Cambodia

Day Two

The VOC and the Zheng are at war. Both sides want to engage in unrestrained maritime hostilities in pursuit of their interests, while receiving legal guarantees and protection from land-based powers against their enemy. Cambodia, Siam, and Tokugawa Japan are caught up within this conflict. The goal of day 2 is to rule on these questions of offensive maritime warfare and which ships are protected.

Readings


Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.

What you want:

You possess abundant resources in heavy demand from China and Japan, such as deerskins, marine and forest products. However, you are not a strong state. Cambodia is a shadow of the glorious Angkor Empire (ninth to fourteenth centuries). The position of your king is always precarious. Scheming royal relatives and ambitious warlords constantly try to usurp the throne. Your neighbors, Ayutthaya (Siam) and Cochinchina (Quinam or southern Vietnam), keep meddling in your succession struggles. They take your land, plunder your wealth, carry off your people, and try to install rulers subservient to their interests. With your own resources, you are not able to repel Ayutthaya (Siam) and Cochinchina (Quinam). You want reliable outside allies able to counterbalance their influence.
What you don't want:
You do not want to be overly depend upon any one power, which would seriously threaten your already fragile domestic stability.

What you want to achieve:
Your goal is to ensure that either the Zheng, the VOC, or both become your allies. You can provide them legal guarantees and trading privileges in exchange for their military protection of the royal court. The more potential partners you can bring over to your side, the better it is for maintaining a balance of power with Ayutthaya (Siam) and Cochinchina (Quinam).

Day Two

Stage 1 (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

Stage 2 (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to the Dutch East India Company

Stage 3 (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

Stage 4 (class) – Receive embassies (10-15 min.)

Stage 5 (class) – First convention. Present your side's case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)
VOTE: ALLOW OR RESTRAIN VOC OR ZHENG

Stage 6 - News arrives

Stage 7 (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)

Stage 8 (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)
REACH A CONSENSUS WITH TOKUGAWA JAPAN AND SIAM ON WHAT KIND OF ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN