

AVATAR- THE HUNDRED YEAR'S WAR

Background Guide for the Avatar – Hundred Year's War Crisis simulation.

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Introduction:

In the past, four separate nations coexisted peacefully relying upon trade, skill specialization, and transparency in order to solve any problems that arose to face the populace. These separate nations were named after the elements that their nation was most adept at bending and maneuvering. However, not all people were gifted equally, as these nations of Fire, Air, Water, and Earth possess individuals of two types: those who could “bend” the nation’s element, and those who could not. In a perfect world, these groups of people would be able to live in harmony relying on strengths of one group to fill in for the weaknesses in another. However, as has been observed in history, groups of people with special abilities or larger numbers always attempt to establish dominance over minorities in a tyrannical fashion. Following this trend, each nation mentioned has established hierarchies of power distribution. Again, as seen in history, the common problems of corruption, genocide, treason, and wars arose within and between their borders. In order to curtail these larger global issues, a separate entity known as the avatar existed. This avatar not only provided power balance to these nations in the material world, but also acted as a bridge to the spiritual world to maintain peace between the two parallel worlds. The avatar was so vital to harmony that their air bending training period of 12 years was enough to have tensions between nations boil over and culminate in the genocide of the Air Nation by the fire nation in 0 AG. However, the Avatar escaped and has not been sighted for over 5 years. The routing of the air nation was not enough for the fire nation and they embarked on a journey for world dominance. With the disappearance of the avatar, the only real obstacle that stood in their way was the Earth Kingdom.



Map of the Earth Kingdom

Background:

The Earth Kingdom was, and still to this day, not a united front. The vastness of the nation led to numerous warring factions over the previous centuries. Local autonomous areas and conflicts over land and power have led to numerous ethnic clashes in the past. As such, the Earth Kingdom as a whole is a very decentralized power with the King playing a smaller and smaller role as the years went on. Earthbending as a skill is possessed by approximately 20 percent of the Earth kingdom citizens, something of which The Fire nation is cognizant of and has used it in their war for their own benefit. However, the people of the Earth Kingdom are obstinate, proud, and strong individuals with rock hard will powers.

Geographical History:

The northeastern portion of the kingdom began as a mining location where crystals and metals were extracted and traded. Small establishments grew around these mines and combined to become the great city of Ba Sing Se above the abandoned mines and catacombs. Ba Sing Se is strategically placed in the center of a great ring of mountainous walls. To the south of the great city sit the Taihua mountains, known and feared globally for their ferocious blizzards. Ba Sing Se is currently divided into three rings: the lower, middle, and upper. These concentric rings surround the palace of the Earth King and illustrate ascending prosperity from out to in. The outer ring is dredged in poverty and full of refugees. The middle ring contains mildly successful merchants selling almost any goods, lower level bureaucrats, and soldiers. The upper ring contains dignitaries, generals, extended royal family, special guests (diplomats), etc. Walls separate the 3 rings and are under constant watch. There is little to no upward motion of people through social classes, and it is illegal to go into a ring you are not suited for. The outermost wall is an impregnable shield for the city. The city and walls are guarded day in and out by the army of the earth kingdom and the secret police (the Dai Li) . Currently, the 51st Earth King sits on the throne of the Earth Kingdom and controls the Dai Li and the Earth Kingdom army. He has yet to sire an heir, threatening to cause a succession crisis should ill befall the King. However, he loves his queen and hopes to have an heir over the coming years. Additionally, the Earth King has a soft spot for wildlife, since he has never been past the palace walls.

In the west, the city of Omashu which leads the kingdom both in technology and military capacity of the Earth Kingdom. The city was established on behalf of 2 lovers forbidden from one another. A war divided their people and a mountain divided them apart, they built a path to be together via secret tunnels. These secret tunnels came about after they

learned earth bending from badgermoles in the area. One day, the man did not arrive at the tunnel because he was killed in the war. The woman went into a rage and almost destroyed both towns, but using her power and her newfound influence, she decided to build a new town on the mountain that divided their people. The town was named after the two lovers: Oma and Shu. Omashu is known for its rare crystals and elegant transportation system.

Another city of note is the city of Lady Tienhai, which was especially rich compared to other states within the kingdom. As a result of their alliance with Avatar Yangchen in the past, they were able to coexist in peace with neighboring states and profit tremendously in the era of peaceful trade.

The southern portion of the Earth Kingdom is consumed by the Si Wong Desert, home to sandbenders, and other mysterious locations such as an ancient library not seen in living history, a misty palms oasis among other creatures and treasures. The states further south of Si Wong hold more autonomy from the Earth Kingdom compared to the northern states. The state of Zaofu, Kyoshi Islands, and Chin hold almost complete autonomy but face constant threats from one another as well as the fifth nation, which is a war tribe. The fifth nation exists between the southern tip of the earth kingdom and the southern water tribe. The fifth nation shared an alliance previously with avatar Yanchen before being almost completely wiped out by avatar Kyoshi. Recently, they have come back as pirates seeking revenge on these southern states, home of avatar Kyoshi.

Political History:

The history of the Earth Kingdom is marred by the rise and fall of Kings and empires through bloody and often unnecessary conflict. The first line of Monarchs to rule the Earth Kingdom rose from the Hao dynasty. Their dynasty, however, was unable to establish full

dominance on the Earth Kingdom and ended up allowing autonomous rule with confederate monarchy systems established in each state within the Earth Kingdom. This confederate monarchy system led to the rise of private armies in each state and of complex networks of alliances which shifted on a ruler's whim. In the midst of all of the political chaos, outlaw groups, known as Daofei, became the mercenaries paid by citizens and rulers alike to complete nasty often illegal jobs. The Daofei were a grouping of numerous groups, held together by the monarchies' inability to centralize and common goal of being swords for hire. To counteract this threat, the Bhanti pledged themselves to civil service on behalf of the Earth Kingdom and dispersed throughout the lands. They served as advisors and sages to local leaders attempting to keep peace and advocate for discussion over violence.

Avatar Kyoshi' lifetime spanned one of the most dynamic timelines in Earth Kingdom history. During her early years before she was recognized as the avatar, the Yellow Neck uprising occurred. The Yellowneck Uprising came about as a result of political unrest from the splintering nation states. The Daofei



Avatar Kyoshi Statue on Kyoshi Island.
https://avatar.fandom.com/wiki/Kyoshi?file=Avatar_Kyoshi_statue.png

saw a power vacuum and sought alliances with poor civilians in order to overthrow the Earth Kingdom. It did not help that the Earth Kingdom left its rural regions undefended as the central authority sunk into corruption. There were numerous backdoor deals between the warlords and the Daofei which further undermined the government's claim to power. During the Yellowneck Uprising, the rebels succeeded in developing national networks among themselves, winning immense support from civilians, and taking over the rural areas of the

nation. The Daofei group known as the Flying Opera Company became the most famous, eventually reaching the power to influence decisions made by the Earth Kingdom advisors through the growing corruption within the palace. Coinciding with this event, the non-benders began to suffer under discrimination and relegated to second-class citizens of their kingdom. As a result, many non benders broke off their state loyalties and joined cultist sects, such as the Kang Shen sect. These sects threatened open rebellion against the Earth Kingdom, ultimately taking out numerous generals throughout the Earth Kingdom through ambushes and guerrilla warfare. The uprising was only stopped when Kyoshi's teacher Jianzhu destroyed the Yellow Necks by burring millions under the northern mountain ranges. He unified the states and used his political acumen to maintain his position as the true leader of the Earth Kingdom.

After Jianzhu's death at the hands of the false avatar Yun, the 46th earth king attempted to take back his kingdom under an absolute monarchy. However, after years of oppression, the southern and western states led an uprising to oust him via a military campaign. Chin the Conqueror, of the Chin state, led this rebellion, and not only took over most of the Earth Kingdom, but also became the first Military General to conquer all of the Earth Kingdom. Avatar Kyoshi stepped in and in the act of killing Chin, created Kyoshi island. To maintain order and prevent another civil war, Kyoshi made the Dai Li and Kyoshi Warriors trusted individuals, responsible for keeping law and order throughout the Earth Kingdom. Chin's death brought an end to the rebellion and the nation soon fell into infighting. Following the subsequent peasant uprising in Ba Sing Se, Kyoshi made a new constitution for the Earth Kingdom, in which the King could not oppress the people through the Dai Li.

Although the Earth Kingdom largely fell back into its normal way of life afterwards, the ruling elite developed more tastes for leisure and gave up most of their political power to

a large national bureaucracy. The Bureaucracy, or civil service, became the savior to the Earth Kingdom. With new orders, they quickly ramped up their military and trade as a Kingdom, ensuring continued prosperity over the next century. There are army bases in every state of the Earth Kingdom loyal to the Earth King and the bureaucracy. The northern states became dependent upon export of rare crystals and materials from the mountain ranges. The middle of the Earth Kingdom enjoys great weather for farming and is considered the breadbasket of the world. The Peninsula in the east is a technological hub, focused on creating military equipment, clothes, toys, and other materials used in leisure. The southern states developed their fishing and raw material industries by mining ores and harvesting wood from the abundant forests present.

Directive:

However, the brief period of prosperity has ended. Firelord Sozin, determined to wipe out the air nation using a comet to fuel his power, also used the same occasion to launch simultaneous attacks on the northwestern territories of the earth kingdom. Completely unexpecting the attack, the territories of Chuli, Hong, and Gaipan fell to the fire nation. They intend to build up military power on these territories using the mines to fund their operations. They have already begun sowing discontent among your proud civilians and have begun making offers of money, safety, and fire nation support in exchange for technological innovations and treason. It is your job as members of the Bureaucracy and True leaders of the Earth Kingdom to defend against the oncoming fire nation invasion and protect your nation from both internal and external threats as they crop up.