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THE JOHNS HOPKINS MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER *100 Year War Reconciliation Committee*

Chaired by Neetika Rastogi

Session XXIII

Avatar: The Last Airbender 100 Year War Reconciliation Committee

Topic A: Fire Nation Colonies

Topic B: Restoring Peace to the World

Committee Overview

This committee begins following the events of Avatar: The Last Airbender, in the summer of 100 AG, 100 years after the Air Nomad genocide. The destructive reign of Fire Lord Ozai has come to a heroic end by Avatar Aang, the last known airbender.¹ Newly coronated Fire Lord Zuko, the son of Fire Lord Ozai, has just declared an armistice to the end of the Hundred Years War - a century-long, imperialist effort by the Fire Nation to expand into a worldwide empire.²

As one can imagine, the world has undergone a serious transformation as a result of the war. 100 years of conflict has left the world scarred and divided. The Fire Nation has disrupted the Earth Kingdom's way of life, and is currently occupying its vast swathes of land, draining its resources. Many Earth Kingdom citizens have been rendered refugees as a result of the colonialist efforts of the Fire Nation.³

The Southern Water Tribes have been, not only stripped of their cultural identity, but separated from their sister tribe, the Northern Water Tribe.⁴

One of the gravest indictments of the Fire Nation is its genocide against the Air Nomads; the genocide of the Air Nomads is what began the war and allowed the Fire Nation to engage in nearly a century of violent destruction of human civilization.⁵

The purpose of this committee is to begin rectifying a century's worth of damage done by the Fire Nation. As key figures and major players in the events leading up to the end of the war, it your responsibility to essentially answer this existential question: where do we go from here? How are we to restore balance to the world, after a century of it being so fragmented? How do we, fairly, reckon with the effects of colonialism and imperialism, after enduring it for so long? Philosophically, you all must explore: what does justice mean in this new world, and how do we sustain it?

¹ "Sozin's Comet, Part 4: Avatar Aang." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 28, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Sozin%27s_Comet,_Part_4:_Avatar_Aang

² Ibid.

³ "Refugees." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 28, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Refugees>

⁴ "Southern Water Tribe." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 28, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Southern_Water_Tribe

⁵ "Air Nomad Genocide." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 28, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Air_Nomad_Genocide

Parliamentary Procedure

The Parliamentary Procedure used in this committee will be uniform throughout the entire conference. Although, because it is a crisis committee, sometimes parliamentary procedure may be overlooked in order to keep the fast pace of the committee. In the event of crises, differences regarding the parliamentary procedure will be left to the discretion of the Chair and Dais staff.



Delegate Biographies

Aang

Avatar

Frozen in an iceberg for a century, Aang emerged as the Avatar right before the Hundred Years War with the ability to use and master all four of the bending arts. Aang is the last remaining airbender due to the fire nation wiping out the rest of his tribe. Aang, along with his sky bison Appa, was freed by Katara and Sokka, and together, they set out to change the course of the Hundred Year.

Aang is a kind soul. He prefers to avoid fighting, only engages in battle when necessary, and scorns killing. Because he lived during the pre-war era and used to be friends with Fire Nation citizens, Aang never viewed the Fire Nation or firebenders as inherently evil. Despite the crimes against humanity the Fire Nation committed, Aang is not vindictive. Aang prefers mediation and peaceful conflict resolution to the use of force.⁶

Katara

Waterbender

Katara is the last waterbender from the Southern Water Tribe, and a key member of Team Avatar. Katara and her brother, Sokka, freed Aang from the iceberg, changing the course of the Hundred Year War. Katara accompanied Aang on all of his adventures and battles during the war.⁷

Hakoda

Leader of the Southern Water Tribe

Chief Hakoda, also Sokka and Katar's father, is a talented leader, weapons maker, and an igloo builder. He is a resourceful man and a skilled warrior at hand-to-hand combat and with weapons. He went off to fight the Fire Nation two years before the end of the Hundred Years War, and explained the entire invasion plan and bravely led the invasion force. At the end of the war, he escaped the fire nation prison and returned back to the South pole.

Hakoda is a caring husband and a loving father. He is a skilled orator, an inspirational leader, and has exceptional physical abilities. Hakoda's wisdom and leadership led him to his respected status amongst the waterbenders.⁸

Iroh

Grand Lotus

Iroh, "The Dragon of the West", is Zuko's uncle and mentor and a firebending master. Iroh was the fire nation general during the Hundred Years War, but during an attack on the Earth Kingdom, he lost his son Lu Ten and his father Fire Lord Azulon and abandoned the siege, causing his younger brother Ozai to be appointed as the new fire lord instead of the crown prince Iroh. Iroh was ultimately branded a traitor by the fire nation for assisting Team Avatar, and now serves as the Grand Lotus of the Order of the White Lotus.⁹

⁶ "Aang." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019 .

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Aang>

⁷ "Katara." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Katara>

⁸ "Hakoda." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Hakoda>

⁹ "Iroh." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Iroh>

Iroh is a perceptive, wise, and experienced mentor. He is a brilliant strategist and entrepreneur and is highly knowledgeable about other cultures, history, and tea. He has impressive physical and mental abilities that makes him a powerful and reputed firebender, but he is still an easygoing and friendly leader.

Sokka

Southern Water Tribe Warrior

Sokka, along with his sister Katara, helped free the avatar from his frozen state, and thus became an important member of Team Avatar. At a young age, as the only man left in his tribe that was not fighting in the far, Sokka became the leader of the Southern Water Tribe. Although he cannot actually water bend, Sokka is a master swordsman and a great warrior, serving as Aang's strategist.¹⁰

Sokka has the personality of a protector: he is skeptical, sharp, and sarcastic. He has strong values, and he is fiercely loyal to his friends and family, but also to his tribe. Sokka acts silly and clever a lot of times, but he can be serious and defensive when he is needed by others.

Chief Arnook

Chief of the Northern Water Tribe

Sokka, along with his sister Katara, helped free the avatar from his frozen state, and thus became an important member of Team Avatar. At a young age, as the only man left in his tribe that was not fighting in the far, Sokka became the leader of the Southern Water Tribe. Although he cannot actually water bend, Sokka is a master swordsman and a great warrior, serving as Aang's strategist.¹¹

¹⁰ "Sokka." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Sokka>

¹¹ "Arnook." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Arnook>

Master Pakku

Waterbending Master

Master Pakku is a Northern tribe waterbending master and instructor, and he taught waterbending to Katara and Aang. He was also a member of the Order of the White Lotus and along with other Northern healers and waterbenders, Pakku worked to restore the war-torn Southern Water Tribe.¹²

King Bumi

Former King of Omashu

Bumi is Aang's only remaining friend from before the war, and an old, eccentric earthbending master. He was a brilliant and patient King of Omashu, a city in the Earth kingdom but was imprisoned after the Fire Nation attacked the city. Team Avatar tried to free Bumi, but he insisted on staying imprisoned in Omashu until he single-handedly liberated the city.¹³

Suki

Kyoshi Warrior

The leader of the elite, non-bending Kyoshi Warriors, Suki first encountered Team Avatar when they visited Kyoshi Island. After working with Team Avatar to repel a Fire Nation attack on their village, Suki and the Kyoshi Warriors were inspired to join the Earth Kingdom in the Hundred Years War. After being captured by the Fire Nation and freed by Sokka, Suki played an instrumental role in defeating the Fire Lord by sabotaging the Fire Nation airship fleet. Suki is a loyal and compassionate soldier who can inspire the same traits in her followers.¹⁴

¹² "Pakku." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Pakku>

¹³ "Bumi." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Bumi>

¹⁴ "Suki." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

General Fong

Earth Kingdom General

General Fong began his military career as an enlisted soldier, and worked his way up to the rank of General with his aggressive and unusual tactics. He was extremely committed to ending the Hundred Year War by any means necessary. The Earth Kingdom invasion of the Fire Nation was originally supposed to be launched from his fortress, and although that plan never came to fruition because of the fall of Ba Sing Se, Fong still sent along some of his men to assist Team Avatar on the Day of Black Sun.

