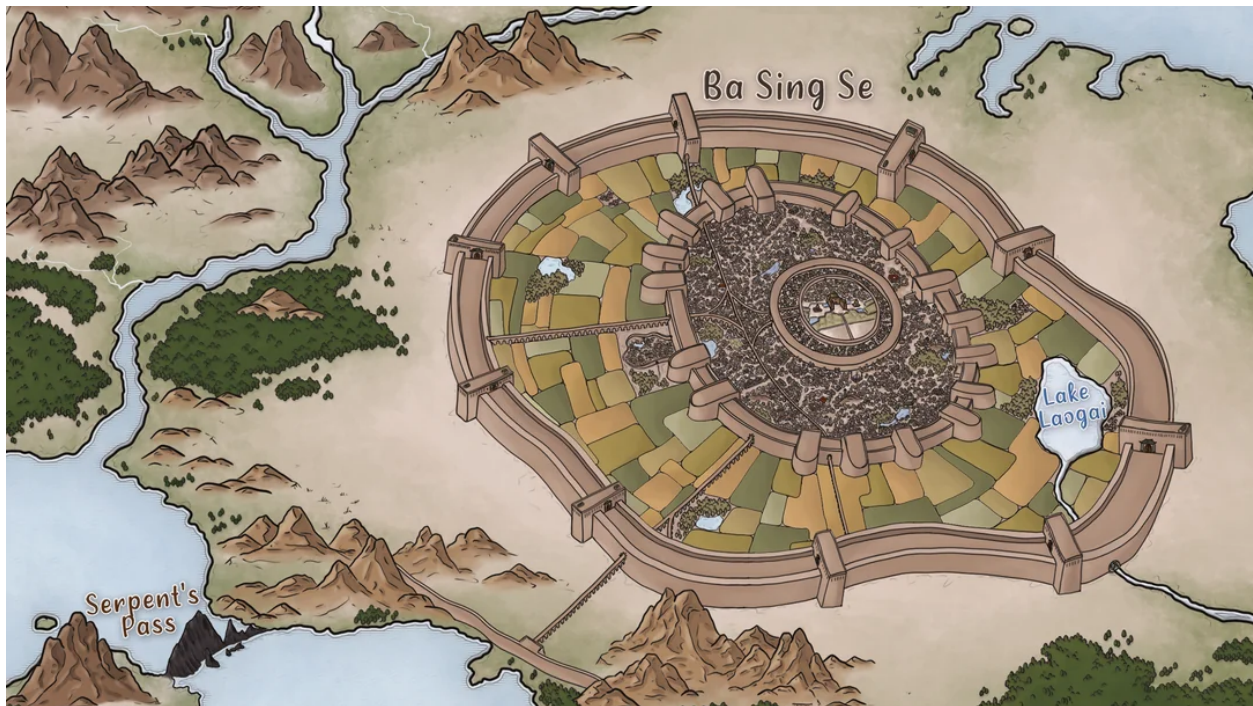


MADMUN XVI

Avatar the Last Airbender: Ba Sing Se

Chairs: Crystal Huang and Piper Hefty

Sims: Dinara Akimbekova, Liam Sullivan, and Henry Kjol



Letter from the Dias

Dear Delegates,

We are excited to have you join this committee and take on a role as a member of the Avatar the last airbender: Ba Sing Se! We hope to see many creative ideas come to life, and would love to see you bring your own take to the world of Avartar the Last airbender!

Your chairs for this committee will be Piper Hefty (she/her), a Middleton high school alum, and Crystal Huang (she/her), a Middleton High school senior. Your three sims will be Henry Kjol (he/him) who is a senior at Middleton High School, Liam Sullivan (he/him) a senior at Marquette University High School, and Dinara Akimbekova (she/her) a senior at Sheboygan North. We are all super thrilled to meet you at MADMUN!

As a Dais, we strongly encourage everyone to watch as much of Avatar: The Last Airbender as possible, whether it's the animated show or a live-action version. Approach the committee with an open mind, as Model UN sessions can take unexpected turns. Before the committee, we require that everyone write a position paper to fully develop their character.

In addition, we encourage you to think creatively about the historical and cultural context of Avatar the last airbender, especially as it relates to this year's MADMUN theme: Dismantling veils of Deception. Consider how secrecy, misinformation, and hidden truths shape your character's choices and relationships. From the wall of Ba Sing Se to the propaganda of the fire nation, deception plays an influential role in the world of Avatar. Take time to reflect on how your character might confront or perpetuate these illusions, and how themes of truth, loyalty and conflict drive people. Your unique perspective will add depth and complexity to the debates that are going to take place. We hope to see all of you actively participate in both main debate and backroom, as we uncover the truths hidden below the surface

If you have any questions at all about writing your position paper or preparing for the committee, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us! We're here to help, whether you need guidance on your character's stance, advice on how to approach the topics, or just some clarification on what to expect during the session. We want to ensure you feel fully prepared and confident as you step into your role. Your participation is crucial to the success of the committee, and we're eager to see the creative and thoughtful contributions you'll bring. We are absolutely thrilled to have you join The world of Avatar, and we can't wait to see how you shape the debates and discussions!

Sincerely,

The Avatar the Last Airbender: Ba Sing Se Dias

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Committee Overview



“Water. Earth. Fire. Air. Long ago, the four nations lived together in harmony. Then, everything changed when the Fire Nation attacked.” In the Earth of Avatar, four tribes populate the realm, each with unique individuals who are able to shape (or ‘bend’) the elements to their will.

The Water tribes live in the two poles, the Earth Kingdom populates the largest area, the Air Nomads live in tall temples, and the Fire Nation inhabits a series of small but powerful islands. In the past, these four groups lived in harmony, guided by the *Avatar*, who is able to control all four elements. The power of the Avatar rotates throughout the four nations, and is currently in the hands of a young Airbender named Aang. But Aang isn’t just any normal Avatar– he was trapped in an iceberg before water tribe siblings Katara and Sokka found him. During his 100 years hidden from the rest of the world, the Fire Nation had launched an invasion that had wiped out the air monasteries and almost taken over the Earth Kingdom.

Our story begins here, in the mighty Earth Kingdom capital, known for its strong walls and bustling cities. As key figures in Ba Sing Se, you will shape its future.

Disclaimer

This committee will be taking place during the end of season 2 and the beginning of season three. Knowledge of the first two seasons of Avatar: The Last Airbender is recommended. Other helpful resources we recommend you utilize are SparkNotes and the Avatar: The Last Airbender fandom Wiki. While some characters might not have their actions or personalities during the trilogy fully explored, we hope that you use creative liberty to fully flesh out what may be missing and create intriguing position papers. Feel free to email your chairs/sims with any questions. Additionally, we would like to remind everyone that while this is a simulation, and fun can (and will) be had, we will not tolerate any racism, sexism, homophobia, or any related 'isms' and 'phobias' please be respectful to everyone because it's much less fun for us to have to reprimand delegates for said behavior.

We believe in creative freedoms but will not allow illegal or hateful actions to be taken by delegates.



Topic A: The Destruction of the Second Fire Nation Siege and Arrival of the Avatar



Background

Ba Sing Se, the impenetrable heart of the Earth Kingdom, has long been the symbolic heart of resistance against the Fire Nation expansion. For almost a century now the fire nation has waged war across the four nations, and the walls of Ba Sing Se have repressed the last bastion of the Earth Kingdom Strength and security.

The avatar - Aang the Last Airbender - is on his way to Ba Sing Se. His journey to the city is not of conquest but of necessity. He is searching for his lost sky bison Appa. well seeking aid in resetting the Fire Nations growing Power. His arrival concurred with a moment of growing tensions with the uncertainty for the Earth Kingdom.

The fire nation forces are gathering strength along the borders. Though no major offensive has yet to strike the capital, intelligence-based responds that Princess Azula is preparing an ambitious operation designed to test Ba Sing Se's legendary defenses. Rumors of a massive new siege weapon circling among the scouts of the Earth Kingdom is starting to create unease both in the military and the civilian population.

Inside Ba Sing Se, like is outwardly calm but highly fragile. Refugees from burned villages and border towns pour into the outer districts of the city, the swelling population is beginning to drain resources. Food shortages grow more common and temporary shelters in the agrarian ring struggle to house the displaced. Civilians cling to the hope that within the city wall they will shield them from the same fate that destroyed so many in the other earth kingdom towns.

Politically Ba Sing Se's leaders are growingly divided. The earth kingdom remains insulated within the inner ring while the Dai Li exercise increasing control over information and public opinion official announcements insist that Ba Sing Se is safe and that there are no threats that are appealing, still the whispers of the Fire Nations movement still march forward, Many citizens are beginning to question whether the government hides the true scale of the danger

It is into the atmosphere that the Avatar and his group arrive. While some citizens welcome him as a symbol of hope, others view his presence as a possible liability. Stories are spreading of villages where the avatars battled against the fire nation have been left desiccated in their wake, skepticism is growing does his arrival truly single protector or will it draw greater danger to Ba Sing Se's greatest?

Current Issue

The city now faces a combination of humanitarian strain, political uncertainty, and military threat. Refugees from the Fire Nation occupied towns that are beginning to

overwhelm Ba Sing Se's capacity to provide food, shelter, and medical care. The agrarian ring struggles to maintain the crop yields as more and more displaced families settle there, while disease and hunger begin to take root in overcrowding districts. Citizens of the inner ring remain largely insoles, but growing presents fester among the router rings where desperation is more severe. If this is left unresolved this divide threatens the suitability of the Earth Kingdom's largest cities even before the Fair Nation can touch the Walls.

At the same time the avatar's presence is dividing the population and leadership. Some see Aang as a figure of hope who might finally end the century-long war, or worry that his presence will draw greater danger within Ba Sing Se. The Dai Li and the Earth King's court struggle to decide whether he should be embraced as an alli or potential livability, or removed from the cities. Forums are Beijing to possess the past villages of the avatars. As Fire Nation forces move closer Ba Sing Se must decide whether to rely on the Avatar's help, risk alleging him, or attempt to face the threat alone.

Questions to consider

1. Should the Avatar be allowed to remain in Ba Sing Se, and if so, under what conditions?
1. How should Ba Sing Se manage the growing refugee crisis without collapsing its resources?
2. Should the Dai Li continue suppressing information about the Fire Nation threat, or should the government reveal the truth to the public?
3. What military strategy should Ba Sing Se pursue to confront the Fire Nation before they reach the walls, or prepare for a siege?
4. How can the leadership maintain unity and stability across the city's three rings as tensions rise?

Topic B: The Facade of Peace



Background

Ba Sing Se maintains order and stability with its impenetrable walls with the iconic mantra, “There is no war in Ba Sing Se,”-- symbolic of the city’s insistence on peace and control. This statement is repeated by officials and spread by the Dai Li, a secretive organization responsible for maintaining control over information and public perception. The phrase, part of the city’s extensive propaganda system, is a cornerstone of how Ba Sing Se is ruled; by maintaining civilian morale while insulating the Earth King and his advisors from the ongoing conflict with the Fire Nation.

Despite the outward calm, the Earth Kingdom is very much at war. Across the kingdom, towns and villages are taken under Fire Nation occupation, and supply lines are disrupted. Due to this, refugees arrive daily at the walls of Ba Sing Se. While soldiers, scouts, and administrators know the truth, they are bound by strict orders to maintain the facade of peace. The Dai Li enforce this rigorously by controlling the flow of information and silencing dissents to prevent panic or civil unrest. The people thus live in the apparent security of Ba Sing Se’s walls, unaware of the dangers that are

approaching them. The government must continually suppress the truth to maintain order.

The arrival of the Avatar, Aang, further complicates this situation. Aang is famous and admired for standing up to the Fire Nation– thus, the Avatar’s presence threatens to expose cracks in Ba Sing Se’s official narrative. Citizens who hear rumors of battles and destruction from the outer provinces begin questioning whether the story they’ve been told is true. Ba Sing Se’s leaders must decide: does maintaining the illusion of peace protect Ba Sing Se, or does it ultimately weaken the city by eroding trust between leaders and civilians? Delegates must navigate these questions in real time, balancing the need for control, morale, and strategic advantage against the ethical and practical costs of deception.

Current Issue

The Earth Kingdom leadership faces a crucial dilemma. On one hand, continuing to deny the war’s existence allows the city to maintain calm and officials to stay in their power. Civilians go about their daily lives, public spaces remain orderly, and potential unrest is minimized. The Dai Li, as enforcers of the narrative, can use their effective mechanism of propaganda and force to suppress fear, rumor, and opposition– allowing the government to coordinate defense strategies without interference from a panicked population.

On the other hand, this “facade of peace” comes at substantial cost. Refugees, traders, and scouts that enter the city bring with them rumors and stories of destruction, forcing citizens to face conflicting information. Civilians may lose trust in the government if they believe that they are being deliberately misinformed, potentially undermining citizen loyalty and hurting civic cohesion. Military leaders, as well as the Avatar, may find it increasingly difficult to implement effective defensive measures if the population

does not care, not knowing what's at stake. And with the Avatar's arrival, mounting pressure threatens the facade.

Delegates must weigh the ethical and practical implications of continuing to deceive the population against its benefits. Should the Earth Kingdom prioritize citizen morale and government control, or reveal the truth for the sake of transparency and informed preparedness? Any choice carries significant consequences for security, governance, and the people of Ba Sing Se.

Questions to consider

1. Should Ba Sing Se continue to propagate the narrative "There is no war in Ba Sing Se," or should the government acknowledge the reality of the Fire Nation threat?
2. How might revealing the truth impact civilian morale, urban stability, and the authority of the Earth King?
3. Can the Dai Li continue to enforce secrecy effectively, or does the growing presence of external information sources and the Avatar make this impossible?
4. What balance should the city strike between ethical transparency and strategic control in a time of war?
5. What immediate steps should Ba Sing Se take to strengthen military preparedness as the Fire Nation approaches?

Positions

Earth Kingdom Leadership & Officials

Grand Secretariat Long Feng: The cunning and ambitious head of the Dai Li, Ba Sing Se's secret police, responsible for maintaining order and controlling information in the city.

General Hao: A high-ranking military commander in the Earth Kingdom, responsible for defending Ba Sing Se from external threats.

Joo Dee: A loyal and brainwashed guide assigned to the Avatar in Ba Sing Se, acting under the influence of Dai Li.

Suki: The skilled leader of the Kyoshi Warriors, an all-female fighting group dedicated to defending Kyoshi Island and upholding justice.

Toph Beifong: A blind but extraordinarily powerful earthbender, inventor of metalbending, and master of earthbending techniques.

Bumi: The eccentric and unpredictable king of Omashu, an Earth Kingdom city known for its creativity and unorthodox defense systems.

The Cabbage Man: A kind-hearted, well-loved traveling cabbage seller known for his misadventures and repeated loss of produce due to chaos around him.

General Sung: An Earth Kingdom military officer, involved in strategic planning and defense of Ba Sing Se.

The Boulder: A famous professional earthbender wrestler, admired for his strength and showmanship.

The Mechanist: An inventor and engineer from the Earth Kingdom, skilled at creating machinery and technological innovations.

Fire Nation (Infiltrators / Threats)

Azula: Princess of the Fire Nation and Zuko's prodigiously skilled younger sister, known for her firebending prowess and tactical cunning.

Ty Lee: A cheerful and acrobatic friend of Azula, skilled in chi-blocking, which temporarily disables opponents' bending abilities.

Mai: Another loyal friend of Azula, quiet and precise, skilled in throwing knives and long-range combat.

Refugees & Outsiders

Jet: Leader of a small group of young freedom fighters opposing the Fire Nation, a refugee from occupied territories of the Earth Kingdom

Mushi: Owner of a small, cozy tea shop in Ba Sing Se, known for her calming presence and intricate knowledge of herbal blends.

Lee: Mushi's assistant, enthusiastic and friendly, often delivering tea and pastries while overhearing the city's political rumors.