuries.

These two nations took place on every battlefield against Habsburgs.

Battle of Mohács,1529



The Map of the Hungarian Kingdom in early 1500s

In European history, certain battles and incidents stand out as pivotal moments, shaping the destinies of nations and opening a new page for them. One such major clash occurred on August 29, 1526, on the plains of the Hungarian Empire near Mohács. This battle placed into the collective memory of Europe, marked a turning point in the struggle for power dominance in Central and Eastern Europe.

Hungary was like the border patrol for Christian Europe against Muslim Ottomans. Because of that Hungarians and Ottomans had excessive amounts of battles for centuries until the Collapse of the Hungarian Kingdom after the Mohács.

Ottoman ambitions for Central Europe were known by the European monarchs. They stopped the Mehmed II in Belgrade in 1456, but they couldn't stop the ambitious Ottoman Sultans.

Bayezid II and Selim I were not a big threat to the Europeans, because Bayezid had dealt with

internal problems and the ideals of Selim were capturing the “Caliphate” title and taking the control of Holy Lands (Makkah, Madinah and Jerusalem).

Europeans had an idea to form a crusader army against Ottomans in the 16th century.

Because they knew that the Ottoman war machine could not be stopped by one single army and every European kingdom would face the Ottomans on the Battlefield. Hungarians attempted to make several preparations against Ottomans because they would be the first target if Ottomans started aggression towards European lands. Unfortunately for Hungarians, their plans couldn't be executed because of the internal conflicts and selfish decisions of nobles.

The main reason for Hungarians was the newly ended succession wars and revolts. The Hungarian King Hunyadi Mátyás died unexpectedly in 1490. This unexpected death dragged the country into succession wars. There were different candidates and every candidate had support from other kings or nobles of Hungary. Every candidate had power and they used their power to gain the throne of Hungary. After the battles, Vladivus II of Bohemia was coronated on 18 September 1490. Hungary had a king but the country was exhausted and its manpower and resources were wasted.

Vladivus II was not a powerful king and he didn't have intentions to be one. He sold his royal estates to the local nobles and put the destiny of the nation in their hands. Lords disbanded their armies because of the costs and the country was nearly defenseless, not sufficient to suppress revolts against governance.

The Third Siege of Belgrade, 1521

After the death of Selim I, Suleiman the Magnificent ascended to the throne. With the death of Selim I, the truce between Ottomans and Hungarians had ended according to the Ottoman tradition. Hungarian king Louis II knew this and started to collect resources to make an aggression against the Ottomans. Because the Akinci raids were highly exhausting for Hungarians both economically and psychologically. He called all of his nobles for his idea and sent diplomats to find international support.

While Louis II planning an aggression, the Ottomans sent a delegation in order to renew the truce between the two nations but Louis II did not accept because the Ottomans were dealing with a revolt in Syria and Louis believed revolters would be the victorious ones. Louis imprisoned the Ottoman envoy and this was an undiplomatic way for Suleiman. He would not accept this. Because of the aggressive attitude of Hungarians, Suleiman prepared for an expedition to Hungarian lands. He wanted to move the depts of Hungarian lands but because of a possible threat from the east, he gave up.

He gathered his armies at Sofia but as mentioned, left some forces of a possible invasion from Safavids. He marched towards Belgrade and he conquered it. This was the third siege of the city from the Ottomans. Suleiman achieved the goals of his ancestors.

Belgrade was an important city in Central Europe. It was the key point of further invasions for Ottomans.



A Painting Depicts the Siege of Belgrade 1521

Siege of Rhodes, 1522

Ottomans and their rivals were fighting for Mediterranean dominance. Because the Sea was hosting several important trade routes dominating them meant dominating the world economy. With the conquest of Morea İstanbul and Alexandria Ottomans were the only rulers of the East Mediterranean.

The knights who were guarding the island were a big problem for Ottoman ships and other Ottoman Sultans tried to find a solution to it but Suleiman ended the problem forever.

He planned a naval invasion with ten times more men than the defenders of the island. The casualties were high but the aim was reached. Now, another problem preventing Ottomans from expanding their territories in Central Europe had been solved.

Especially with the Siege of Belgrade, Ottomans became a lasting concern for the Europeans, but for Hungarians, these cases were the beginning of the end. After the fall of Belgrade, Hungarians lost a significant fortress which was the key to their defense.