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King Kuei

Ruler of the Earth Kingdom

For most of his early reign, King Kuei was nothing more than a pawn for the city's Grand Secretariat, Long Feng, and he held no real powers in the kingdom. With Team Avatar's help, King Kuei regained control of the Earth Kingdom, but he eventually had to flee because of coups within the kingdom. King Kuei also didn't know the war was even going on because of Long Feng's lies, but he rightfully returned to his duties as the Earth King at the end of the war.¹⁶

Toph Beifong

Earthbending Master

Toph is an earthbending master and the discoverer of metalbending. Because of her superior earthbending abilities, Team Avatar sought Toph in order for Aang to learn earthbending, and she became a valuable member of the group.¹⁷

15 "Fong." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Fong>

16 "Kuei." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Kuei>

17 "Toph." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Toph>

General How

Earth Kingdom High General

General How is the leader of the Council of Five, the Earth King's group of top generals. How, along with the rest of the Council of Five, kept the Hundred Year War a secret from King Kuei under great pressure from the Dai Li, but still remained devoted to the King and the fight against the Fire Nation. He was captured by Dai Li agents during Long Feng and Azula's plot to overthrow the Earth King but was freed from captivity and had his position restored upon the end of the war.¹⁸

Longshot

Former Freedom Fighter

Longshot is a skilled archer and former member of the Earth Kingdom rebel group, the Freedom Fighters. As a Freedom Fighter, Longshot would participate in the group's regular raids on the Fire Nation military encampment in the neighboring village of Gaipan.¹⁹ The Freedom Fighters had planned to flood the village, and Longshot was instrumental in that plan. However, then Team Avatar, disgusted by the groups' disregard for innocent lives, foiled the plan. Afterwards, Longshot along with his compatriots, Smellerbee and the now deceased Jet, traveled to Ba Sing Se to start a new life.¹⁹ Longshot is a man of few words, but his compatriots often valued his opinions. Longshot is loyal to his friends, but he is not blindly so. When Jet became fixated on exposing the disguised Zuko and Iroh as firebenders, Longshot expressed concern over his leader's mental state and did not resist when Ba Sing Se police arrested Jet for disorderly public conduct.¹⁹

18 "How." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/How>

19 "Longshot." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Longshot>

Fire Lord Zuko

Ruler of the Fire Nation

Zuko is the current Fire Lord of the Fire Nation, and was, at one point, an adversary of Team Avatar. He was banished from the Fire Nation and scarred by his father Ozai, the previous Fire Lord, at a young age. He was tasked with finding the Avatar to regain standing as the prince of the Fire Nation. He helped his sister, Azula, capture his uncle Iroh and nearly kill Avatar Aang, but Zuko had a change of heart after returning to his former position in the Fire Nation. He decided to seek out Team Avatar and help them defeat his father. Zuko helped Katara defeat Azula during the reclamation of Ba Sing Se, and was crowned as the new Fire Lord once Aang defeated Ozai. Though hotheaded and extremely passionate, Zuko ultimately seeks to be a just and wise ruler for his people in these uncertain times.²⁰

Smellerbee

Former Freedom Fighter

Like Longshot, Smellerbee is a former Freedom Fighter, skilled with bladed weapons. Smellerbee participated in many of the rebel group's activities, ranging from cutting off Fire Nation supply lines to robbing an elderly Fire Nation civilian.²¹ The Freedom Fighters were led by Jet, who aimed to eradicate firebenders from the world.²² After she, Jet, and Longshot left their village for Ba Sing Se, she vowed to start a new life and say goodbye to their fighting days. Smellerbee was fiercely loyal to Jet and the rest of her compatriots.²³ However, she did not possess a blind

devotion to her beloved leader. When Jet became fixated on proving the then disguised Zuko and Iroh as firebenders hiding in Ba Sing Se, Smellerbee protested his attempts to expose them. When the Dai Li dragged Jet away for disorderly conduct, she did not resist.²⁴

General Mak

Fire Nation General

General Mak is a recently promoted general in the Fire Nation and is fiercely loyal to Fire Lord Zuko. He is in charge of intelligence gathering for the Fire Nation and has a vast network of spies across the Earth Kingdom. He is currently a military aide reporting directly to Fire Lord Zuko.²⁵

Mayor Morishita

Mayor of Yu Dao

Mayor Morishita currently presides over Yu Dao, the oldest Fire Nation colony in the Earth Kingdom. He comes from a family of Fire Nation colonists that has served the Fire Lord for generations and is married to an earthbending wife. He is absolutely devoted to his family and city and opposes the idea of removing Fire Nation colonies from the Earth Kingdom.²⁶

War Master Qin

Position of Delegate

War Minister Qin is in charge of developing war machines and technologies for the Fire Nation, and a member of the Fire Lord's cabinet. Through his forced partnership with the mechanist²⁷ at the Northern Air Temple, he was able to

²⁰ "Zuko." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Zuko>

²¹ "Smellerbee." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Smellerbee>

²² "Freedom Fighters." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Freedom_Fighters

²³ "Smellerbee." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Smellerbee>

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ "Mak." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Mak>

²⁶ "Morishita." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 29, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Morishita>

²⁷ *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. "The Northern Air Temple." Season 1, Episode 17. Directed by Dave Filoni. Written by Michael Dante DiMartino. Nickelodeon. November 4, 2005.

develop tanks and war balloons for the Fire Nation. He also designed the drill that nearly broke through the walls of Ba Sing Se. His most recent innovation was the upgrade of war balloons to the metal airships used by the Fire Nation after the Day of Black Sun.²⁸

Kori Morishita

Daughter of Mayor Morishita

Kori Morishita is an earthbender, born to a Fire Nation citizen and an earthbending mother. Due to her mixed heritage, she feels a sense of loyalty to both the Fire nation and her hometown, Yu Dao.²⁹ However, her sentiments for her hometown are stronger than those for the distant crown. She is a skilled bender and weapons wielder. A bit of a rash person, she will do anything to protect Yu Dao and its residents' interests.³⁰

General Shinu

Fire Nation High General

General Shinu is a top-ranking Fire Nation general who is tough and practical in his strategies. He commands the Yuyan Archers, a team of elite Fire Nation special operators.³¹ Shinu realized that the Fire Nation army was beginning to overextend itself in the Hundred Year War, so he suggested to Fire Lord Ozai that more domestic troops be sent to put down earthbender rebellions in the conquered Earth Kingdom territories. This proposal was shot down in favor of Ozai's plan to destroy the whole Earth Kingdom.³²

²⁸ "Qin." Avatar Wiki. Accessed August 9, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Qin>

²⁹ "Kori Morishita." Avatar Wiki. Accessed August 9, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Kori_Morishita

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ "Shinu." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 28, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Shinu>

³² Ibid.



Topic A: Fire Nation Colonies

Introduction

The World of Avatar

Welcome to the World of Avatar. Our world consists of a beautiful, tetramerous set of nations: The Air Nomads, the Water Tribes, the Earth Kingdom, and the Fire Nation. Each nation has its own unique ethnicity, complete with a set of idiosyncratic customs, all influenced by geography of the land its people inhabits. For example, the fashion of the Water Tribes – constitutive of polar bear pelts and sea skins – is a result of the bounty of the frozen tundra they populate.^{33 34}

Special groups of people called *benders* populate each nation and can telekinetically manipulate the element to which their nation belongs: air, water, earth, or fire.

The ability to manipulate and control air currents is referred to as an *aerokinetic ability*; airbending is one of the most fluid and energetic of the four bending arts.³⁵ Colored in white in Figure 1, the Air Nomads resided in four temples in each corner of the world.



Figure 1: Map of the Four Nations³⁶

Colored blue in Figure 1, the two Water Tribes are located in the northern and southern poles of the world. Before the Hundred Years War, both tribes practiced waterbending, one of the most fluid and graceful bending arts; it is the *hydrokinetic ability* to manipulate water molecules.³⁷ As later discussed, this ability can translate to the ability to manipulate substances that contain water but are not entirely made up of water as well.

The Earth Kingdom is the most expansive nation in the world. Likewise, earthbending is the most versatile kind of bending out of the four elemental arts. The ability to manipulate the earth is known as a *geokinetic ability*.³⁸

The Fire Nation, colored as red in Figure 1, is a series of volcanic islands west

³³ "Four Nations." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Four_nations

³⁴ "Water Tribe." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Water_tribe

³⁵ "Airbending." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. <https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Airbending>

³⁶ "A Map of the Four Nations." Wikipedia. Accessed July 10, 2019.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avatar:_The_Last_Airbender#/media/File:Avatar_world_map.jpg

³⁷ "Waterbending." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Waterbending>

³⁸ "Earthbending." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. <https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Earthbending>

of the Earth Kingdom. Firebending is the most intense of the four bending arts; it is unique in that the performer must generate the element his or herself. The ability to control fire is known as a *pyrokinetic ability*.³⁹

Each nation had its own autonomous form of government as well. The Air Nomads were a very spiritual people. Instead of having a structured government, they often relied on the advice of monks that made up theocratic councils. The Air Nomads adhered to a philosophy of equality and tranquility; their devotion to the spirits often influenced their political affairs as well.⁴⁰ The two Water Tribes, now isolated from each other after the war, each have their own government that operates as a tribal chiefdom.⁴¹ The Earth Kingdom operates as a confederate constitutional monarchy; however, as will be discussed, the political affairs of the Earth Kingdom have become increasingly complex throughout the war.⁴² Finally, the Fire Nation operates as a severe autocratic, absolute monarchy; the head of the state is called the Fire Lord.⁴³

For hundreds of years, the four nations coexisted in harmony. But at the hands of the Fire Nation, this harmony came to an abrupt halt. Fire Lord Sozin, beginning his reign nearly 50 years before the Air Nomad Genocide, began setting up Fire Nation colonies in the Earth Kingdom decades before the Hundred Years War.⁴⁴ Indeed, in looking at the history of the war, we can see its anlage in the Fire Nation's nascent colonialist efforts in the Earth

Kingdom. These efforts were inspired by Sozin's ambition to create a worldwide empire.

The war officially began with the genocide of the Air Nomads.⁴⁵ The Air Nomads Genocide is denoted as 0 AG. Events after the Air Nomad Genocide are denoted AG, and events occurring before the Air Nomad Genocide are denoted BG.

After the Air Nomad Genocide, the Fire Nation invaded the Earth Kingdom at the northwestern seaboard.⁴⁶ In addition to establishing several colonies on its mainland, the Fire Nation also invaded the Northern and Southern Water Tribes. Nearing the end of the war, the Fire Nation had almost decimated every other civilization, by every means from colonization to genocide.

The Avatar and the Spirit World

The Avatar is an entity that is reincarnated in a set order of identities known as the Avatar cycle. Each identity is born to a particular nation; the reincarnation cycle follows the following order: water, earth, fire, and air. The Avatar has the ability to bend all four elements and must learn all four in the order ordained by the Avatar Cycle. For example, an Avatar born to the Air Nomads must learn water first, followed by earth, and then finally fire.⁴⁷

The Avatar is the human embodiment of peace. He is the convergence between the physical world and an alternate plane of reality known as the *spirit world*.⁴⁸ The ontological constituents of the spirit

39 "Firebending." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Firebending>

40 "Air Nomads." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Air_Nomads

41 "Water Tribe." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Water_Tribe

42 "Earth Kingdom." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Earth_Kingdom

43 "Fire Nation." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Fire_Nation

44 "Fire Nation colonies." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Fire_Nation_colonies

45 "Hundred Year War." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Hundred_Year_War

46 Ibid.

47 "Avatar." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Avatar>

48 Ibid.

world are *spirits* – mystic creatures that often represent some aspect nature.⁴⁹ For example, near the beginning of the world’s creation, the Moon and the Ocean Spirits departed for the mortal world and manifested themselves as two koi fish in the North Pole, now residing a healing pool of water known as the Spirit Oasis. These spirits, named Tui and La, were the original waterbenders.⁵⁰ Some spirits were once human; a spirit known as the Painted Lady was previously a Fire Nation villager who fled her home near the Jang Hui River. Upon her death, she transcended the mortal plane and became a spirit; she continues to look after her village and heal its people.⁵¹ Some spirits are not as benevolent, however – Koh, the Face Stealer, is an ancient malicious spirit that steals the face of any creature who shows a sign of emotion in his presence.⁵²

By being the physical bridge between these two planes of reality, the Avatar is able to not only mediate between the spirits and humans, but he can also keep peace between the four Nations. The reincarnation of the Avatar over time is what allows him to be eternally present in the world.⁵³

In addition to bending the four elements, the Avatar also has the ability to bend energy itself. Few understand the mechanisms by which such *energybending* works, but, in fact, energybending predates elemental bending.⁵⁴

The following is a brief timeline of recent Avatars, the years they were alive, and their nationalities for your reference:

Avatar Aang	Southern Air Temple	12 BG - present
Avatar Roku	Fire Nation	82 BG – 12 BG
Avatar Kyoshi	Earth Kingdom	312 BG – 82 BG
Avatar Kuruk	Northern Water Tribe	345 BG – 312 BG

Figure 1: Timeline of Recent Avatars.⁵⁵

The Four Nations

The Water Tribes

The Water Tribes are split up into two separate regions: The Northern and Southern Water Tribes. They inhabit both extremes of the globe, in the frozen tundras of both the northern and southern poles. Before the Hundred Years War, both tribes were very close. Indeed, these tribes once had significant exchange, as both of their origins lie in the same group of waterbenders.⁵⁶ However, the Hundred Years War forced the Northern Water Tribe to go into isolation. After the Fire Nation began to realize its goals of effectively decimating all waterbenders, the Northern Water Tribe constructed a large wall of ice around its entrance. While this barrier protected them from the wrath of the Fire Nation, it forced them to lose contact with their sister tribe.⁵⁷

While the Northern Water Tribe had the means to protect itself from the Fire Nation, the Southern Water Tribe did not. A series of severe raids drove the Southern Water Tribe to near extinction, as the Fire Nation would take Southern waterbenders as prisoners of war. As a result, the Southern Water Tribe is not only devoid of waterbenders, but its culture, once defined

49 “Spirit World.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Spirit_World

50 Avatar: The Last Airbender. “The Siege of the North: Part 1.” Season 1, Episode 19. Directed by Dave Filoni. Written by Aaron Ehasz. Nickelodeon. December 2, 2005.

51 Avatar: The Last Airbender. “The Painted Lady.” Season 3, Episode 3. Directed by Ethan Spaulding. Written by Joshua Hamilton. Nickelodeon. October 5, 2007.

52 Avatar: The Last Airbender. “The Siege of the North: Part 2.” Season 1, Episode 20. Directed by Dave Filoni. Written by Aaron Ehasz. Nickelodeon. December 2, 2005.

53 “Avatar.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Avatar>

54 “Energybending.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Energybending>.

55 “Avatar.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 28, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Avatar>

56 “Water Tribe.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Water_Tribe

57 “Northern Water Tribe.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Northern_Water_Tribe

by a very distinctive southern-style of bending, has been erased.⁵⁸ Katara is the last waterbender left from the Southern Tribe; her inability to learn waterbending from anyone else in her community is what drove her to seek a waterbending teacher with Avatar Aang.

Due to its small population and extreme geographical location, the Water Tribes do not hold much economic or political power. Indeed, their economy relies on whatever natural resources the ocean provides them. However, the confluence of their habitat with the ocean does provide the Water Tribe with their favorite cultural staples, such as seal skins and polar bear pelts.⁵⁹

In addition to waterbending, a big part of Water Tribe culture lies in their deep pride as a warrior race. While their military is not as technologically advanced as that of the Fire Nation's, the Water Tribe makes use of boomerangs, machetes, and clubs, all fashioned from bone, to arm their fully trained warriors. The Northern Water Tribe military is especially well-armed, with large armories stocked with scimitars and spears. These man-made defenses, in addition to the imposing ice wall that surrounds the tribe, is part of how the Northern Water Tribe was able to stave off the effects of the Hundred Years War as well as they did.⁶⁰

The Southern Water Tribe made use of cutter sailing ships, poorly designed for combat. However, Southern Water Tribe warriors were able to devise a way to still engage in a form of, rather clever, naval combat; they made use of *tangle mines*, affectionately called "sink-n-stinks." These

mines would get gnarled in the propellers of a ship, detonate, and then force the people in the ship to abandon it due to its smell. The Southern Water Tribe warriors abandoned their tribe to go fight in the war two years before the return of the Avatar, leaving the land defenseless.⁶¹

Instead of cutter ships, the Northern Water Tribe made use of double-hulled vessels, capable of enduring long voyages. During the war, Sokka commissioned an inventor to design a waterbending submarine – these submarines were pivotal in the end of the war.

The Southern Tribe is a federation of several smaller tribes and is ruled by a Council of Elders. The people of the Southern Tribe are progressive and focused on commerce and trade. Conversely, in the Northern tribe, a Chief is head of the judicial system. The Northern Tribe's conservative and patriarchal culture restricts women's rights and prohibits them from learning waterbending for combat, choosing who they marry, and more.⁶²

Women in the Northern Tribe are allowed to develop their *healing* skills, however. By using water as a catalyst, a healer can use water to redirect the body's energy to a heal a wound.⁶³

Another sub-skill of waterbending is *bloodbending*. Bloodbending is the ability to manipulate the blood of another person's, or organism's, body, and thus manipulate the muscles and, ultimately movements, of the organism. Because bloodbending is so complex and sophisticated, waterbenders can only utilize this skill during a full moon.⁶⁴ Indeed, waterbenders derive their

⁵⁸ "Southern Water Tribe Raids." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Southern_Water_Tribe_raids

⁵⁹ "Water Tribe." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Water_tribe

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² "Northern Water Tribe." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Northern_Water_Tribe

⁶³ "Healing." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Healing>

⁶⁴ Avatar: The Last Airbender. "The Puppet Master." Season 3, Episode 8. Directed by Joaquim Dos Santos. Written by Michael Dante DiMartino. Nickelodeon. November 9, 2007.

ability from the moon - during a lunar eclipse, when the moon is completely shielded, a waterbender is rendered powerless.⁶⁵

The Earth Kingdom

The Earth Kingdom is the largest of the world's four nations. It encompasses much of the eastern hemisphere and is the most populated sovereignty in the world.⁶⁶

As a consequence of both the country's vast territorial expanse and of the colonial efforts of the Fire Nation, the Earth Kingdom is characterized by significant cultural and ethnic diversity. It is also characterized by a diversity in the land that other nations lack. For example, while the Water Tribes are constituted by small, self-sufficient communities, the Earth Kingdom is populated by both small villages that freckle the landscape, larger towns, and entire, urbanized cities like Ba Sing Se with beautiful infrastructure. This diversity is the reason why the Earth Kingdom's culture is so heterogeneous.⁶⁷

Because of this fragmentation, the Earth Kingdom is plagued with militia rule, gang violence, socioeconomic inequality and ethnic conflict. However, the shared history and identity is often enough to bring those of the Earth Kingdom together. Despite its vast expanse, the Earth Kingdom is not as technologically advanced as the Fire Nation; its economy is largely agrarian and based on limited industry.⁶⁸

Because of Fire Nation assaults, many small towns were forced into slave labor by the Fire Nation as coal miners. Once great

cities like Omashu, a royal city and second largest in the nation, were taken over, and many were and remain destroyed, like the city of Taku.

