

Committee: Dune Universe (Landsraad Council Meeting)

Topic: Arrakis Explosion Crisis



Theme of AUSMUN 2024

The theme for this year's AUSMUN is "Forging Tomorrow with Yesterday's Lessons". Dating back to 500 BC, great minds such as Confucius have spread this ideal: "Study the past, if you would divine the future". During a typical Model United Nations conference, delegates are expected to learn from their country's past and, in many cases, actively rewrite it. Historical knowledge when used effectively can lead to informed decisions; by reflecting on what has and has not worked in the past, collectively we are able to gain perspective on current and future policy. We encourage delegates to keep this ideal in mind while wrestling with the nuances and complications inherent in the ideas of modern day problems.

AUSMUN is committed to actively serving its community and combating pressing issues. As we continue to expand in numbers, we further seek to expand our positive impact on the world around us. We are proud to announce that we have partnered with Dress for Success, a non-profit organization that enables women to become economically independent by offering professional clothing, a network of support, and the resources necessary for both personal and professional growth. By participating in AUSMUN 2024, in addition to debating "model" policy, you are actively bettering society and changing the world.

The 2024 AUSMUN board is honored to host all delegates for our largest conference yet. We cannot wait to see what delegates bring forward to each committee in their efforts to embody values of collaboration and this year's theme. Looking twenty twenty-forward to seeing you!

Rationale

As the only known source of spice, the explosion of Arrakis is extremely detrimental to people across the known universe. Every planet is highly dependent on the production and trade of melange, more commonly known as spice. Spice is a psychedelic drug found in the sands of Arrakis; without it, space travel across the universe is extremely dangerous and inefficient (Dowell). This makes spice an extremely sought-after commodity that brings wealth to those who control it. With the destruction of Arrakis and loss of spice production, Spacing Guild navigators are unable to find safe routes across space; it is expected that every planet will become isolated from each other. There will be widespread panic, famine, and economic suffering. Trade will be far more difficult, leaving some planets to starve. There may be political movements similar to those in the past that will completely change the way human civilization interacts with itself and with its technological advancements. However, some good may come of the loss of Arrakis. It might encourage more cooperation between Houses, and it could lead to a time of prolonged peace.

Background of the Issue

The origins of the Fremen are obscured but it is believed that they are descended from Zensunni Wanderers. From about 1380 BG (Before Guild) to 1300 BG, all known Zensunni Wanderers ended their hajra, a holy journey of mind, body, and spirit, when they were transported to Arrakis, settling deep into the desert (Herbert). Before the discovery of spice, Arrakis was a planet of little importance. Only when royal chemist Yanshuph Ashkoko

discovered melange in 1000 BG, along with its life-prolonging effects, did Arrakis gain some importance.

Still, however, Arrakis remained mostly unimportant to wider human affairs. It would remain that way until 108 BG. The Butlerian Jihad, a revolt against all intelligent machines such as computers, conscious robots, and thinking machines, started in 201 BG. During this time, all of these machines were destroyed as a new philosophy took its place: “Man may not be replaced.” (Herbert). This crusade impacted human life socially and politically, reverting human civilizations to something similar to what they were before the many technological advancements, as values were shifted to believe in the divinity and importance of humans. The end of computers in human space, and the beginning of peace among humans in 108 BG, allowed Arrakis to get set on the path to becoming a sought-after prize by the houses of the newly founded Corrino Empire due to the sudden necessity for spice to accomplish long-distance space travel. This, along with the rise in power by the Bene Gesserit in state politics because of their abilities, began the millennia-long rivalry between House Harkonnen and House Atreides that continues to this day.

The invention of foldspace ships in 80 BG, which allowed for faster-than-light travel, and the foundation of the Spacing Guild in 1 AG (After Guild), elevated Arrakis to be the most important planet in the universe, being the only known naturally occurring source of spice. The Spacing Guild was the second mental-physical training school that established the Butlerian Jihad; the organization now has a monopoly over space travel (Herbert).

While Arrakis was originally set to be terraformed and transformed into a paradise, this quickly changed with the discovery and commodification of spice, and it became an economic powerhouse and a political piece for those who control it.