Now, Ottoman aggression towards Hungary was a fact that every European ruler knew. Louis was aware of that and their potential to defend their country, so he started to find international

help. He went to the Holy Roman Empire and tried to take effective assistance, he agreed with Bohemians for military help and reached out to other rulers.

The Battle of Mohács

After months of Preparation, the Ottoman army was ready to march through Hungarian lands.

Sultan Suleiman I, The Magnificent, gathered an enormous army and started to march with his Grandvizier İbrahim Pasha. The Ottoman army was consisting Rumelian and Anatolian cavalry, Janissaries and Sipahis.

The first destination of the Ottoman Army was Belgrade. While Ottomans were marching, Hungarians learned about the Ottoman aggression and started to prepare. King Louis II declared mobilization and started to gather troops from all over the kingdom. Also, he informed the European rulers but he was mostly isolated so he couldn't get enough amount of international support.

Because of the weather conditions, the Ottoman advance was slow for nearly 80 days, but with the discipline of the army and the engineering skills of İbrahim Pasha, Ottoman forces crossed the Danube River with bridges and didn't lose their organization.

On July 15, 1526, Suleiman sent his vizier İbrahim Pasha with some forces to Petrovaradin. Ottomans occupied Petrovaradin almost without resistance. Because of the unpreparedness of Hungarians, from Petrovaradin to Buda, there was not enough fortification to stop incoming Ottoman forces. After taking the fort, other part of the army led by Suleiman joined the İbrahim Pasha's forces.

After Capturing several fortresses, Ottoman forces crossed the Drava River. While Ottomans were marching, Louis II gathered his army and started to march to a plain near the town of Mohács. The Army of Louis II was consisting knights and infantry forces but they were less than the Ottoman forces with a clear minority.

King wanted to make some progress with his troops and ordered his generals to go forward, but the nobles and their soldiers refused to follow the generals and the plan failed.

Hungarian forces were the first attackers. In the first minutes of the war, they seemed to have taken the initiative over the battlefield but the situation changed suddenly. Because Ottomans were more trained and they were more professional than the Hungarians and other forces on the battlefield, they changed the situation and started to crush their enemy.

After nearly 2 hours, the Hungarian army lost its effectiveness and the king died while he was escaping from the battlefield.

Ottomans were the victorious side, clearly..

The Ottoman army that defeated the forces of Louis II at Mohács was no doubt the most formidable war machine of its time, one which probably no other European army would have been able to resist under similar circumstances. Thanks to the spectacular conquests achieved by Selim in the east, the Ottomans' military superiority and extensive financial resources were, by then, evident to most contemporaries. The battle of Mohács is the first of the major Ottoman-Hungarian battles where the size of the opposing forces can be determined at least approximately.

Alongside larger numbers, better training, and greater experience, on the battlefield, the Ottomans also benefitted from the tactical advantage provided by their cavalry's ability to divert, disperse, and reform in rapid sequence, a consciously-applied tactical move that took a considerable time for Christian commanders to understand fully. Because the enemies of the Ottomans had heavily armored knights. It wasn't possible to make flexible movements with knights on the battlefield.

Ottomans on the battlefield had access to an almost unlimited supply of infantry forces, thanks to their unique method of recruiting the janissaries. The devşirme provided the sultan with soldiers whose loyalty stood all tests for a long time and who constituted an unshakeable protective shield around the sultan. Hungarians were unprepared but if they were prepared

enough, probably they wouldn't gather enough men to outnumber thanks to the Ottoman devşirme system.

The Aftermath of The Battle

According to some historians, the battle was the end of the end for Hungarians. Because of the bad governance country was in poor condition but this cannot overshadow the Ottoman Success on the battlefield.

After the battle, all Hungarian forces were destroyed even the Suleiman I did not believe and kept his forces on the battlefield for some time.

With the defeat of their forces, Hungarian nobles were panicked and they elected 2 kings simultaneously. One of them was the Archduke of Austria Ferdinand I, brother of Emperor Charles V; the other king was John Zápolya. Since the Hungarian Kingdom couldn't ruled by two different kings, the kingdom was divided into several parts.. The western part of the kingdom and the Bohemian throne, since Louis II (Lajos II) was the ruler of the Bohemian throne, came under the rule of Ferdinand I. Ottomans took control of the middle parts of the kingdom including the capital Buda. The other elected king took control of the eastern parts of the country by being an Ottoman vassal.

With the devastating results for the Hungarians, the Battle of Mohács was one of the key points of European history, with the end of the Hungarian Kingdom, Ottomans were close to the gates of middle Europe and the European civilization, Vienna.



Map of the Kingdom of Hungary After the Battle of Mohács

The First Siege of Vienna, 1529

With the Battle of Mohács, in 1526, Suleiman the Magnificent buried the Hungarians into history and eliminated one of their enemies against their Ghaza.

Suleiman took the wind his behind in Middle Europe. He had a vassal kingdom in the Transilvania and he was controlling the Buda with its surroundings. But, Ferdinand I saw himself as the official ruler of Hungarian lands and he wasn't planning to let Suleiman control his claimed lands.

In the following year of battle, 1527, Ferdinand launched an aggression against John Zapolya. Zapolya couldn't stand against the Austrian army and after defeating the forces of Zapolya, Ferdinand took Buda with nearly no resistance and he advanced into the Transilvania. Since Zapolya's army was defeated, Zapolya had no chance against his opponent and he fled to

Polish lands. When he secured himself, he immediately requested help from his overlord, Suleiman I.

While Zapolya had trouble with Ferdinand, Francois I prisoner of Charles V, after the Italian Wars. His mother contacted Suleiman and Suleiman's response was conquering Hungary but this wasn't enough to free his ally Francois I, so one of the other reasons for this siege was saving Francois I from the hands of the Habsburgs. Because a divided Christianity and Europe is better than a unified one for Ottomans.

Suleiman acted quickly and gathered a massive army consisting of his elite janissary forces, timaroid cavalries, and cannons. His army was ready to march against Ferdinand but the season was unsuitable for the massive Ottoman army to advance. But Suleiman wanted to punish his enemy as soon as possible and he decided to march with his army.

As predicted, when the Ottoman army started to advance, Autumn rains started. During their advancement, Ottomans were forced to leave some of their equipment since it was not possible to move with them. Unfortunately for them, they abandoned their heavy cannons on the road and they are going to suffer more because of lack of cannons.

The Ottoman forces and Zapolya gathered in Buda and Zapolya was declared as the king of Hungary on the 8th of September 1529 in exchange for an annual tax.

While the Ottomans were in Buda, Ferdinand knew that the next target was Vienna. He left some troops to garrison the city and he started to use diplomacy to create a combined force with the other German rulers of Europe. He claimed that if Vienna fell, the next target of Ottomans would be them.

He was right. Because if the city fell into the Ottoman hands, Habsburgs would lose their capital, and their biggest fortress against Ottomans. The European civilization was at risk and they had to be prepared for defense of the city. Even the head of the Protestant movement, Martin Luther was aware of the risk and he wrote:

“Our enemies are fierce and insatiable wolves, who always seek to devour and annihilate the Christian flock. But above all, we have the Turks on our necks, who openly boast that they will trample down our God and our holy Gospel; yea, they will even tear God out of heaven like a young chicken. They make a great noise, and speak boastfully. God will hear it and awaken the Emperor and his princes, that they may take counsel, to see how they may check the Turks from such insolence, else they will be compelled to hear that they have grown bolder.”

Attempts of Ferdinand worked and forces from all German Kingdoms, the biggest portion of them was the man of Emperor Charles V, came to the city, and Nicholas von Salm was assigned to defend the city. Nicholas was an experienced war hero and he was a morale source for his troops.

When the forces arrived in the city, the first thing that they did was strengthen the fortresses. Because the fortresses of the city were nearly 300 years old. They stored enough goods for their man and citizens. With all preparations, the city was ready for the aggression of Suleiman.

After the coronation of Zapolya. Suleiman left some garrison troops and started to advance into the Habsburg-controlled territories. Ottomans were crushing the rule of Habsburgs and this continued until the fronts of Vienna. When they were surrounding the city, Suleiman sent a warning but he got a negative answer. This meant war for both sides.

As mentioned, Ottomans couldn't bring all the equipment that they had and some of their supplies were damaged. Diametrically, the defense forces were well-prepared.

Under these conditions, Ottomans had limited options to exceed the walls of the city. One of the options was getting through the walls by drilling the soil. Special Ottoman forces had this ability and they were called “Lağımçılar”.

Lağımçı forces started to dig tunnels under the walls and put explosives in them. With these explosives, Ottomans breached some parts of the walls. It was time for an attack for the Ottomans and Suleiman gave an attack order to his troops. When the Ottoman Janissaries started to advance, they faced the German “Landsknechts” forces. They were as elite as Janissaries and they were professional soldiers. With these elite German forces, defenders of the city managed to repel the attacks of Ottomans.