Like the Kingdom, earthbending itself is one of the most diverse and versatile of the bending arts, practiced differently by a wide range of people, and performed through a wide range of mediums.⁶⁹ Earthbenders are muscular, tough, and direct, like the animal that originally mastered the art: the badgermole. Blind badgermoles use *seismic sense* - they can make a metal image of their surroundings by sensing vibrations in the earth.⁷⁰ Skilled earthbenders can also manipulate molten earth, like in *lavabending*⁷¹, or can ferrokinetically bend processed metal, like in *metalbending*.⁷²

The history of the Earth Kingdom is long and complex. As a result, the social fabric of the Earth Kingdom is delicate and extremely nuanced; the events of Earth Kingdom history also largely impact events in the world's history. The Earth Kingdom was once an absolute monarchy, but after a period of political unrest in around 230 BG, where peasants would often revolt against an oppressive Earth King, this changed. Avatar Kyoshi, fulfilling her duty as Avatar, mediated between the Earth Kingdom government and the people which it ruled over; she created a constitution that weakened Earth Kingdom imperial rule, and empowered its constituents. In return for the Earth King's willingness to compromise, she created an intelligence service in Ba Sing Se, called the *Dai Li*, meant

65 "Waterbending." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. <https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Waterbending>

66 "Earth Kingdom." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Earth_Kingdom

67 Ibid.

68 Ibid.

69 Avatar: The Last Airbender. "Bitter Work." Season 2, Episode 29. Directed by Ethan Spaulding. Written by Aaron Ehasz. Nickelodeon. June 2, 2006.

70 "Earthbending." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019. <https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Earthbending>

71 "Lavabending." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019. <https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Lavabending>

72 "Metalbending." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019. <https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Metalbending>

to defend the Earth King's interests by investigating and imprisoning any resistance to the King among the kingdom. The Dai Li, made of elite and highly skilled earthbenders, played a pivotal role in Ba Sing Se's relationship with the war, and how it ended.⁷³

Over time, each subsequent Earth King would delegate their authority to bureaucrats and officials, in a hedonist effort to pursue leisure over monarchal duties.

State officials took advantage of the waning power of the Earth King and grew extremely corrupt. They used their newfound power to further their own greedy interests. Provincial governments and local rulers began to increasingly exercise more autonomy. Eventually, they became functionally independent. Nevertheless, the Earth Kingdom still flourished economically, and its reliable and experienced military were fiercely loyal to the monarchy.⁷⁴

However, when Fire Lord Sozin began his nascent colonial efforts in 30 BG, this period of economic prosperity ended.

Along the northwestern seaboard, the Fire Nation was able to easily transform a number of cities into colonial possessions. The Fire Nation had solidified its presence in the Earth Kingdom by the end of Sozin's reign. And by 79 AG, the western half of the Earth Kingdom had fallen to Fire Nation invasion forces. By the hands of the Fire Nation, Earth Kingdom citizens became refugees in their own nation. Citizens were wrought with poverty and starvation – many fled to Ba Sing Se, which remained untouched by the Fire Nation until towards the final years of the war, in 94 AG.⁷⁵

Another large metropolis in the Earth Kingdom is Omashu, the second largest city in the nation, surpassed in size and importance only by Ba Sing Se. In the final months of the war, Omashu supplied the Earth Kingdom with many of its troops.⁷⁶

The head of Omashu was King Bumi, an eccentric earthbender who was close friends with Avatar Aang when they were both children.⁷⁷ King Bumi was imprisoned in 99 AG when the Fire Nation attacked Omashu.

In 79 AG, upon the death of the 51st Earth King, a 4-year old child took the throne. The Grand Secretariat of Ba Sing Se, Long Feng, made the then-child King Kuei his puppet. He is the mastermind behind what is known as the *Conspiracy of Ba Sing Se*. Long Feng enlisted the Dai Li to censor knowledge about the war; they ran re-education programs, in which people who even mentioned the Hundred Years War would be hypnotized with propaganda that said it did not even exist. Even King Kuei was unaware of the century-long war until Avatar Aang and his team revealed the conspiracy to him in 99 AG.

Outside the safety of the walls of Ba Sing Se, the war was pervasive and deadly. In 94 AG, the Fire Nation Army, under Fire Nation General Iroh, laid siege to Ba Sing Se. Though they eventually retreated, the Earth Kingdom lost large quantities of resources and manpower. The Earth Kingdom finally fell five years later, in 99 AG, when Princess Azula of the Fire Nation and Long Feng formed an unlikely alliance to end Kuei's reign. Later, Azula betrayed Long Feng, took control of the Dai Li and made Ba Sing Sei a Fire Nation colony. Azula's victory for

⁷³ "Earth Kingdom." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Earth_Kingdom

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ "Fire Nation colonies." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Fire_Nation_colonies

⁷⁶ Avatar: The Last Airbender. "The King of Omashu." Season 1, Episode 5. Directed by Anthony Loi. Written by John O'Bryan. Nickelodeon. March 18, 2005.

⁷⁷ Avatar: The Last Airbender. "The King of Omashu." Season 1, Episode 5. Directed by Anthony Loi. Written by John O'Bryan. Nickelodeon. March 18, 2005.

the Fire Nation proved extremely advantageous, as the Fire Nation was quickly and swiftly able to invade the remainder of the Earth Kingdom.⁷⁸ Earth Kingdom citizens, very resiliently, continued to resist. Rebellions began to spread, and rebels, including the former King Bumi, managed to liberate cities like Omashu. Events such as these in 99 AG contributed to the end of the war.⁷⁹

A group of senior generals oversees the military of the Earth Kingdom; they are known as the Council of Five. Earthbenders in the military also often make use of heavy circular stones as artillery and catapult projectiles. The military has also recently acquired several highly advanced earthbending-powered tanks. They make use of ostrich horses, which allows them to travel almost vertical elevations.⁸⁰

A specialized group of Earth Kingdom military is known as the Kyoshi Warriors, an all-female group of fighters located on Kyoshi Island. The Kyoshi warriors honor their founder, Avatar Kyoshi, by adopting her unique fighting style and clothing.⁸¹

The Air Nomads

Hidden away at the peaks of mountain ranges and below cliffs are four air temples, each at one corner of the world. These air temples are inaccessible to other benders because of their location – Air Nomads, in addition to using staffs to ride air currents to essentially ‘fly,’ travel the world via their flying bison. Flying bison were the original elemental airbenders; the

tattooed arrows on an Air Nomad’s body are meant to emulate that of a flying bison, and are a sign that the person to which they belong to has mastered the art of air bending.⁸²

The Air Nomads, as a very spiritual race, were dedicated environmentalists and vegetarians. Indeed, Air Nomads were highly integrated with both the spiritual and natural world. They meditated daily, concentrating on their internal bodily energy and its relationship with the wind.⁸³

In line with their peaceful philosophy, the Air Nomads did not have any form of military. In fact, airbending, by its nature, is the most passive of all the bending arts. Like the wind, airbending is evasive, explosive; in captures in the intangibility of the wind with its swift movements and defense sequences. Unlike the other arts, airbending often makes use of external materials, such as fans or staffs.⁸⁴

In 0 AG, the Air Nomads were massacred by the Fire Nation. When Fire Lord Sozin had begun his imperialist effort before the war, Avatar Roku managed to stop him. Upon Avatar Roku’s death, however, Fire Lord Sozin began the Fire Nation’s attack on the world.

Sozin realized that he could never realize his dreams of world domination as long as an Avatar existed. According to the Avatar Cycle, the next reincarnation of the Avatar was to belong to the Air Nomads. Using the enhanced firebending ability wrought by a once-in-a-century comet, later

78 “Conspiracy of Ba Sing Se.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Conspiracy_of_Ba_Sing_Se

79 “Earth Kingdom.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Earth_Kingdom

80 “Military of the Earth Kingdom.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 25, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Military_of_the_Earth_Kingdom

81 “Kyoshi Warriors.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Kyoshi_Warriors

82 “Airbending.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Airbending>

83 “Air Nomads.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Air_Nomads

84 “Airbending.” Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Airbending>

named Sozin's Comet, Sozin was able to eliminate the Air Nomad race.⁸⁵

Ironically, the target of the Fire Nation massacre was the only Air Nomad to survive. Avatar Aang, a young teenager who had just run away from the Southern Air Temple, was fortunately spared from the genocide. Before the Hundred Years War began, he encased himself in an iceberg, and remained there for the duration of the war.⁸⁶

The Fire Nation effectively tried to erase the Air Nomad Genocide from history. By 100 AG, children were taught that Sozin battled an "Air Nation Army," something that was nonexistent within the race of pacifists. This warped history was considered correct by many Fire Nation citizens, and knowledge of the Air Nomads was lost and considered false legend by other nations.⁸⁷

The Fire Nation

The Fire Nation derives its power from the volcanic islands it resides on. Its economy is the most technologically advanced and powerful in the world. Its well-defined manufacturing industry, coupled with its robust industrial sector, is what allows the Fire Nation to sustain such a powerful, often destructive, military.⁸⁸

Both these attributes of the Fire Nation worked in tandem to help them initiate the war, and their efforts for worldwide modernization and globalization. While the Avatar was missing, they were able to use their military to eradicate the Air Nomads and the waterbenders of the Southern Water Tribe, in addition to conquering vast swathes of Earth Kingdom territory.⁸⁹

Crown Prince Sozin and Avatar Roku, the incarnation of the Avatar prior to Aang, were both born into a time of prosperity for the Fire Nation. Despite being close friends as children, Avatar Roku and Crown Prince Sozin drifted apart as their values changed.

Roku, as the Avatar, eagerly took on his role of maintain peace among nations. Sozin, in contrast, dreamed of a global empire under his rule, in which the opulence of the Fire Nation would be globalized.

When Sozin was coronated as Fire Lord, he ambitiously militarized the country, and established several colonies in the Earth Kingdom. He quickly turned these colonies into local industrial centers. Sozin's expansionism was stopped by Roku. However, Roku's death in 12 BG caused Sozin to resume his imperialist endeavors. With the Avatar gone, Sozin made it his goal to eradicate the next Avatar and end the Avatar Cycle.⁹⁰

The Fire Nation moved on to the Earth Kingdom and conquered much of its northwestern territories. Sozin began a propaganda machine in which he erased the history of the Fire Nation prior to his rule and warped the events of his time to make him look benevolent and glorious. Indeed, education curriculums were written to invoke a strong, almost jingoist, sense of nationalism in young Fire Nation citizens. They were taught to worship the Fire Lord, the supreme messenger to bring the glory of the Fire Nation to the world.⁹¹

Sozin began to create a cult of personality around himself; this began a long tradition of Fire Nation monarchy deifying themselves. The Fire Nation Royal

85 "Air Nomad Genocide." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Air_Nomad_Genocide

86 "Aang." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Aang>

87 "Air Nomad Genocide." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 24, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Air_Nomad_Genocide

88 "Fire Nation." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 25, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Fire_Nation

89 Ibid.

90 "Sozin." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

<https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Sozin>

91 Ibid.

Palace became elysian in this manner, and Fire Nation citizens were also socially elevated to some exalted social class. This soon led to discrimination between mainland Fire Nation citizens and those who lived in Earth Kingdom colonies. Moreover, it led to discrimination between Fire Nation citizens and those who originally inhabited the Earth Kingdom; the former perceived the latter as barbaric to them in comparison.⁹²

Sozin's son Azulon became Fire Lord after his father's death. Azulon continued Sozin's imperialist endeavors. The Fire Nation built a global empire, using the resources of conquered lands and the labor of subjugated peoples to continue the war effort. The racist ideology that Fire Nation citizens were inherently better than the rest of the world continued to promulgate.⁹³

Azulon's successor, Fire Lord Ozai, continued this process of expansion and militarization. Under Ozai, the Avatar reemerged after a century of being dormant. The Avatar's intervention eventually led to the Fire Nation's defeat and Ozai's deposition in favor of his son, Zuko, officially ending the Hundred Year War.⁹⁴

The Fire Nation military is composed of the army, a highly skilled unit of archers called the Yuyan Archers, an elite navy, and the first country of the world with an established air force, consisting of war balloons and airships.⁹⁵ The Fire Nation was heavily engaged in industry during the war

to support his military, relying on shipbuilding, metalworking, and manufacturing weapons.⁹⁶

Unlike the other elemental bending arts, firebenders are able to produce their own fire to bend.

Firebenders derive this ability from solar energy. Indeed, due to its solar augmentation, firebending is slightly stronger during the day; firebending is dramatically enhanced when extraterrestrial heat sources come closer to the earth than the sun, such as during Sozin's comet. *Lightningbending* is a sub-skill of firebending, in which the performer is able to redirect and manipulate lightning.⁹⁷

Historical Background

Before the War

Before the beginning of the Hundred Years War, in 25 BG, Sozin began his quest to unite the world under Fire Nation Domination

Sozin successfully invaded and occupied Earth Kingdom territories and transferred Fire Nation citizens to these areas. The Avatar discovered Sozin's imperialist efforts, and swiftly defeated him, though he spared his life. However, Avatar Roku died in 12 BG, and Sozin was free to carry out his desires for world domination. More land began to be occupied by the Fire Nation, and more colonies were formed.⁹⁸

92 "Fire Nation Colonies." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Fire_Nation_Colonies

93 "Azulon." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. <https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Azulon>

94 "Ozai." Avatar. Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. <https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Ozai>

95 "Military of the Fire Nation." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Military_of_the_Fire_Nation

96 "Fire Nation." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 25, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Fire_Nation

97 "Firebending." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 25, 2019. <https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Firebending>

98 "Fire Nation Colonies." Avatar Wiki. Accessed June 10, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Fire_Nation_colonies

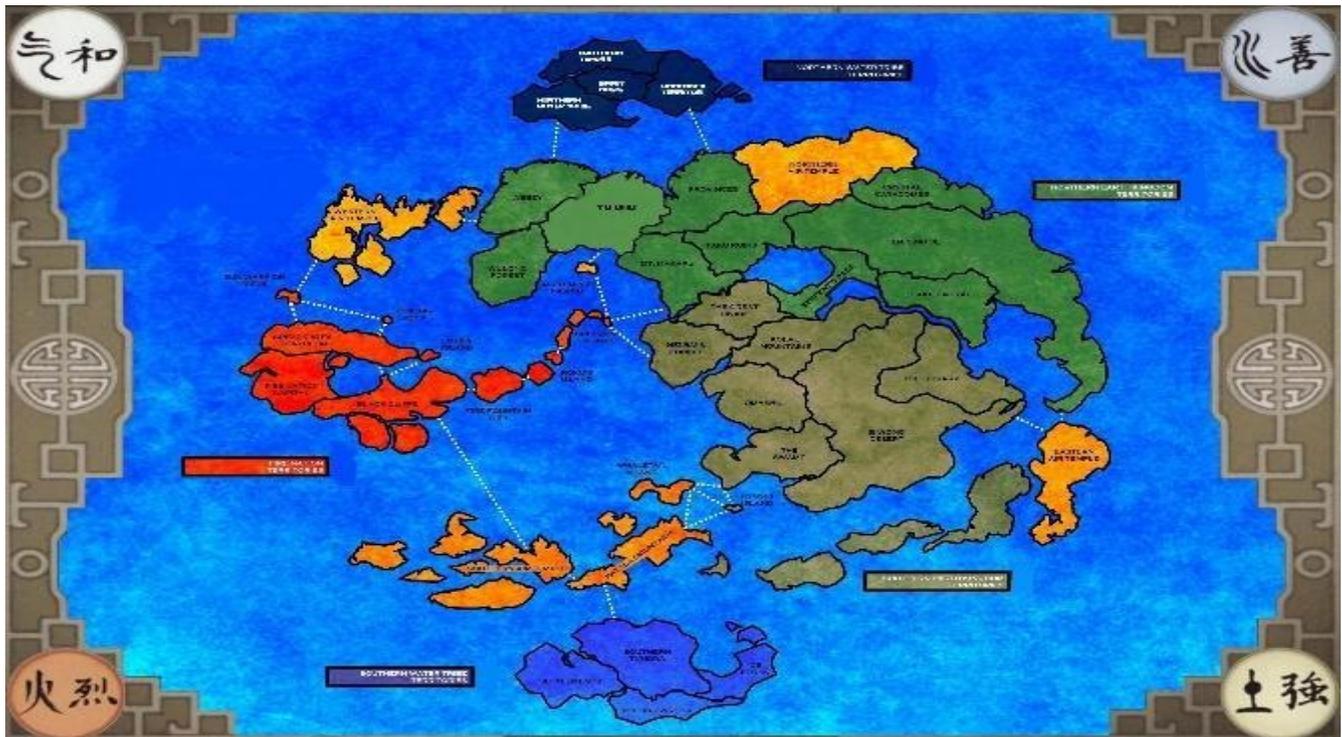


Figure 2: Detailed map of four nations and their territories

The War

As discussed, the war was initiated by Fire Lord Sozin, who wished to create the most successful empire in history, as discussed.

After Avatar Roku's death, the new incarnation of the Avatar had been missing for the entirety of the war. His disappearance allowed the Fire Nation to assert their rule over the world. In fact, the Air Nomad Genocide was initiated by Sozin to eradicate the Avatar from the world and end the Avatar Cycle.

Immediately after the Air Nomad Genocide, Sozin continued his invasive efforts in the Earth Kingdom. Indeed, he established even more colonies across the expansive empire, as a result of aggressive efforts by the Fire Nation to populate these areas. These colonies became prosperous settlements, as many Fire Nation citizens

were encouraged to live in these new colonial conquests.

Like most of the population in the mainland, these Fire Nation citizens were also inundated with propaganda by the Fire Nation government and supported the war effort through the supplement of food and war supplies.⁹⁹

By 99 AG, the Fire Nation had effectively eradicated the Air Nomads, virtually annihilated the Southern Water Tribe, and controlled almost the entirety of the Earth Kingdom, to the point of near victory.¹⁰⁰

Recent State of Affairs

The End of the War

After Avatar Roku died, the Avatar was reincarnated as an Air Nomad from the Southern Air Temple named Aang. The Council of Elders in the temple revealed to

99 "Fire Nation Colonies." Avatar Wiki. Accessed June 10, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Fire_Nation_colonies

100 "Hundred Year War." Avatar Wiki. Accessed June 10, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Hundred_Year_War

Aang his Avatar identity at 12, and his airbending training was subsequently intensified.

According to the Council, Aang was to complete his airbending training at the Eastern Air Temple. However, this would mean having to leave behind his master and father-figure Monk Gyatso, whom Aang had cultivated a very deep and personal relationship with. Aang, in a moment of anguish, fled the Eastern Air Temple, along with his flying bison, Appa.¹⁰¹ Both accidentally got caught up in a storm and crashed at sea; while sinking, Aang entered the Avatar state, and was in suspended animation for nearly a century – during the entirety of the Hundred Year War.

In 99 AG, the Avatar freed himself from the iceberg, and was discovered by two members of the Southern Water Tribe – Katara and Sokka. Aang slowly learned about the Air Nomad genocide perpetrated by the Fire Nation, and its quest for world domination. He realized he must fulfill his Avatarial destiny and restore balance to the Four Nations.¹⁰²

Aang then traveled the world and mastered the three remaining elements: water, earth and fire. Katara, the last waterbender of the Southern Tribe, was also interested in mastering her element. Katara and Sokka went with Aang to the North Pole in search of a waterbending teacher.

Prince Zuko, son of Fire Lord Ozai, had been banished from the Fire Nation for disrespecting his father. At the young, ripe age of thirteen, Zuko had earnestly requested his father that he join a war meeting between Iroh and some of his generals.

Ozai agreed, under the condition that Zuko remain silent throughout the meeting. Despite this, Zuko, hotheaded and passionate, indignantly expressed disapproval of a war general's plan. His outburst, though out of a place of love for the Fire Nation – and indeed, an early sign of Zuko's affinity and skill for leadership – was perceived as an insult nonetheless by Ozai. The then-Fire Lord burned Zuko's face and permanently scarred his left eye and cheek; he banished Zuko from the Fire Nation, and sent him on the then-fool's errand of capturing the Avatar¹⁰³ – Ozai did not know, merely a few years later, how advantageous it would be to have his son searching for Aang.

After his banishment, Zuko spent the next two years at sea, fruitlessly searching for the Avatar in order to restore his lost honor. While Zuko scoured the world, his Uncle Iroh accompanied and supported him during his exile and taught him firebending. Zuko found out when Aang reemerged from the iceberg and began pursuing him around the world.

In his journey to the North Pole, Aang discovered from the spirit of Avatar Roku that Sozin's Comet, what Fire Lord Sozin has used as a power supply to start the Hundred Year War, will return in the coming summer, giving the Fire Nation enough power to ultimately accomplish victory and take over the world. Aang's initial goal to defeat the Fire Nation suddenly had a due date: he must have mastered all four elements and end the war before the arrival of Sozin's Comet.¹⁰⁴

After leaving the North Pole and mastering waterbending from his teacher, Master Pakku, Aang, Katara and Sokka

¹⁰¹ "Air Nomads." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Air_Nomads

¹⁰² "Hundred Year War." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Hundred_Year_War

¹⁰³ "Zuko." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. <https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Zuko>

¹⁰⁴ "Book One: Water." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 26, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Book_One:_Water

travelled to the Earth Kingdom so the Avatar could master earthbending. In a young, blind, and rather brash, earthbender, they found an earthbending master in Toph Beifong.¹⁰⁵ Together, the group constituted Team Avatar, the name later given to Aang and his companions as they travelled around the world, searching for bending masters and help in ending the war. One pivotal piece of information they gleaned during their travels was about the existence of an incoming solar eclipse, which would shadow the sun, and leave all firebenders powerless.

However, given the *Conspiracy of Ba Sing Se*, Team Avatar struggled to reach the Earth King with this vital information. Indeed, Long Feng suppressed any attempts the group made to inform King Kuei of the war, much less plans to end it. Despite Long Feng's efforts, Team Avatar was able to reveal to him the truth about, not only the war occurring outside the walls of Ba Sing Se, but the internal conflict between Earth King monarchy and bureaucracy.¹⁰⁶

Zuko and Iroh had followed the group to Ba Sing Se. Concurrently, Princess Azula of the Fire Nation, daughter of Fire Lord Ozai and brother of Prince Zuko, began orchestrating a coup against King Kuei. She infiltrated the Earth Kingdom capital with her allies, Mai and Ty Lee, and soon began collaborating with Long Feng and the Dai Li to overthrow the Earth King and the Council of Five. She later betrayed Long Feng to secure Ba Sing Se for the Fire Nation. Azula then defeated Team Avatar with the help of her brother, Zuko. Indeed, in the awesome

battle between these Fire Nation siblings and the Avatar resulted in lightning striking the Avatar's back; Aang was rendered deceased. With that, the Earth Kingdom had officially fallen.^{107 108 109} The world had thought that the Avatar was slain by Azula and her brother, even though Aang, in reality, survived; Katara used unique water with special healing properties to revive Aang.

Zuko, purported to have slain the Avatar, was welcomed back into the Fire Nation with open arms. However, Zuko was in an internal conflict with his own self-identity. The approval of his father, Ozai, something he had desperately sought for in his earlier years, did not allay his struggle with his own sense of morality.¹¹⁰

Nevertheless, Team Avatar recovered from the fall of Ba Sing Se and orchestrated a plan to invade the Fire Nation on the day of the solar eclipse: on The Day of Black Sun. They, at this time, had the element of surprise, for the world though the Avatar was no more.¹¹¹

Team Avatar was able to organize a group of seemingly random allies, each with their own particular set of skills. On the Day of Black Sun, this newly organized pseudo-army invaded the Fire Nation capital. Because the solar eclipse would only be in full effect for eight minutes, Team Avatar decided to invade the Fire Nation directly prior, so Fire Lord Ozai would be powerless when Aang was to defeat him. However, Fire Lord Ozai fled the Fire Nation, and

¹⁰⁵ "Toph Beifong." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Toph_Beifong

¹⁰⁶ Avatar: The Last Airbender. "City of Walls and Secrets." Season 2, Episode 14. Directed by Lauren MacMullan. Written by Tim Hedrick. Nickelodeon. November 9, 2007.

¹⁰⁷ "Coup of Ba Sing Se." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 26, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Coup_of_Ba_Sing_Se

¹⁰⁸ "Book Two: Earth." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 26, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Book_Two:_Earth

¹⁰⁹ Avatar: The Last Airbender. "The Crossroads of Destiny." Season 2, Episode 20. Directed by Michael Dante DiMartino. Written by Aaron Ehasz. Nickelodeon. December 1, 2006.

¹¹⁰ Avatar: The Last Airbender. "Nightmares and Daydreams." Season 3, Episode 9. Directed by Ethan Spaulding. Written by John O'Bryan. Nickelodeon. November 16, 2007.

¹¹¹ Avatar: The Last Airbender. "The Awakening." Season 3, Episode 1. Directed by Giancarlo Volpe. Written by Michael Dante DiMartino. Nickelodeon. November 30, 2007.

abandoned his Palace at the time of the invasion.¹¹²

The invasion of the Day of Black Sun was a failure.¹¹³ Team Avatar retreated to the Western Air Temple for safety, but they were strangely, followed by Zuko.¹¹⁴ Zuko decided to defect from the Fire Nation and help Avatar master firebending – he had finally chosen to side with peace rather than destruction. The group accepted Zuko into Team Avatar after only little trepidation.¹¹⁵

Zuko revealed to the group Fire Lord Ozai's next plan. He told them of the day before the eclipse when he attended a war meeting. The generals in the meeting discussed rebellions inside the Earth Kingdom that must be stopped. Zuko had explained in the meeting that the people of the Earth Kingdom are strong and proud, and capable of enduring everything as long as they have hope. Ozai, cunning and evil, took this to mean he should destroy the Earth Kingdom's hope, and eradicate them in the same manner the Air Nomads were eradicated.¹¹⁶ Ozai decided to use the power of the comet to permanently crush the Earth Kingdom, just as Sozin used its power to wipe out the Air Nomads a century prior. With this last piece of resistance gone, he could have ruled the world unopposed.¹¹⁷

Zuko concluded that Aang would have no choice but to defeat Ozai before the comet came if he wanted to save the world,

otherwise there would not have been a world to save.¹¹⁸ On the day of Sozin's Comet, Ozai led a Fire Nation airship armada to destroy the Earth Kingdom, but was confronted by Team Avatar. Members of Team Avatar destroyed the armada, while Aang defeated Ozai at the epic Battle of Wulong Forest. Aang, having learned energybending in a spiritual reverie days prior, stripped Ozai of his firebending. Ozai's defeat decidedly ended the Hundred Year War; he was arrested and imprisoned for crimes against the world. After Ozai's removal from the throne, Zuko was subsequently crowned Fire Lord.

Upon ascending the throne, Fire Lord Zuko officially declared the Hundred Year War over.^{119 120 121} Zuko and Aang believe, now, that removing Fire Nation presence from the Earth Kingdom is the only way to restore harmony for the four nations. But this is compounded with several difficulties, as described in the next section.

Today

"Today this war is finally over! I promised my uncle that I would restore the honor of the Fire Nation. And I will. The road ahead of us is challenging. A hundred years of fighting has left the world scarred and divided. But with the Avatar's help, we can get it back on the right path and begin a new era of love and peace." - Fire Lord Zuko¹²²

112 "The Day of Black Sun, Part 1: The Invasion." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 26, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/The_Day_of_Black_Sun,_Part_1:_The_Invasion

113 Avatar: The Last Airbender. "The Day of Black Sun, Part 1: The Invasion." Season 3, Episode 10. Directed by Joaquim Dos Santos. Written by Michael Dante DiMartino. Nickelodeon. November 9, 2007.

114 "The Day of Black Sun, Part 2: The Eclipse." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 26, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/The_Day_of_Black_Sun,_Part_2:_The_Eclipse

115 Avatar: The Last Airbender. "The Western Air Temple." Season 3, Episode 12. Directed by Ethan Spaulding. Written by Elizabeth Welch Ehasz and Tim Hedrick. Nickelodeon. December 14, 2007.

116 Avatar: the Last Airbender. "Sozin's Comet: Part 1: The Phoenix King." Season 3, Episode 18. Directed by Ethan Spaulding. Written by Michael Dante DiMartino. July 19, 2008

117Ibid.

118 Ibid.

119 "Battle at Wulong Forest." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 26, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Battle_at_Wulong_Forest

120 "Sozin's Comet, Part 4: Avatar Aang." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 26, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Sozin%27s_Comet,_Part_4:_Avatar_Aang

121 "Book Three: Fire." Avatar Wiki. Accessed July 26, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Book_Three:_Fire

122 "Transcript: Sozin's Comet: Part 4, Avatar Aang." Avatar Wiki. Accessed June 12, 2019.

In this new era of love and peace, the world still yet faces new challenges. And the Fire Nation colonies are a source of many of those challenges; conflict between the Fire Nation proper, Fire Nation colonials and Earth Kingdom citizens threatens not only war between the two populations, but a civil war within the Fire Nation itself.

Indeed, Fire Nation colonials were often disdained by citizens from the Fire Nation archipelago. Their culture was still similar to that of their homeland – celebrating traditional festivals and consuming customary cuisine – but they tended to be a slightly more progressive people, engaged in freedom of expression and dance. Despite these liberties, they were often unhappy with the state of their lives, as they lived in the Earth Kingdom, torn apart by gang violence and militia rule; because of those liberties, they were seen as inferior by citizens in the Fire Nation proper.

Earth Kingdom citizens were treated as even lower-class citizens. Fire Nation colonials would take advantage of the fruitful Earth Kingdom, and deprive the indigenous people of their resources, often making them work on their behalf.

Because of this, there was a vast wealth inequity among the Earth Kingdom populations. In colonies like Yu Dao, the social divide between the two groups was even more widespread.

However, in the older colonies, these social divisions aren't as apparent. Over time, the union between Fire Nation settlers and natives became natural, giving rise to a new generation of mixed-race folk. People from different races often worked together in hopes of becoming more productive, and this lent to the formation of entire lineages made up of people of different origins.

Rather than belonging to Fire Nation, or to Earth Kingdom, these people make up an entirely new culture.¹²³

Still yet, Fire Nation citizens, subject to a century's worth of propaganda, have adopted a racist and jingoistic ideology. Indeed, those who are strongly pro-world-peace, like Fire Lord Zuko, are a minority within a majority who has believed that the Fire Nation is the supreme nation in the world for the last 100 years. Different attitudes towards the entire world, let alone the Earth Kingdom, will shape global policy moving forward.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Transcript:Sozin%27s_Comet,_Part_4:_Avatar_Aang

¹²³ "Fire Nation Colonies." Avatar Wiki. Accessed June 17, 2019. https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Fire_Nation_colonies

Questions to Consider

1. *How are the divisions between Fire Nation colonials and Earth Kingdom natives to be repaired?*

A possible war between the Earth Kingdom and the Fire Nation is on the horizon as tensions grow between these two communities. How are we to avoid conflict between a group of people who have been oppressed for nearly a century and their oppressors? How do we remove Fire Nation colonials from the colonies, if it is the only home they've ever known?

2. *How do the older colonies fit into the world's post-war landscape?*

The war brought a century's worth of destruction along with it. But it also brought on a century's worth of creation. Indeed, the war, what began as Sozin's lust for power has now fecundated the union between once two separate people. The Four Nations are no longer only four. How are these colonies to fare, and what lessons can the new world order learn from them?

3. *How is citizenship to be determined for mixed-race families?*

It will be insufficient to simply assign nationality based on bending ability. First off, many individuals do not possess bending abilities in the first place. Second, even if they do, their bending ability may not reflect their cultural ties and identities. Is it possible for Fire Nation colonials to gain citizenship in the Earth Kingdom and vice versa?

4. *How are the divisions between Fire Nation citizens and colonials to be repaired?*

The Fire Nation has a rich and beautiful heritage of fiery food, explosive dancing, and elegant architecture. However, the last century has made citizens in the Fire Nation radically conservative, unlike their colonial counterparts. These cultural divides, along with the abundance of those politically aligned with former Fire Lord Ozai, threaten peace within the Fire Nation itself. How can this committee stave off more war in the face of such schisms?

5. *How can the Earth Kingdom monarchs better govern the vast territory collectively?*

Clearly, King Bumi and King Kuei had had little if any communication, for Bumi was aware of the War, while Kuei was not. While the Dai Li was largely responsible for Kuei's ignorance, it is still unacceptable that the two monarchs were so isolated from each other. This reflects poorly on the Earth Kingdom's governance. Is the Earth Kingdom's confederate monarchic structure fundamentally flawed? How can the two kings collaborate more closely to present a united front against any future external or internal threat?

Conclusion

The world has suffered enormously in the past century, and the scars inflicted will not fade away anytime soon. However, steps can be taken to lessen the pain and chart a new, peaceful future. The Earth Kingdom natives and Fire Nation colonials alike have been on the frontlines of the conflict between their respective states. While battling using elemental bending may have been how scores were settled in the past, this is a conflict that cannot be settled through more violence. Only through legislation, alliances, and meaningful, thought-provoking debate, can justice be awarded to those who have suffered in the last century. It is up to the committee to ensure that the land that was taken unlawfully by the Fire Nation is restored to the Earth Kingdom. At the same time, the committee consider the rights of the Fire Nation colonials, many of whom were born and raised in the Earth Kingdom territory.

Additionally, the committee must keep in mind the existence of mixed-nation families, who are caught in the middle of this conflict. While the Fire Nation and Earth Kingdom may have been absolute enemies in the past, this committee must ensure that the solution to the land issue is fair for both parties and promotes peace rather than hatred.



