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The Political and Strategic Predictions of the Battle of Ain Jalut

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Abstract

Key words:

*Battle of Ain Jalut,
Muslim Rule,
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Crusaders.*

Indeed, the Battle of Ain Jalut is regarded as a turning point in Islamic history because, at the expense of the Islamic State, it halted the Mongol expansions. This study focuses on the political and strategic outcomes of the Battle of Ain Jalut, which occurred in 658 AH/1259 AD. This study examines the Battle of Ain Jalut and its results. This investigation uses primary data for data analysis to reach its conclusions. Since the demise of al-Malik al-li Najm al-Dn Ayyb, the most significant outcome of the battle was the unification of Egypt and the Levant under the flag of a single state, which had not been accomplished. In addition, the victory significantly impacted the morale of Muslims, as it fortified the Mamluk State, ended the Mongol and Crusader presence, and effectively destroyed the Mongols' power. Therefore, the Battle of Ain Jalut is commonly regarded as the beginning of Mamluk's rule in the Islamic world. The Mamluks played a crucial role in defending Islamic territories and repelling Tatar and Crusader attacks, thereby reviving the Abbasid Caliphate, and enhancing the legitimacy of their state.

Introduction

The Battle of Ain Jalut is considered a turning point in Islamic history because it halted the Mongol expansions at the expense of the Islamic State. After the collapse of Baghdad, the capital of the Abbasid state and the Islamic Caliphate, at the hands of the Hulagu-led Mongols, the Mamluks emerged as the saviors of the Islamic world, rescuing it from destruction (Iqbal, 2021). After the demise of al-Malik al-li Najm al-Dn Ayyb, the final Ayyubid king, the Mamluks assumed control of Egypt. The Battle of Ain Jalut altered the world map and liberated the Muslim Nation from the nightmare of the Mongol invasion (El-Ashker & Wilson, 2006). Instead, the Mongols bypassed it to reach Europe, and their state reached Korea in the East by 639 AH/1241 AD. Qutuz began with a prudent strategy. He worked to rehabilitate, train, equip materially and morally the people, and mobilize them for an Islamic cause (KIM, 2017).

The results of any conflict are not favorable to humanity. The communities are troubled because they are blameless and are victims of innocent murder. During battles, it was common for people's gold and other belongings to be pillaged. People were not living well due to a change in their mental approach. In addition, the children lived in a marginalized community under the guise of their blameless deaths, so they were also subject to the repercussions of war. It has been proven historically that these conflicts are not in the public's favor, yet they still face obstacles and lose loved ones. During historical battles, the problem people confront is the murder of children and the absence of social security. Similarly, these conflicts resulted in the division of the population into distinct tribes and communities, with less emphasis placed on their development. The consequences of any conflict are always hazardous for communities directly or indirectly impacted by it. These conflicts have long-lasting

effects on the communities' personalities and alter the people's mental models.

This study will examine the Battle of Ain Jalut, including its causes, trajectory, and effects. In addition, this study will investigate the political and geographical effects of this battle, which altered the map and eliminated the Mongol Empire's threat. This study is significant because it sheds light on the psychological, political, and strategic implications of the Battle of Ain Jalut. Muslims could quickly unite their ranks, psychologically prepare people for war, and devise a battle strategy. They combined the religious side (scholars, jurists) with the political side to impose tariffs to prepare and equip the army and persuade people to donate, as Muslims at the time were experiencing severe financial hardship. This contributed to boosting people's morale and fighting spirit. No one had considered such sophisticated planning before Qutuz and al-Zahir Baybars' implementation of strategic planning.

Review of Literature

The Battle of Ain Jalut (25 Ramadan 658 AH / September 3, 1260, AD) is regarded as one of the most significant and decisive battles in the history of Islam ([Iqbal, 2021](#)). In this battle, the Mamluk army, commanded by Sayf ad-Din Qutuz, defeated the Mongol army led by Kitbuqa for the first time. The battle occurred after a series of crushing defeats for the Islamic world, beginning with the fall of the Khwarezm State at the hands of the Mongols and continuing with the fall of Baghdad after a several-day siege ([El-Ashker & Wilson, 2006](#)). During the siege, the city was captured, the caliph (Al-Musta'sim Bi Allah) was assassinated, and the Abbasid caliphate collapsed. This was followed by the conquest of all the cities of the Levant and Palestine by the Mongols.