After this unsuccessful attempt to breach the defense, Ottoman stockpiles and manpower were running out. The commanders of the Suleiman decided to retreat but Suleiman wanted to try his second chance.

Unfortunately for him, the defenders were the victorious ones again and he had to retreat.

Prisoner exchanges were made and Ottomans retreated to the capital, İstanbul. For the Suleiman, the Magnificent Sultan of Ottomans, this siege was just a trunk show but for Christians, it was the starting point of hopes, and hopes for defeating the undefeatable enemy for centuries, The Ottomans.

Every effort of Ferdinand I to take the throne of the Hungarian Kingdom was inconclusive.

Battles were costly for both sides and both sides had other enemies. So, it was time for a peace deal.

Charles V was planning an expedition to France and he didn't want another problem in the middle part Europe. Because Ferdinand was taking the biggest support from his brother Charles. After the consultations, Ferdinand sent his ambassadors to Suleiman.

A potential agreement with Austrians was suiting to the Ottomans because they had a big threat in their east borders. Because of the Western expeditions, Suleiman didn't have enough time to deal with the ruler of Safavid, Tahmasp I.

After several diplomatic conversations, both sides decided to sign a truce but it was known that this truce wouldn't be a long term. In 1533, the Treaty of İstanbul was signed. According to the treaty, Ferdinand would give up every claim in Hungary and stop attacking Hungarian lands, also Austrians would pay taxes every year and the Austrian archduke would be counted as the equivalent of the Ottoman Grand Vizier. With the last article of the agreement, Ferdinand I was accepting that his rival Suleiman was more imposing than him.

After the agreement, Suleiman started to take action against his enemy in the east and Charles V was preparing an expedition for France. Both sides were busy with other enemies until the death of Zapolya, in 1540.

Ottoman-Safavid Relations

The conflicts between Ottomans and Safavids were based on territorial and religious disputes. Both dynasties were Muslims but the Ottomans accepted the Sunni faith and the Safavids were Shias. These 2 faiths have emerged after the death of Prophet Muhammad.

Safavids have been enemies of Ottomans for centuries. During the rule of Bayezid II, Safavids were provoking the Shia Turkish tribes in Anatolia (Türkmens or Yörüks). These tribes were causing damage and revolting against Ottoman rule. Because they weren't settled and they were refusing to give taxes. One of the biggest tribes in Anatolia was Kızılbaş's. They were revolting over and over to the Ottoman rule and every time they were taking the support of Safavids. Selim I was aware of this problem and he made several successful expeditions into the Safavid lands. İsmail I of Safavids was forced to accept the terms of Selim.

After the Selim, Suleiman was the ruler of the Empire but the Safavid problem wasn't solved and he wanted to find a solution.

When Suleiman was dealing with Europeans, Tahmasp I was sieging the Ottoman lands in the east. Safavids were even expanding their territories beyond Bagdad. Also, Tahmasp had relations with Europeans against Ottomans and this was a threat against Suleiman.

After the Treaty of İstanbul in 1533, Suleiman quickly gathered his forces and started to advance in the east. But, it was hard to catch the forces of Tahmasp. Because he knew that if he made a battle with the Ottomans, he had no chance. So he was destroying every resource of Ottomans on their road and weakening them (Scorched Earth).

Suleiman took Bagdad and other important fortresses of the region but couldn't find his enemy. Whenever Ottomans started an aggression against Safavids, the situation was the same. Ottoman forces were exhausted while trying to catch Safavids and when Ottomans started to move to the west, Tahmasp was doing the same, he was conquering the Ottoman lands and he was disappearing.

This unconcluded situation was a big problem for Suleiman while he was dealing with Europeans. His enemies acknowledged that and they established connections with Safavids. Ottomans organized several campaigns against Safavids several times under the rule of Suleiman but they couldn't get what they wanted and the Safavids threat existed throughout the 16th century.

Struggle for Strategic Fortresses on the Ottoman-Austrian Border

After the Treaty of İstanbul, different agreements were signed but they didn't bring a permanent solution to the Ottoman-Habsburg conflict. Both sides showed aggression whenever possible. Some castles like Esztergom, Szigetvár, Nagykanizsa, and Eger continually changed hands and they became scenes of bloody conflicts. Both sides suffered significant casualties and at the end of the 16th century, borders nearly didn't change. Also, both sides took part in other conflicts in other parts of Europe as a part of the Italian Wars during the century.

