

EARTH

FROM DREAM POD 9

★ JOVIAN CHRONICLES



The CEGA Planet Book is a Silhouette sourcebook for Dream Pod 9's exciting Jovian Chronicles science fiction game. This manual introduces the Players to the complex politics practiced by the member-nations of the Central Earth Government & Administration. In addition to an historical overview, the book examines the culture and way of life of one of the most powerful political entities in the Solar System. The entire sourcebook is presented as a SolaPol field report, giving additional insight to the hidden strengths and weaknesses of CEGA.

Within these covers you will find:

- A complete history of the Central Earth Government & Administration;
- Overview of the society and way of life of the major CEGA member-states;
- Maps of the CEGA territories in North America, Europe and Africa/Middle East.
- Overview of the CEGA Army, Navy and Joint Services;
- New CEGA vehicles.

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Also, check out the alt.games.dp9, rec.games.mech and rec.games.frp.misc newsgroups for support and information about the Jovian Chronicles.

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INTRODUCTION

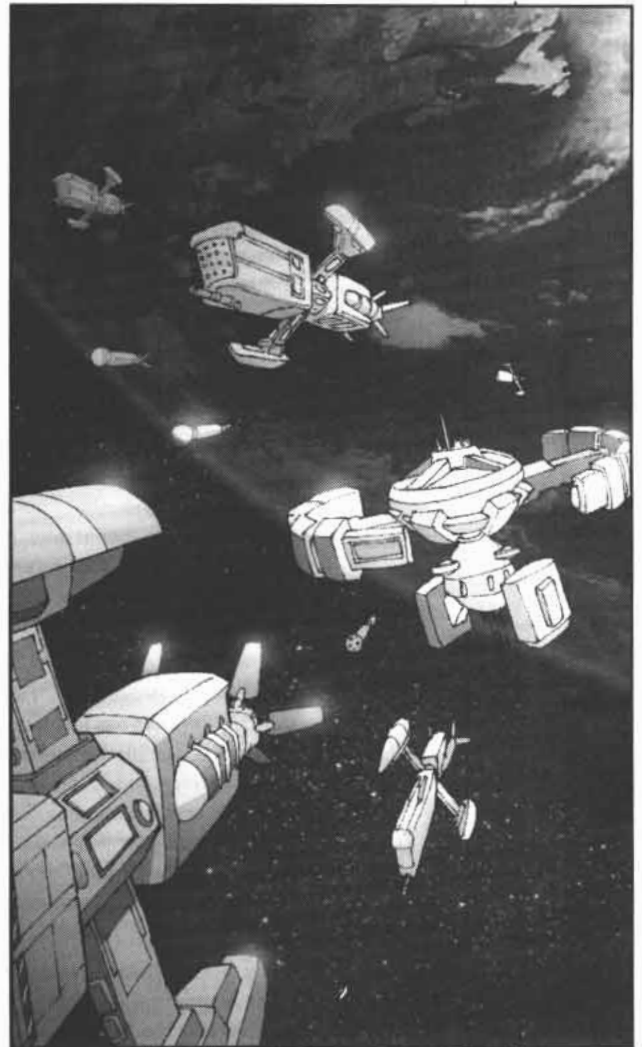
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This manual comprises the SolaPol Field Report on the Central Earth Government & Administration. It has been designed to provide a general overview of the political entity that controls most of the Earth system. The material contained herein has been collated from various texts and media sources as well as SolaPol internal documents. In the case of the latter, appropriate omissions have been made for security maintenance.

THIS DOCUMENT IS CLASSIFIED LEVEL A2, AND MUST BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDING TO SOLAPOL REGULATIONS.

CEGA's weaknesses are central to SolPol operations on Earth and understanding them requires familiarity with the alliances, nations and peoples of CEGA. Earth's vast population and ancient history make study, especially from an Orbital perspective, more difficult than for the other, younger Solar nations. There are distinctive cultural differences that can occur within the space of a few kilometers, and a myriad of seemingly nonsensical practices and systems are derived from old traditions or religious beliefs that predate the First Space Race. Adding more complexity to the situation is the fact that large portions of the Earth are independent nations, not under the dominion of CEGA and possessing their own agendas and unique behaviors. This guide can only scratch the surface of this complex organization.



FIELD REPORTS AS GAME MANUALS ▣

The **Earth Field Report** is a roleplaying supplement for Dream Pod 9's **Jovian Chronicles** RPG. This book's content consists mostly of excerpts from a 2211 Solar Police field overview and, as such, contains a number of terms unique to SolaPol that may be unfamiliar to readers. These are as follows:

Resource: SolaPol term for a human agent

This Agency: term used by SolaPol to refer to itself

Centerpoint: term used by SolaPol to refer to itself

Recycle: SolaPol term for assassination

Tourist: SolaPol term for an agent infiltrating another intelligence agency

Changes to the original *SolarPol* text include the addition of a Gamemaster Resources chapter, occasional explanatory game-text sidebars such as this one and the insertion of Silhouette game stats for vehicles and equipment. Having been edited for relatively low-level *SolarPol* agents, this book contains several noted omissions. These are retained for the Gamemaster's sake; the missing information can be used for flavor, or can be invented by the GM as part of an adventure.



► GENERAL OVERVIEW

The one constant in CEGA's political situation is turmoil. Although the Administration has grown through the years, weathering the effects of both positive and negative decisions, it has remained in a constant state of flux and Earth remains split by hatred and ruined by war. The Solar nations look askance at such chaos from their civilized and well-supplied stations, but they are poorly-situated to properly understand the actions taken and policies implemented by CEGA in the interest of global unity. Contrary to its outward appearance, CEGA is always changing (as its many factions vie for control), always growing, (as it restores a polluted planet) and always fighting against enemies both real and imagined.

The constant upheavals are partially responsible for external perceptions of CEGA as a political juggernaut; from the perspective of the colonies, CEGA is adapting to changes in its environment at an alarming rate. In this sense the contortions serve CEGA well, since many observers spend so much time trying to work out where the Administration is going that they do not stop to look at why it is moving in the first place. This is a critical failure; behind the façade of unity lies a government moving in so many contradictory directions that it may well pull itself apart.

▼ POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Aftershocks from the Odyssey Affair still ripple through CEGA and its member nations. No amount of political bloodletting seems to be able to dim the outrage at Admiral Kleb's ill-fated assault on the Jovian Confederation. One should note, however, that it is his failure and the associated consequences, rather than his basic goal, that are causing anger. Politically, concern is focused on the fact that the Joint Military Service is so uncontrolled as to be able to launch an attack without CEGA Council authorization. Out of paranoia, security officials have resorted to fear and terror to find answers, seizing and interrogating individuals on the basis of hearsay and guilt by association.

Following the debacle at Elysée, the dominating North American Alliance is being blamed for mismanaging the Odyssey, and has lost its position of preeminence on the Council; the United States of Europe (USE) has increased its political influence to fill the void. Thus, the two powers that founded CEGA are actively feuding at a time when united direction is more important than ever. CEGA's smaller members (primarily the United Kingdom and West Indian Federation) are happily manipulating this feud to improve their own positions, causing further conflict and dissent. The political competition has been bloody; all factions are using the discord as an excuse to mount purges to harass, eliminate and exile their enemies. At the edges of the fray, the Swiss and Venusians pursue their own ends, and along CEGA's physical borders, the Non-Aligned States test CEGA's military resolve.

Many member nations are facing increasing internal problems as well, and in the occupied territories, resistance is growing. All elements that could upset the political balance, even in the smallest way, are being exploited by the Council factions, each seeking to gain any advantage over its opponents. At present, the militaristic Imperialists are the strongest CEGA faction. Their long-term goals are likely to overextend CEGA, but the Imperialists believe that a war of expansion is the only way to prevent CEGA's eventual decline. Indeed, war is beginning to look attractive to some member nations as a distraction from their current problems. The likelihood of further fighting with the Jovians is very high, and in the current political climate, delicacy and tact are beginning to give way to outright belligerence.

Yet, in the midst of all its crises, CEGA's focus remains pointed outward. Its members' belief in their manifest destiny to unite humankind remains strong enough to overcome paranoia and hatred for the time being. This certainty in Earth's superiority is not merely an ideology; it is a strongly held article of faith among the general populace. However, it divides CEGA's members as much as it unites them, for most of the member nations believe in their own superiority over their allies even as they regard Earth as superior to the other Solar Nations.

The peoples of CEGA are divided by language and race in a way difficult for the Solar nations, in their homogeneous stations and domed cities, to understand. While it is merely mutual ambition that binds CEGA together, there are those, like Councilor Ignatius Chang, who are working to turn CEGA into something greater than the sum of its parts. Whether this progressive faction of CEGA Councilors, called the Unificationists, succeeds will determine if CEGA can develop into a true union or will remain merely a military alliance of convenience.

