



WUMUNC

Sozin's Comet

The 100 Year Reign of the
Fire Nation





“Fire is the element of power. The people of the Fire Nation have desire and will, and the energy and drive to achieve what they want.”

-Iroh





Table of Contents

Letter from the Director -----	1
Committee Mandate -----	2
Historical Background -----	4
Position Descriptions -----	20



Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to WUMUNC 2018! My name is Nisha Patil, and I am incredibly excited to be your director for this committee! I am a member of the WashU class of 2019, studying Biology and Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences. I have been involved with Model UN since my freshman year of high school, and it is by far my favorite thing that I have done in college. In addition to directing, I currently serve as the Secretary General of WashU's high school Model UN conference, WUMUNS. Through participating in Model UN, I have met some of the craziest, greatest people WashU has to offer, and some of my closest friends. I hope you all have as much fun participating in this committee as I have had creating it!

In this committee, each of you will be tasked to portray the top military generals, noble elite, and religious elders of the Fire Nation. Your goal is by no means an easy one. You must capture the Earth Kingdom cities of Omashu and Ba Sing Se and take over the Northern Water Tribe. These last three areas of resistance have evaded capture for the last ninety-nine years. To make matters worse, Fire Lord Ozai has given you an ultimatum. You must finish this war in a year's time, or face his wrath.

The world of Avatar is a fascinating, exciting place full of all kinds of wonders. Bending powers, flying bison, and underground libraries are only the tip of the surface. As far as logistics, the scope of this committee is limited to the events leading up to and featured in the television show Avatar: The Last Airbender. To clarify, this means that events from the live action movie (yikes) and the follow up series, The Legend of Korra, will not be relevant to this committee. That being said, while it is not necessary to have watched the show to be successful in this committee, it is recommended. While the background guide is an effective summary of all the relevant information you will need to know before the start of the committee, it does not cover a large amount of material that is found in the show. If you are like I was prior to directing this committee, and have not watched the show since you were in elementary school, or if this is your first introduction to the show at all, I would highly suggest sitting



down with a nice hot cup of tea and watching it. If you have any questions or concerns prior to the conference, please feel free to reach out to me at nishapatil@wustl.edu, and I will be sure to respond. I look forward to seeing you all in February, and good luck in your preparations for the conference!

Best,

Nisha Patil



Committee Mandate

Generals, Fire Sages, and Respected Elders,

I have brought you all together to serve as my war council as we navigate the end of this war. For ninety-nine years, we have fought to bring peace to the world, but we remain unsuccessful. Three strongholds remain, the Northern Water Tribe and the Earth Kingdom cities of Omashu and Ba Sing Se. I am asking you to do what my father and his father before him could not accomplish, and that it to take these last three strongholds in the name of the Fire Nation. Nothing should stand in the way of Fire Nation victory.

Your task is not limited to just conquering the last three strongholds. You must ensure that the areas we already hold are tightly under our control. The flames of rebellion, once lit, can spread faster than wildfire. It is your job to control the new colonies, and ensure that peace is maintained in our homeland. Many of you may seek to gain power and wealth by exploiting the war effort. If I discover that this is your plan, I will personally banish you to the bleakest corners of the Earth, if I am feeling merciful.

Sozins Comet is set to pass Earth in exactly a year. This war must be finished by that time. As we bring this war to an end, keep in mind the Fire Nation Oath. "My life I give to me country. With my hands I fight for Fire Lord Ozai and our forefathers before him. With my mind I seek ways to better my country, and with my feet may our March of Civilization continue."

-Fire Lord Ozai



Background

Introduction

The World of Avatar has a vast and extensive history, dating back over twenty thousand years. This history can be divided into two major time periods, the time before the Avatar and the time of the Avatar. The most significant event to occur during the time of the Avatar was the genocide of the Air Nomads; consequently, this world dates events as years before the genocide (BG) and years after the genocide (AG). The committee takes place starting in the eighth month of the year 99 AG.

The Time Before the Avatar

Very little is known about the early history of the world except that spirits and mortals roamed freely between their two worlds. Raava, the spirit of light and peace, dueled with Vaatu, the spirit of darkness and chaos. The two spirits remained in constant combat until the first Harmonic Convergence in the year 19,829 BG. The merging of the two spirits marks the beginning of the Era of Raava, a period of ten thousand years during which humans began to form civilizations.

Humans were vulnerable to the spirits that roamed the earth, so in order to protect themselves, humans formed settlements on the backs of lion turtles, large, mystical creatures, often referred to as Ancient Ones. Lion turtles had the ability to grant humans the power to bend the four elements, water, earth, fire, and air. Each lion turtle possessed a certain affinity for one of the four elements. Lion turtles were few and far between, and as such, each human settlement formed in isolation from the others, ignorant to the existence of the other bending arts.





A Lion Turtle
(Source: https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/a/a3/Lion_turtle.png/revision/latest?cb=20140108080746/avatar/images/f/f0/Wan_being_granted_firebending.png/revision/latest?cb=20131019172614)

Humans lived this way for ten thousand years, until one, Wan, requested that a lion turtle give him the ability to bend fire so that he may protect himself when while scavenging for food in the Spirit Wilds. Upon his return, Wan refused to give up his power, so the lion turtle banished him to the Wilds. During his banishment, Wan learned from the spirits of the existence of other human settlements with different bending powers. Also during this

time, Wan learned of the battle between Raava and Vaatu, and pledged to help Raava defeat Vaatu. He set out to find the other lion turtles, coming upon an air lion turtle, who agreed to grant him the power to bend air as long as he remained at the settlement until he mastered the element. After mastering airbending, Wan spent the next year searching for and mastering the other two elements, water and earth. Wan became the first human to possess the ability to bend all four elements.



A Lion Turtle gives Wan the ability to bend fire
(Source: https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/f/f0/Wan_being_granted_firebending.png/revision/latest?cb=20131019172614)

In the year 9,829 BG, Wan returned to Raava to help him destroy Vaatu once and for all. During the battle, Wan and Raava become permanently bonded in the second known Harmonic Convergence, granting Wan the power to defeat Vaatu and lock the spirit away. He then ordered the spirits to leave the mortal world and sealed the spirit portals in the North

and South Poles, separating the spirit realm from the mortal realm. Wan, bonded with Raava, and with the ability to bend all four elements, became the first Avatar.



The Time of the Avatar

With all spirits isolated in the spirit world, lion turtles recognized that they were no longer needed as the protectors of mankind, a responsibility now placed on the Avatar. Lion turtles stopped granting any more bending powers, and humans left the cities they had built on the shells and spread out into the world. As groups of people with different bending abilities came into contact with each other, violence erupted. Avatar Wan intervened to maintain peace for the rest of his life. Upon Wan's death, a new Avatar was born, and the cycle has continued since.

Formation of the Four Nations

Over time, groups of people with the same bending powers began to form societies and master their bending techniques. Air nomads learned airbending from flying bison. Their society focused on leading peaceful, spiritual lifestyles. The Earth Kingdom learned their bending from the badgermoles that dug tunnels underground. The Sun Warriors of the Fire Nation learned firebending from dragons, and the Water Tribes learned to bend water by studying the push and pull of the moon on the tides.

The four nations existed in relative harmony, with the Avatar to maintain peace. However, this changed with the genocide of the Air Nomads, starting the calendar at the year 0 AG. Fire Lord Sozin commanded the attack on the Air Nomads for the purpose of killing the 12-year-old Avatar, an airbender named Aang. Sozin, who had once been best friends with the previous Avatar, Roku, planned to spread the peace and wealth of the Fire Nation to the rest of the world. His plan would require conquering the other nations and destroying the only person powerful enough to stop him, the Avatar. The first step of his plan was to kill Avatar Roku, his oldest friend.

Sozin's attack on the Air Nomads proved to be a failure. The only airbender he had truly wanted dead was also the only one to survive. Aang, upon learning that he was the Avatar, fled from the Southern Air Temple with his sky bison, Appa, and was never heard from again. After killing the Air Nomads, The Fire Nation launched a massive coordinated invasion of the Earth Kingdom, slowly advancing across the continent.



They also initiated raids on the Northern and Southern Water Tribes, effectively devastating the South. The only strongholds left are the Northern Water Tribe and the Earth Kingdom cities of Omashu and Ba Sing Se. Fire Lord Sozin spent the rest of his life searching for Aang and eventually died at the age of 102, unsuccessful. He left behind a legacy of war, destruction, and death, quite opposite from his plan to bring peace and wealth to the world.



Map of the Four Nations

(Source:

https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/b/b7/Avatar_World_map.png/revision/latest?cb=20131005142135/avatar/images/f/f5/Air_Nomads_emblem.png/revision/latest?cb=20090125144136)

The Four Nations

Air Nomads

Air Nomad Insignia

The Air Nomads were wanderers, though most resided in one of the four air temples found at each corner of the globe. Men resided in the Northern and Southern Air Temples, while women resided in the Eastern and Western Temples. Air temples are hidden away in mountains, previously thought to be unreachable without the assistance of sky bison. The Southern Air Temple, home of Avatar Aang, is located in the remote





Patola Mountain Range, north of the South Pole and southwest of the Earth Kingdom continent. The Northern Air Temple is located in the mountains along the northern coast of the Earth Kingdom continent. The Eastern Air Temple is a top three adjacent mountains connected by bridges in the southeastern region of the Earth Kingdom. It is notable as being the most spiritual of the four temples, and the place where all young airbenders once went to choose their flying bison. Finally, the Western Air Temple is located in the mountains north of the Fire Nation. Unlike other Air Temples, the Western is situated underneath the edge of a cliff, built to appear as though it is upside-down. As far as anyone knows, the four temples have remained uninhabited since the genocide, but confirming this would be quite a challenging feat.



Air Nomad Emblem
 (Source: https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/f/f5/Air_Nomads_emblem.png/revision/latest?cb=20090125144136)

The Air Nomads were the smallest of the four nations and had the smallest economy, based almost entirely on limited agriculture. They were the most peaceful of the four nations as well, never engaging in violence against each other or the other nations, which ended up being their downfall when faced with the might of the Fire Nation. They were the most spiritual. In the Era of Raava, the first airbenders coexisted harmoniously with the spirits and greatly respected their understanding of spiritual matters. This remained the same during the time of the Avatar. The Air



Council of Elders
 (Source: https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/e/ec/Air_Nomads.png/revision/latest?cb=20130714144455)

Nomad's system of government was an ecclesiastical senate, with each temple's head of state being a council of elders. These were wise airbending masters who wielded very little power and primarily served as counsel and as airbending instructors to their citizens.

The only known airbender left in the world is the Avatar, but no one has seen him in 99 years. Whether the Avatar is still alive is unknown, and



if he is, what condition must he be in to have hidden from the world for so long. As far as anyone knows, the Air Nomads no longer exist, and the art of airbending has been lost forever.

The Water Tribes



Water Tribe Emblem

(Source: https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/8/85/Water_Tribe_emblem.png/revision/latest?cb=20090125144137)

The Water Tribe is a collective term for the nation of people who practice waterbending. They are split into two major groups, the Northern Water Tribe, located in the North Pole, and their southern counterparts, the Southern Water Tribe. There are rumored to be other small groups of waterbenders around the world, but none whose locations and customs are known. The origins of the Water Tribe trace back to the people who received the ability to bend water from the ancient lion turtles. As the era of Raava came to an end, waterbenders congregated in the North Pole, where over time, they built a massive city out of ice. They developed the system of

government which is still present in the Water Tribe today, a tribal chiefdom headed by a single chief who rules with the advice of tribal elders. Some time prior to 345 BG, a civil war broke out within the Water Tribe, resulting in a split of the population. Those who rebelled left the North Pole and established a second settlement in the South Pole. Over time, relations between the tribes mended, but the Southern Water Tribe never quite grew to the size and strength of their sister tribe.

Waterbenders are peaceful people who believe in there should be harmony between the four nations. This belief stems from their reverence of the moon and ocean spirits, Tui and La, who exist in perfect harmony with one another, creating the push and pull of the tides which waterbenders studied to perfect the art of waterbending. The Northern and Southern Tribes do not support the actions of the Fire Nation. They deplore the genocide of the airbenders and are resisting Fire Nation take over. Since the start of the war, Fire Nation troops have been raiding the



Southern Water Tribe periodically. The South Pole, which is much closer to the Fire Nation than their sister tribe, and is less perilous to reach, has been reduced down to a small group of women, children, and elders. All able bodied, waterbending men have left the South Pole to fight against the Fire Nation. Even though the Southern Water Tribe is vulnerable to attack, there is little of value left down there; the Southern Water Tribe has all but surrendered to the Fire Nation.



Entrance to the Northern Water Tribe

(Source:

https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/3/37/Northern_Water_Tribe.png/revision/latest?cb=20140119112429)

The North Pole, however, has proven more difficult to capture than expected. The waters around the Northern Water Tribe are full of icebergs, making it difficult for Fire Nation ships to navigate through. Closer to the city are rows and rows of large ice spikes jutting out of the ocean, capable of cutting through solid metal. The final defense of the city is its giant ice wall which blocks it from the ocean. Behind these defenses, and a strong army of skilled waterbenders, the Northern Water Tribe has fought off countless attacks by the Fire Nation and remains independent.

The Earth Kingdom

The Earth Kingdom is by far the largest of the four nations, both geographically and population wise. It spans the entire main continent as well as several subsidiary islands. For the last ninety-nine years, the Fire Nation has slowly taken control of a majority of the Earth Kingdom, except for its two largest cities, the Earth Kingdom capital of Ba Sing Se, and the city of Omashu.

Unlike the Water Tribes and the Air Nomads, the Earth Kingdom has had a tumultuous past, due in large part to its size and the diversity of its people. At the end of the Era of Raava, earthbenders spread out over the



continent and formed many city states. In the northeast, a group of earthbenders began to carve a subterranean settlement out of rock. The area was full of beautiful crystal that they were able to mine and sell until eventually the city reached the surface. The underground catacombs were abandoned for the booming metropolis above, which became the mighty city state of Ba Sing Se. In the west, several villages were united into the powerful city of Omashu, named after two skilled earthbenders and star-crossed lovers, Oma and Shu. They built the city atop a tall mountain peak, accessible only by a long narrow stone bridge spanning a gorge. In the south, earthbending nomads learned to sandbend in order to survive in the Si Wong Desert, eventually forming the Sandbending Tribes. The many city states warred often, over land, ethnic differences, and mining.



Earth Kingdom Emblem
 (Source: https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/8/85/Water_Tribe_emblem.png/revision/latest?cb=20090125144137)



The City of Omashu
 (Source: <https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/c/cc/Omashu.png/revision/latest?cb=20140106134023>)



The City of Ba Sing Se
 (Source: https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/8/85/Water_Tribe_emblem.png/revision/latest?cb=20090125144137)

Over time, the kings of Ba Sing Se grew increasingly powerful, subjugating their neighboring kingdoms and spreading their influence until they covered the entire continent and more. After the unification, the king of Ba Sing Se became known as the Earth King. However, many local kings and nobles remained in power so long as they submitted to the Earth King. Due to the sheer size of the Earth Kingdom, the monarchs of



Ba Sing Se were unable to establish a centralist regime. As a result, the Earth Kingdom is a confederate monarchy, with several semi-autonomous provinces.

The continent flourished for several hundred years in peace; however, the peace came to an end around 250 BG. The 46th Earth King, the ruler at the time, was more imperious than his predecessors, and felt that the vassal rulers had too much power. He sought to take back control and institute an absolute monarchy. In response, a warlord in the northwest named Chin took up arms against the King, inciting a civil war. Chin took over almost the entire continent until he was stopped by Avatar Kyoshi, which in turn ended the rebellion. The Earth King returned to power; however, many were furious with his handling of the rebellion. This incited the peasant uprising in Ba Sing Se. To placate the peasants, Avatar Kyoshi forced the Earth King to accept a new constitution that would empower the common people, but in turn weaken his own power. The Avatar also established the Dai Li, a secret police in Ba Sing Se, for the purpose of protecting the Earth King and suppressing any subversive individuals.

Over time, the role of the Earth Kingdom has become less influential and more symbolic, with local rulers becoming more autonomous. Despite this, the Earth Kingdom military has remained loyal to the monarchy, and is highly skilled and powerful. However, it has not proved powerful enough to stop the Fire Nation takeover.

Over the course of the war, many earthbenders have fled from their villages and taken refuge behind the giant walls of Ba Sing Se. The Fire Nation attempted to take over Ba Sing Se in 94 AG. The six-hundred-day Siege of Ba Sing Se, as it has come to be called, was led by Crown Prince Iroh. Fire Nation troops managed to breach the Outer Wall of the city; however, the siege was called off by Prince Iroh after his only son, Lu Ten, was killed in battle. Despite the victory, the Earth Kingdom lost large quantities of troops and manpower. In addition, the populations morale took a disastrous blow. The seemingly impenetrable fortress of Ba Sing Se was no longer safe, and those that were left outside its walls were often subjected to raids by Fire Nation troops, or forced to pay extra taxes to the Fire Nation.



The Fire Nation

Early History

As the Era of Raava came to an end, those who had the ability to bend fire congregated on the archipelago in the western hemisphere. There, a great civilization developed called the Sun Warriors. During this time, firebenders revered the life-giving and creative aspects of fire. They drew their energy from the sun, and learned the techniques of firebending from two dragons, Ran and Shaw. This civilization thrived for thousands of years. They built great architectural structures. No one knows what happened to the Sun Warriors, except that their civilization suddenly vanished. Records during this time were very scarce, but depict that many warlords took control of the Fire Islands and fought amongst themselves. This continued until one warlord managed to unite the Fire Islands. He became the first Fire Lord, and the leader of the Fire Sages. The role of the Fire Lord was at one time both religious and political; however, over time this changed. Fire Lords eventually split from the Fire Sages, establishing an autocratic empire, where power was passed down from generation to generation. The Fire Sages remained as a purely religious authority, offering spiritual guidance to the Royal Family and any others seeking advice.



Fire Nation Emblem

(Source: https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/4/47/Fire_Nation_emblem.png/revision/latest?cb=20090125144137)

Over the course of the following centuries, the urbanization and cultivation of the Fire Nation steadily progressed. At some point, the komodo rhino was domesticated, and since then has served as the primary beast of burden in the Fire Nation. The country fought many small scale wars, both within itself and with Earth Kingdom warlords, but nothing even remotely close to the current war.





The Sun Warriors

(Source:

https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/3/33/Sun_Warriors%27_ancient_city.png/revision/latest?cb=20111111174035)

After the year 270 BG, the Fire Nation experienced two centuries of peace and prosperity. While their neighbors to the east went into decline following the War of Chin the Conqueror, the Fire Nation flourished. The year 82 BG was quite a notable one. Following the death of Avatar Kyoshi, the new Avatar was born into the Fire Nation. The Fire Sages revealed the Avatar to be Roku, although he would not discover this until his sixteenth birthday. The same day as Roku's

birth, the Crown Prince of the Fire Nation, Sozin, was born. Roku and Prince Sozin grew up as best friends, unaware that Roku would one day be the Avatar. On their sixteenth birthday when Roku discovered his fate, the two young firebenders parted ways as Roku set out to master the other three elements.

During their time apart, the two men began to form differing views of the world. Avatar Roku became a force for balance and peace, while Sozin grew increasingly ambitious. He believed that the prosperity of the Fire Nation should be shared with the rest of the world, and that he should become the ruler of a new global Fire Nation empire. When he took up the throne in 58 BG, Sozin began to enact his plans. He initiated a number of reforms that militarized the country. He brought back the Agni Kai, a traditional firebender duel to be fought for one's honor. Anyone can challenge another firebender to an Agni Kai, even a Fire Lord. Traditionally, the fight would last till one of the opponents was burned by the other; however, under Fire Lord Sozin, the Agni Kai became a fight to the death. During this time, dragons were driven to near extinction, some of the last known surviving ones being Avatar Roku's companion Fang and the Fire Lords own dragon. Fire Lord Sozin started his imperialistic expansion into the weakened Earth Kingdom, establishing several colonies that quickly became industrial centers.



When Avatar Roku discovered what the Fire Lord was doing, he quickly came to confront his old friend. Sozin was outraged, saying that Roku's actions against him made him a traitor, as Roku was first and foremost a citizen of the Fire Nation. The two engaged in battle, with Roku quickly overpowering the Fire Lord, and destroying most of the palace. The Avatar spared his friend's life, but warned the Fire Lord that if he continued on this path, Roku would have no choice but to kill him. Sozin was furious, but stopped his efforts; although, the Earth Kingdom colonies still remained under Fire Nation control.

In 12 BG, a massive volcano eruption consumed Avatar Roku's home island. The Fire Lord quickly came to his aid, and the two tried to contain the lava flow with their firebending. However, Roku became overwhelmed by the volcano's poisonous gases, and was left unable to move or breathe. He begged for his friends help, and at that moment, Fire Lord Sozin realized that without Roku's interference, he would finally be able to fulfill his plans. Sozin left his old friend behind to die in the fumes alongside his dragon, Fang. With the death of the Avatar, a new Avatar was born among the Air Nomads.

Politics During the War

After Avatar Roku's death, Fire Lord Sozin decided that his first move must be to halt the Avatar Cycle, to ensure that nobody could ever become as powerful as him. For this reason, he targeted the Air Nomads, where the new Avatar was born. However, since only the Air Nomads knew the identity of the Avatar, and their spirituality would ensure that they would never reveal his identity, Sozin knew he must destroy all of the Air Nomads to be safe. This was no easy feat, and would require a great amount of power. Such power could only come from the Great Comet, a celestial object that passed close to Earth every one hundred years. During its passing, all firebenders experience a huge surge of power, described as "the power of a hundred suns." The comet would pass in twelve years, so the Fire Lord waited, knowing that in twelve years, the Air Nomads, and the twelve-year-old Avatar, would be no more.





Sozin begins the war

(Source:

https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/avatar/images/f/f7/Sozin_and_his_army.png/revision/latest?cb=20101224002705)

Fire Lord Sozin timed his genocidal attack on the Air Nomads precisely with the passing of the Great Comet, enhancing his army's firebending, and easily defeating the Air Nomads, who had no formal army and did not fight back. However, his intended target was nowhere to be found. The Avatar had somehow escaped the attack. Sozin was furious, and would spend the rest of his life searching for the Avatar. Sozin lived for another 20 years, during which time he had a son, Prince Azulon. He fortified the Fire Nation Capital, and sealed off the Dragonbone Catacombs where all historical records were kept. The Fire Nation slowly moved on to the Earth Kingdom, conquering much of its northwestern territories. Sozin issued educational reforms, ensuring that school children developed a strong sense of patriotism. Historical textbooks were heavily censored to justify the Fire Nations war efforts, and courses, like music and art, that promoted self expression were removed.

After Sozin's death in 20 AG, his son Azulon took the throne and continued his father's legacy. Under Fire Lord Azulon, the Fire Nation conquered most of the Earth Kingdom and the remaining Air Nomad territories. They exploited Earth Kingdom resources for further industrialization and technological development, such as steamships, railways, and even airships. Starting around 40 AG, Azulon called for periodic raids on the Southern Water Tribe, slowly bringing about its destruction. An imperialistic and ethnocentric mindset swept over much of the military and nobility. Fire Lord Azulon, in order to ensure there would be no threats to his power, ordered any Fire Sages harboring loyalty to the Avatar to be executed. The Fire Sages became little more than puppets in a time when military prowess dominated spirituality.

Unlike his father, Azulon did not hide his thirst for power behind the guise of building a better world. He cared very little for the people of his nation, and even less for those he conquered. Azulon's wife Ilah bore him



two sons, Iroh and Ozai. Iroh, the Crown Prince, became a renowned Fire Nation General. He was a very skilled firebender. With his ability to breathe fire and his claim that he had killed the last living dragon, Iroh earned the nickname "The Dragon of the West." Iroh believed it was his destiny to capture the Earth Kingdom city of Ba Sing Se, and with his father's blessing, Iroh set out to do just that. He besieged the city for six hundred days and successfully managed to breach the Outer Wall, an incredible victory for the Fire Nation. Just before he reached the Inner Wall, however, Iroh called off the siege. His beloved, only son, Lu Ten, had been killed on the front lines. In his grief, Iroh lost his spirit to fight. Instead of returning home, Iroh journeyed around the world, which would end up having a tremendous impact on his life and his perspective on the world.

Upon hearing about his brother's failure, it is rumored that Prince Ozai went to their father Azulon asking that he be named the heir. Citing Iroh's weakness in allowing his son's death to obstruct what could have been victory at Ba Sing Se, and the ending of his bloodline with Lu Ten's death, Ozai asked that Iroh be passed over. Ozai had two children with his wife Ursa, a son, Zuko, and a daughter, Azula, named after her grandfather. No one knows for sure what happened, but Azulon passed away that night. Ozai and the Fire Sages claim that with his last breaths, Azulon named Ozai his successor. Upon hearing the news, Iroh did not contest the decision, for he had no desire to be Fire Lord anymore. The night that Fire Lord Azulon died is also the night that Ozai's wife, Ursa, went missing, never to be seen or heard from again.

The Fire Sages crowned Ozai as Fire Lord in 95 AG. Unlike his grandfather, father, and brother, Ozai had no military training, and had never served as a Fire Nation General. Perhaps due to Ozai's lack of military experience, the Fire Nation has made very little progress in the war since his coronation.

Between his two children, Zuko and Azula, Fire Lord Ozai has always preferred his younger daughter. Azula is much like her father, ruthless and a highly skilled firebender. Zuko on the other hand is more sensitive. Zuko was always very close with his mother, Ursa, and her disappearance was heartbreaking for the young prince. Ozai has always been extremely hard on Zuko, as is evident in how he treated his son. Two years ago, when



thirteen-year-old Crown Prince Zuko was in the war room with the Fire Lord and some generals, Zuko spoke out against a plan to sacrifice novice troops in order to win a battle. Angered by his son's impudence, Ozai demanded that Zuko duel him in an Agni Kai. When they entered the arena, Zuko refused to fight his father, begging for forgiveness. This apparent cowardice disgusted Ozai, who badly burned and scarred Zuko's face, then exiled him. Prince Zuko was given the impossible task of finding the Avatar, who had been missing for ninety-seven years. Without the Avatar, Zuko is forbidden from returning to the Fire Nation. Zuko has been searching for the Avatar ever since, though recent reports claim that his Uncle Iroh has joined in the search. It is unclear who the heir to the throne is after Ozai's death. Zuko has the the greatest claim by birth; however, Fire Lord Ozai clearly favors his younger daughter for the position.

Present Day

This committee will start in the eighth month of the year 99 AG. At this time, the Fire Nation Army has conquered all of the Air Nomad territories, most of the Earth Kingdom except for Ba Sing Se and Omashu, and brought the Southern Water Tribe to the brink of destruction. Currently, no plans have been made to capture the last three remaining strongholds. A majority of the Fire Nation army is dispersed throughout the Earth Kingdom, ensuring that they maintain a hold on all the colonies. The navy is also fairly spread out around the main continent and the Fire Nation archipelago.

Compared to the other nations, the Fire Nation is highly industrialized. Most new technology is used in the war effort, such as tanks, catapults, siege drills, warships, and even some rudimentary explosives. Much of their natural resources, such as coal to power their massive industrial furnaces and war machinery, come from mines in the colonies. Many of these mines and their surrounding towns are under tight control by Fire Nation troops. The colonies are generally looked at as being backwards, uncivilized places by those who live on the mainland.

The wealthy Fire Nation elite generally reside in the Capital, or on some of the smaller islands. Though the elite make up a small minority of the population, the majority still lives in relative prosperity compared to



the other nations. Only the most outlying villages have rampant poverty. Education is available to all in the Fire Nation, due to the efforts made by Fire Lord Sozin to ensure that all Fire Nation children grow up with a sense of patriotism, and the understanding that the war is necessary in order to spread the Fire Nation's greatness with the world. For this reason, Sozin, along with all the Fire Lords after him, are very much loved and respected by the people. This has caused a cult of personality to build up around the Fire Lord, military, and aristocracy. Many feel that the Royal Palace is the center of the world, and the further away a place and its people are from the palace, the more inferior they are both in social standing and in capability. People from the colonies, even firebenders, are often discriminated against; however, this is nowhere near the level of discrimination shown to the people of the other nations.



Position Descriptions

Ukano

One of the richest men in the Fire Nation, Ukano is a member of the aristocracy that surrounds the Fire Lord at all times. He is not a very skilled firebender, but his wealth has taken him far in society. Ukano comes from a long line of wealthy aristocrats, and his father was close friends with Fire Lord Azulon. Perhaps that is why Ozai keeps him around. Ukano has very little military experience or training. He has served as a low level government official in the past, due to the patronage of Fire Lord Ozai, but now chooses to focus on his family. Ukano has two children, an infant son named Tom-Tom, and a teenage daughter, Mai. His daughter is close friends with Princess Azula, an association which he hopes might help her to find a good match for marriage. However, to his disappointment, it seems as though Mai is only interested in spending her time sulking around.

Zhao

Commander Zhao is in charge of a Fire Nation naval base located in a harbor in the southwestern Earth Kingdom. The military station is in close proximity to the Southern Water Tribe, and it is well positioned to provide the army on the continent with troops and supplies. Zhao is an ambitious man, who has worked his way up the ranks, from junior lieutenant to captain. After an impressive victory against an Earth Kingdom vessel, Fire Lord Ozai rewarded Zhao with the position of commander. His goal is to become High Admiral of the Fire Nation Navy, but he still has a long way to go. Zhao is known to treat his crew cruelly, often time using harsh language and questionably humane punishments. He was one of the few witnesses to the Agni Kai between Zuko and the Fire Lord, and often boasts that he relished seeing Zuko suffer for his insubordinate behavior.

Shinu

Shinu is a High General of the Fire Nation military, and serves as the commander of Pohuai Stronghold. This fortress is located in the western Earth Kingdom, and is strategically placed to supply soldiers on the front near Ba Sing Se. Shinu is also director of the Yuyan Archers, an elite,



highly skilled group of archers used for stealthy missions. The Archers are Shinu's pride, and he only uses them if the situation is of the utmost importance. Shinu has served in the Fire Nation military for many years now, and is one of the most experienced men in the entire military. He often times resents Fire Lord Ozai's nepotism in picking high ranking military officials. He fondly looks back on the days when the war was not stagnant, and the Fire Lord had military training.

High Sage

The High Sage is the highest-ranking member of the Fire Sages. He resides at the temple in the Fire Nation Capital, and is the highest authority on all spiritual matters regarding the Fire Nation and the Royal Family. Upon becoming High Sage, he gave up all worldly possessions, and even renounced his name. The High Sage must be present at all major events relating to the Royal Family, including births, deaths, weddings, and coronations. The High Sage's spiritual connection allows him to have foresight and intuition on events to come, making him a highly valuable consultant to the Fire Lord. However, he is not always right, and there are some things that even the spirits cannot predict.

Shyu

Fire Sage Shyu is one of the five Fire Sages who resides in the Fire Temple on Crescent Island, a small, volcanic isle located in the far eastern portion of the Fire Nation Archipelago. Shyu has come to serve on Ozai's council on behalf of the Great Sage, the leader of the Crescent Island Fire Sages. The Great Sage is too weak in his old age to come himself, and much too occupied with great spiritual matters to attend. Shyu comes from a long lineage of Fire Sages; however, his is not quite to his advantage. Shyu's grandfather, Kaja, was Avatar Roku's firebending master, and later the first to recognize that the new Avatar had survived the attack on the Air Nomads. Kaja's son, Shyu's father, critiqued the Fire Lord's ambitions and openly supported the Avatar. For those actions, he was executed, leaving Shyu to grow up an orphan. The Fire Sages took Shyu in and he has been one of them since then.



Bujing

Like Shinu, Bujing is also a High General of the Fire Nation Military. He is obsessed with victory, and has been known to propose ruthless, often times sadistic, battlefield strategies. Bujing was the general that proposed sacrificing inexperienced troops on the front line against the Earth Kingdom in 97 AG, the plan which Prince Zuko spoke out against, leading to his infamous Agni Kai and banishment. Fire Lord Ozai often praises Bujing on his ingenious battle plans, and holds him in high regard. Due to his old age, Bujing does not personally command any bases. Instead, he resides in the Capital and works to draw up battle plans from there. Bujing has no family, since his entire life has been dedicated to military service. His caretaker watches over his health and takes care of his personal needs; however, by serving on Ozai's council, Bujing is ignoring his caretakers warning that he must remain in bed rest and not over exert himself.

Mongke

Once a colonel in the Fire Nation Army under General Iroh, Mongke is now the founder and leader of the Rough Rhinos, a freelance task group that works for the Fire Nation. Mongke is the only firebender of the group, but they are all loyal to Fire Lord Ozai. The Rough Rhino's are a komodo rhino cavalry. Each member of the Rough Rhino has a preferred skillset, including specialized weaponry, explosives, and even archery. The Rough Rhino's are a valuable resource that focus on tracking down individuals wanted by the Fire Nation or invading small Earth Kingdom villages. Because of their preferred choice of transportation, the Rough Riders are limited to the Earth Kingdom continent. Due to his migratory lifestyle, Mongke has no family, and very few ties to the Fire Islands. His only family of sorts is the Rough Rhinos, and leaving them behind and coming to the Fire Nation has been a difficult adjustment for Mongke to make.

Morishita

Mayor of Yu Dao, the oldest Fire Nation colony in the Earth Kingdom, Morishita comes from a long line of colonists that have served the Fire Lord for generations. Morishita is a kind and caring man who is very devoted to his family and the people of Yu Dao. Despite being in the



Earth Kingdom, Yu Dao is primarily made up of firebenders, many of whom have lived there for generations. Morishita does not hold to the same theories of Fire Nation superiority shared by those living in the Fire Islands. In fact, he is even married to an earthbender! Their daughter Kori is also an earthbender. Many question what place Morishita and other colony mayors have on the council, but Fire Lord Ozai strongly supports Morishita's presence, since he has many contacts within the Earth Kingdom. Morishita believes he can be a voice of reason in the committee. He is a proud citizen of the Fire Nation and is loyal to the Fire Lord, but would like to see this war end with as little bloodshed as possible.

Kuzon

Kuzon is the son of a farmer from the outskirts of the Fire Nation Capital. He grew up in poverty, and decided at an early age that one day he would become the richest man in the Fire Nation. Though he is not the richest—that honor goes to the Fire Lord—he is certainly close. Kuzon moved out to the Earth Kingdom as a teenager, and with what little money he had saved up throughout his life, bought an abandoned coal mine. With the help of a friend he made in the Earth Kingdom, a young earthbender named Ho Tung from a nearby village, Kuzon was able to get the mine up and running. He made his money selling coal to the Fire Nation, and as the war progressed, the demand for coal increased. Kuzon and Ho Tung are partners, and selling to anyone willing to pay, regardless of their nationality. Kuzon's coal has become indispensable to the Fire Nation, who's factories, war machines, railways, and steamships need it to function.

Mung

General Mung is the overseer of the main Fire Nation weapons manufacturing factory, located on the banks of the Jang Hui river in the eastern portion of the Fire Islands. Mung is a cold-hearted man and has been known to ruthlessly punish his underpaid factory workers. Many of these workers come from the village of Jang Hui, which is located in the middle of the river. Mung knows that pollution from the factory is polluting the Jang Hui river, and contaminating the fish and clams that



the villagers rely on, but he does not care. In fact, Mung resents the villagers so much that he often orders his soldiers to take food and medicine from them. Even though the weapons factory is vital to the war effort, Mung feels as though his time would be better spent on the front lines, instead of behind a desk managing shipment orders.

Chan

Admiral Chan is in charge of the Fire Navy's Easter Fleet. Many suspect that he only got the position of admiral because he is a good friend of Ozai and comes from a wealthy family. Chan is known for being absent minded at times, and is infamous for having poor communication skills. Despite these flaws, Chan has a strong military background and is incredibly loyal to Fire Lord Ozai. Chan would much rather be relaxing on the beach outside his home on Ember Island, a luxury island where many wealthy Fire Nation officials have summer homes. He is neighbors with Fire Lord Ozai; however, the royal family has not visited their Ember Island home since Ozai took the throne. Chan is often having to put aside his work in order to discipline his teenage son, also named Chan, who has a propensity to throw parties at their beach house.

Nishi

Mayor Nishi is an elderly woman who serves as the mayor of a Fire Nation colony in the western Earth Kingdom. She has been mayor for many years, choosing to leave her home in the Fire Islands to live in the colonies. After many years of parties and small talk as a member of the Fire Nation aristocracy, Nishi became fed up with high society and wanted to live a humbler life. Fire Lord Azulon, a friend of her late husband, gave her the position of mayor. Nishi feels a deep connection to her home in the Earth Kingdom, and is a thoughtful and pragmatic leader for her people, who happen to be both Fire Nation citizens and Earth Kingdom citizens alike. Nishi supports Ozai, as she did his father, and believes her colony to be proof that after the war is over, the world will be better off under Fire Nation Control. Nishi has five sons who are all part of the Fire Nation military, and twelve, soon to be thirteen, grandchildren who she is looking forward to meeting during her time in the Fire Nation Capital.



Poon

Warden Poon is the warden of the Capital City Prison, located near the Fire Nation Capital. He is a tough, strict man with no respect or patience for criminals. Poon is also a highly skilled firebender, a necessity when dealing with some of the prisoners that he sees. War prisoners are kept in the Capital City Prison, along with any Fire Nation traitors. Poon believes that simply locking up prisoners behind bars is not enough, and that he must break their spirits as well. Poon has ambitions to become a high-ranking government official, and hopes that he can prove himself to be a valuable asset to Fire Lord Ozai.

Qin

War Minister Qin is the overseer of the Fire Nation Military's technology division. His technological expertise makes him a valuable member of Fire Lord Ozai's council. Since he has been War Minister, Qin has overseen the creation of all of the Fire Nation's war machines, and claims to be working on a few more secret weapons that could bring this war to an end. Recently, Qin has been developing an unprecedented number of new technologies, calling some to question whether all his ideas are really his own. Though many of his inventions turn out to be failures, Qin is still highly regarded by Fire Lord Ozai. Qin knows that many of his experiments cause great harm to many people; however, he feels that his contributions in the name of science and development outweigh this cost.

Yon Rha

Yon Rha was the commander of the Southern Raiders, the group that was responsible for periodically raiding the Southern Water Tribe and killed many of the last remaining waterbenders in the South Pole. In 94 AG, Yon Rha was commanded by Fire Lord Azulon to kill the last remaining waterbender in the Southern Water Tribe. Many of the waterbenders had left to join the war, but the Fire Sages had revealed that one remained. Yon Rha and his men executed a raid on the tribe and interrogated a woman named Kya, who admitted to being the last waterbender left, and killed her on the spot. Yon Rha honorably retired after his return home, but has now been called back into service by Fire Lord Ozai. The Fire Lord believes that Yon Rha's raids on the Southern Water Tribe make him



uniquely suited to plan an attack on the Northern Water Tribe. Though Yon Rha is not pleased to be forced out of retirement, he is desperate to escape his ill-tempered mother, with whom he lives, and has accepted the job.

