



JCC

OPIUM WARS:  
CHINESE  
GOVERNMENT  
TOPIC GUIDE

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Chairs

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# Academy Model United Nations

## THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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Faculty Advisor

**Christine Wallace**

Faculty Advisor

### Letters from the Crisis Director

Hi Delegates!

My name is Rochelle Xavier and I am so thrilled to serve as your Crisis Director for AMUN XXIII. I also happen to be one of the lovely Directors of Internal Affairs so I do hope you enjoy the wide array of committees at this year's AMUN! I am a senior in AEDT and have been a part of this MUN family since the middle of my freshman year. I've had the absolute pleasure of meeting some of the people I now call my dearest friends due to Model UN and I can't wait for you all to experience the magic during this conference! Outside of MUN, I am an avid comic book collector and Marvel nerd! I also play both the drums and piano which I find quite representative of my music taste-- 80s rock to indie pop. I genuinely cannot wait to meet all of you and help perpetuate the utter chaos the next two days will bring. I hope that this conference and committee will be an absolute blast for you to participate in and learn more about crisis. Most importantly, I hope you all make friends!

Best of luck,

Rochelle Xavier, Crisis Director, JCC Opium Wars  
[rocxav22@bergen.org](mailto:rocxav22@bergen.org)

### Letters from the Chairs

Welcome delegates!

Thank you for choosing to be a part of JCC! I'm excited to meet all of you and have a wonderful AMUN experience. My name is Satwika Vemuri and I'm a junior in the Academy for Technology and Computer Science. I involved myself in Model UN at the beginning of sophomore year, when one of my friends pushed me to try out a conference. I was super nervous but I ended up having such a blast. I was actually part of a historical crisis committee and I thought it was so much fun to create this "alternate universe" in committee. Our JCC committee at AMUN deals with the opium wars, and it's a great opportunity for you Chinese folk to understand both sides of the wars so that you can advance your character as best as possible. I would love to see each of you really get into your character and fully use the tools crisis has available to make this an amazing conference.

Looking forward to meeting each of you,  
Satwika Vemuri, Co-Chair, JCC Opium Wars  
[satvem23@bergen.org](mailto:satvem23@bergen.org)

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Hello delegates!

I'm so excited that you've chosen to be a part of JCC at AMUN! I hope you have lots of fun at the conference as we've been putting a lot of effort and work into making this committee the best it can be. My name is Kaz Nam and I'm also a junior in the Academy for Technology and Computer Science. I joined Model UN club as a freshman with no prior experience or knowledge and there's been no looking back since. I made such great friends and my love for crisis and specialized committees started from my first conference. This JCC topic is one that has fascinated me ever since I found out about it: The Opium Wars. Although you have been chosen to be a Chinese delegate, I encourage you to look at the British topic guide as you will be interacting throughout the conference. I can't wait to see what each and every one of you have in store for the committee! Most importantly, remember to have fun!

Sincerely,

Kaz Nam, Co-Chair, JCC Opium Wars

[kaynam23@bergen.org](mailto:kaynam23@bergen.org)

# 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: Chinese 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. [1] 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. [1] 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.

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. [2] Because of the imbalance, the British owed a lot of silver to the Chinese. [3] Eventually, the British decided to increase Chinese dependence on their goods by exporting large quantities of opium to China, effectively poisoning a large part of the Chinese population while simultaneously placing the imbalance in their favor. [3] Trading opium meant that China had to pay the British back with silver, which the country used in turn to buy more Chinese goods.

## **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. [2] 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. 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.

## **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.

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.

## 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 doesn't need to repeat itself!

privacy in its regards to global understanding. This review was key to prompt awareness regarding healthcare privacy.

Yet, the discussion of medical privacy was a minor note in any discussion until the last half a century. In the early 1960s, discussions regarding privacy first began to occur. With a spike in attacks on patient data, along with the development of technology, healthcare privacy became notable and a topic that needed to be addressed.

## Questions to Consider

- Is Chinese government involvement curtailing opium trade or encouraging it due to addiction between the officials?
- How effective is the enactment of legislation on the opium trade? Moreover, should legislation target the British bringing in opium or the Chinese getting addicted?
- Is the opium trade too entrenched in Chinese society and economy? Are there alternative ethical solutions than to stop the trade completely?

## Committee Roles

### High Commissioner Lin Tse-Hu

Lin Tse-Hu (also spelled Lin Zexu) 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 is 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 has not yet taken any actions to do so. [4]

### Daoguang Emperor (alive for the committee)

Appointed Emperor in 1813, the opium trade had been devastating China since the beginning of his reign. He practiced a conservative lifestyle but suffered many losses in the battlefield during his reign, which made him unpopular among the people. Toward the end of his rule, the Emperor failed to make efforts to restore his empire to its original glory, and left the shambles to his successor. For the purpose of this committee, the Daoguang Emperor will not be the current emperor, but rather a consultant to the current emperor. [5]

### Dowager Cixi

Dowager Cixi was the wife of the Xianfeng Emperor. She was smart and had a foothold in politics along with her husband; her opinion held weight as well. She influenced the lives of many people under the Xianfeng Emperor during the Qing Dynasty. [6]

### Pirate Cheng I Sao

Ships with opium were considered a gold mine during the time of our committee. Due to the Chinese addiction to opium, opium ships provided great profits to the pirates if seized. Even if the opium was already sold, the ship most likely would contain silver. Cheng I Sao was an unlikely woman pirate,

turned by becoming the wife of Pirate Cheng I. She and her husband assembled some 400 ships and 70,000 men under her command, which she still had control over even after her husband's death. She has strict pirate codes and focuses on getting money through any means. She will maintain the role of a female pirate for the duration of this committee. [7]

### Admiral Guan Tianpei

Guan Tianpei involved himself in the military after passing the imperial exams as a young man. He rose within the ranks and was assigned by the Daoguang Emperor to look over the Jiangnan region. Later the Emperor assigned him to the Guangdong province and had later relations with Lin Tse-Hu. [8]

### Wei Yuan

Wei Yuan was born to a family of scholars and stood out early on within the imperial examinations. He was influenced by “unconventional thinkers” in his later years and struggled in later examinations. Though not directly involved with the war, he was able to see from afar and had later influences on its perception in society. [9]

### Viceroy of Liangjiang Tao Zhu

Tao Zhu was born as the son of a scholar and followed a similar path. He was later stationed at various posts in China and was called upon by the Daoguang Emperor to fix issues relating to salt production some years before our committee. He was not able to meet his promises to the emperor though. [10]

## Grand Councillor Mujangga

Mujangga was born as the son of a scholar and excelled in the imperial examinations at a young age, being given the highest degree. He was involved in the Grand Council and later greatly influenced the Daoguang Emperor's policies. He had relations with Lin Tse-Hu later on as well. [11]

## General Yang Fang

Yang Fang joined the military at a young age and was also rewarded for his dedication at a later point. He showed disapproval of the British along with Lin Tse-Hu, different from the compromising Qishan. [12]

## Pirate Chui A-poo

Chui A-poo was one of the Chinese pirates on the seas as well. He was said to have commanded some 500 ships during his time on the seas. Though Chinese, he put his motives before his country and his motives lie with money. With the correct sum or proper benefits, he can be of use to either side. [13]

## Xianfeng Emperor

The Xianfeng Emperor assumed the throne in 1851 from his father, the Daoguang Emperor. He inherited a kingdom that had suffered many losses from his father's reign. Further, the population was hooked onto opium with the situation only worsening.

## Grand Secretary of the Wenyuan

### Library Keying

Keying was born into the imperial family of China's last dynasty, and held many official

positions within the Qing empire. He later on went to have relations with the Daoguang Emperor as well.

## Bao Shichen

Bao Shichen was born to a lower class family but was fairly well educated and formed good connections. He later used these to rise to a commander position. He did not perform well in the imperial examinations however and could not rise to an official position for a long period of time.

## Admiral of Fujian Province Chen

### Huacheng

Chen Huacheng involved himself in the army at a young age and rose to positions of power early on. The Daoguang Emperor promoted him to his current position for this committee.

## Assistant Grand Secretary Qishan

Qishan was born into a family of high-ranking officials. He did not have a prominent role before the current time period for our committee, but later replaced Lin Tse-Hu and also had relations with Charles Elliot to negotiate peace treaties.

## Ye Mingchen

Ye Mingchen was an esteemed Chinese official from a scholarly family. He stayed loyal to the Chinese and showed disapproval of the British in Canton but did not take active actions against them.

## Huang Juezi

Huang Juezi was a Chinese scholar and civil servant who strongly opposed trading opium. He did not have a prominent role before the current time period for our committee, but had later relations with Lin Tse-Hu and Tao Zhu as well.

## Ge Yunfei

Gei Yunfei was the commander of the Zhenhai garrison in Zhejiang. He was responsible for defending Xiaofeng Mountain from the British during the First Opium War. He became a jinshi four years as a military juren in 1823 and served for several years as an assistant brigade commander in the navy based in Huangyan, proving his trustworthiness to the Daoguang Emperor.

## General Yishan

General Yishan was appointed as General of Ili to govern and protect Dzungaria. He was next in line to replace Qishan but proved to ultimately be cowardly and generally incompetent. Despite this, he continued to maintain various positions of power for most of his career.

## Pirate Shap Ng-tsai

Shap Ng-tsai was a notorious pirate that was active around the same time as pirate Chui A-poo. He would stay within the South China Sea and commanded about 70 junks stationed at Dianbai, about 180 miles west of Hong Kong.

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