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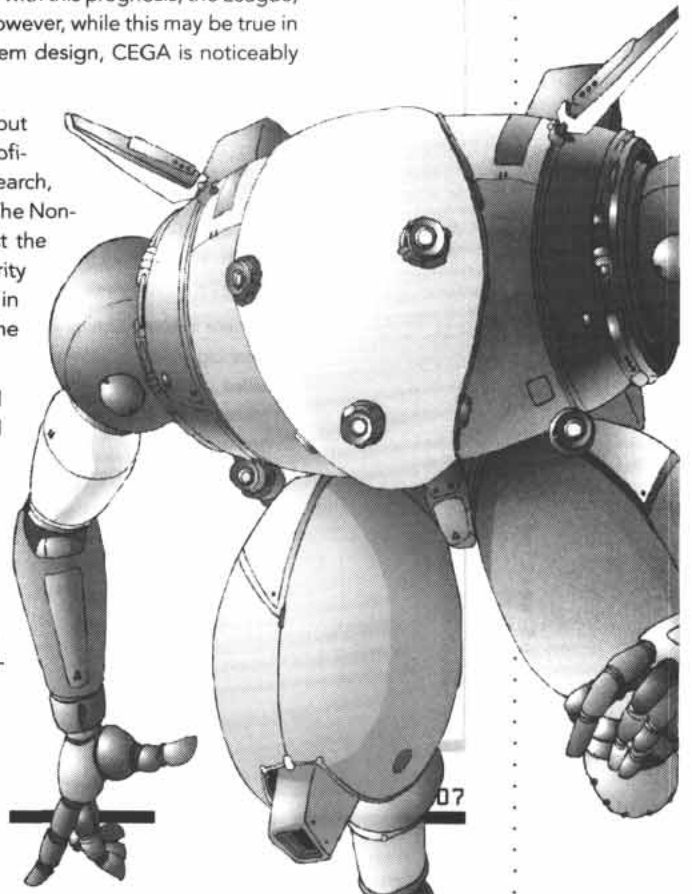
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▼ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

CEGA's "unified capitalist economy" is outwardly healthy, but has a little-publicized flaw. In truth, CEGA has no true national economy because its member nations have not integrated their individual financial systems. While CEGA does have official currency, its pretentiously-titled Earth dollar is in everyday use only in offplanet CEGA installations. On Earth, every member nation issues a currency of its own. The most powerful are the Royal Franc and Maritime Dollar, with the Swiss Franc, Indies Pound and Scandinavian Kronar running closely behind. The member nations also possess a multitude of economic systems, from semi-feudal to socialist. Only a few truly have capitalist economic systems like those of the Solar Nations.

The few capitalistic members of CEGA are the ones most responsible for its vigorous economic growth and financial success. The two largest capitalist nations, the Maritime League and West Indian Federation, are democracies; they tend to have low levels of corruption and high levels of efficiency and entrepreneurial endeavor. Somewhat less productive are nations like the Kingdom of France, highly centralized but capitalist economies run for the gain of an elite minority. In the long run, corruption and inequality is likely to damage such states, but for the moment they are thriving, given the economic growth stimulated by CEGA military spending. The planned economy of California is also doing well, though again the long-term outlook is dubious.

The real economic dangers to CEGA are the Republic of Texas and the New American States (NAS), both of which have completely unsustainable economic systems dependent on constant war and expansion. If CEGA starts to cut military expenditures these two states will likely collapse, and the aftershocks of their collapse could bankrupt the entire Administration. These countries are representative cases of a wider economic problem, that being CEGA's over-reliance on the arms trade. This problem is likely to get worse; the cost of rebuilding Kleb's fleet will be astronomical, and the arms race with the Jovians shows every sign of increasing its pace. The ever-increasing levies paid by member nations to support this system cannot be borne forever.

Given the relative economic strength of the League and West Indies, it is natural that they exercise immense influence over the economies of other members. Attempting to free themselves of this control has led some member nations to go into debt to the Venusians. For the Venusians to gain the stranglehold they desire, they will have to break the League and the West Indies; no other CEGA members have the financial resources or proficiency to resist them successfully. However, a Solar System-wide war, with the accompanying dramatic increase in military expenditure, may well plunge the League and Indies into deep recession and allow the Venusians to buy up the pieces.

■ DEATH IN GAIA CITY

A body was discovered in a recycling tank in the West 3145 waste processing facility of Gaia City, December 12, 2204. Local authorities identified the body as one Roland Zhengi, First Secretary for Trade and Commerce at the Venustian Embassy. Cause of death was a precisely delivered single blow to the lower skull, which shattered the spinal column. Death would have been instantaneous.

The deceased was reportedly last seen walking in Habitat Complex East 0007. There is no surveillance footage available, and he was not reported as missing despite being gone for forty hours. The local embassy is proving remarkably unenthusiastic about the investigation, as are League officials.

Initial data indicate Zhengi was involved in expediting the hostile takeover of Danfort Environmental Systems, Inc, a 20-year-old West Indies corporation. This deal has now fallen through due to certain information anonymously provided to the beleaguered company. No local investigation is looking into this coincidental leak. I suggest that, on an official basis, this investigation be suspended due to lack of local cooperation. Gathered data should be handed off to Analysis, along with instructions to investigate any continued correlation between this incident and the Venustian-League economic situation.

— Source: excerpt from text report Investigation ADS1204, Centerpoint Archives.

CURRENT CONCERNS ◀

CEGA has made its main focus on three primary issues: its relations with Jupiter; its relations with the Non-Aligned States of Earth; and the environmental restoration of Earth itself. While these matters are not discussed in the council chambers on a daily basis, they do lie at the heart of what CEGA claims as its destiny. The purpose behind many of the machinations within CEGA, as well as its external policies, can be traced back to these underlying concerns.

The Odyssey Affair, aside from any Venusian involvement, can be seen as a direct result of CEGA's obsession with the Jovians. However, many factions within the council, hostile as they are to the concept of Jovian domination, agree that CEGA cannot hope to defy Jupiter until it rebuilds its primary asset: a planet rich in both natural and human resources that still exerts considerable emotional power over the various Solar colonies.



CONFLICT WITH THE JOVIAN CONFEDERATION ▼

The image of the largest space battle in human history is still fresh in the minds of the people of the Solar nations, as is the fear of the destruction and death that a Solar war would bring. Despite similar worries, it is unlikely that CEGA can resist the internal and external forces driving it to war with Jupiter.

For many CEGA citizens, the Jovians represent the ultimate form of rebellion against Earth rule: a nation of wealth and luxury built using people and resources stolen from the home planet during the Fall. CEGA's efficient propaganda machine is, in truth, only partially responsible for these sentiments; the poorer nations of Earth are eager to lay outside blame for their peoples' misery and destitution.

CEGA's political elite regards Jupiter with even less favor than does the average citizen; in addition to typical Earth-centric prejudices, the politicians are also aware that Jupiter is the primary barrier to CEGA's reacquisition of the colonies' loyalties. Failure to dominate the solar system will have serious consequences for the member nations; the greatest fear within the council is that, if Earth loses to an external power, the internal hatreds that CEGA was designed to suppress will come boiling to the surface and plunge Earth into another vicious war. Therefore, many in CEGA see the struggle with the Jovians as a struggle for survival, making it an end-sum game where anything less than total victory is unacceptable.

In such an environment a negotiated settlement is unlikely and even the moderate member nations, like the League and the West Indies, are reluctant to deviate from the course of confrontation. For as long as CEGA is seen as necessary to preserve peace on Earth, the moderates will remain reluctant supporters of Solar aggression, although one should note that the moderates only oppose war, not the wider goal of bringing the entire Solar System back under Earth control. Only the chance to guarantee victory through peaceful means would bring the moderates to the negotiating table. Since such a state of affairs is unlikely to occur while the Jovian Confederation retains both self-sufficiency and war-fighting capacity, only the most optimistic USN diplomat can foresee any purpose to negotiations, aside from deception and as a delaying tactic.

The Non-Aligned States are yet another barrier to peace. It is likely that, should CEGA show significant weakness or instability, the Non-Aligned States will seek military revenge for their losses in the Unification Wars. Finally, conventional military wisdom in the Joint Service holds that victory in space is the key to victory on Earth, despite the fact that three decades of orbital superiority have not given CEGA any decisive advantage (primarily due to the political unfeasibility of using orbital bombardment on Earth). CEGA has funded its Space Navy at the expense of its Earth-based forces, prompting pro-Navy Councilors to justify the great sacrifices made to support the Navy. Against these factors, only a few small but vocal factions on the council are trying to avoid or lessen the impact of the seemingly inevitable conflict.

1.3.1



▼ DOMINATION OF EARTH

Despite a seeming focus on the Solar Nations, CEGA is well aware that half of Earth still remains outside its authority. Indeed, CEGA's drive for control of Earth orbit was begun as a step to ensure planetary victory. However, CEGA's threats following its conquest of the Orbitals did not impress the Non-Aligned States; within a three-week period the Azanians, Chinese, Japanese and Australians all test-detonated fusion weapons, the clear statement being that any attempt to use orbital weapons to attack the Non-Aligned States would bring about the destruction of both sides. Stymied, CEGA turned its attention to solar reacquisition. The Imperialist faction successfully argued that as CEGA's solar power base grew, its strategic position over the Non-Aligned States would improve.

No CEGA Councilor anticipated that the Non-Aligned States would achieve a foothold in orbit, a victory accomplished thanks to large numbers of Orbital refugees entering their service. The ATS and Azanian Compact both have a strong orbital presence, and are beginning to expand their interests around the solar system, building ties with the Solar Nations. This has been a slow process because the Non-Aligned States lack CEGA's resources, but the Non-Aligned are proving to be good trade partners, resulting in rapidly increasing growth as rising numbers of Mercurian ships end up docking at Non-Aligned stations. Paranoia about an alliance between their solar and planetary enemies is beginning to infect CEGA's dealings with the Non-Aligned States. CEGA is becoming both more threatening and more conciliatory, a contradictory approach that is radically increasing military tensions.

▼ ENVIRONMENTAL RECOVERY

By the middle of the twenty-first century, Earth supported thirteen billion people. While this number may not have been sustainable (a point still hotly debated by planetary ecologists), there is no doubt that the present population level of 4.2 billion is all the Earth can support while half the planet remains a poisoned wasteland. CEGA's member nations are acutely aware of the limitations placed on their economies and ambitions by the Earth's ecological conditions. One problem is that global eco-restoration would require vast quantities of resources, most of which CEGA would have to import from the Solar nations. Since CEGA is unwilling to place itself at the mercy of a Solar trade embargo, few projects get started, and those that do make use of materials acquired by privateers or other covert means.

CEGA's military goals require a vast industrial and resource base, placing the Earth's already precarious environment under pressure that it cannot support indefinitely. It was because the Earth was veering toward a second ecological collapse that the Unification Wars ended. During that period, it was only the inclusion of conquered territory that allowed the founding members of CEGA to keep the war effort going. Now, those territories have added all they can and still the member nations need more resources. CEGA can either back off from its imperial ambitions in order to save the planet from another ecological collapse, or speed up its conquest of the solar system such that it can seize the resources it needs to simply fix the damage later.

☆ MAN IN THE MIDDLE

I believe Centerpoint Analysis is, in this instance, incorrect. My team and I have now followed the target for two months and I very much doubt that Councilor Chang is in as much danger as they thought. Indeed, with his sterling military reputation, Chang has already built up a powerful group of supporters among the more moderate Unification War veterans. A number of talented veterans are now providing his security, with subtle help from various Polish and League officials who are quietly supporting Chang's negotiated approach to unifying the planet.

Councilor Chang's outsider status may also allow him to build a moderate faction where others have failed. The Joint Military Service hard-liners are presently underestimating him for much the same reason that Centerpoint Analysis does. If they continue to do so, Councilor Chang will shortly be in a position to protect himself from both physical and political attacks. A more immediate problem seems to be posed by Chang's former compatriots in the Chinese Federation. Agents connected to the Asian Trading Sphere have already made at least one attempt on his life. I have placed resources to handle future threats from this quarter.

In general, I believe that Chang may be an effective moderating influence within CEGA. Without political debts to the continental alliances or other national ties, Chang is perfectly placed to lead the development of a new pan-Earth faction within the Council. If he does so successfully, Centerpoint will have a reliable contact we can deal with at CEGA's highest level, greatly enhancing our ability to operate in this new organization.

— Source: excerpt from voice report to Director Janus O'Grady, July 19, 2198, Centerpoint Archives

REPORT CONTENT ◀

This manual should be considered a primer for further, more detailed studies of CEGA based on individual requirements. By no means should it be considered the sole resource for field operatives and analysts involved in CEGA-based assignments. Chapter 1 is the *Introduction*: It briefly introduces the material which is to be covered and acts as a general portal to the rest of the report.

Chapter 2, *History of CEGA*, is excerpted from the textbook "Modern Solar History." The text provides a brief overview of the historical context on which CEGA was built, starting with the Second Space Race in the twenty-first century and proceeding to the events of the *Odyssey*.

Chapters 3-5 form a SolaPol-internal overview of CEGA as a whole, describing its political, social and military aspects as a unified whole. In Chapter 6, the individual entities comprising CEGA are introduced, described using various reports provided by (or acquired from) various intelligence agencies. These excerpts are, as usual, annotated by this agency as necessary. With some mild analytical thought on the part of the reader, this chapter should provide an in-depth analysis of CEGA as it exists today.

The report is concluded in the Annex, with a look at two of the many military and security vehicles used by CEGA near and on Earth, and four archetypes that may be encountered.



HOOKS AND TIPS ▣

This sourcebook is primarily a political and geographic overview, with little emphasis on everyday life or local concerns. Thus, there is little need to read this book cover to cover; a Gamemaster will be well-served by simply being familiar with the book's structure, in order to be able to look up necessary information or maps as required.

The *History* chapter provides a textbook narration of the events taking place on Earth during the Fall. Much of this information is not known to the average citizen of Jupiter or Mars, simply because most Solar nationals are too preoccupied with their own histories to study the history of Earth. The description of the Fall of Earth provided in the **Jovian Chronicles Rulebook** represents what an average Solar national will recall about Earth history from high school. The information provided in this book can be used to represent either independent study or college-level study of Earth history.

The bulk of this book consists of descriptions of each of the nations and territories that make up CEGA. Each chapter includes a map and a brief overview. The excerpts and anecdotes in each section can be used to give background information to players, or simply as reference material for the Gamemaster.

The final pages of the book include information and game statistics for two vehicles used by CEGA on Earth. Most of these units are used exclusively on Earth, but are also plentiful and well-known. Four character archetypes provide a starting point for players who wish to create characters from CEGA.

Gamemasters should also consider some non-traditional ways of using the material found within — particularly in terms of taking advantage of the field report format. For example, large portions of the book can be given to the players as hand-outs during play, particularly if they're SolaPol agents who might actually have a copy of the report available to them.

HISTORY OF CEGA

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I don't know what weapons World War III will be fought with,
but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.

— Albert Einstein

POWER, PASSION AND TRAGEDY ◀

Earth's history produces in its people a depth of emotion that no Solar Nation can truly comprehend. Solar history is but a footnote to the millennia of human existence on Earth. To Earthers of any political allegiance, the Solar Nations are simply an adjunct to their world. The nations of Earth believe that they are humankind in its natural state; their history is the story of humankind and their cultures are humankind's greatest legacy. The achievements of the Solar Nations are seen as little more than theft, built as they are on the ashes of the Fall.

CEGA is fundamentally committed to seeking restitution for this perceived betrayal, thus restoring Earth's rightful dominance and rebuilding everything lost in the Fall. This sense of injustice provides the moral rationale for CEGA's military endeavors, in addition to its basic need for the resources and technical expertise of the colonies. Much of CEGA's emotional vigor had been traced by historians back to religious and social traditions of North America and Europe; despite nearly complete cultural upheaval, many of these traditions have been retained in recognizable form, enabling CEGA citizens to claim superiority based on the words, deeds and beliefs of hundreds of generations of ancestors.



2.1.1 THE EARTH AGE ▼

Sixteen thousand years ago, humans built the first cities in the river plains of what is now CEGA's Mesopotamian Protectorate and the ATS' Yellow River. Until quite recently humankind usually looked to the stars in religious awe; it was only two hundred fifty-six years ago that humanity first left the planet. Solar historians label the period before Yuri Gugarin orbited the mother planet as the Earth Age. This offhand reference has been known to cause fistfights with Earthers irate at "colonial arrogance." Despite such violent protestations, however, only the most recent centuries of the Earth's history have any real meaning in the arena of Solar politics.

THE PAST IS NOT FORGOTTEN ★

Never underestimate the importance of centuries-old historical incidents on Earth. When in the UK or France, you will almost certainly hear mention of the Battle of Waterloo. This is not a reference to an obscure event during the Unification Wars, but rather to a war that ended three hundred and ninety-six years ago. Other examples of the emotional importance of obscure historical events abound, from the Texans' Alamo to the Turks' Gallipoli. If you don't know a region's ancient history, you'll be spotted for an offworlder instantly.

Hatred, anger, glory, love; the whole gamut of emotion is recalled by such events. If you wish to pass yourself off as an Earther you have to understand these feelings, they have to be on your lips as readily as your mother's name. To any Earther, the history of a nation is more important than any of its current troubles. The perception of past greatness, more than any desire for personal fulfillment, is what drives many Earthers to excel. We live for the future; on Earth, you must learn to live for the past.

A more insidious and disturbing function of the Earth's historically-oriented nationalism is its racial and religious connotations. In most of the Solar System, individuals are differentiated by ability and behavior, which sometimes makes it hard to know when someone is your friend or your enemy. On Earth, having the wrong skin color or faith is enough to brand you and your family as someone's mortal enemy for life. There's a comforting certainty to that kind of life, but it's not for everyone. If, for instance, I thought that way, ninety percent of the people in this lecture hall would be dead by now, instead of half of you merely failing this course.

— Source: audio transcript, advanced training lecture, 'Operations on Earth', Academie St. Cloud, December 2110

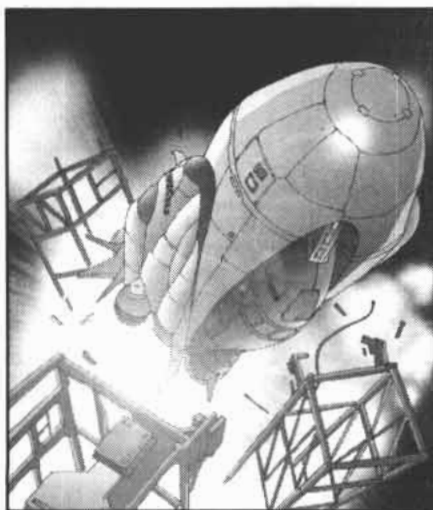
2.1

2.1.1

HISTORICAL FACTS

end of section 2.1 power, passion and tragedy

► RISE & FALL



The time of the Second Space Race was Earth's highest achievement, as Man boldly stepped forth into the cosmos to claim the rest of the Solar System as his own. Powerful nations directed the destiny of untold millions, and science advanced at an unprecedented pace. Although CEGA citizens loudly proclaim the glories of that time, one will find that many among the Solar nations know that segment of human history far better than people from the planet from whence the colonists came, mostly because the roots of their own space-borne societies can be traced there. Just as the Roman Empire was forgotten in the Dark Ages, so the Superpower Age was forgotten during the Fall.

For all Earth's history and past accomplishments, CEGA and its members are founding nations, young and vigorous as new nations always are, and their histories are mostly built from Orbital records. Whether they will ignore the lessons of the past remains to be seen.

▼ THE AGE OF SOLAR EXPLORATION

The mid-twentieth century was dominated by two superpowers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union. It was their intense competition that led to the initial development of space flight and other orbital technologies, in what historians call the First Space Race. In the twenty-first century the two original superpowers were joined by three more: China, the European Union and Japan. Though the United States continued to be the most powerful nation on Earth, thanks to its preeminence in aerospace technology, the other members of the Big Five, as the superpower nations were called, grew to rival the US in military and industrial capacity. The competition between them led to the Second Space Race.

While Solar history books talk of the private concerns that funded the major technological developments of the Second Space Race, like the fusion-powered Megaloader shuttle of 2111, it was the Big Five who used this technology to colonize the Solar System. Colonial competition was a useful safety valve for national rivalries, especially as the population of Earth grew, straining the planet's resources ever more dangerously as the twenty-first century progressed.

It was, in many ways, a golden age. The superpowers poured money into research, looking for breakthroughs to aid their solar exploration, even to the extent of running down their Earth-based militaries, which were seen as the products of a bygone age. This flurry of research led to major discoveries like fusion power and diamond composites. Scientific success and humanity's conquest of the last frontier combined to produce a global feeling of invincibility, which in turn led to an economic boom of unprecedented proportions. This boom did much to solve the lingering problem of poverty in the more disadvantaged nations, and by 2050 a host of newly empowered states, led by India, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa and Indonesia, was rising to challenge the Big Five.

Yet in this economic triumph lay the seeds of the Fall; while Solar colonization was successful, it was not successful enough. By 2060 the various solar colonies had become almost self-sufficient, but they were not returning the hoped-for bounty of resources to Earth. The home of humankind was groaning under the weight of thirteen billion people and in the late twenty-first century the environment started to collapse. Desertification, rising sea levels, ozone layer depletion and pollution on a massive scale ravaged entire nations. The most immediate effect was a dramatic global climate change that caused storms, droughts, and other destructive weather phenomena of a ferocity unmatched in recorded history.

The Big Five used the growing list of disasters as an excuse to transform the United Nations into the domineering Provisional Terran Government in 2067. The overwhelming power of the Big Five limited open resistance by smaller nations. However, rather than trying to fix the problems besetting Earth, the superpowers used the PTG to shift the effects of ecological breakdown onto other countries, thus ensuring continued high standards of living for their own populations. The PTG grew rich, and the environment continued to deteriorate.

THE FALL ▼

The 2070s saw the end of the Second Space Race. With dozens of small nations verging on collapse and middle powers becoming increasingly restless, the Big Five turned from solar exploration to military spending. By the end of the decade the superpowers had built massive armies, their troops in constant action maintaining control over the Earth. The most telling event of the decade was Project New Earth, the secret flight of Japanese, German, Chinese and American corporations to Venus in 2072. The Project caused massive public outrage and paranoia; the failure of intelligence agencies to uncover the plot panicked the superpowers into major purges of suspect officials.

Project New Earth, in its effort to escape the possibility of a global disaster, served as a self-fulfilling prophecy. The panic resulting from the Project, including massive withdrawal of industrial, monetary and technical assets, sank the global economy into a deep recession. The Project also upset the balance of power among the Big Five; Japan's business-dominated political system was left in chaos by the departure of its wealthiest components. By the time the civil strife was crushed by a military coup in 2075, Japan had become little more than a Chinese satellite state. The United States' larger economy and more stable political system managed to absorb the damage; the Project undermined faith in the federal government, however, as many senior officials began to move to Venus, following their corporate patrons. The US seized all remaining Earth-local corporate facilities, but could not hold on to them with its weakened space program.

By 2080, the recession had become a global depression. Harvests were failing regularly, natural disasters had become an everyday occurrence and the resulting political problems had severely undermined the remaining superpowers. As their power slipped, the superpowers reduced their overseas commitments and many small nations collapsed. The PTG listed two dozen destroyed states by 2082. PTG troops were only kept in failed states to enforce control of important resources, such as the Nile watershed.

Such 'police actions' added to the hundreds of minor conflicts raging around the world, as hardship ignited dormant ethnic, racial and religious hatreds. In the rising chaos, millions died of famine and pestilence. In these last days before the Fall, millions of desperate people seized every available launch site and fled into space, including the more visionary members of the PTG, which moved to Pyrea Station in 2081. From the Orbitals, the Exodus would continue for another two decades, gradually moving the bulk of humanity to the colonies. In 2085, when Mars declared its independence, the superpowers were too weak to do anything but send noisy protests.

By the end of the twenty-first century the United States was the only remaining democratic superpower. In Japan, China, Russia and Europe, terrified political elites spent the 2090s hiding behind military juntas. The few remaining commercial spaceports cycled through a seemingly endless flood of refugees. The superpowers' desperation led them to demand the control of any resource they felt they needed, often leading to military conflict.

REBORN ★

Here on Pyrea, far above the ruins of Earth, we can begin yet again. In 1945, the people of Earth came together in the best interests of all humankind to found the United Nations. The UN was the highest embodiment of the best ideals, born of a dream of peace, prosperity and security for all. Like so many dreams, the UN died in the face of the harsh reality of human politics, but its ideals remain the shining light by which we must measure all our future endeavors.

The Provisional Terran Government was born of shortsightedness, greed, elitism, racism and a hundred other ignoble conceits. The PTG was the legacy of the UN's failure. The UN Peace Force became the Earth Patrol Force, Interpol became the Security Organization, the World Health Organization became the Health Control Taskforce and so on. It is this shadow that we must atone for. We must never again let our ideals make excuses for our methods.

So now we have looked back and I ask you my comrades, my friends, my fellow survivors, to look forward. The PTG Security Organization is dead. I christen us the Solar Police, hand of justice for the United Solar Nations, born of an unkind father and bereft of a dying mother. We must believe in the highest ideals of the UN, but we must also operate in the real world. With the wisdom of those who have erred greatly, let us not permit either task blind us to the needs of the other. This is a difficult path, but we have no choice. The alternative lies below us, outside our windows. If you are ever in doubt of your conviction to this cause, simply look down at the price of we have already paid.

— Source: audio transcript, Foundation address by Director Ang San Su Kyi, Centerpoint Archives.

2.2.2

HISTORICAL FACTS

▼ THE FALL (CONTINUED)



Major wars ripped through Southeast Asia, South America, and Southern Africa. Hundreds of thousands perished in the so-called Resource Wars, and irreplaceable industrial and spaceport facilities were deliberately destroyed. In orbit, many stations began to shut down skyhooks and turn away shuttles, unwilling to become involved in the violence below; more ships left for the colonies. The Resource Wars ended in 2098 when a combined American-European taskforce accepted the surrender of the Brazilian government amid the ruins of Brasilia.

The astronauts and scientists who ran the superpowers' space agencies had been conspiring since the 2080s. The Big Five would eventually turn on each other, and a world war would inevitably spread into orbit, risking the destruction of the space stations that housed the conspirators' families. Loyalty to the vibrant society they had built in space proved more binding than ties to the corrupt and dying nations. When the Chinese Space Corps was ordered to support the invasion of Siberia in 2099, the conspirators acted. As the first Chinese tanks rolled over the Russian border, all the superpowers' remaining planetary aerospace facilities were destroyed or badly damaged by massive explosions.

▼ THE THIRD WORLD WAR

The Third World War is considered to have formally started when Europe, hoping for access to Siberian resources, joined Russia in its war against China. Japan, along with Vietnam, Singapore and India, honored their alliances with China and committed military forces. The Europeans and Russians brought in Iran and various African and South American countries. There was little popular support for the war in these satellite states, but the pro-superpower puppet governments did as their masters ordered.

Only the United States held itself apart, distracted by the desire to retrieve its lost orbital facilities. While the other superpowers were furious, the war quickly absorbed their attention. The US, however, was not going to give up so easily, especially since it had possessed the majority of the rebelling orbital facilities. More importantly, the conspirators within the United States Space Forces (USSF) and NASA had not been able to cripple America's ability to attain orbit. In 2100 loyal units of the USSF marines retook a number of low earth orbit stations, depressurizing the one station that resisted. Plans were then made to bring the whole of Earth orbit and the Moon under American rule, regardless of the individual stations' nation of origin.

Before the US could accomplish this grand design, an unknown agent crashed the North American Information Grid. The Grid was central to the command and control of police and military forces, as well as the day-to-day operations of business and government. Present-day CEGA propaganda blames this attack on the Orbitals, but there is no conclusive evidence; so many factions and nations had both motive and ability that the true perpetrators will likely never be identified. The chaos caused by the Grid's crash was not fatal, but in the confusion, a coalition of South- and Central American countries sought revenge for their defeat in the Resource Wars. While the forces involved were only a minor threat, the attack drew the United States into the conflict. Within a year the US had been driven from orbit by Asian and European missiles. By 2103, war losses meant that none of the superpowers was in a position to reach orbit, let alone control it.

In 2105, the Russians made the first use of chemical weapons and then in 2106 released an engineered fast-burn virus in Beijing. A Chinese nuclear missile destroyed Novosibirsk in retaliation. While nuclear and chemical weapons were destructive in limited geographical zones, gene-hunting bioweapons devastated entire peoples across the planet. Employed by almost every faction, these cheap and easily modified weapons wiped out entire bloodlines and broke countries up into isolated and fearful communities. By 2116 the fighting had been reduced to little more than a series of local wars, though historians judge the Third World War to have continued until 2119, when the last President of the United States, Mary Ball, was killed by a nuclear strike on Colorado Springs. With her death the last and greatest of the superpowers ceased to exist as a unified state.

THE LONG WINTER ▼

The mass destruction of records during the Fall obscures the details of life on Earth from the late twenty-first to mid-twenty-second century. The best information comes from the detailed observations of the Orbital colonies; in their records the horror of this time is laid out in dry statistics. From a high of 13 billion, the population of Earth dropped to no more than 3 billion by 2130. A death toll of 10 billion is an impossible figure to truly comprehend. To put the figure in perspective, the dead would populate the existing Jovian Stations twenty times over, and is nearly twice the current sum total of humanity. Understanding the mental scars left by this terrible period is central to any study of CEGA's modern outlook.

Earth was devastated. Orbital observers estimated that ecological failure and war damage reduced arable land by 80 percent, leaving barely enough to support the survivors. Nuclear fallout in the upper atmosphere produced a limited nuclear winter and average global temperature dropped by two degrees, producing further dramatic climate changes. Numerous areas were radioactively, chemically or biologically contaminated and the basic infrastructure of civilization, like bridges, roads, power plants and ports, lay shattered or abandoned. The resources needed to rebuild, including clean water, raw materials, trained personnel and reliable communications, were either exhausted, contaminated, destroyed or needed to hold off starvation as harvests failed for lack of clean soil, reliable rain and warm weather.

The people of Earth did not go beyond basic subsistence for many decades, making only the smallest moves to overcome the great obstacles that every community faced. It was in Europe and North America, which had possessed the most advanced nations before the Fall, that the first signs of revival appeared. The most important factor was the depth of technical knowledge among the populations of those regions. Even with the massive death toll and the departure of the scientific elite, there were still people to repair and build generators, radios and weapons. Rebuilding was a slow process, however; towns were reluctant to overcome their fears of disease and starvation and only a few visionary leaders worked to reestablish ties with other communities.

It was not until the late 2140s that anything resembling central government returned to areas larger than a few hundred square kilometers. These small states quickly attracted support, which allowed them to rebuild industries and develop limited resource bases, but environmental and economic conditions remained fragile. Within a decade, nations had been reborn, but by necessity, these were small nations. The new governments brought law and order to the chaos left by the Fall and famine ceased to be an everyday problem, though a bad harvest could still make starvation a real concern and much of the planet remained devastated and untamed. Inevitably, scarce resources led to conflict, but the fighting was limited; there were insufficient resources to support long wars. What these conflicts did, however, was quicken the pace of integration and technological renewal.

THE UNIFICATION WARS ▼

By the 2160s four new nations dominated North America: the Green States of California, the Maritime League, the New American States (NAS) and the Republic of Texas. Beyond their borders the continent remained split into isolated communities; so much rebuilding was needed that peace could probably have gone on for another century were it not for the NAS' expansionist policies.

Religiously and racially fundamentalist, the NAS wished to conquer the continent and purge it of those they considered incapable of handling the responsibility of rebuilding North America. However, their attempt to annex the northwest coast led them into conflict with California, and in 2163, the first Unification War broke out. The Republic of Texas launched a surprise attack on the distracted California in early 2164, in an effort to gain control of water resources along the coast. By 2165, the Texans and NAS were also at war, fighting over resources in the Great Plains. Only the Maritime League, protected by the Midwestern Desert, managed to stay aloof from the fighting and concentrate on industrial and technical reconstruction.

During this same period three powers had arisen in Europe: the Confederate Kingdom of Poland, the Kingdom of France and the Empire of Turkey. The first European Unification War started in 2165 when the Poles and Turks went to war over salvage rights in southeastern Russia. The Kingdom of France used diplomacy to keep the Poles and Turks focused on each other, funding its reconstruction by selling arms to both sides and developing close trade ties with the Maritime League.

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HISTORICAL FACTS

▼ UNIFICATION WARS (CONTINUED)

With resources at a premium, armies were mostly infantry formations; a few tanks or aircraft could change the course of a battle. The desire for better weapons quickened the pace of reconstruction, but military production used more resources than the fighting gained. Afraid of another collapse, France and the League worked to unite North America and Europe. They secretly armed restless minorities, even within their own territory, until guerilla warfare erupted throughout both continents. As soon as the fighting had sufficiently undermined political and economic stability, they took diplomatic action.

The French invited the Turks and Poles to a conference in the ruins of Berlin. At the meeting the French claimed that if the three states cooperated they could crush all opposition to their dominance; otherwise, unrest would eventually sweep all three nations away as they squabbled among themselves. Beset by rebellion the Turks and Poles agreed and on March 28, 2170, the United States of Europe was formed. Joint campaigns to crush internal dissent were a great success; the abrupt cessation of secret French arms supplies left the various rebel groups unable to resist the assault.

In North America, the League approached California and the Texans and offered them a strategic alliance, hoping to draw the isolationist NAS in later. The North American Alliance was signed on October 2, 2170. The new allies immediately began diplomatic entreaties to the NAS. After a year, an agreement was reached. The NAS would become a military and economic ally with the other Alliance nations for the sake of presenting a unified front in international dealings, but it would maintain closed borders; all interaction with the rest of the Alliance would be through carefully controlled border consulates.

By 2172 both the USE and Alliance completely dominated their respective continents, bloodless saber-rattling having brought the remaining small states into line. From this powerful base the two alliances poured resources into reconstruction and territorial expansion. North Africa and Central America were quickly conquered, but in 2176 the strategic situation changed dramatically. USE armies in western Siberia were stopped by the Siberian Republic, a joint military expedition in the Congo Basin was defeated by the previously unknown Azanian Compact and the Alliance's marauding Pacific fleets were attacked by both Japan and the Australia-New Zealand Allied Commonwealth (ANZAC). Determined to pursue their dreams of global reunification, the Alliance and USE formed a temporary pact known as the Union, and attacked their new enemies. The result was the last and longest of the Unification Wars.

Air and naval battles raged across the Pacific as Alliance, ANZAC and Japanese forces clashed over various island chains. On the Serengeti plains, Azanian and USE armored units fought a series of mobile campaigns, while an infantry war raged in the jungles of the Congo Basin. On the vast West Siberian plain and among the Kazakh Hills, air-mobile and armored battles raged between the USE and Siberian Republic. In 2178, the Chinese Federation and Japan allied with Siberia to form the core of the Asian Trading Sphere (ATS). Not long after, Chinese and Japanese reinforcements appeared on the Siberian Front.

The last Unification War was fought with increasingly high-tech weapons and reconstruction reached a fever pitch. As a result the fighting quickly became unsustainable, and by 2182, all sides were exhausted. Once more, France and the League persuaded their allies that further fighting would be unprofitable. Opponents of peace were distracted by a new goal, that of regaining contact with the colonies. In secret tests on the Azores, France and the League had successfully launched a space shuttle, giving the two continental alliances limited access to the industrial, technological and material riches of Earth orbit. Control of orbit, it was argued, would guarantee USE and Alliance domination of Earth at a low cost.

Already planning their orbital campaign, the Alliance and USE called an armistice in 2183. After six months of negotiations the Jerusalem Accords brought an end to the Unification Wars. Under the accords the Alliance and USE guaranteed they would not seek to expand on Earth by military means. In return ANZAC, the ATS and the Azanian Compact agreed not to back insurgents within USE or Alliance territory. With their Earth holdings secured, the USE and Alliance founded the Central Earth Government & Administration on January 1st 2184, claiming to be the rightful government of Earth and all humankind. On the basis of this claim, a fleet of shuttles left Earth on July 20th, 2184 and requested the membership of the orbital stations.

The members of CEGA were exhausted by their exertions during the latter Unification Wars. Even the armistice did not improve matters, as massive resources were diverted into making the Orbitals into effective military production facilities. The Orbitals, having barely survived the preceding decades, willingly joined CEGA in return for much-needed food and water. Covering for each other's weaknesses, the Orbitals and the Earth-bound states put every effort into consolidating the new government.

9.2.2

During this period, thanks to the economic power of the League, the Alliance recovered faster than the USE, allowing it to claim a slightly superior position on the new CEGA Council. This did them little good, however; the League soon found itself fighting the Venusians for economic preeminence in the Orbitals, and the hard-line states diverted too many of their resources into CEGA, leaving themselves with ever-increasing internal problems. The USE was content to let the North American nations act as if they were the natural leaders of CEGA, instead staying focused on economic development and security. European politics were fundamentally conservative and somewhat restricted by the presence of the Scandinavian Kingdoms, whose liberal social systems made them unwilling partners in imperialistic adventurism. The USE badly miscalculated their estimate of the Alliance's internal problems, however. North America was so busy putting down dissidents and guerrilla movements that it left control of CEGA to the ambitious bureaucratic and military officials in command of the Joint Services.

2.2.7

Both alliances were left scrambling to prevent a major Solar war, one that the Battle of Elysée had shown they were ill-prepared to fight. CEGA's problems emboldened rebels in every occupied territory, including North Africa and Central America, enraging the USE and weakening the Alliance still more. Ties between some CEGA officials and the Venusian Bank also came to light, further inflaming the situation. Furious that the Alliance had completely lost control of the situation, the USE set out to win an equal number of seats to the Alliance at the 2211 Council elections. Doing so with ease, they then demanded that one of their own, Aelfred Cyning, Baron Rathkeale, be elected as Head Councilor. As of late 2211, the Alliance and USE, both still weakened and distracted by the consequences of the Odyssey, are not strong enough to reinforce their absolute control over CEGA. Many previously timid factions, such as Ignatius Chang's Unificationists, have gained strength and recognition in the CEGA Council. This political squabbling is subtle and carefully hidden from the general populace of the Solar System, but its presence is quite obvious in the USN chambers.



To be of no church is dangerous. Religion, of which the rewards are distant, and which is animated only by faith and hope, will glide by degrees out of the mind unless it be invigorated and reimpresed by external ordinances, by stated calls to worship, and the salutary influence of example.

— Samuel Johnson, *Life of Milton*



▼ POLITICAL OVERVIEW

Though the Alliance is easily the dominant power in North America, the influence of the two small CEGA states, the West Indies and Quebec, should not be underestimated. The popular view of the Alliance-as-continent also ignores the fact that while the numerous Occupied Territories are administered by Alliance nations, they are legally CEGA possessions. This has become a potential problem, since the Alliance can no longer guarantee the CEGA Council will sanction their wishes. The Occupied Territories are becoming a dynamic element in North American politics; resentful of Alliance exploitation, their people have taken to the halls of power in Berlin and the Gaia Arcology.

So far, the dissidents' arguments have been quashed by the political influence of the Alliance; it is a sign of how far Alliance power within the Council has slipped that the Occupied Territories are being heard at all. The West Indians seem especially intent on provoking some sort of reaction out of the Alliance by sponsoring anti-Alliance representatives to Council meetings. The concept of the Occupied Territories being under direct CEGA rule is finding favor with those who wish to increase the power of the Administration over the continental alliances.