In 657 AH/1259 AD, Sayf ad-Din Qutuz ascended to the throne of Egypt as Sultan of the Mamluks ([KIM, 2017](#)) and terminated Egypt's internal conflicts. Qutuz commenced his preparations to confront the Tatars. He arranged the boarding house of Egypt, suppressed the revolutions of those aspiring to rule ([Lewis, 2017](#)), issued a general amnesty for the Mamluks fleeing from Egypt, including al-Zahir Baybars, and asked al-Ezz Ibn Abdus Salam to issue a fatwa allowing him to collect taxes from the population of Egypt to face an economic crisis because of which he was unable to equip the army ([Friedman & Figg, 2013](#)). Al-Ezz Ibn Abdus Salam issued a fatwa authorizing the collection of taxes under special and specific conditions once he obtained what he desired. As soon as Qutuz completed outfitting the army, he marched it to confront the Mongols and stationed it in the Salhiya region of eastern Egypt en route to the Ain Jalut plain, located between Beisan and Nablus in northern Palestine.

The Battle of Ain Jalut, fought between the Muslims and the Mongols, significantly impacted the power balance between the significant contending powers in the Levant. The Mongols diverted their attention

from the Levant due to their battle losses and diminished strength. The Tabriz-established Mongol commander Hulagu could not conceive of reoccupying the Levant (Khashan, 2014). After several battles in the Levant, Hulagu laid siege to Miafarqin, where Kamil Muhammad al-Ayyubi was entrenched, and the city quickly fell. Then he traveled to Aleppo and pleaded with Nasser Yusuf to hand over the weapon, but Nasser refused. In the year 658 AH/1260 AD, Hulagu penetrated Aleppo before capturing Hama and Damascus. Later, he returned to the province of Fars, and his commander, Kitbuqa, occupied several communities in Palestine, some of which were under the control of the Crusaders (Skovgaard-Petersen, 2012). Al-Malik al-Saleh Ayyub died in 647 AH/1249 AD when he traveled to Mansoura to meet Louis IX, the leader of the Seventh Crusade (Boot, 2020). During this time, the Mamluk state was in its early phases of formation.

The army led by Baybars and Faris al-Din Aktai won the Battle of Mansura. Turan Shah succeeded his father but was assassinated four months after ascending the throne, leaving the state without a qualified Ayyubi leader. This prompted Shajarat Al-Dur to collaborate with the Mamluks and proclaim herself Egypt's sovereign. Her uncle refused to rule over the Muslim world, so she married Ezzeddine Aybek, surrendered, and became Egypt's first Mamluk sultan. The Abbasid caliph Al-Mustansir Bi Allah acknowledged him as the Sultan of Egypt, but Mamluk infighting led to the deaths of Aybak and Fars al-Din Aktai. A group of Mamluks commanded by Baybars fled Egypt (Tyerman, 2010). Shajrat Al-Dur murdered her husband when she discovered that he had wed the daughter of the governor of Mosul. Sayf ad-Din Qutuz and the Muzzit Mamluks acted swiftly to arrest Al-Dur and hand her over to Nur al-Din's mother, who commanded her neighbors to execute her with clogs.

Nur ad-Din Ali ibn Aybak, who was fifteen years old, was sworn in as the new ruler of Egypt, and Sayf ad-Din Qutuz assumed complete guardianship over him. This resulted in unrest and the outbreak of sedition, which Qutuz put down promptly. After the fall of Baghdad to the Mongols in 656 AH/1258 AD, internal problems, Mamluk revolts, and the ambitions of the Ayyubid Princes, Qutuz was compelled to depose Nur al-Din Ali ibn Aibek and ascend the throne of Egypt in 657 AH/1259 AD, as there was no hope of repelling Mongol attacks in Egypt (Pearn, 2012). Egypt was in a dire situation as the Mongol army approached due to internal unrest and sedition caused by the struggle for the monarchy and the uncertainty of Qutuz assuming the throne. However, many desired the chair, and many disliked Qutuz personally. In addition to the rebellion between the maritime Mamluks supporting Shajrat Al-Dur and the Mu'zzait Mamluks supporting Qutuz, Egypt's relations with its neighbors were utterly shattered by external politics. The successive Crusades, wars between Egypt and its neighbors in the Levant, sedition, and internal conflicts contributed to the country's economic decline (Michaels, 1994).

Qutuz's initial action in preparing for the Mongol war was stabilizing the Egyptian domestic situation. He met with princes, senior leaders, scholars, and opinion leaders. He told them, "I only meant that we should convene to fight the Tatars, which requires a king. If we go out and defeat this enemy, it will be up to you to determine who will hold power" (Boot, 2020). Qutuz then apprehended the leaders of the sedition who attempted to usurp his authority and rule, and thus, Egypt experienced relative calm. His second action was to grant a general amnesty to the maritime Mamluks who had fled to the Levant after their leader, Fars al-Din Aktai, was assassinated. Commander Al-Zahir Baybars and those with him from the maritime Mamluks returned to Egypt and joined Qutuz's forces due to this amnesty. Thus, the Mamluk forces united under a singular army's banner. This literature review regarding this conflict has generated the following hypotheses:

H1: There is a relationship between the battle of Ain Jalut and the unification of Egypt.

H2: There is a relationship between the battle of Ain Jalut and the Levant under the flag of a single state.

H3: There is a relationship between the battle of Ain Jalut and the morale of Muslims.

H4: There is a relationship between the battle of Ain Jalut and the Mamluk rule in the Islamic world.

H5: There is a relationship between the battle of Ain Jalut and the killing of innocents.

Methodology

This study has created a Likert scale questionnaire for data collection and results. The existing research was constrained to scale items for data collection. Jebb et al. (2021) note that the appropriate method for scale item development is utilized in this study. First, a critical review of the existing literature and operationalization of the variables are conducted. The focus group discussion was conducted for the variables' operationalization. Similarly, the study has compiled a collection of measurements for this investigation. Face validity validates the content of the scale's entries. Targeted were experts in research from various universities, who were requested to confirm that the language and content of the items were appropriate for data collection following this study.

This research collects the primary data set to make significant discoveries. Only 35 responses were used to evaluate the validity of the scale items by analyzing the findings. The results of exploratory factor analysis and confirmatory factor analysis are used to validate the scale questionnaire created. AMOS 24 is utilized to ascertain the validity of the initial data collection. The results indicated that the devised measurement items helped examine the relationships between variables. However, the final scale questionnaire pool eliminated three items with factor loadings below 0.60. Thus, the developed scale items for this study are appropriate for data

collection and the study's ultimate findings. Therefore, the items for this study are valid for data collection.

This investigation aims to determine the effects of the Battle of Ain Jalut. Nonetheless, this research has gathered primary data that is beneficial for its conclusions. Indeed, the study discusses the Battle of Ain Jalut, but the population for this study consisted of historians and individuals with knowledge about this battle. In Jordan, these respondents were targeted. This study questioned respondents regarding their knowledge of the Battle of Ain Jalut. After determining that the respondents have extensive knowledge about the topic, the study's questionnaire surveyed them to obtain their responses. Using a survey-based methodology, cross-sectional data collection was utilized to acquire the data. This study's ultimate sample is comprised of 98 respondents.

This research's collected data is evaluated and analyzed using Smart PLS 3.0, an appropriate data analysis tool. However, this study's findings are contingent on several procedures. Skewness and kurtosis values are used to evaluate the normality of the data. In the second stage, however, the factor loadings are examined to ensure that the items used for data collection have adequate reliability. Thirdly, the reliability and validity of the data used in this research are examined. This investigation also evaluates the discriminant validity of the collected data. Finally, the structural model is utilized to evaluate the developed hypothesis of this study.

Data Analysis and Findings

The study is founded on primary data, but the structural equation model is used to analyze the data. This research's data analysis section is founded on various steps. Initially, the normality of the data was determined using skewness and kurtosis (Royston, 1992). Before further analysis, it is necessary to determine the normality of the research data. The fact that the skewness and kurtosis values were within +1 and -1, respectively, demonstrated the reliability of this study. In this manner, the findings of this study demonstrated the normality of the data. In addition, there were no missing values in the data collected from respondents, proving that the data for this study are significant for this research. The validity of the measurements used in this study is also evaluated. Testing the findings of the measurement model is essential for determining the validity of the scale items. Initial consideration is given to the factor loadings for each object used in the data collection. (Shevlin & Miles, 1998), It is suggested that the items loaded above 0.60 are significant for data collection in future studies. In addition, the findings of this study indicate that the data collection items have significant factor loadings.

In addition, the validity and dependability of these research data are evaluated utilizing the extracted average variance, composite reliability, and Cronbach alpha values. These values are beneficial for determining

whether or not the data used for this study is usable. Cronbach alpha values for a threshold > 0.70 have been evaluated (Tavakol & Dennick, 2011), and it is reported that the results of this study have adequate Cronbach alpha values. In addition, the study also examined the values for composite reliability with a cutoff of > 0.70 (Raykov, 1997), and it was determined that the data has a high level of reliability. The average variance extracted values are evaluated against the recommended threshold of > 0.50 (Alarcón, Sánchez, & De Olavide, 2015), demonstrating that the study data has validity for use in this research. Thus, the validity and reliability of this research's data have been established, and the data gathered from respondents are suitable for further research use. Figure 2 and Table 1 emphasize the findings of the validity and reliability tests.

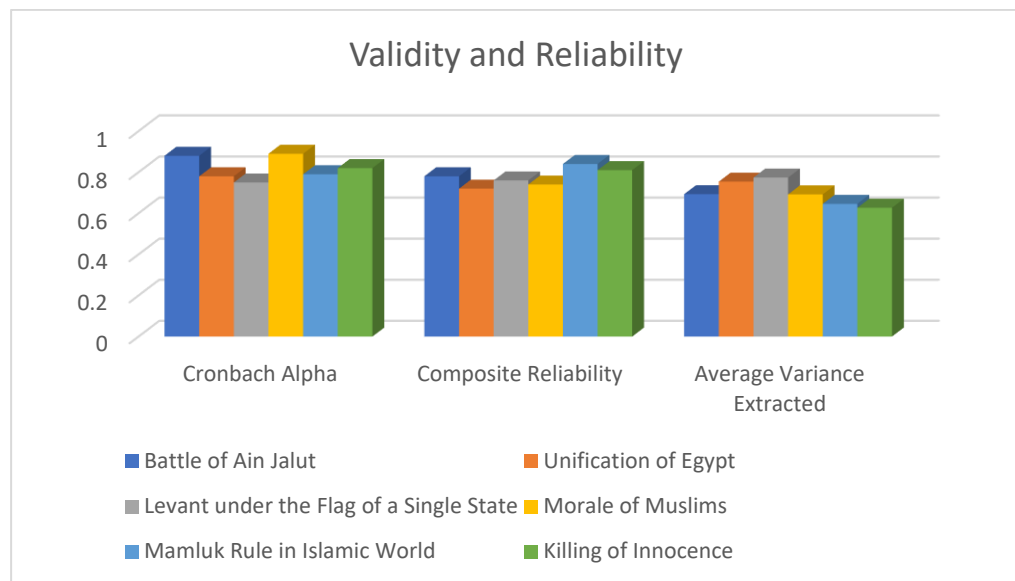


Figure 2. Validity and Reliability

Table 1. Validity and Reliability

Variable	Cronbach Alpha	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted
Battle of Ain Jalut	0.88	0.78	0.693
Unification of Egypt	0.78	0.72	0.754
Levant under the Flag of a Single State	0.75	0.76	0.774
Morale of Muslims	0.89	0.74	0.692
Mamluk Rule in Islamic World	0.79	0.84	0.646
Killing of Innocence	0.82	0.81	0.627

This research's data are used to determine the discriminant validity that must be determined. The discriminant validity test aims to determine whether the items used to collect data for one variable are related to the items used to collect data for any other variable. This study employs the Heteritrait-Monotrait (HTMT) method to assess discriminant validity because it is a contemporary technique utilized in social science research

(Alarcón et al., 2015). For acceptable discriminant validity, the HTMT matrix results should be less than 0.90, as Gold et al. (2001) recommended. The study utilized measurement model results to assess discriminant validity, and according to Table 2's values, this research has attained adequate discriminant validity. In addition, the discriminant validity results are highlighted in Figure 3.

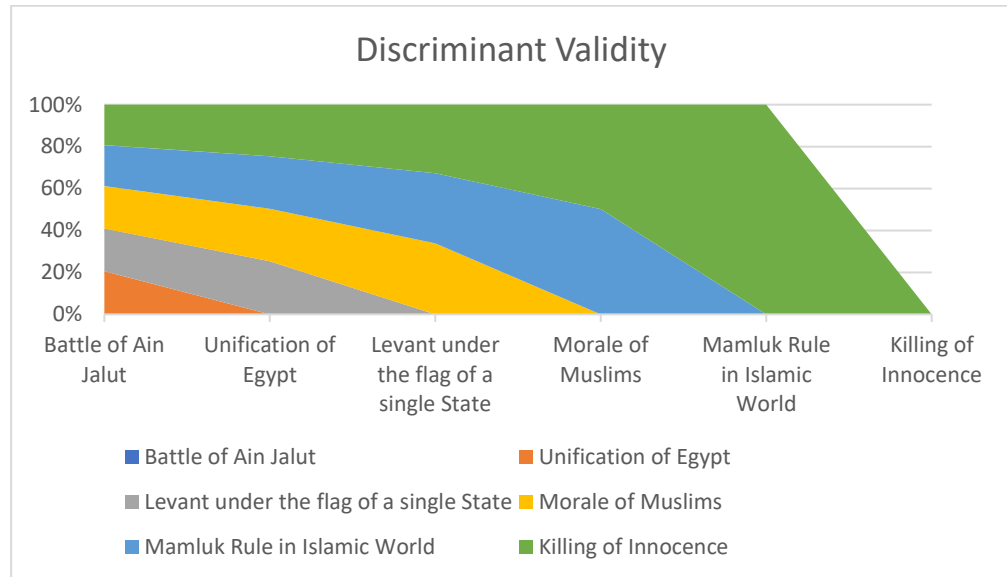


Figure 3. Discriminant Validity

Table 2. Discriminant Validity

Variable	Battle of Ain Jalut	Unification of Egypt	Levant under the flag of a single State	Morale of Muslims	Mamluk Rule in Islamic World	Killing of Innocence
Battle of Ain Jalut						
Unification of Egypt	0.745					
Levant under the flag of a single State	0.739	0.648				
Morale of Muslims	0.732	0.641	0.639			
Mamluk Rule in Islamic World	0.707	0.639	0.631	0.612		
Killing of Innocence	0.701	0.631	0.616	0.606	0.599	

After verifying the data's normality, validity & reliability, and discriminant validity, the collected information for this study is evaluated for relationship findings. The structural model results are used to evaluate the

paths in any research. This research has established five paths, and the findings of these five paths are evaluated to ascertain the findings. The t-statistics are utilized for path discovery. For a significant relationship, however, the appropriate t-statistic for the two-tailed hypothesis is > 1.96 (Ramayah et al., 2018). The study has examined the findings for the first hypothesis, which explains that the battle of Ain Jalut and the unification of Egypt are related. The reported t-value for this relationship is 4,993, which exceeds the recommended threshold. Thus, the initial hypothesis is significant. Second, the study has considered the findings for the second hypothesis, which explains the connection between the Battle of Ain Jalut and the Levant under a single state's flag. This relationship's t-values were 5.842, which is above the recommended threshold. The second hypothesis is, therefore, significant. Thirdly, the study has determined the findings for the third hypothesis, which explains that the battle of Ain Jalut and Muslim morale are related. The reported t-values for this relationship exceed the recommended threshold by 6.282%. The third hypothesis is, therefore, significant. Fourthly, the study evaluated the findings for the fourth hypothesis, which explains that the battle of Ain Jalut and Mamluk rule in the Islamic world are related. This relationship's t-values were 4.333, which is above the recommended threshold. The fourth hypothesis is, therefore, significant. The results of the study's concluding hypothesis regarding the relationship between the Battle of Ain Jalut and the murder of innocent people have been verified. This relationship's t-values were reported as 1.221, below the recommended threshold. This has demonstrated that the concluding hypothesis of this study is invalid and insignificant. Thus, 80% of this study's hypotheses are accepted, as four out of five are accepted. Table 3 presents the relationships, t-values, and status of hypotheses based on the results.

Table 3. Relationships

Relationships	T	Status
H1: There is a relationship between the battle of Ain Jalut and the unification of Egypt.	4.993	Significant
H2: There is a relationship between the battle of Ain Jalut and the Levant under the flag of a single state.	5.842	Significant
H3: There is a relationship between the battle of Ain Jalut and the morale of Muslims.	6.282	Significant
H4: There is a relationship between the battle of Ain Jalut and the Mamluk rule in the Islamic world.	4.333	Significant
H5: There is a relationship between the battle of Ain Jalut and the killing of innocents.	1.221	Insignificant

Discussion and Conclusion

The results from the measurement and structural models confirmed this study's conclusion. This study is founded on five two-tailed, purposeful hypotheses. Path findings revealed that four of the five hypotheses of this study are accepted, while one is rejected. The study begins by emphasizing that, from the perspective of historians, the Battle of Ain Jalut led to the

unification of Egypt. In addition, this study emphasized that from the historian's perspective, the Battle of Ain Jalut resulted in a unified Levant under a single flag. Similarly, the research revealed that from a historical perspective, the battle of Ain Jalut boosted the morale of Muslims. The historical battle of Ain Jalut resulted in the establishment of Mamluk rule in the Islamic world, according to the findings of this study. On the other hand, empirical evidence and a historian's perspective indicate that the battle of Ain Jalut does not result in the slaughter of innocents. The findings of this study are novel and have been discussed in fewer studies than those that came before it.

An essential political aspect was the unification of Egypt and the Levant, as the Battle of Ain Jalut was the first battle since the reign of Genghis Khan in which the Mongols were defeated. After Qutuz and his army's victory at Ain Jalut, he began to consider the Tatars in the Levant, liberating the Levant's cities from Mongol control and halting the Mongols' expansion ([Friedman & Figg, 2013](#)). Sayf ad-Din Qutuz wished to capitalize on his victory over the Mongol army at Ain Jalut by preparing the Muslims for a victory in the remaining cities of the Levant against the Mongol army, which remained in Damascus unaware of the Muslims' victory at Ain Jalut because none of them conveyed the news. Qutuz desired to personally deliver the news of the great victory over the Mongols and their commander and army's death to demoralize the Mongol garrison in Damascus ([Khashan, 2014](#)). After the Battle of Ain Jalut, the Muslim army entered Damascus and restored peace. The prevailing disorder in Damascus ended, and the situation rapidly stabilized. Christians and Jews protected their wealth and lives ([Lewis, 2017](#)). The Muslims then advanced behind the defeated Mongol garrisons, murdering the majority and capturing the remainder. Only the displaced managed to evade them. Baybars led his army's advance to Aleppo, from which the Mongols fled, allowing the Muslims to clear the entire Levant of Mongols ([KIM, 2017](#)).

This study's findings are consistent with existing studies in the corpus of knowledge. According to [Barnhart \(2021\)](#), conflict harms people's personalities and causes mental distress. When the government is motivated to wage war, it disrupts community relationships ([Masayoshi et al., 2021](#)). According to [Williams \(2020\)](#), war is not a remedy to any conflict; instead, it is a factor that drives people to conflict. The public should not be motivated by violence because they must deal with its long-term effects. According to [Giesecke et al. \(2019\)](#), civilized communities despise war, and the governments of these nations work solely to oppose wars essential to human personality. Meanwhile, the war harms the community's development because innocent people are always killed due to war ([Meier, 2019](#)). Therefore, government policies should be anti-war, and the public should protest against policies promoting war ([Komisarchik et al., 2022](#)). According to [Rizkalla et al. \(2020\)](#), the area of a conflict zone becomes hell for the local communities, and it is not appropriate for the public to be fit in such circumstances. Thus, combat harms public personality.

According to [Yavuz and Gunter \(2022\)](#), governments must increase trade relations for the community's prosperity rather than pursuing policies promoting conflict. (Nia, Nadalizadeh, & Kouhestani, 2022) It is evident from history that war is not a viable solution for the public's long-term benefit and interest. According to [Cohen et al. \(2021\)](#), the community should organize resistance when a country is on the verge of conflict. The government's pro-war policies are not acceptable to the public. According to [Nikolaychuk \(2022\)](#), the illicit occupation of another nation's resources is the primary cause of modern war. In times of war, the public's priorities shift, and they are expected to deal with the situation regardless of how it affects them ([Horswill & Carleton, 2021](#)). Along the process, the people develop a negative personality and are at the mercy of warriors ([Gonak, 2022](#)). According to [Barbui et al. \(2022\)](#), dividing the community into various subsets during the war harms their modern advancement. Therefore, hostilities are incompatible with humanity due to their scarification and community conflicts.

Implications

This study has appropriate theoretical implications and broadened understanding. From the perspective of the historical battle of Ain Jalut, this study has contributed to knowledge based on empirical findings that resulted in the unification of Egypt. Second, this study has contributed to knowledge based on empirical findings that, from the historian's perspective, the Ain Jalut battle resulted in the Levant being unified under a single flag. From the perspective of the historical battle of Ain Jalut, this study has contributed knowledge based on empirical findings that Muslims' morale was high. The historical battle of Ain Jalut resulted in the Mamluk rule over the Islamic world, and this study has contributed to knowledge based on empirical findings. From the perspective of the historical battle of Ain Jalut, this research has contributed knowledge based on empirical findings indicating that no innocents were killed. Without a doubt, the results of this study highlighted the most significant findings, but they are also considered reliable for implications.

According to this study, conflicts negatively affect specific communities and should be avoided by society. The conflict harms the children's personalities. Modern nations possess atomic weapons and have sizable armies. A systematic approach is required to ensure that the conflict has no negative effect on the general public's personality. In modern times, maturity must be fostered, and there must be no attempts between nations to wage war. Governments and world leaders must learn from history and avoid conflict during wartime. In modern times, war is unnecessary, but countries' issues should be resolved on various platforms, such as the United Nations, where world leaders meet to discuss various issues. War in the twenty-first century would be more hazardous than wars in the past, necessitating the implementation of anti-war agendas and the development of a prosperous community. World leaders should

contemplate the recent World War I and World War II history before leading the community into further conflicts.

Future Directions

The research findings of this investigation were derived from primary data. Nevertheless, this is the limitation of this study. Future research must utilize secondary data extracted from the existing literature to understand the Battle of Ain Jalut comprehensively. In addition, the study has focused exclusively on the political and strategic repercussions of the Battle of Ain Jalut. Similarly, this is another limitation of this research. However, additional research is required to ascertain the causes of the Battle of Ain Jalut. Consequently, a contribution to the body of knowledge based on the findings of this investigation would be novel. In addition, this study has contributed new empirical findings to the body of knowledge, as previous studies have not provided statistical results for the Battle of Ain Jalut. However, it is recommended that future researchers use qualitative methods to contribute to the literature and expand our understanding of the Battle of Ain Jalut. It would benefit academicians to adhere to these recommendations to contribute to the literature and knowledge.

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