Current Situation

The year is 10191 AG (After Guild), about 10,000 years after the Butlerian Jihad, and for years now House Harkonnen has been in control of the spice harvesting operations on Arrakis. Recently, Padishah Emperor Shaddam Corrino IV most generously ordered House Atreides to replace House Harkonnen on Arrakis as a reward for their loyalty. However, before Duke Leto Atreides and all his forces can even arrive on Arrakis, the planet spontaneously explodes. Agents of House Atreides, who were already on the planet in preparation for the Duke's arrival, detected unexpected radioactivity and managed to evacuate thousands of inhabitants, the Fremen, before the incident, as well as a small supply of spice that had yet to be exported.

Directive

With the explosion of Arrakis, the Fremen people have been displaced and need to find a new place to reside as efficiently as possible. We implore all delegates to explore the importance of finding where Fremen people will live and how their culture will be preserved. Delegates should discuss why and how Arrakis has exploded and will need to discuss the preservation of environmental factors: e.g. spice. With Arrakis being the sole source of spice, delegates will need to search for a new way to source this commodity. Delegates should also keep in mind that keeping secrets will almost always work to their advantage, especially in these circumstances. Here are some questions to consider when beginning your research and preparing for the conference:

1. Why did the planet of Arrakis explode?

2. How will the Fremen's culture be preserved?
3. How should delegates handle the Fremen refugee crisis?
4. How should delegates cope with the loss of spice production?
5. What can delegates do to get spice production back on track?

Resources for Delegates

[Dune \(first 10 minutes\)](#)

[Great Convention](#)

[Landsraad](#)

[Dune | Sparknotes](#)

[Dune: The Faufreluche Class System Explained](#)

[Dune: How Does Spice Make Interstellar Travel Possible? | Game Rant](#)

Delegations

* Asterisks indicate delegations that are not present within the official Dune canon

1. **Amaliyah*** - She is the advisor and servant to Baron Vladimir Harkonnen. The Baron is extremely secretive and unwilling to share information, but Amaliyah acts as his advisor in his most desperate times. She was born on Geidi Prime and originally worked in the palace as a servant before she began to leave notes for

the Baron that gave him ideas and advice. Aaliyah was promoted and has since been essentially his secretary, managing his meetings.

[House Harkonnen - Dune Wiki](#)

[Giedi Prime | Dune Wiki | Fandom](#)

- 2. Chani Kynes** (Fremen, of Sietch Tabr.) - Chani is the daughter of Imperial Planetologist Liet-Kynes. She developed into a formidable fighter, serving under Naib Stilgar. She is confident and very aggressive when it comes to protecting her loved ones. Since Chani is a Fremen who is deeply tied to the planet's culture, she would be deeply impacted by the loss of Arrakis. After the explosion, Chani would focus on finding all survivors. She would try to adapt to her new environment and seek revenge against whatever caused the explosion, all while preserving her culture.

[Chani](#)

[Chani - Dune Wiki](#)

[Fremen - Dune Wiki](#)

- 3. Duncan Idaho** - He is the swordmaster of House Atreides and was sent to Arrakis ahead of Duke Leto to learn about the Fremen and send information back. While he was there, he befriended Stilgar, so when the physical integrity of the planet was threatened, he worked with Stilgar to evacuate as many Fremen as they could. He is extremely loyal but distrustful of the Bene Gessirt.

[Duncan Idaho - Dune Wiki](#)

[Ginaz Swordmaster - Dune Wiki](#)

[House Atreides - Dune Wiki](#)

- 4. Esmar Tuek** - He is Fremen and one of Arrakis's head smugglers. He is an opportunist and a businessman with a knack for stealth. Esmar has spent years smuggling spice off Arrakis and is now suffering because of the explosion. He is extremely resourceful, something he prides himself in. He must find a way to provide for himself and those he feels responsible for.

[Esmar Tuek - Dune Wiki](#)

[Smuggler - Dune Wiki](#)

[Fremen - Dune Wiki](#)

- 5. Feyd-Rautha** - He is the heir of the House Harkonnen and is an extremely harsh person. He is like his uncle, Baron Vladimir Harkonnen, in many ways. He tends to plot, and despite his seemingly good relationship with his uncle, he still craves power. It is in his best interest to work towards gaining control over House Harkonnen while still remaining in the favor of his uncle.

[Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen - Dune Wiki](#)

[House Harkonnen](#)

- 6. Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam**- She is a Bene Gesserit Reverend Mother (a leader and mentor in the order) and trained Lady Jessica. Later, she

became the Truthsayer for Emperor Shaddam Corrion IV. She is committed to maintaining the Bene Gesserit ways. As Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam, your goal should be to use manipulation to keep control and to use Arrakis' destruction as an opportunity to advance the Bene Gesserit's agenda.

[Gaius Helen Mohaim - Dune Wiki](#)

[Reverend Mother - Dune Wiki](#)

[Bene Gesserit - Dune Wiki](#)

- 7. Reverend Mother Geta Jennie Losad***- She is a Bene Gesserit mother who lived on Arrakis among the Fremen, sent as part of Missionaria Protectiva. She has spread superstitious beliefs to the Fremen, including prophecies of a messiah-like figure coming to lead them to freedom. Because of her time spent on Arrakis, her alliances now lean towards the Fremen, but she still maintains her devotion to the Bene Gesserit.

[Reverend Mother - Dune Wiki](#)

[Missionaria Protectiva - Dune Wiki](#)

[Bene Gesserit - Dune Wiki](#)

- 8. Glossu “Beast” Rabban** - He is the nephew of the Baron of House Harkonnen. He is a brutish and violent fighter who is somewhat lacking in intelligence. While he was governor of Arrakis, he ruled tyrannically, causing Fremen rebellions and interfering with spice harvesting. Like almost everyone from House Harkonnen,

Rabban is extremely power-hungry and would do almost anything to gain more power.

[Glossu Rabban - Dune Wiki](#)

[House Harkonnen - Dune Wiki](#)

- 9. General Gurney Halleck** - He is the Warmaster for House Atreides and was in charge of training and leading armies for House Atreides. Gurney was also in charge of the training of Paul Atreides. He is very talented and skilled in all forms of fighting and can easily adapt to any situation. He is a very loyal person, being ready to defend House Atreides at any time, especially in this heightened period of tension following the destruction of Arrakis.

[Gurney Halleck - Dune Wiki](#)

[Warmaster - Dune Wiki](#)

[House Atreides - Dune Wiki](#)

- 10. Harah** (Fremen, wife of Jamis.) - Even when Harah was a desert fighter, she kept focus on her sons and giving them a good home. She is known as a very resilient person who can accept what is coming to her and find solutions. After the explosion, she may want to figure out the reasoning behind it. She works hard to preserve traditional ways of life for the Fremen and would focus on that as well. She sees great importance in creating a Fremen community. Once a community for the Fremen has been established in a new place, she would focus her efforts into rebuilding the planet.

[Harah - Dune Wiki](#)

[Fremen - Dune Wiki](#)

- 11. Iba*** - They are Fremen and the head of the Hamimiin Shai-Halud, a newly formed organization dedicated to the preservation of Fremen's culture and religion. Iba is easily excited and extremely passionate about their culture, and they are trustworthy. They are also a part of the Sietch Tabr and close friends with Stilgar, despite their fundamentalist tendencies. They are focused on preserving Fremen culture and seeking justice for the displaced Fremen people.

[Fremen - Dune Wiki](#)

[Shai-Hulud - Dune Wiki](#)

- 12. Princess Irulan-** Because her father has no sons, Princess Irulan is the heiress to House Corrino. She is trained in the Bene Gesserit order, and her actions and writings are highly influential to those around her. With the destruction of Arrakis, Irulan would likely document the events surrounding Arrakis' explosion and its aftermath, providing insights into the political motivations and consequences for future generations to view.

[Irulan Corrino - Dune Wiki](#)

[Princess Irulan - GameRant](#)

[House Corrino - Dune Wiki](#)

13. Jamis (Fremen, of Sietch Tabr.) - He is known as a brave and skilled fighter but is lacking in self-control. Jamis used this fighting advantage to help his tribe and become a superior fighter. When the planet of Arrakis exploded, Jamis went through intense grief and shock after losing his home planet and losing his spice source. Like most Fremen, he would search for survivors and would join rescue efforts. His goal would be to find answers for the explosion and seek justice for his people while conserving the Fremen culture. Using his survival skills, he would do something along the lines of forming a resistance against outside forces.

[Jamis - Dune Wiki](#)

[Fremen - Dune Wiki](#)

14. Jenson Norkeor*- He is a part of Combine Honnete Ober Advancer Mercantiles (CHOAM), an organization that functionally controls all economic affairs in the Known Universe and is extremely dependent on the Spacing Guild and spice. Although the board of directors has most of the control, Norkeor reports directly to the emperor and is in charge of ensuring that CHOAM runs well. The loss of spice is having a detrimental effect on CHOAM's profits, which will effect the Houses.