— Source: text report, CEGA Political Update, Analysis and Records Bureau, October 2211

▼ ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

North America is enjoying a relative boom. Guild members looking at long-term investments should be wary, however. Outside the League and West Indies, which continue to welcome Mercurian initiatives, little economic growth is attributable to increased trade. Military production remains the only real growth area for the NAS, Republic and California. Research shows few opportunities for Mercurian involvement in these industries. Even the Venusians have been unable (or unwilling) to achieve substantial penetration of the military economy. Not surprisingly, the North American States are vocal supporters of CEGA military action.

— Source: excerpt from Mercurian Merchant Guild Financial Report, July 2211

▼ ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

The prime industrial powerhouse of the twenty-first century, North America was badly hit by ecological degradation. Even today much of the continent remains uninhabitable because of biological, chemical, or radioactive contamination. Perhaps the most spectacular reminders of the environmental dangers of North America are the radioactive tornadoes that arise in the Midwestern desert. Stirring up buried radioactive dust and scattering it across vast areas, a single storm can devastate hundreds of square kilometers of reclaimed farmland in a few minutes. CEGA has implemented several storm-warning systems, but has been unable to make any lasting impact.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "Earth: The Battered Planet."

◇ DEADLY HARVEST

Director, we've got more info on the smuggling investigation. Get this: the guns in question were coming out of the Republic of Texas' Corpus Christi Arsenal. The Texan authorities are refusing to take any action. They claim that southern extremists hijacked the guns. That's their best story. Back-country bandits strolled into a secure facility and wandered off with two tons of small arms. I'd laugh, but the Texans are obviously pretty serious about this. The administrator our informant fingered was found dead seven hours ago.

Analysis is probably right. The North American armaments industry is out of control. An increasing number of the weapons that we're seizing from criminals, mercs and dealers come from the NAS, and even the Jovians are starting to see explosives crates with Californian seals on them.

These guys are getting desperate, Director. CEGA just isn't spending enough money on ground forces to keep all the North American weapons companies in profit. They can't branch out because the Venusians have eaten up the civilian markets, and the external arms trade won't support them forever. The smuggling is a minor symptom. I'm worried that they're going to start using those guns themselves.

— Source: audio transcript, message from Agent-in-Charge Dexter Ghazni, Commercial Security Bureau, July 2211

NORTH AMERICAN ALLIANCE ◀

Some observers express surprise that the continental alliances that formed CEGA have not been subsumed by its creation. Such views lack a critical understanding of the forces that drive these alliances and the important role they continue to play within CEGA, especially as stable factional power bases in the ongoing struggle for control of the Council. In the case of the Alliance, the fear of the NAS that drove its creation remains an extant political motivation, as do its ideological differences with the USE.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics' course, Academy St. Cloud, February 2211

POLITICAL AIMS ▼

At this time, the Alliance's primary focus is resolving the increasing military tensions on Earth and among the Solar Nations. As a result of the tensions, there has been a strengthening of ties between the Alliance's members, as a web of mutual obligations and dependencies tightens under political pressure. At the same time, however, the differences within the Alliance are being exacerbated by the increasingly close cooperation. The failure to develop the strong bureaucratic and elite ties of the sort that bind the USE together is proving costly, as the integrity and influence of the Alliance slips every month.

Democracy and open political processes hinder the League's ability to cooperate with its allies, even though its continued economic growth requires it to do so. A popular backlash against the repressive policies of the other Alliance nations is creating political indecision, paralyzing the League's ability to be proactive within the alliance. The NAS is of even greater concern to the other Alliance nations; it remains a fundamentalist state, openly inimical to its fellow nations and cooperating only as a temporary measure. The NAS' present ruling clique is moderate only in terms of its business relations with CEGA and the rest of the Alliance.

The alliance has also been disrupted by wider realization of the degree of Venusian influence within CEGA. At present, only California has reacted forcefully to the revelations, but all the Alliance's members have become aware of interference in their economies and politics by agents pushing Venusian interests. The matter of how to eliminate such influence is being hotly debated behind closed doors, but it is likely that a unified response is improbable at best; resentment concerning the League's financial dominance is serving as a significant barrier to complete trust with the Alliance.

— Source: text report, Political Update, Analysis and Records Bureau, October 2211

ECONOMY ▼

The industrial capacity of the Maritime League makes the Alliance the most diverse economy within CEGA; it is less reliant on imported technology from the Orbitals, and very resistant to Venusian influence. The League's industrial dominance complements the agricultural and natural-resource industries of the other Alliance nations, further increasing self-sufficiency. The situation is much different, however, when one considers the Alliance nations as individuals.

Despite their strong trading relationship with the League, the NAS and Republic of Texas are facing serious economic problems due to unsustainable expenditures on military buildup. CEGA subsidies for troops in the Joint Services are supporting their economies for now, but it is only a matter of time before both nations suffer a serious recession. Both nations also maintain agricultural economies, aberrations that only survive because of ideological insistence. Neither state can hope to survive almost entirely on farming, especially considering the ready availability of Orbital-produced synthetic foodstuffs.

The state-controlled economy of California is the most balanced in the Alliance, though it remains small and restricted by the "deep green" policies of the Executive Council, which is resistant to foreign trade of any sort. However, the Executive Council is sounding out Guild representatives regarding trade for supplies of clean water and soil for eco-restoration projects. The Maritime League has a vibrant economy but is dependent on imported resources. This makes them a strong trading nation and the Guild has good (if rather low-profit) trading ties with them. Too much of their production is inferior to Orbital products to make the cost of lifting goods into orbit in large quantities worthwhile at this stage, however.

Intra-CEGA trade has not been as profitable for the Alliance as might be expected. The economies of the USE are tightly controlled, competitive and ill-matched to those of the Alliance, but CEGA legislation is forcing some freeing of internal markets.

▼ ECONOMY (CONTINUED)

As a result, increasing growth is forecasted for cross-Atlantic trade; this should result in some expansion of CEGA industrial production, which may open more opportunities for the Guild. Given the nationalist nature of North America, however, the Alliance will likely remain a high-risk venture for some time. Trade with the West Indies is very brisk; with the Republic of Texas reaping many side benefits, it can be hoped that the Republic will choose to open formal agreements with the Guild in the near future.

An interesting area for growth is South America. Trade with non-CEGA Earth is highly restricted due to CEGA's orbital holdings, but trade ties with South America have grown noticeably, with aid from the other Non-Aligned States. At this time most Alliance trade destined for South America is funneled through the West Indies. The ongoing diplomatic negotiations with South America are creating excellent conditions for trade. Eager for weapons to defend themselves from the Empire of Argentina, the South Americans are willing to pay large sums for the Alliance's excess productive capacity. If contact with Non-Aligned orbital resources can be reinforced, the Guild may be able to provide further services to South America.

— Source: excerpt from Mercurian Merchant Guild Financial Report, July 2211

▼ INSIDER TRADING

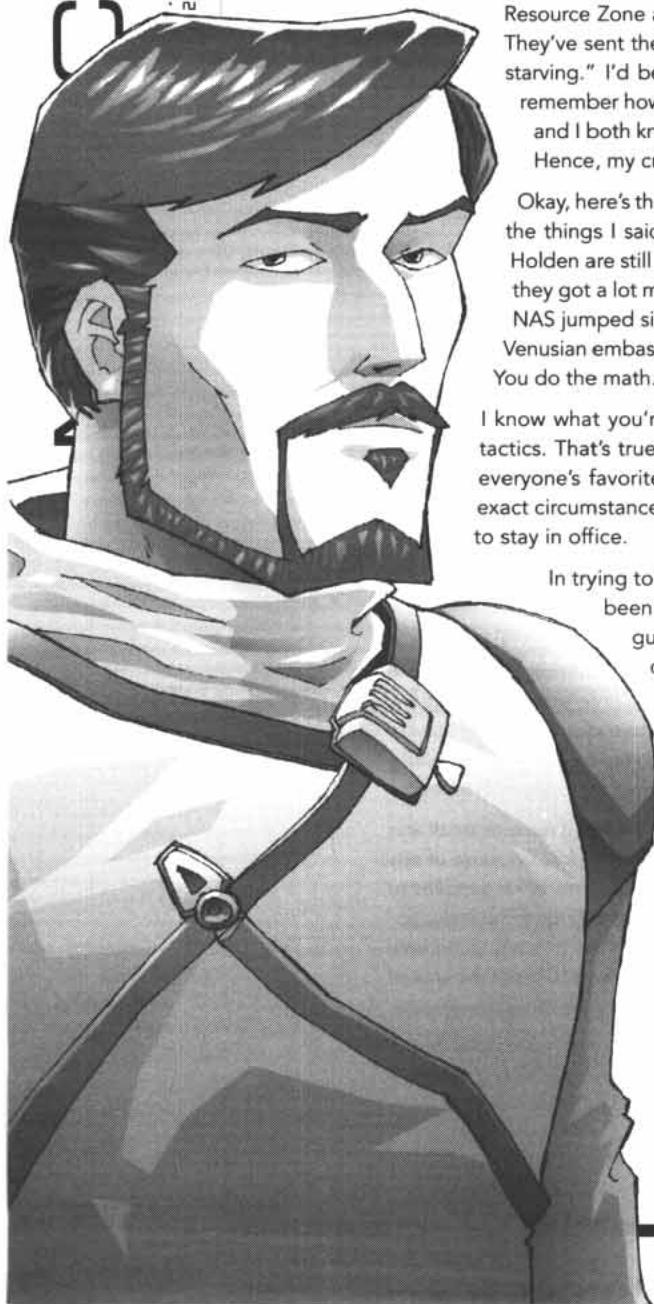
Tsao-an, Jan. You're very observant. I do have a headache. It's those guerilla attacks. With both the Resource Zone and the Occupied Territories acting up, the Alliance's reinforced every border. They've sent their usual request for CEGA equipment, "give us guns because our people are starving." I'd be sympathetic if they didn't already have so many guns to begin with. I still remember how they look on the business end. The Alliance's got resources to spare, Jan. You and I both know it. Still, they keep calling my office and going on about my "true loyalties." Hence, my cranial misery.

Okay, here's the latest. If your analysts hand this stuff to you before Thursday, I'll take back half the things I said about them last week. The League's election is still proceeding. Jarvis and Holden are still attacking Alliance policies and the League's involvement in general. Yesterday, they got a lot more polite. Today, comm traffic between the offices of both candidates and the NAS jumped sixty percent. All of the calls were routed through the ATS. One call went to the Venusian embassy here in Gaia. One of the embassy's couriers just booked a shuttle back home. You do the math.

I know what you're thinking. The moderates in the NAS wouldn't stoop to cloak-and-dagger tactics. That's true, but take a look at the attached vid. I'm sure you recognize James Knight, everyone's favorite Church head? The girl is Texan, twelve years old. We're looking into the exact circumstances, but it's pretty certain that he's been licking a lot of hardliner boots in order to stay in office.

In trying to figure out how that girl got into the NAS in the first place, we saw that you'd been tracing some large payments from a Californian company to six Texan border guards. Those guards have, coincidentally, failed to show up to work for five days now. We're looking into the California connection, but still, I'm betting that in two days, both League candidates will start advocating more enviro-trade with California.

— Source: audio message from Councilor Ignatius Chang to Director Janus O'Grady, December 2210



THE MARITIME LEAGUE ▼

Incorporating a series of massive arcologies stretching from the Gaspé Peninsula to Chesapeake Bay, the Maritime League regards itself as the most advanced nation on Earth and guardian to the history and traditions of the United States of America. Indeed, the League is very proud of the fact that it can trace its founding directly to the last US Vice-President, Joseph Davis. In 2119, the United States fell apart after President Ball's death; seeing that he had no hope of keeping the shattered nation together, Davis gathered as many loyal military units and citizens as he could and marched from Colorado Springs to the East Coast. In 2121, he arrived at the half-built Gaia Arcology, outside the bombed ruins of Boston, with nearly a million followers in tow.

Over the next two decades, Davis used military force to extend his authority and built more arcologies with the profits thus gained. Though times were tough, Davis insisted on democratic elections. In 2130, he was elected the first president of the Maritime League. Under his and subsequent administrations, the League slowly rebuilt an industrial base, but never sought to expand west of the Appalachians. The desire to regain the glory of the defunct US drove the League to push for reunification, but its actual contributions to the effort were minimal, at best. Even today, the League is reluctant to commit troops to the Joint Services, though its industrial and technical resources make it a key CEGA member.

As a fully participatory democracy, founded on the principles of the original Constitution of the United States, it may be difficult to understand how the League can support CEGA's policies. It is important, however, to take into account the League's history and its people's perception of themselves as the heirs to the legacy of the old US. One may surmise that the League's citizens are willing to work together with CEGA in order to rebuild it from within. Another element to consider is the League's historical desire for control of near-Earth-orbit facilities; it is only through its membership in CEGA that the League can have any sort of jurisdiction over the Orbitals.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

HIDDEN RESEARCH ◇

While the Orbitals support the vast majority of CEGA's production facilities, the League's research agencies contribute a significant amount of knowledge and innovation to the collective nations. The League also retains vast amounts of data and research dating from before the Fall. Thus, although it lags in space-related technologies, the League is possessed of the capability to commit high-level Edict violations. However, it must be noted that the League's democratic institutions, coupled with its above-average public education, have limited the chances for such violations. We presently regard the League as a compliant signatory state.

External influences may alter the League's compliance. Outside the arcologies, the League's territory is still biologically and radiologically tainted. Breathing masks and other protection remain a necessity, resulting in numerous psychological issues in the League's populace regarding outside travel. The League's massive industrial efforts are only worsening the problems; half of this year's hydroponics harvest was lost due to water toxicity and insufficient sunlight. The Californian Green Front is known to have conducted unsupervised (and unsuccessful) research into engineered eco-restorative organisms. Given that California is now offering to supply the League with food, it is likely that the League will be pressured to supply aid to the Green Front's bio-research programs. California food packets, wrapped in eco-restoration leaflets, are already having an effect on public opinion within the League. If the League does not register any research efforts with this bureau by December 2211, a preliminary Edicts Enforcement investigation is recommended.

— Source: text report, Scientific Update, Edicts Enforcement Bureau, July 2211

UNREST ★

The more I'm around these people, the more obvious it is that they don't really like their Alliance allies. Public disapproval for the conscription policy is rising every day. Without the policy, the League would lose most of its support in CEGA, but most of these people want to have it all. They blame the Jovians, of course, but Jupiter's too far away to throw rocks at. So I'm starting to see a lot of anti-Alliance demonstrations. Flag burnings, marches and the like. The League's government, bound with its own laws, can't do anything about the protests other than ask the people to play nice and go home. The demonstrations are getting worse, and the Alliance isn't amused anymore.

— Source: audio transcript observation report, Centerpoint Field Operative KF82, May 2211

3.2.4

HISTORICAL FACTS

◇ DAILY LIFE



Despite all the civil trouble, though, life in the League isn't nearly as bad as either they or the USN says it is. The environment domes are spacious, food is plentiful, if a bit bland, and the streets are fairly safe, if you're polite and respectful. The people have an enormous capacity for pessimism, but after spending a month looking out of their windows, I can understand why. You never know when the food's going to run out, or when the dome's going to crack, or if the NAS is going to decide to attack. Still, it could be worse.

— Source: audio transcript observation report, Centerpoint Field Operative KD95, December 2211

Gaia City is actually two cities in one, a pairing of the Gaia Arcology and the Boston Dome. Building of the smaller Boston Dome was started in 2021 and completed in 2087. The Gaia Arcology, on the other hand, was a project started before the Fall. It remained under construction until the founding of CEGA provided the necessary economic boost to fund its completion in 2186. Gaia is now one of the two capitals of CEGA as well as being the capital of the Maritime League. It is the largest structure ever built by humanity, reaching a height of two kilometers at its highest point and housing 115 million people across more than a thousand square kilometers. Another 60 million live in the Boston Dome, making Gaia City the largest urban community in history.

As the most important center for business, politics and science on Earth, Gaia City throngs with travelers from all over Earth and the Solar colonies. Visitors are spoiled for choice by the wide range of experiences Gaia has to offer. From a moving trip to the Long March Memorial, to the grand spectacle of the changing of the Guards at the CEGA Council Chambers, there is always something happening in Gaia City.

— Source: audio transcript, Passenger Welcome Message, Jefferson Shuttleport, February 2211

◇ THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Perhaps the strangest political relationship within CEGA is that between the League and the French. The one is a pluralistic, populist democracy, while the other is an anachronistic, elitist monarchy; the only common ground appears to be capitalism. Shallow analyses look no further than trade ties to explain the relationship, but this explains neither the deep political connections between the nations nor the popular adulation shown the French king on his frequent visits to the League.

The politics of both nations show many common features and attitudes, not the least being a hearty dislike for fighting wars and an equally avid interest in acquiring economic wealth. Given these basic motivations, their cooperation in exploiting the North Atlantic and bringing about an end to the Unification Wars may be perceived as a case of joining with the least of many evils. The fact that cooperation between the League and France has extended beyond the formation of CEGA suggests either a continued friendship based on long-standing tradition or a persisting opportunity for mutual profit.

— Source: text report, Political Update, Analysis and Records Bureau, October 2211

NEW AMERICAN STATES ▼

In times of stress and confusion, many social structures built on trust and equality prove unsustainable in the face of the needs of survival. In such situations, military levels of discipline, loyalty and obedience are required. In the case of the New American States, the mindset acquired by its people during the Fall has not yet given way to a system conducive to technological and intellectual innovation. NAS society is harshly regimented, and its policies are xenophobic in the extreme. While these institutions allowed its people to weather the Fall by absorbing or destroying territorial rivals, their retention has made the modern NAS a difficult entity for the rest of the Alliance to deal with.

The beginnings of the NAS can be traced back to the last decades of the Twentieth century, when radical groups founded numerous communities in the Rocky Mountain States. Wrapped in apocalyptic conspiracy theories, these groups were ignored by the mainstream political processes of the time. The radicals grew and prospered however, especially when the Fall and its hardships made their views on racial minorities and foreigners popular. The radicals' supplies of food and water drew many converts, and as the complex metropolitan infrastructures began to fail, a large proportion of the area's population began to subscribe to the radicals' ideology in order to obtain shelter and sustenance.

When the United States fell, a number of fundamentalist politicians gave open support to the Rocky Mountain communities, lending them a veneer of legality during the disorganized national collapse. After centralized command of the military disappeared, many soldiers joined the communities, bringing weapons, skills and a military system of justice. In 2121, the largest of the communities, united in their applications of martial law, banded together to form the NAS. The needs of survival demanded harsh measures; many freedoms taken for granted in the US were curtailed to preserve security, solidarity and optimism. After a number of religious debates that slowed food production, the NAS' ruling council voted unanimously to make the New American Christian Church the official state religion, banning all others. Objectors were exiled; many of these ended up in independent communities and went missing when the NAS later expanded its borders. Throughout the Fall, NAS society was composed of the two primary components of agrarian food production and military expansionism, both considered "holy" tasks for people of a given gender or age group.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

I keep telling myself I'm trained for this. It's not being asked for my papers all the time, or having to bow my head and stand aside whenever a man, or someone in uniform walks by. It's the people. They accept this. Even the ones who have it the worst, like African and Asian slaves, just take the insults and torture and keep on going. I haven't seen any sign of a resistance, or freedom movement, or even an underground message service. Everybody seems terrified of everybody else. Nobody has friends. The only thing there ever is to talk about is the faith and the glory of the NAS. Any other type of discussion will draw the Zealot Militia. If they don't hear you directly, there's a good chance someone will report you just so they can get name recognition and promotion points at the next service. I suppose a system this paranoid creates people in its own image. Those ZEMIL thugs, for all their cold efficiency, are just kids, as scared as the rest. They don't really care about what you may or may not have said. They just lock you in a room, do their Church-approved business with you, and then let you go and tell you to be good and never again do whatever it was you did.

