Ayutthaya (Siam)

Day One

The mission for Day 1 is to decide who should be treated as a full and recognized state. The Dutch East India Company and the Zheng maritime network were hybrid enterprises that possessed significant powers. And yet both struggled to take up a place in state-to-state diplomacy. At the same time, the Zheng and the Qing both competed for legitimacy. The Zheng claimed that the Qing were Manchu usurpers with no rights to the Chinese throne while the Qing argued variously that the Zheng were pirates or should take up a place as loyal tributary vassals.

Readings

- Bhawan Ruangsilp, *Dutch East India Company Merchants at the Court of Ayutthaya: Dutch Perceptions of the Thai Kingdom, c. 1604-1765* (Leiden: Brill, 2018), pp. 5-14, 111-148

Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.
What you want:
You are a trading power. You possess abundant resources in high demand from China and Japan, such as deerskins, deer hides, saltpeter, medicinal ingredients, and maritime products. You want open and secure trade with as many trading partners as possible.

What you don't want:
You do not want any power to emerge as the unchallenged hegemon in maritime East Asia. You particularly fear a maritime power blockading the sea lanes leading into your key port cities or monopolizing access to your products. These unfavorable scenarios further threaten your already fragile domestic stability, which is heavily dependent upon royal prestige and the capacity to project strength.

What you want to achieve:
Your goal is to ensure friendly ties with the Dutch, Zheng, and Qing so you can sell your goods to all of them in a peaceful trading environment.

Day One
Stage 1 (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position
Stage 2 (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to the Qing
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: RECOGNIZE VOC OR ZHENG - ACCORD ONE PARTY LEGITIMACY
Stage 6 - News arrives
Stage 7 (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)
Stage 8 (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)
VOTE: RECOGNIZE THE VOC, THE ZHENG, OR THE QING - ACCORD ONE PARTY LEGITIMACY
Day Two

The VOC and the Zheng are at war with each other, and this conflict is obstructing the smooth flow of trade in maritime East Asia. 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

- Adam Clulow and Xing Hang, “Between the Company and Koxinga: Territorial Waters, Trade and War over Deerskins,” in Lauren Benton and Nathan Perl-Rosenthal (ed.), The View from the Sea: Rethinking Global Maritime History (forthcoming), draft

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

Your Objectives

You want open trade with the VOC and the Zheng. At the same time, King Narai wants to send royal junks manned by Chinese sailors directly to Japan. You do not want the trading lanes to be endangered by warfare or maritime blockade. You also want your vessels to enjoy legal protection and recourse if they are damaged on the high seas.
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 CAMBODIA AND TOKUGAWA JAPAN ON WHAT KIND OF ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN