



ABOUT CONFERENCE PAST COMMITTEES DELEGATES REGISTRATION PARTNERSHIP

## QUEEN OF KINGS: THE CABINET OF QUEEN ZENOBIA, 270 AD

The year is 270 and the Roman Empire is divided. Following decades of weak emperors and a disastrous defeat at the hands of the Sassanian menace in the east, the people of the eastern provinces of Rome looked for a savior and found it in Odaenathus, king of Palmyra. At a time of unprecedented imperial weakness, this ruler of a small yet rich Syrian client kingdom of Rome beat back the invading Sassanids and preserved Rome's territorial integrity, earning him an unprecedented level of informal control over large swathes of the east. Following his unexpected assassination, effective rule of Palmyra and its burgeoning empire has been transferred to his widow Zenobia, regent for their young son Vaballathus. Taking advantage of Rome's preoccupation with the breakaway Gallic Empire in the west and the existential Gothic threat to the security of Italy, Zenobia has worked to solidify Palmyrene dominance over the eastern provinces, with her armies having just returned from successfully evicting the Roman governor from Egypt. Despite this recent aggression, Queen Zenobia has maintained a careful balancing act in regards to the Romans, asserting direct Palmyrene rule in the name of her son while simultaneously pledging their loyalty to the emperor and Rome. Despite these recent successes, however, the situation for Zenobia's young kingdom remains precarious. To the west, while Roman weakness has allowed this situation to persist, a strong emperor might not take so kindly to the usurpation of imperial rule by the Palmyrenes, and to the east the Sassanian Empire is continually looking for opportunities to poach the rich Syrian provinces for their vast domains. Within the kingdom all is not well either, as many Romans resent the imposition of Palmyrene rule, religious minorities constantly vie for supremacy, and the disruption of war has left many provinces in vital need of reconstruction. Will this new decade witness the rise of a new order in the Levant under Zenobia and Palmyra, or will Palmyra find itself crushed under its powerful neighbors?

[DOWNLOAD BACKGROUND GUIDE](#)



DIMIITRY LEKSANOV  
CHAIR



KARINA HOLBROOK  
CRISIS DIRECTOR



ANDRE ALTHERR  
CRISIS DIRECTOR

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

DEVANG LADDHA, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL