

# MUNSA'25

**Quriltai of Osman Ghazi**

**Open Agenda**

**STUDY GUIDE**



**QURILTAI  
OF OSMAN GHAZI**



# Quriltai of Osman Ghazi Study Guide

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*by Habib Doğanay Dönmez*



## Letter From Secretary General

Esteemed participants of the Model United Nations Conference of Sakıp Sabancı Anatolian High School 2025,

As Secretary General, I am deeply privileged to be a part of a conference that upholds the values of education, excellence, and collaboration. Working alongside a team of incredibly talented individuals, I am enthusiastic about organizing an event that truly showcases the essence of our club. Our conference offers a diverse array of committees, including engaging crisis committees and a variety of topics spanning different time periods and regions.

Just like every year, this year's conference is being organized by SSAL MUN Club too. Our club's academic and organizational teams are working tirelessly to bring you the best MUN conference you've ever experienced. We believe that our conference will not only provide you with three unforgettable days but also significantly enhance your academic and personal development.

This year's MUNSA will feature 9 unique committees, each led by a team of passionate people. With that being said, the tenacious team of MUNSA'25, promises to challenge delegates to engage and think critically. Through our General Assembly committees GA1: DISEC and GA3: SOCHUM, two cooperation organizations which are the African Union and League of Nations, the main body and the most important committee of UN which is UNSC, the mysterious Consiglio dei Dieci and two crisis committees which are JCC and HCC; delegates will have access to a broad range of committee forms and topics. From this wide range of options, delegates have the opportunity to find a committee that fits their interests and matches their preferred style of debate.

To apply for MUNSA 2025, simply visit our website and register. Before doing so, I encourage you to explore our website, [sakipsabancimun.org](http://sakipsabancimun.org) where you can find detailed information about our team, registration deadlines, conference policies, and committees. Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our Public Relations team at [munsabancipr@gmail.com](mailto:munsabancipr@gmail.com).

On behalf of the Sakıp Sabancı Anatolian High School Model United Nations Club and the MUNSA'25 Team, I eagerly anticipate welcoming you all to our conference this September!

Mert Taşcı  
Secretary General, MUNSA 2025

## Letter From Academic Advisor

Dear members of the Quriltai of Osman Ghazi,

I, Habib Doğanay Dönmez, as the Academic Advisor of MUNSA'25, it is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the 5th edition of Sakıp Sabancı Anatolian High School Model United Nations Conference. I served as the club president and secretary general of MUNSA in 2024 and I graduated from our school this June. Now I am studying in the Boğaziçi University Department of Economics. Throughout the conference, I will be serving you as the Under Secretary General for the Quriltai of Osman Ghazi with my experienced team.

In this Quriltai, we expect our participants to portray the fellow fighters of Osman Ghazi during the establishment process of the Ottoman Sultanate. All the allocated roles for the delegates will be fully equal, however some of you may have some kind of special abilities which are historically related with your character and those kinds of abilities will be told to you at the start of the conference. You don't have to research the historical position of your character because they will be randomly allocated and at the start you will only work as the advisors of Osman Bey. It also means that you will not have access to personal decisions. (However the flow may change this.) Your first mission is to establish the Ottoman Sultanate properly by making your own way to achieve it and the other goals will be either given by the crisis team or chosen by your moves. Be prepared for a unique experience that you will remember forever!



## Key Terms and Definitions

- **Bey/Beylik:** A Turkish chieftain or lord; the ruler of a small principality (Beylik) in Anatolia after the decline of the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum.
- **Ghazi (Gazi):** A Muslim warrior dedicated to fighting against non-Muslims, often on the frontiers of Islamic states. The early Ottoman identity was fundamentally built on a Ghazi ethos.
- **Uç Bey:** A "marcher lord" or frontier lord responsible for defending and expanding the borders of a state. Osman Gazi was the Uç Bey for the Seljuks on the Byzantine frontier.
- **Şeyh Edebali:** A highly respected Sufi Sheikh and Muslim scholar in the region. He was Osman Gazi's mentor and later his father-in-law. His guidance is considered crucial in Osman's state-building efforts.
- **Ahis:** A powerful fraternal organization in Anatolian towns and cities that combined aspects of a trade guild, a Sufi order, and a civic militia. They held significant political and economic power and were key allies for Osman Gazi.
- **Futuwwa:** A code of honor and chivalry followed by the Ahis and young men's associations, emphasizing virtues like generosity, bravery, and piety.
- **Tımarlı Sipahi:** The foundation of the early Ottoman military system. A cavalryman was granted a plot of land (Tımar) by the Sultan in exchange for military service. This system began to take shape under Osman and his successors.
- **Pazar:** A market or marketplace. Controlling trade routes and market towns was a key economic strategy for the early Ottomans.
- **İznik (Nicaea) & İzmit (Nicomedia):** Major fortified Byzantine cities in northwestern Anatolia that were primary targets for Ottoman expansion.
- **Seljuk Sultanate of Rum:** The Turko-Persian Sunni Muslim empire in Anatolia that fractured in the 13th century, leading to the rise of numerous Beyliks, including the Ottoman one.

- **Byzantine Empire:** The weakened Eastern Roman Empire, centered on Constantinople, which was the primary adversary and target for Osman Gazi's Ghazis.
- **Tekfur:** The title for a Byzantine provincial governor or local lord in charge of a castle or town in Anatolia, often acting independently from Constantinople.

## Timeline of Important Events

- **c. 1258:** Ertuğrul Gazi, Osman's father, is said to have led the Kayı tribe into the region of Söğüt as a frontier commander for the Seljuks.
- **c. 1281:** Osman Bey succeeds his father Ertuğrul as the leader of the Kayı tribe in Söğüt.
- **1299:** Traditional date marking the foundation of the Ottoman Beylik. Osman declares independence from the Seljuk Sultanate following the collapse of its central authority.
- **1302:** Battle of Bapheus: Osman defeats a Byzantine army sent to counter his raids. This victory is considered a major step towards Ottoman independence and opened up the Turkish conquest of Bithynia.
- **1303/1304:** Köse Mihal, the Byzantine lord of Chirmenkia (Harmankaya), converts to Islam and becomes one of Osman's most trusted companions. This event symbolizes the appeal of the Ghazi state to some Christian frontiersmen.
- **1317:** Capture of the important Byzantine towns of Bursa and İznik is besieged.
- **1321 - 1326:** Systematic conquest of Byzantine strongholds and towns around Bursa, cutting the city off from its supply lines.
- **1326:** Conquest of Bursa: The city, a major economic and strategic center, falls to Osman's son, Orhan, just after Osman's death. It became the first major capital of the Ottoman state.
- **1326:** Death of Osman Gazi. He is succeeded by his son, Orhan Gazi.



- **1329:** Battle of Pelekanon: Orhan Gazi defeats Byzantine Emperor Andronikos III Palaiologos. This battle ends any serious Byzantine attempt to reclaim lost territories in Anatolia.
- **1331:** Conquest of İznik (Nicaea): The city falls to Orhan, a major blow to Byzantine prestige and power.
- **1337:** Conquest of İzmit (Nicomedia): The last major Byzantine stronghold in Bithynia falls, bringing the entire region under Ottoman control.
- **1345:** The Ottoman Beylik annexes the neighboring Turkish Beylik of Karesi in Anatolia. This gives the Ottomans their first territory in Europe and valuable seafaring expertise.
- **1354:** The Ottoman seizure of the fortress of Tzympe in Gallipoli following an earthquake provides the first permanent Ottoman foothold on the European continent (Thrace).

## **Introduction to the Committee**

To understand the rise of Osman Gazi is to step into a world of fading empires, shifting loyalties, and the relentless energy of a frontier society. The story of the proto-Ottomans is not one of inevitable destiny, but a precarious and gritty struggle for survival and supremacy on the edges of the known world.

## **The Ashes of an Empire: A Frontier Forged from Seljuk Ruin**

The stage for Osman's drama was set by the slow, painful dissolution of the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum. This once-mighty Turco-Persian empire, which had carved out a powerful domain in Anatolia after the victory at Manzikert in 1071, was a ghost of its former self by the late 13th century. The Mongol hammer blow at the Battle of Köse Dağ in 1243 shattered Seljuk authority, reducing the Sultans in Konya to puppets of the Ilkhanate. As central control evaporated, the margins of the empire broke away into a kaleidoscope of small, ambitious Turkish principalities known as beyliks.

It was in this fractured landscape that the Kayı tribe, a part of the vast Oghuz Turkic migration, found its purpose. Led by Osman's father, Ertuğrul Gazi, the Kayı were more than just nomads; they were borderlanders, uç beys (marcher lords) in service to a dying Seljuk state. Their reward for this service was a sliver of land—a precarious foothold with the small town of Söğüt as its heart and the formidable Byzantine fortress of Bursa looming in the distance. This geographic position, on the very lip of the Islamic world, was both a curse and a blessing. It was a land of constant danger and raid, but also of immense opportunity for those strong enough to seize it.

## **Osman Bey: The Ghazi Lord Who Dreamed of an Empire**

When leadership passed to Osman around 1281, he inherited not just a tribe, but a mission. He was, first and foremost, a Ghazi. This was not merely a title; it was an identity. The Ghazi was a holy warrior for Islam, a frontier fighter whose piety was proven through relentless struggle against the non-believer. This ideology became the magnetic core of Osman's nascent state, attracting a motley crew of Turcoman horsemen seeking glory, religious dervishes seeking to spread the faith, and even disaffected Byzantine mercenaries and lords seeking a new master who could offer them more than a distant Emperor in Constantinople.

Osman's genius, however, lay in his ability to transcend being just a successful raider. He was a master political strategist. His most crucial alliance was with the Ahi Brotherhood, a powerful network of guilds, tradesmen, and Sufi mystics that held real power in Anatolian towns. By aligning with the Ahis, Osman gained access to urban wealth, craftsmen, and a sophisticated administrative structure his tribal background lacked. This relationship was profoundly personal. His legendary, and likely symbolic, dream of a great tree growing from his chest, interpreted by his mentor and future father-in-law Şeyh Edebali, was a powerful piece of political theology. It fused the spiritual authority of a revered Sufi sage with the martial power of a tribal chieftain, legitimizing his rule in the eyes of both the religious elite and the common soldier.

His marriage to Edebali's daughter, Malhun Hatun, cemented this alliance. It was a statement: Osman's power would be built not just on the sword, but on wisdom, law, and divine favor.

## **The Engine of Expansion: More Than Just the Sword**

The early Ottoman state was a machine built for conquest, but its methods were nuanced. Osman's strategy was one of gradual, relentless constriction. He avoided dramatic, set-piece battles against superior Byzantine forces until he was certain of victory. Instead, his *akıncı* (raiders) constantly harassed the countryside, isolating Byzantine cities, strangling their supply lines, and making life outside the walls unbearable.

Crucially, the Ottoman system was built on incorporation. Unlike the destructive Mongol invasions, Osman's model was to absorb. Byzantine *Tekfurs* (local lords) who submitted were often integrated into the growing Ottoman elite, their knowledge of the land and its people invaluable. Köse Mihal, the Greek lord of Harmankaya who became Osman's loyal companion and convert, is the prime example of this pragmatic, inclusive policy. For the common people, Ottoman rule often meant a more stable and lighter tax burden compared to the neglect and chaos of the late Byzantine administration.

By the time of his death in 1326, as his son Orhan captured the magnificent prize of Bursa, Osman had transformed his tiny frontier beylik. He had bequeathed to his successors not just territory, but a potent identity—a fusion of Ghazi zeal, Sufi spirituality, and pragmatic statecraft—that would become the DNA of a world empire.

## **Major Parties Involved**

The world of Osman Gazi was a crowded and competitive arena. His success can only be understood by examining the other powers, both great and small, that shared the stage with him.



## **The Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire**

The primary adversary, but a giant suffering from a thousand cuts. By Osman's time, the Byzantine Empire was a shadow of its former Roman glory, reduced to fragments in Greece, Thrace, and northwestern Anatolia. Riven by constant civil wars over a hollow throne, the imperial government in Constantinople could offer little support to its distant Anatolian provinces. The local Tekfurs often acted as independent warlords, more concerned with their own power than with a collective defense. This disunity was Osman's greatest advantage. The Byzantines represented immense wealth, legendary cities, and ancient prestige—the ultimate prize for a Ghazi—but they were politically paralyzed, making them vulnerable to a determined and united foe.

## **The Anatolian Beyliks**

The Ottomans were just one fish in a very large sea of Turkish beyliks. To their immediate south and east lay powerful and often older rivals:

- The Germiyanids were a major beylik centered in Kütahya, often considered the most powerful state in western Anatolia for a time. They were a constant source of pressure and potential conflict.
- The Beylik of Karası, located on the Aegean coast, was a direct competitor for territory. Its conquest by Orhan in 1345 was a critical step, giving the Ottomans their first navy and a gateway to Europe.
- Others like the Aydinids, Menteşe, and Saruhan beyliks focused their expansion seaward, clashing with Italian traders and Byzantine islands. Initially, these beyliks were rivals, but their existence also distracted Byzantine attention and resources, creating space for Osman to grow on his own frontier.

## **The Mongol Ilkhanate**

Though based in Persia, the Mongol Ilkhanate was the nominal sovereign over Anatolia. The Seljuk Sultans were their vassals. For Osman, navigating this relationship was a delicate dance. Open rebellion against Mongol power would have been suicidal. Instead, the early Ottomans practiced a form of strategic submission, paying lip service to Ilkhanate authority while the Mongols were strong. As the Ilkhanate itself began to fragment and dissolve after the 1330s, it created a power vacuum the Ottomans were perfectly positioned to fill, no longer fearing a Mongol punitive expedition.

## The Ahi Brotherhood

This was not a state, but a parallel power structure woven throughout the urban centers of Anatolia. The Ahis were a fraternal order combining trade guild, Sufi mystic lodge, and militia. They controlled economics, craftsmanship, and local politics. For Osman, winning the support of the Ahi leaders in towns like Bilecik and Eskişehir was as important as winning a battle. It granted him legitimacy, tax revenue, and a loyal base of support within walled cities, complementing his tribal power base.

## The Italian Maritime Republics

The Genoese and Venetians, from their fortified trading colonies in Galata (across from Constantinople) and the Aegean islands, wielded immense economic power. They were often more interested in lucrative trade deals than in saving the Byzantine Empire. They supplied both sides with goods and sometimes even soldiers, playing the various Anatolian factions against each other to secure commercial advantages. For the land-locked early Ottomans, they were a source of advanced goods and a future naval rival they would have to confront.

## Members of the Quriltai

**Gündüz Bey** was the eldest son of Ertuğrul Gazi and Halime Hatun, who are featured members of Kayı of the Bozok branch of the Oghuzs. He was the older brother of Osman Gazi, founder of the Ottoman Empire. He is known for his courageous actions in the military.

**Orhan Bey** was the second sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1323/4 to 1362. He was born in Söğüt, as the son of Osman I. He has excessive knowledge about government administration compared to his peers at that time.

**Saru Batu Savcı Bey** was one of the important members in Kayı Tribe of the Bozok branch of the Oghuz Turks. He was the older brother of Osman Gazi, the founder of the Ottoman Empire. He helped his brother Osman to establish the beylik.

**Samsa Çavuş** was an important figure who lived during the founding period of the beylik. He played a role who went to the front lines of wars and conflicts with his masterful fighting and planning skills.. He was a master in sword skills and capable of teaching martial arts during his time.

**Konur Alp**, who played an important role during the founding period of the beylik, He was one of Osman Gazi's comrades and most trusted commanders between all. He is particularly noted in historical sources for his conquests in the Western Black Sea region. He was mostly tasked by Osman Gazi for capturing settlements and starting campaigns in the decided region

**Turgut Alp** was one of Osman Gazi's closest comrades-in-arms and one of the trusted commanders during the founding years of the beylik. He particularly took a role in the Ottoman Empire's first campaigns against Byzantium. He actively participated in Osman Gazi's conquests and directly contributed to the expansion of Ottoman territories.

**Akça Koca** was a comrades-in-arms of Osman Gazi. Akça Koca stands out as a significant figure who drew attention through his struggles along the Byzantine borders in the pre-Ottoman period and his organization of the Turkmen elements.

**Aykut Alp** was one of the best commanders of Osman Gazi. He helped Osman Gazi about managing armpower and strategies. He had one of the greatest minds and intelligence in the beylik and he had mastered smithship in his young ages.

**Saltuk Alp** was one of the well known Uch beys in his times. He is remembered as an important warrior who distinguished himself through his battles on the Byzantine frontiers and his participation in gazas.

**Köse Mihal**, was a governor in the Byzantine Empire during the pre-Ottoman period, after the friendship he made with the side of Osman Gazi, he became one of the founding members of the Ottoman Empire.

**Boran Alp** was one of the great Uch beys in beylik ages. His strength was beyond comprehension and he was a master in axe techniques. He has given lessons about martial arts for more than 20 years and he was a great instructor at his times.

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