



*Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference X*

*Saturday, January 29th to Sunday, January 30th, 2022*

*Boston University Academy*

*Boston, MA*

# **Avatar: The Last Airbender**

JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE

## **Earth Subcommittee**

## **Background Guide**

## ***Introduction from the chair and vice-chair:***

Hello, Delegates, and welcome to BUAMUN!

My name is Milo Dixon, I am a Freshman at BUA, and I will be your Chair for BUAMUN X. Alex Hou '23 will be my vice-chair. The committee will be based on the *Avatar: The Last Airbender* (ATLA) television show, which ran from 2005-2008. This means it may not have even been running when you were alive. But don't worry, if you don't know much about ATLA, this background guide should get you up to speed.

My name is Alex Hou, and I am a Junior at BUA, and I will be your Vice-Chair for BUAMUN X. This is the first year that I am doing MUN, but I am excited for the opportunity to be a part of this year's BUAMUN conference and the chance to be a Vice-Chair for my first experience.

As this is a crisis committee, I presume that you have some MUN experience and understand the motions of motions and points. As such I am going to dive right into what to do to prepare for this committee in particular. As this is based on ATLA, you should first look at the lore of the show. I watched the entire show but that is probably not needed. At the very least watch the first two seasons and or read the [Wikipedia/Fandom/TVTropes](#) article(s). Beyond this, I would encourage watching the third season if only because you might as well finish what you started and I would also encourage you to look at the [Second Sino-Japanese war](#) which this series is loosely based on. Keep in mind that this series touches on issues like war crimes, genocide, and mass killings, so please be considerate of others. These can be heavy topics and we want everyone to enjoy their BUAMUN experience.

Sincerely,

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Boston University Academy '23  
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## ***Committee Information:***

This is a Crisis Committee based on the ATLA show. We are the Earth Kingdom part of the tri-committee group. The others are, our allies, the Water Tribe and, our enemies, the Fire Nation. To understand the world of ATLA, you first must look back to prehistory.

You all as delegates will be discussing how to win the war for the Earth Kingdom, prevent the cultural genocide of our people, and the colonization of our land. No pressure. The ways you all will save the Earth Kingdom will be through co-operation and planning. You will have to discuss military strategy and political moves. I encourage you all to take full advantage of crisis notes.

## ***Position Paper Guidelines:***

**This committee requires 1 position paper.** The absence of at least one position paper will disqualify you (the delegate) from receiving an award. The quality, depth, and clarity of your position paper(s) will influence award decisions. Each position paper should be 1-3 pages and double spaced. This includes citations which are preferably in the format of footnotes. To insert a footnote, simply click *Insert > Footnote*. Note: a footnote goes after the period. Position papers should follow a general outline with three paragraphs. This is only a suggestion, as long as the paper fits the aforementioned specifications, the number of paragraphs will not be taken into consideration.

### **Possible position paper outline:**

- 1) Introduction to your delegation and the topic as a whole
- 2) The position of your delegation
- 3) Your delegations proposed solutions

Furthermore, the position paper must be titled in the following format:

**Delegation:** Milo Dixon

**School:** Boston University Academy

**Committee:** Avatar: The Last Airbender Earth Kingdom Committee

**Position:** King Kuei Hou-Ting

**Topic:** The disappearance of the Avatar

## ***Topic 1: The Disappearance of the Avatar***

### **General Overview:**

“Long ago, the four nations lived together in harmony. Then everything changed when the Fire Nation attacked. Only the Avatar, master of all four elements, could stop them, but when the world needed him most, he vanished.”- The opening of ATLA

ATLA is a television show set in an alternate world with magical animals that can manipulate or bend one of the four elements: water, fire, earth, and air. Over time, humans became able to bend the elements as well. Four countries began to develop alongside these magical powers, and soon each element had a country. Fire benders in particular get their power from the sun, so when a comet came, as it did every hundred years, King Sozin used its power to launch an invasion of the other countries. At first, his intentions were benevolent, but it soon became a colonialist enterprise. Currently, the Fire Nation occupies much of the Earth Kingdom as the Fire Nation Colonies. He destroyed the Air Nomads and drove the Avatar into hiding. The Earth Kingdom and the Water Tribe fought back against the Fire Nation. The Fire Nation is winning, having almost wiped out the Water Tribe's South Pole city.

### **Earth Kingdom Background:**

The Earth Kingdom is a Confederal Constitutional Monarchy. The King of the Earth Kingdom could be considered to be the *primus inter pares* of the smaller subject monarchies. There are several other kingdoms such as Omasu which are more like associated states than members of the Earth Kingdom. A subject king has almost complete independence while being able to use the Royal Armed Forces. The Earth Kingdom has been in a state of constant warfare with the Fire Nation due to the Earth Kingdom capital of Ba Sing Sae being almost impenetrable while the Fire Nation Army is strong enough to prevent the Earth Kingdom from expelling them. De-facto power in the Earth Kingdom is held by the Dai Li which are the secret police and their leader Long Feng. Much of the Earth Kingdom's population has been forced to flee to Ba Sing Sae. The Earth Kingdom has managed to keep much of its major cities free from war with the Earth King not even being aware of the war.

The Dai Li keep a tight lid on dissent and have de-facto outlawed speaking about the war in Ba Sing Sae. The Dai Li maintain power with the consent of the Earth King and it is key to note that much of the regular Army is made up of Monarchists. The Dai Li and the Earth King are not the only figures, however. In the land occupied by the Fire Nation, Guerrillas operate with near impunity as the Fire Nation is more focused on attacking the Earth Kingdom than securing their colonies. The Earth Kingdom Guerillas are a broad group of people and are only

united in opposition to the Fire Nation occupiers. If the Earth Kingdom were to prevail then these Guerrillas would play an important role in the politics of the Kingdom.

As Delegates, your roles are to enter into the tangled web of Earth Kingdom politics and find some path to not just driving the Fire Nation out but also to create your ideal Earth Kingdoms. The future of the Earth Monarchy, the Earth Kingdom, and the Earth Kingdom's people are on a knife's edge as the Occupation continues. The Earth Kingdom must work with its allies in the Water Tribe's committee and those disloyal in the Fire Nation's committee. However, amongst the Earth Kingdom's ranks, there may be traitors. I encourage all Delegates to be on the watch for those disloyal to the Earth Kingdom and to remember that they are all that stands between the Earth Kingdom and a life of enslavement, colonization, and oppression.

### **Questions To Consider:**

- Who should rule the Earth Kingdom? Should it be the Dai Li or the King?
- Is it more important to try to hold out in Ba Sing Sae or risk it all and attack the occupiers?
- How should Fire Nation colonists be treated?

### **Bloc Positions:**

There are several main factions in the Kingdom. There are the Liberationists who seek the destruction of the Fire Nation occupiers. They mostly ignore politics in Ba Sing Sae but are strongly in favor of fighting the Fire Nation. There is the Dai Li. The Dai Li are the secret police who are loyal to Long Feng. They are more focused on preserving the status quo than retaking land and overall want to ensure Long Feng retains de-facto power. The Royalists are opposed to the Long Feng dictatorship and want to help the King take power. On military matters, they are ideally opposed to the Fire Nation but are willing to delay fighting them for the moment.

### **LIBERATIONIST:**

- **Jet:** the leader of the Freedom Fighters, a group of children who are guerilla fighters opposed to the Fire Nation occupation.
- **Xilor:** the smuggler/warlord of the southern provinces. He has connections to the Dai Li but is focused on taking control of the south.
- **Geshuo:** the advisor to King Bumi. He secretly opposes Bumi and is allied with radical Liberationists.
- **Sheno:** the leader of the Zozu, a small group of assassins killing Fire Nation commanders. The Zozu operates in the colonies and is split between the Sheno faction which is vaguely royalist and the Hiten faction which is aligned with the Dai Li.

- **Lohi:** known as one of the king's advisors, but he performs many secret assassinations for Xilor.
- **Go:** a lower ring worker who dislikes both the Dai Li and the Fire Nation. He seeks to improve conditions for workers in Ba Sing Sae. He harbors a particular dislike for the Beifong family.
- **Hishun:** a leader of the Adizu Farmer's Protection Forces which are a militia operated by Earth Kingdom farmers in the borderlands. They oppose the Fire Nation and are generally royalists.

#### ROYALIST:

- **King Bumi:** Bumi is the King of Omashu. He seeks to preserve his Kingdom but is also somewhat supportive of the Earth King.
- **Toph Beifong:** Toph is the daughter of Lao Beifong and is a powerful earth bender. She is locked up in her house and has no way to contact the outside world. She wishes to support the anti-Fire Nation forces while also supporting the Earth King.
- **Funar:** Funar is the messenger of the Earth King. He handles discreet matters and can act as a fixer for the Earth King.
- **Ping:** Ping is a trader who smuggles Fire Nation goods into the Earth Kingdom. He is opposed to the Dai Li as they are trying to arrest him due to him not paying protection money to them.
- **Jeju:** Jeju is a former member of the Dai Li, but he changed his ways after he was threatened by a member of the Dai Li, and he then became an influential, and inspiring speaker against the Dai Li.
- **Chir:** Chir is the General of the North, which means that he leads the Earth Kingdom's Northern Army. Since the northern front is quieter than the rest, the Northern Army is closer to the Capital. Chir is a strong royalist and prepared to intervene if needed.

#### DAI LI:

- **Long Feng:** Leader of the Dai Li. He is primarily motivated by wanting to obtain power for himself. He dislikes those born in power, as he feels they did not deserve what they got.
- **Lao Beifong:** One of the richest people in the Earth Kingdom, he is generally speaking pro-peace and supportive of the status quo.
- **King Palon:** Palon is the king of the northern provinces. He is supportive of the status quo and is opposed to further military intervention. He seeks more power and is in conflict with the Earth King.
- **Hoshem:** Hoshem is a spy for the Dai Li. He is extremely loyal to the group, and strictly follows orders, doing all and everything he can for the interests of the Dai Li.
- **Hiten:** Hiten is a leader of the Zozu. He is also working as an agent of the Dai Li, eliminating anti-Dai Li figures in the Colonies.

- **Bihe:** Bihe is the Dai Li's underworld connection. He has ties to Fire Nation traders and acts as an intermediary between Fire and Earth. He is very corrupt and aims to eliminate other smugglers.

### **Further Research:**

- [Avatar](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)
- [Fandom](#)
- [TVTropes](#)