Topic B: *Restoring Peace to the World*

Introduction

Although the immediate matter to address after the end of the war is how to deal with Fire Nation presence in the Earth Kingdom, there still remains the question of how the Fire Nation is to restore peace to the world, after over a century of ruining its balance. While removing colonies from the Earth Kingdom territories may provide a pathway for peace with the Earth Kingdom, peace with the Water Tribes and Air Nation will not be so straightforward. Additionally, the Hundred Years War has created and exposed internal divisions and conflicts within each elemental nation. These wounds must too be mended, for there cannot be peace between the four nations if there is not peace within each individual nation.

Fire Nation and the Water Tribes

Southern Water Tribe Raids

Historically, the Southern Water Tribe is weaker in terms of its military, economy, and technology compared to its sister tribe in the North. This is because the Southern Water tribe was founded at a much later time period than the Northern Water tribe, from a group of separatists originally from the Northern Water Tribe. Furthermore, the Southern Water Tribe was split amongst different tribal groups,

making it quite lacking in political cohesion.¹²⁴

All these factors including the geographical isolation of the Southern Water tribe made the Fire nation conclude that it was not strategically important to the Fire nation as it had limited resources and only a small population. Fire Lord Azulon devised the strategy of concentrating Fire Nation efforts in the Southern Water Tribe to eliminate only waterbenders in order to prevent them from joining the resistance in the Earth Kingdom.¹²⁵

Thus began a decades long effort by the fire nation to send a number of naval forces to eliminate waterbenders in the Southern Water Tribe. The first raids began in 40 AG and occurred on an ordinary day in the Southern Water Tribe. The raids happened when no attacks could have been anticipated by the local population. Regardless, the waterbenders and warriors of the Southern Water Tribe put a vigilant fight against the firebenders. Slowly but surely however, the fire nations' raids greatly diminished the number of waterbenders in the Southern Water Tribe.¹²⁶

Eventually the Fire Nation decided to dedicate a special task force, the Southern Raiders, to eliminate the last waterbenders of the Southern Water Tribe. Ultimately, all the waterbenders were either killed or captured by the Southern Raiders, eventually leading the Southern Water Tribe

124 "Southern Water Tribe Raids." Avatar Wiki. Accessed November 16, 2019.
https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Southern_Water_Tribe_raids

125 Ibid.

126 Ibid.

to ruins. For many years after the last remaining waterbender was captured by the Southern Raiders, the defenses of the tribe were left to the nonbenders.¹²⁷

During this period they barely controlled their water territory, which was patrolled by Fire Nation raiders. It was only until Katara was born to Hakoda and Kya that the Southern Water Tribe had a waterbender again. The Southern Raiders' final raid in 94 AG was meant to kill the only waterbender left in the Southern Water Tribe. Fully aware that Kya could not surrender her daughter, she chose to turn herself in. This led to her death as Yon Rha, the leaders of the raid at the time, did not take any prisoners. It is also important to note that apart from devastating the Southern Water Tribe militaristically and socio-politically, the effects of the fire nation raids destroyed much of the culture and spiritual energy in the Southern Water Tribe.¹²⁸

This caused the disappearance of the southern lights, something that would continue long after the conclusion of the Hundred Year War. The southern lights are peaceful spirits that illuminate the night with beautiful streaks of violet and azure.¹²⁹

Siege of the North

The Fire Nation Navy invaded the gates of the Northern Water Tribe under suspicion that it was keeping the Avatar refuge. The *Siege of the North* describes the epic battle between the Northern Water Tribe and the Fire Nation, the latter forces led by Chief Arnook and the Avatar himself.

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The Northern Water Tribe, though enduring many casualties, was inspired to begin a reunification project that sent waterbenders to the Southern Water Tribe, in an effort to heal the divide between itself and its sister tribe.^{131 132}

Division Between Sister Tribes

Despite the Northern Tribe's assistance in rebuilding the Southern Tribe, the latter still remains far less urbanized and technologically advanced than the former. In light of the Hundred Years War, the Northern Water Tribe had isolated themselves from the world; they had maintained their large infrastructure, stockpile of weapons, and well-trained military. However, despite how advanced the Northern Water Tribe is, their treatment of women is still archaic.

The tribe's laws prohibit women from learning waterbending outside of healing purposes, which means the tribe effectively halves the number of potential warriors it could have. Indeed, Katara was the first woman to be trained in martial waterbending in the North. Although her tutelage under Master Pakku was groundbreaking, centuries of rigid gender roles remain strong. Additionally, women are often forced into arranged marriages. Labor divisions in the North are largely based on gender; men work as hunters, fishermen, teachers, or warriors, while women are relegated to a sphere of domesticity, serving as homemakers or healers.

127 Ibid.

128 Ibid.

129 "Southern Lights." Avatar Wiki. Accessed October 28, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/The_Southern_Lights

130 "Siege of the North." Avatar Wiki. Accessed August 7, 2019.

https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Siege_of_the_North

131 Avatar: The Last Airbender. "The Siege of the North, Part 1." Season 1, Episode 19. Directed by Dave Filoni. Written by Aaron Ehasz. Nickelodeon. December 2, 2005.

132 Avatar: The Last Airbender. "The Siege of the North, Part 2." Season 1, Episode 20. Directed by Dave Filoni. Written by Aaron Ehasz. Nickelodeon. December 2, 2005.

Before the war, the Northern Chief ruled over both divisions of the Water Tribe. However, the Southern Water Tribe had its own sort of autonomous government; the Northern Chief had been mostly a figurehead for the South, carrying out mostly ceremonial duties. This arrangement broke down when the Hundred Year War began, and the two sister tribes became estranged, but now, as part of the North's rebuilding efforts in the South, the Chief of the Northern Tribe has begun to gain political power in the Southern Water Tribe. Reports of increased tensions between the two tribes have surfaced as the Northern Chief starts to impose more regulations and exert more direct control over the governance of the South.

Fire Nation and the Air Nomads

The Aftermath of Genocide

The Air Nomad genocide officially began the war in 0 AG - Fire Nation ambushed the Western Air Temple and eradicated an entire race of people - all for the sole purpose of killing the next Avatar. The Air Nomads, a people with a rich and spiritual culture, are now forever lost from the world - even their temples have been ravaged by the Fire Nation and used as weapon armories.

Many in the world are unaware that the Air Nomads even existed, and those who do often believe they are simply a false legend. Worse yet, Fire Nation citizens believe that the Air Nomads were not pacifists, but had engaged in war with the Fire Nation, justifying their demise.

Questions to Consider

1. *How is the Fire Nation to repair its relationship with the Water Tribes?*

If the world is to be set onto a path for peace and harmony, how is the Fire Nation to right its wrongs against the Fire Nation? Does the Fire Nation *owe* anything to the Water Tribes – do imperialists *owe* anything to the people they victimized in their quest for power? If so, what?

2. *How is the Southern Water Tribe to preserve its autonomy?*

The Northern Water Tribe is increasing its influence in the south through its rebuilding efforts. If rumors of increasing Northern influence ring true, the south will have lost not only its heritage and rich waterbending culture to the Fire Nation, but its autonomy to the Northern Water Tribe. How can the new world order mediate conflicts within nations?

3. *Is there any way for the Fire Nation to rectify its genocide?*

What is the correct course of action for a nation that has committed grave human rights violations in the past, but is now endowed with a leader interested in peace and harmony? Should the Fire Nation even be allowed to play a role as a peacemaker given its bloody past? How do we *prevent* such injustices from ever occurring again?

4. *Should other nations condemn the Northern Water Tribe for its treatment of women?*

If we, as a committee, prioritize the balance between nations, should we also consider balance between genders? If so, how are other nations to balance promoting equality with respecting cultural norms and traditions?

5. *How can greater understanding and cross-cultural exchange be fostered?*

Most Earth Kingdom and Water Tribe citizens know only of firebenders as bloodthirsty, ruthless conquerors. Most Fire Nation citizens know nothing about the Air Nomads. Meanwhile, mixed families have overcome their respective states' politics and created new lives together. Is cross-cultural interaction key to changing hearts and minds? If so, how can this committee promote it?

Conclusion

Upon considering how the world has become so fractured in the past century, it is clear that the only way for this committee is to enact change is through *unilateral action*. Indeed, operating as four discrete nations may have been the makeup of the globe before, but if we are to accomplish anything as a committee, there is an argument to be made for creation of a new standing *singular* organization, dedicated to fostering international cooperation, providing security for its members, and ensuring lasting peace. Furthermore, this organization cannot be a mere figurehead. The organization must have teeth, meaning it must be able to enforce agreements drafted up between individual nations, reward those who promote peace in the world, and punish those who threaten it. Important questions surrounding the balance between sovereignty and multilateralism, the representation within said organization, and the issues under its purview remain. Should the committee decide to create an international body, the committee must hammer out these details, lest history is to repeat itself.

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