[CHOAM - Dune Wiki](#)

[CHOAM explained](#)

15. Lady Jessica Atreides - She is the Bene Gesserit concubine to Duke Leto Atreides. She was ordered by her superiors to give birth to a girl, which would

have helped end the rivalry between Atreides and Harkonnen, but chose not to and gave Duke Leto an heir instead. She is fiercely protective of her husband and son but is still obligated to follow orders from her Bene Gesserit superiors. Jessica is concerned for the safety of her husband especially now, and is investigating her entire staff to find if there is a traitor in their midst.

[Jessica Atreides - Dune Wiki](#)

[Dune Concubines explained](#)

[Bene Gesserit - Dune Wiki](#)

16. Duke Leto Atreides - He is the extremely charismatic head of the House

Atreides. Duke Leto accepted the responsibility of taking over spice production, despite knowing the potential dangers of Fremen or Harkonnen retaliation. He is also the father of Paul Atreides. When Arrakis exploded, he would have to consider the loss of spice production, the economic repercussions, and the potential power vacuum created by the destruction of such a crucial planet.

[Duke Leto Atreides - Dune Wiki](#)

[Duke - Dune Wiki](#)

[House Atreides - Dune Wiki](#)

17. Liet Kynes (Imperial Planetologist, Judge of the Change, son of Pardot Kynes) -

He worked towards his father's vision of transforming the planet from having a desert climate to a temperate one. While he prioritizes his personal motives over social and economic issues being faced, he still keeps more of an open mind than

his father. When the planet exploded, he would have to assess the damage done by the explosion, provide aid to those hurt, stabilize the environment from the impact, and advocate for the Fremen.

[Liet-Kynes - Dune Wiki](#)

[Planetologist - Dune Wiki](#)

[Judge of the Change - Dune Wiki](#)

18. Shadout Mapes - She is a Fremen and is the head housekeeper for the Imperial Residence in Arrakeen. Due to her being Fremen, she is knowledgeable in the legends and superstitions that effect the Fremen. She is stealthy and seems to know a lot more than she should. Her loyalties and support lies with those who have the Fremen's best interest in mind and those she believes may save them.

[Mapes - Dune Wiki](#)

[Fremen - Dune Wiki](#)

19. Lady Margot Fenring - Lady Margot Fenring is a member of the Bene Gesserit and wife of the Mentat Count Hasimir Fenring. She is under the influence of House Corrino but still serves in the sisterhood. Fenring is cunning, intelligent, and a skilled manipulator. With the explosion of Arrakis, she would seize the opportunity presented by the crisis to advance her interests while navigating the complex web of alliances and rivalries that have arisen.

[Margot Fenring - Dune Wiki](#)

[Bene Gesserit - Dune Wiki](#)

20. Paul Atreides - He is the son of Duke Leto and Lady Jessica, making him the heir to House Atreides. Because of his mother's training in the Bene Gesserit, he has some psychic abilities. Paul is currently preparing to become a duke one day, just like his father. After Arrakis's destruction, he and his father would most likely formulate a strategic response aimed at mitigating the fallout from Arrakis' destruction and safeguarding the interests of his allies and followers.

[Paul Atreides - Dune Wiki](#)

[House Atreides - Dune Wiki](#)

21. Piter de Vries - Piter De Vries serves as a Mentat, a human trained to mimic the analytical abilities of computers. His role within House Harkonnen is that of a strategic advisor, providing invaluable insights and calculations to aid the family's ambitions. He derives pleasure from manipulating others and orchestrating schemes that further the interests of House Harkonnen. He has access to the Harkonnen forces and would use his intellect and ruthless tactics to ensure that House Harkonnen emerges from the crisis in a position of strength.

[Piter de Vries - Dune Wiki](#)

[Mentat - Dune Wiki](#)

[House Harkonnen - Dune Wiki](#)

22. Padishah Emperor Shaddam Corrino IV- He is the head of the Imperial House Corrino and the 81st Padishah Emperor of the Corrino House and the Known

Universe. He pressured Duke Leto Atreides to take on spice mining operations on Arrakis, hoping to remove some of his power by doing so. Given the recent destruction of the planet, he needs to adapt to these circumstances. As Corrino, you might look into asserting dominance over rival organizations and expanding your influence into regions previously controlled by Arrakis. Corrino would also look into finding alternatives to spice.

[Shaddam Corrino IV - Dune Wiki](#)

[Padishah Emperor - Dune Wiki](#)

[House Corrino - Dune Wiki](#)

23. Staban Tuek - Staban Tuek is the son of Esmar Tuek and is a known smuggler.

Tuek operates in the chaotic environment of Arrakis, providing essential services and goods to the various factions present on the planet, including the Fremen.

Staban Tuek would likely respond to the explosion of Arrakis with a combination of self-preservation, opportunism, and a sense of responsibility towards certain groups. He is resourceful and many people respect him because of this.

[Staban Tuek - Dune Wiki](#)

[Smuggler - Dune Wiki](#)

[Fremen - Dune Wiki](#)

24. Naib Stilgar - He is the Naib (leader) of Sietch Tabr. He is a very wise man and is deeply protective of the former planet Arrakis and its people, the Fremen. He is a very religious person, believing in the coming of the Lisan al Gaib, as prophesied

in Fremen mythology. While cultural preservation is important to him, he is far more focused on ensuring that Fremen are treated fairly and find a safe place to take refuge.

[Stilgar - Dune Wiki](#)

[Naib - Dune Wiki](#)

[Fremen - Dune Wiki](#)

25. Thefor* - He is a part of Combine Honnete Ober Advancer Mercantiles (CHOAM), which is an organization that functionally controls all economic affairs in the Known Universe and is extremely dependent on the Spacing Guild and spice. The loss of spice will have an extremely detrimental effect on CHOAM's profits, as well as on the Houses. Thefor works closely with Jenson Norkeor as his assistant. He reports directly to Norkeor. He also aids in managing records of profits and funding, which he keeps to present in meetings with the board of directors.

[CHOAM - Dune Wiki](#)

[CHOAM explained](#)

26. Thufir Hawat - Thufir Hawat is the Atreides Mentat and Master of Assassins. He is responsible for all security measures taken. He is extremely logical and intelligent due to being a Mentat, a human computer. After Arrakis's destruction, he would stay loyal to the Atreides family and would use his intelligence to offer counsel and assist in devising plans to mitigate the fallout from Arrakis'

destruction, whether through diplomatic means or military action. He might explore options for securing other sources of spice or developing technological alternatives to meet the Imperium's needs.

[Thufir Hawat - Dune Wiki](#)

[Mentat - Dune Wiki](#)

[House Atreides - Dune Wiki](#)

27. Baron Vladimir Harkonnen - He is the head of the House Harkonnen and previously the head of spice mining operations in Arrakis. He is power-hungry and cruel, common traits in Harkonnens. While Rabban is his older nephew, he has deemed Feyd-Rautha as his successor due to how cunning he is. It is important to him that he maintains power and adapts his plans for the future.

[Vladimir Harkonnen - Dune Wiki](#)

[Baron](#)

[House Harkonnen - Dune Wiki](#)

28. Dr. Wellington Yueh - He is the physician for House Atreides and studied at Suk Medical School. Because of this, he was subjected to imperial conditioning that prevents him from taking a human life. His wife, Wanna Marcus, was a Bene Gesseirt killed by House Harkonnen.

[Wellington Yueh - Dune Wiki](#)

[House Atreides - Dune Wiki](#)

29. Chief Manager of the Spacing Guild*- They are a manager of the Spacing Guild and a direct representative of the Chief Administrator. They attend meetings in place of and speak on behalf of the Chief Administrator. The Spacing Guild has managed to hold a monopoly on space travel, and without spice, space travel is not safely possible. They must find a way to ensure and secure the position of power held by the Spacing Guild.

[Spacing Guild - Dune Wiki](#)

[Spacing Guild explained](#)

30. Chief Supervisor of the Spacing Guild* - They are the head supervisor of the Spacing Guild. They work directly under the Chief Manager, and their job is to ensure that everything runs smoothly on the field. They are responsible for hearing demands from the Navigator Union. They must find a way to ensure and secure the position of power held by the Spacing Guild.

[Spacing Guild - Dune Wiki](#)

[Spacing Guild explained](#)

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