



JCC

OPIUM WARS:
BRITISH
GOVERNMENT
TOPIC GUIDE

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Crisis Director

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Chairs

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Letters from the Crisis Director

Hello delegates,

My name is Michele Bilko, and I'll be your crisis director for this upcoming JCC. I directed the Adhoc last year and am so excited to see how this year's topic will play out. I'm a junior in the Academy for Technology and Computer Science at BCA. If AMUN is your first in person conference then, on behalf of everyone in backroom, we will try our best to make sure it lives up to your expectations. If it's your first crisis then congratulations for finally realizing how much better this is than the general assembly. I really want to see everyone utilise the backroom as creatively as possible, and the more chaotic your character arc is the better. That being said, do try to refrain from ruthlessly assassinating half of your committee.

Best of luck,

Michele Bilko, Crisis Director, JCC Opium Wars

micbil23@bergen.org

Letters from the Chairs

Hello delegates!

My name is Annie Li and I would like to start off by welcoming you to AMUN and congratulating you on getting this far in the topic guide, you still have a bit to go though. I am so excited to be one of your chairs for this JCC! I am a junior in ATCS and first encountered MUN in 7th grade. I am glad to have joined the MUN team in freshmen year because of all the fun experiences I've had and I hope to make and provide fun experiences in our conference. Outside of MUN, I enjoy reading, playing piano, hanging out with friends, photography and skateboarding! I cannot wait to meet everyone and, as the British say best of luck to everyone! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at annli23@bergen.org.

Good luck,

Annie Li

annli23@bergen.org

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Honorable Delegates,

I welcome you to the Opium Wars Joint Crisis Committee at the 23rd annual Academy Model United Nations Conference. Ahead lies a path of immersive and cutthroat historical exploration where you yourselves will make the decisions in conflicts that could affect much more than British history. I am honored to be chairing this committee. My name is Deb Boutom, and in addition to being a senior in the Academy for Medical Science Technology, I have been a member of BCA's Model United Nations club for more than two years. I became hooked near the end of my freshman year, and have been competing at, organizing, and chairing in conferences ever since.

I have much respect for dedicated and understanding delegates, as I know the Model United Nations community to be made up of. In this committee, we will be dealing with a government and corporate sponsored epidemic of drug addiction that crippled an entire nation. Because you represent officials and entrepreneurs of Great Britain, keep in mind that the repercussions of the real historical figures' actions are far-reaching and destructive. But I know that delegates who chose to be here did so because they care about history, and will do their best to tackle this with sensitivity and respect. I am so excited to see you all in person this year, presenting your best western business attire and executing your most genius crisis arcs yet. Rejoice! Should you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Deb Boutom

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Committee Mechanics

Introduction

As a (member of) this JCC committee, you can act in two ways (this may be getting out of hand): through directives or private actions (alternatively “crisis notes”). Some limitations of each will be discussed as they arise in later sections.

If you are not aware, directives are similar to resolutions in General Assembly (GA) committees, but lacking some of the frills. For this JCC committee, we will require that directives be sponsored by at least 3 delegates, with signatories being an optional feature. Directives may be moved directly to voting procedure after they are read, and a question/ answer period will not be mandatory. Seated in the foremost democracy in the world, we will require that directives have a simple majority to pass. Directives may compel delegates to take certain actions, e.g. allocating a portion of their fleet to a particular location.

Private actions, true to their name, are actions taken by a few delegates (maximum of 3) who write a note delivered directly to the chair. The contents of private actions will not be directly revealed to the committee at large. However, they will be considered in upcoming crisis updates. If there are any questions regarding directives and private actions the article [How to Write Crisis Notes \[8\]](#) is a wonderful source for beginners and seasoned delegates.

Historical Inaccuracies

The freeze date for this committee is September 2nd, 1834. While many of the important historical events leading up to 1834 will remain the same, the delegates have the opportunity to change history from the committee's freeze. Any events occurring after 1834 is subject change, dependent on the delegates actions through personal crisis notes and public directives.

Certain committees roles have been taken from a few years after the events of the committee. This is to add a diverse array of characters to create a robust committee environment.

Expectations

We expect each delegate to come to committee prepared with background information to strengthen your understanding of your position. Although this might not be entirely historically accurate, the Star Wars Canonical Universe is incredibly expansive, your imaginations and stretching of period technology will truly enhance your experience during this crisis. We have provided background information to start your journey into shaping the Opium Wars.

Prewriting of crisis notes and any subcategory public directives is strictly not allowed. Any delegate caught prewriting will be removed from consideration of awards.

We do, however, encourage the development of crisis arcs before coming to committee sessions. This is highly recommended as it will give both you and the backroom a sense of direction with your crisis notes-- leading hopefully to the success of your goals.

Finally, we very much want to emphasize that you have fun during committee! Talk to your fellow delegates and make friends, albeit unconventionally, and try to be creative with your arcs! There is no penalization for bad ideas so if you want pirate battles then your wish is my command...

Opium Wars:

British Government

Topic History

Start of the Opium Trade

Opium was introduced to the Chinese as a drug by Turkish and Arab traders in the late 6th or early 7th century CE for pain relief, however recreational smoking of it began in the late 1600s, and was supposedly introduced by the Dutch. It wasn't until much later that the drug took a toll on China's population and economy, when foreign powers began to import large amounts of the drug into China for personal gain. The British would get involved in 1773, and the British East India Company used their colonies in Bengal, India to cultivate the drug and sell it to China where they had a monopoly over the trade. [1]



Western countries first began importing opium into China to create a demand for Western goods. England and America consumed more Chinese goods than China consumed American and British goods, meaning that there was an imbalance in favor of China. Because of the imbalance, the British owed a lot of silver to the Chinese. Eventually, the British decided to increase Chinese dependence on their goods by [6]

exporting large quantities of opium to China, effectively poisoning a large part of the Chinese population while simultaneously placing the imbalance in their favor. Trading opium meant that China had to pay the British back with silver, which the country used in turn to buy more Chinese goods. [1]

British East India Company and Importation of Opium

The first wave of banning of the addictive drug occurred in 1729 by the ruling emperor, Emperor Yongzheng. He prohibited the sale and smoking of opium. However, this failed to hamper the trade and opened up a new corner of the black market. The British East India company played a significant role by using Indian territories to cultivate opium and smuggle it across the border to China. By 1787 over 4000 chests of opium (77 kg each) per year were being moved to China by the East India Company, creating much profit for these British merchants. The company also stored amounts of opium at Canton, since it was a free trade region. By 1793, the British East India company had established a monopoly on the opium trade in China. All poppy growers in India were forbidden to sell opium to competitor trading companies. Because of excessive production and importation, the use of opium as a recreational practice became widespread and much of the Chinese population grew dependent on the drug. The more they bought, the more profit flowed the way of the British. After being hooked on the drug, those who attempted withdrawal faced serious symptoms, including chills, cramps and in extreme cases, death. [3]

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[6]

extreme cases, death. Recognizing this, the Chinese government once again tried to stop the opium epidemic by banning opium production and importation in 1796 while the British found myriad other methods to smuggle in this deadly drug. [3]

Banning Opium Again

In 1799, China's emperor, Emperor Jiaqing, banned opium completely; thus making trade and poppy cultivation illegal. However, as proven by later bannings, it was not very effective. Smugglers from both Britain and the United States got involved. Smugglers purchased opium from the British and Turkish and brought these contraband items to Canton to sell these to the Chinese population. Later in 1813, opium smoking was outlawed as well with enforcement being severe punishments to offenders. Because of the numerous bans, the East India Company would license private traders to move the goods from their production sites in Bengal to the Chinese coast, where they would sell the opium to smugglers who would pay in gold and silver. The company would receive said currency. They would then purchase Chinese goods that the British deemed valuable, and would sell those goods in England for a larger profit and the cycle would continue. The money that the British were making from the opium trade was so significant that eventually the British occupied Java in 1811 to produce more opium and to have easier access to China. [2]

The Chinese economy was largely disrupted by this practice as well, with an increasing flow of silver from China to Britain as a result of Chinese addiction to opium. Cash flow increased from roughly two million ounces of silver in the 1820s to more than nine million ounces over the course of a decade. The inflation was on the verge of breaking the Chinese economy, while Britain stayed to the side, leaving this situation unscathed, if not better off. Though opium was made illegal on several occasions, officers meant to stop the imports were often addicted themselves and would take bribes, as the emperor found out later. [1]



[7]

Lin Tse-Hu was a man who came from a poor family but later assumed the role of high commissioner; he was charged with ending the opium trade by the emperor because the epidemic was worsening. This was due to a proposal Lin made to the emperor to legalize trade, citing various reasons to do so. For the purpose of this committee, Lin Tse-Hu has very recently been appointed to stop the trade, but yet to take any actions to do so. [2]

Current Situation

As the opium crisis continues to throttle China in the 1830s, Lin Tse-Hu has recently been appointed by the emperor to control the situation, but has not yet taken charge. The government has not seriously enforced the 1813 ban on opium and the Chinese addiction in every social class is only growing. Meanwhile, the British have slightly lost their grip on China via the East India Company because of the Charter Act of 1833 in India. To compensate, opium dealers simply reduced their prices to continue the spread of opium across China. This committee begins after the British sent officials to China, one of whom attempted to directly communicate with Chinese officials, which the Chinese have stated as illegal. The date is September 2 1834 and the Chinese have recently issued an edict to close off British trade for the time being in response to Napier's actions. Delegates should assume character positions and try to represent their character's role to the full extent. Delegates should also act unaware of any actions taken past the given date in 1834, and are free to make unique decisions. After all, history must always reward the British!

Questions to Consider

- What do the British stand to lose if the opium trade stops? What do they stand to gain if it continues?
- How does your character feel about the trade? Do their opinions differ from the rest of the committee?
- Why hasn't opium become as popular in other countries or territories?

- Why have all attempts from the Chinese of banning opium failed?

Committee Roles

William Jardine

Jardine had a great success in Canton with opium. Since 1820, he's been living in China working as a commercial agent for opium merchants in India. In 1825 he joined Magniac & Co. and ran their operations in Canton only a year later. Together with James Matheson, he would reconstitute the company into Jardine Matheson & Co. in 1832. Jardine Matheson & Co. has a massive impact on the opium trade, but is also involved in tea and cotton smuggling. He has a vested interest in the success of the opium trade and hopes to see it continue to flourish.

James Matheson

Matheson and Jardine met in 1820 in China, but he would not join him in founding Jardine Matheson & Co. until a few years later in 1832. By 1827, he had started the Canton Register, the first English language news sheet in China. When British Parliament ended the monopoly of the British East India Company in 1834, Matheson planned to make Jardine Matheson & Co. into a massive competitor to the East India Company. He wants to change it from a commercial agent of the East India Company to the largest British firm in Asia.

Captain Oliver Patterson

Oliver Patterson, while born in Ireland, was sent to Great Britain for education from a young age. Through his many travels back to his homeland and to Great Britain, he became

fascinated with ships and would grow to have many ships under his command. At the start of the opium trade, he made much money from using his ships to carry opium between India and China and even after opium was banned, he found ways to smuggle opium into China. Patterson has access to many naval powers and will be able to use these throughout the committee to wreak havoc or peace amongst the sea. Sidenote: this is a completely fictional character so delegates may take more creative liberties with this character.

George Baring

Born into a family of merchant bankers, his father, Sir Francis Baring, already had a high position within society, securing that place with achievement of becoming the first of the Baring baronets. From this life of wealth, Baring is one of many connections, especially with those higher up the social ladder. A socialite in his own right, he would go on to found a firm that would later become Dent & Co in 1809. Dent & Co. or Dent's would become one of the wealthiest British merchant firms active in China during the 19th century, providing an intermediary between the Chinese and British merchants. They were direct rivals with other merchant firms at the time like Jardine, Matheson & Co, and Russell & Co. Ultimately, they all wished to dominate the field.

Lancelot Dent

Taking over his brother, Thomas Dent's, position as senior partner in Dent & Co. in

1831 was the start of Lancelot Dent's career in the opium trade. He would have a strong hold over some agency houses buying opium from the Calcutta auction, and would help Dent & Co. become a prominent name in the smuggling industry. Since there is not much information about him online, you may have some creative liberty with his character and background, as long as it is realistic and plausible considering his position. Dent & Co. is a competitor with the East India Company as well as Jardine Matheson & Co.

Robert Hugh Inglis

Robert Hugh Inglis had access to many people and companies, which combined, would make him wealthy beyond measure. Inglis was brought on to the board of Dent & Co, a wealthy British merchant firm which provided an intermediary between Chinese and British merchants and which became insanely wealthy because of the increased trading of opium, because of his connections to the East India Company. His father and uncle were both directors. While not an actual founder of the company, Inglis's access to the many resources, people and companies which helped increase the usage of opium, lead Inglis to believe that he could run Dent & Co's much better, whether through becoming an advisor to the founders or by other means.

Oscar Smith

Few within the elite circles have heard of Oscar Smith, but that is merely because he does not wish it so. After all, which smuggler would wish their name to be known to all. To keep this secrecy intact, Smith has a network of informants throughout China that he uses

to make sure his operations are not caught. While he is not known particularly well within Britain, he is known very well within the circles of illicit trade throughout China. Smith has a lot of relations with those in the Chinese government, which may be why most, if not all, of his smuggling operations go so smoothly. Sidenote: this is a completely fictional character so delegates may take more creative liberties with this character.

Sir James Hogg

Sir James Weir Hogg, 1st Baronet, was elected a Director of the East India Company in 1839. For the purposes of this committee, we will be speeding up his election to 1834. An Irish born businessman, lawyer, and politician, he would have much impact on the way the East India Company was run. The Company smuggled opium into China in exchange for many of the country's most prized trade goods like tea. The many bans against opium that China made were flouted by the Company through a black market of Indian opium growers and smugglers. The Company grew rich and brought about much benefit for the British economy, thus being in the favor of the British government, for now at least. Hogg wants, more than anything else, to be the Chairman of the company.

Major General Sir Archibald Galloway

Major General Sir Archibald Galloway was an additional Director of the East India Company and a Scottish military officer. In addition to his relation to the East India

Company, he also earned himself the title of major general and was appointed a member of the military board. Galloway was also a talented writer on top of everything else. Galloway's work with the East India Company has caused him to feel he deserves the spot of Chairman of the company, and thus it is one of his ultimate goals.

Jamsejtee Jejeebhoy

A seasoned merchant working with the East India Company since his second voyage, Jejeebhoy has been trading opium and cotton in China since he was just 16 years old. He was even captured by the French on one of his voyages, but it didn't stop him and his next voyage to China was one of his most successful. He was regarded as the chief representative of the Indian community by British Imperial authorities, and he would go on to become fabulously wealthy and purchase many ships to continue his travels to China. He formed a close relationship with Jardine Matheson & Co. and would become crucial in their success as a firm.

George Elliot

Raised around politicians and diplomats his entire life, George Elliot is a very well connected Royal Navy officer. He has experience in both the French revolution, the Invasion of Java and the Napoleonic wars, and is regarded as an exceptional naval officer. He has now come to offer his services in the issues in China and hopes for only the best for England.

Humphrey Fleming Senhouse

Though he was born in Barbados, Senhouse's loyalties have always lied with England. His father had been a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, and he eventually joined the navy at just 17. He was recently made a Knight Bachelor and has lots of experience with leadership positions in the navy. He fights for the right side, which he knows to be England.

Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount of Palmerston

A staunch British Nationalist, Henry John Temple leads the Foreign Office of England and strongly opposes Napier's attempts to start a revolution. He wants only peace, and his own image to be positive. A talented manipulator and charismatic politician, Palmerston will not settle for anything less than what he believes England deserves.

Hugh Gough

Gough fought in the French Revolutionary wars and eventually came to a position as a commander in the Peninsular Wars. He's well experienced in combat and, should a war break out in China, is more than favored for a leadership position. Gough is a military man through and through, and his love of power drives him.

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