Siege of Buda 1541

In 1538, John I Zapolya and Ferdinand I signed the Treaty of Nagyvárád, which was a secret peace treaty. According to the treaty, Ferdinand would recognize Zapolya as the ruler of Hungary and Zapolya would declare Ferdinand as the heir of the Throne. Also, Zapolya gave up on his claims from western Hungary. The treaty was secret because Zapolya was an Ottoman vassal.

Zapolya's main idea was an independent Hungarian state. For that, he was trying every possible way. He had relations with the Sigismund I of the Commonwealth. He was in the middle of two major powers of Europe and because of that, an independent state wasn't easy to establish.

After the treaty, Zapolya got married to Isabella Jagiellon and he had a son with her. When Zapolya heard that he had a son, John II of Hungary, he declared his son as the heir to the throne and ignored the Treaty of Nagyvárád. 2 weeks after the birth of his son, he died.

On July 17, 1540, John I, the last Hungarian-speaking King of Hungary died. An ambassador from Hungary was sent to İstanbul to ask Sultan Suleiman for approval of naming John II,

the infant son of the late king, as the new King of Hungary. This request was contrary to the agreement made in the secret Treaty of Nagyvárád of 1538 in which John I pledged that after his death Ferdinand would inherit his share of Hungary. Soon, Suleiman I acknowledged John Sigismund as King John II just as the Habsburg General Wilhelm von Roggendorf besieged Buda to support Ferdinand's claim to the throne.

After the negotiations between Hungarians and Ottomans, Ferdinand was informed about a possible Ottoman invasion but he didn't give up and he gave the order to siege the city.

In the city, the new ruler of Hungary John II, and his mother Isabella were. A little Hungarian and Serbian garrison was holding the city. Forts were strengthened but they wouldn't last too long.

Habsburg army started to pierce the city's fortresses when they were encircled. Garrisons were defending the city but they weren't enough. Sigismund I was offering to accept the terms of Ferdinand and Isabella was close to accepting but her man blocked her.

On August 26, Suleiman came to the city with his armies. Before he arrived, Ottoman cavalry distracted the attackers and the Sultan's army easily defeated the rest of them. After the victory, Suleiman came into the city with no resistance. Suleiman accepted the rule of John II in exchange for an annual tax for protection. But John II would only rule the Transylvania and Suleiman would keep the middle Hungary including Buda.

Both sides agreed on the conditions and the regency of John II started to rule Hungary. But Isabella and Martinuzzi, a Hungarian aristocrat who was regency with Isabella, weren't satisfied with the new borders. In 1542 they made another secret agreement with Ferdinand and according to the agreement Ferdinand I tried his chance again to take the city of Buda but forces from other Bey's defeated his armies. In 1547, the Treaty of Edirne was signed Ferdinand I and Charles V acknowledged the Ottoman rule. After the treaty, Suleiman started his expedition to Safavid lands.

Siege of Eger 1552

Isabella and Marutzzi had an aim to create an independent Hungarian state under their regency. Because of that, they were looking for every possible way to end the dominance of Ottomans in Hungary.

Ferdinand I took advantage of this situation and Marched into the vassalized Hungarian Kingdom and conquered several castles. After this aggression, Suleiman prepared his army and started to march against Ferdinand.

Suleiman took a big portion of his lands back and his armies started to siege the Castle of Eger. They thought this siege would be the same as other ones but the heroic defense of the Hungarians didn't let the Ottomans take the castle.

Istvan Dobo, the commander of the Eger Castle garrison was an experienced general and he knew his enemy. With the help of the efforts of peasants and knowledge of him, Ottomans were forced to retreat.

Siege of Szigetvár 1566

Szigetvár Castle was one of the castles located on the border of Ottomans and Habsburgs and in every aggression, besieged because of that.

The Hungarian nobility wasn't accepting the rule of John II and the Ottomans. Because of that, John II was dealing with deadly and frequent uprisings. In 1561, while his army was suppressing an uprising, Habsburgs started to march on the Hungarian lands. When the uprising was suppressed, John II immediately took action and was defeated by the Habsburg army.

With the defeat, the Habsburgs gained some parts of the Transilvania with no resistance.

When Suleiman learned these updates, he prepared for another expedition.

When his armies arrived in the Hungarian lands, his generals divided forces and continued to their expansion. But, Nikola IV Zrinski managed to defeat a portion of the Ottomans and his

forces were a threat against Ottoman expansion. To destroy him, Suleiman and his generals sieged the Szigetvár Castle.

The siege was bloody and Ottoman losses were heavy but in the end of the day, Ottomans managed to bridge the castle. During the siege, Suleiman I passed away but his army wasn't aware of that.

Conflicts in the Mediterranean

Austria and the Holy Roman Empire didn't have access to the Mediterranean Sea but the Spanish Kingdom under the rule of Charles V had a strong navy. Rivals of Habsburgs were dominating the trade in the sea but Habsburgs were trying to defeat their enemies in every conflict area.

With that aim, Habsburgs sieged several French ports including Nice, tried an invasion to conquer Tunis from Ottomans and gathered the armies of the Holy League under the command of Andrea Doria. But unfortunate for them, they couldn't cause much damage for their enemies in the sea.

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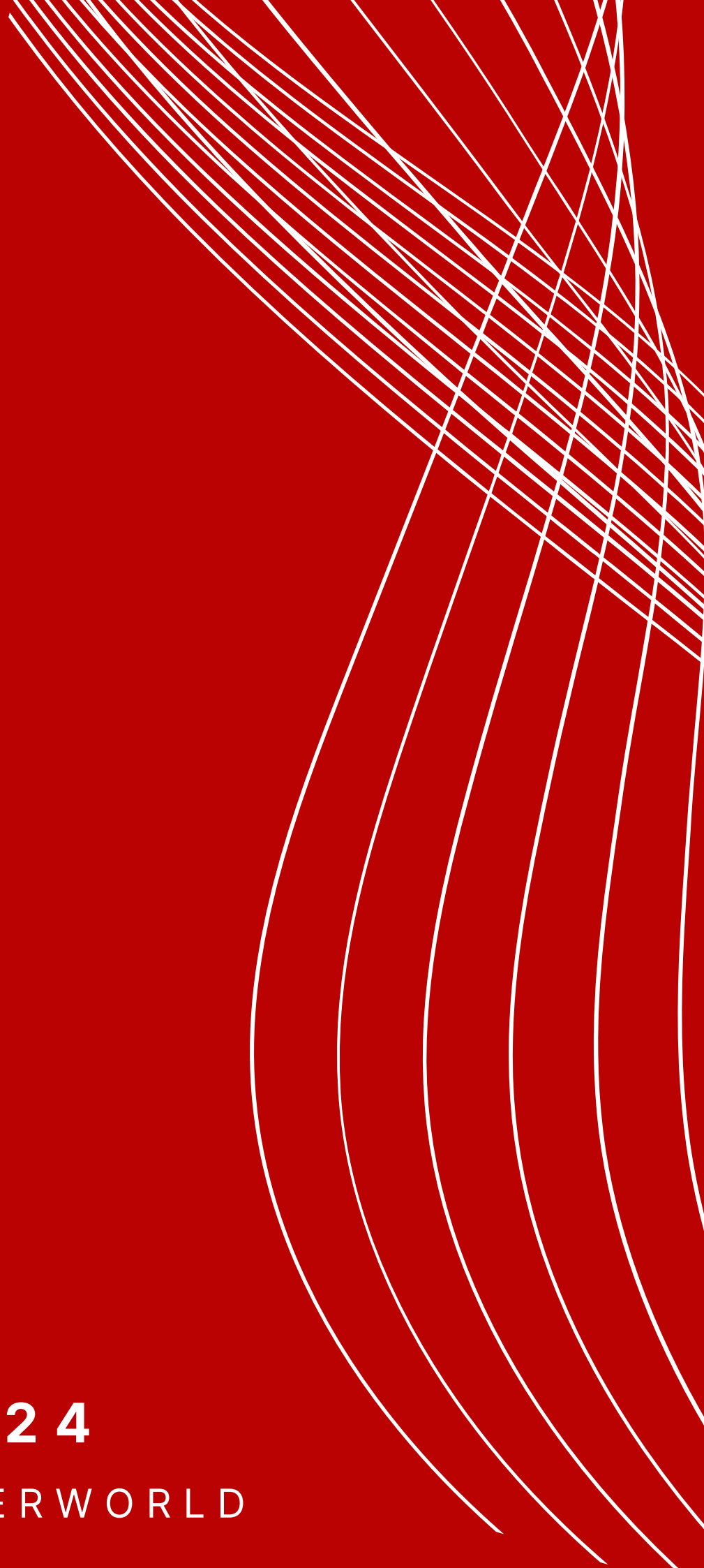
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