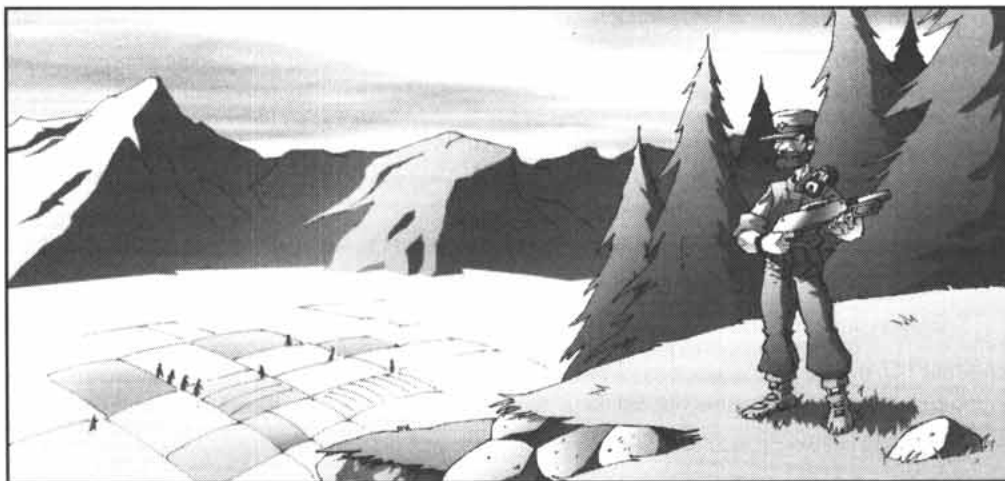
If anything, it's the privileged class that shows the least adherence to the NAS' guiding principles. They aren't frugal, pious, humble or generous, and they don't have to hide it, either. They're immune from punishment, probably due to their membership in one of the brotherhoods I keep hearing tidbits about. These organizations probably date back to before the Fall. I tried to ask more about them, carefully, just a couple of questions. A ten-year-old girl pointed me out to ZEMIL. They just got done with me. Two more months, and I want extraction. Don't make me ask twice.

— Source: audio transcript, observation report, Centerpoint Field Operative KF73, June, 2211

The NAS looks so different from the outside. Their Senators and delegates are always claiming that the rest of the Alliance and CEGA are plotting against them, but they don't say anything about religion or racial purity. Inside, there was anti-CEGA and Alliance propaganda posted up everywhere. Children sang songs about the "heathens on the coasts." Since most NAS citizens never set foot outside their nation, they have no choice but to believe what the vids tell them. You want another operation there? Send someone else.

— Source: audio transcript, extraction debriefing, Centerpoint Field Operative KF73, August, 2211

5.2.6



REPUBLIC OF TEXAS ▼

Possessing a firm grasp of their combined historical records, the Texans are a proud and confident nation. Avowed imperialists, many Texans (including the present Comandante) also seem lost in dreams of the great Hispanic empires of antiquity. However, the Republic itself is a poor country and much of its outward focus seems directed at remedying this fault. Despite their nation's ambitions, the Texan people are generally hospitable and optimistic; a cultural love for guests and gatherings tends to reduce open displays of pro-CEGA sentiment.

The Republic rose from the hordes of desperate refugees who poured into the American Southwest during the Third World War. Mexico had long since collapsed into warring states, and famine and violence drove millions to flee northward. Ecological trauma and nuclear war had already devastated the lands north of the Rio Grande, and violence broke out as desperate locals fought to protect the few resources they had left. Soon the region was in ruins, ruled by bandits who terrorized the few villages that remained.

In a land of radioactive desert dotted with oases of arable land, only the most hardy and cunning individuals thrived; eventually, they formed local militias and drove off or absorbed the bandits. These militias were soon turned on other communities as towns fought to control water, clean soil and industrial sites. In 2144, a militia leader known as Comandante Marquez forged an alliance among the militias along the Rio Grande and established a military junta, the United Republic of Mexico and Texas (later shortened to its current form) in or around 2144. With stable government, the Southwest slowly recovered, salvaging technology from the ruined cities of the Gulf Coast and fighting off continual raids, eventually growing into the nation known today as the Republic.

The Republic's main opponent was the environment. Desertification and drought made harvests uncertain, toxic dust storms blew down from the Great Plains and the coastal swamps were hot zones of chemical and biological pollution. Today, little has changed; the majority of Texans eke out a hard existence on small subsistence farms that cluster around fortified villages. Military service is the only way into the prosperous arcologies that line the Gulf Coast. All able-bodied citizens serve with local militias but only the most talented and adventurous individuals sign up for the Republican Army's twenty-year minimum term of service.

Only those with military service have political rights within the Republic. Local militia service allows voting in village council elections, and service in the Republican army allows voting in Junta elections. Since education beyond basic literacy and arithmetic requires military service, the vast majority of Texans know little about the world outside their individual villages. These villages remain the center of Texan culture and from it they draw their love of festivals and willingness to endure hardship. Texan quality of life has noticeably improved with the bringing in of CEGA eco-restoration projects and industry, thus ensuring that Comandante Diego and CEGA will retain popular support among the villages.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

POLITICS ◇

Generalissimo Salvatore Diego is a crackpot. He came to power in 2210, after getting a chestful of medals in border flareups and bandito hunts. Before that, he was just your average Texan, not terribly bright and not really caring. He has a large family, fourteen siblings. Getting them out of the villages and into the top levels of the arcologies seemed to motivate him for the first months of his reign, but after he abolished elections and got military backing for dictatorial control, he's gotten out of hand. The levels of inefficiency and corruption plaguing Diego's industrial buildup pet projects are astounding. His toadies are robbing him blind, and he's too busy making grand pronouncements to notice. The Republican economy is now the most fragile one in CEGA, and that's not saying a lot.

The Republic's loyalty to CEGA seems truly based on agreement with the principles on which the Administration was founded. The Texans maintain good relations with all their CEGA allies except the NAS. There's a bit of rivalry with California, but the two Spanish-speaking nations have a lot in common and were already becoming increasingly close before Diego came along and soured some relations. Still, despite their leadership, Texans are often found serving CEGA in sensitive diplomatic positions because they are considered less likely to put national or factional interests ahead of those of CEGA as a whole; for instance, the present Ambassador to the Jovian Confederation, Lana Jefferies, is Texan.

— Source: audio transcript observation report, Centerpoint Field Operative KI87, December 2211

◇ BUSINESS

The Republic is relatively easy pickings. One can probably make more useful contacts in a month in the Republic than in a year in, say, the League. This is due to more than simple friendliness. Since only Republican soldiers can vote and only officers can run, a faction that gains power is likely not to want to let go. Elections have been abolished several times in Texan history, and each time, the result has been a coup of one sort or another. The present Generalissimo, Salvatore Diego, staged his coup after the Odyssey Affair undermined the last junta.

Since military personnel control the government, all business relations are tied to the military. Thus, individuals with martial prowess get respect and profit, regardless of their actual business savvy. A good agent can acquire trust, money and information with little more than a trip to the shooting range. Unsurprisingly, corruption is widespread; everyone from the government clerks to ministers is on the take, either for falsified recommendations or further inroads with military personnel. As long as one provides suitable compensation, any information unavailable through the pretense of rank can be acquired via bribery.

— Source: audio transcript, advanced agent training lecture, 'Operations on Earth,' Academy St. Cloud, December 2211

Generalissimo Diego's success has destroyed him. I don't think he remembers that we served together on the border. He just handed out generalships to everyone in his old unit. Ha! Two hundred and sixty generals. I saw him once, a few months ago. I didn't think a soldier could get so fat in six months.

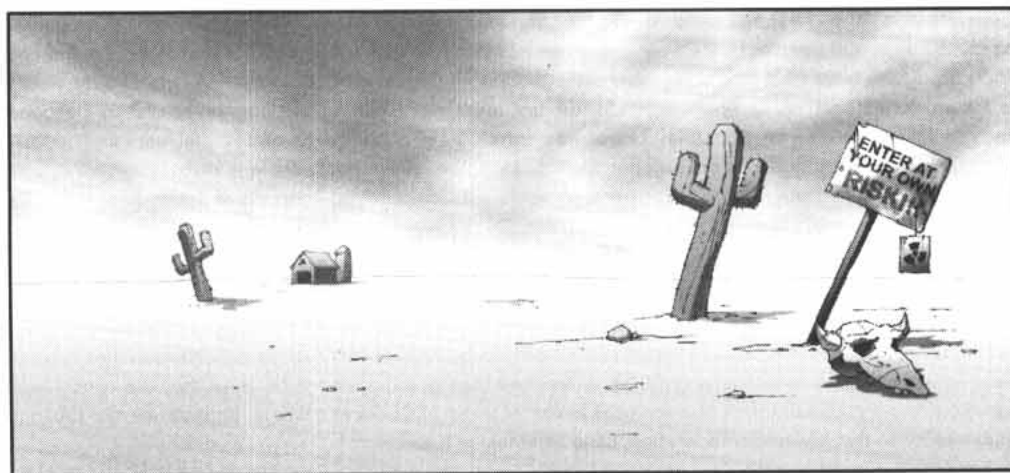
In our last skirmish, he led a charge against a machine gun nest armed with only a saber. The gunners broke and ran. That's what Sal used to be like. The villagers in the Occupied Territories all knew his name, and celebrated when we came around on patrols. Now, those villages are gone, burned to the ground, and their people are living in the arcologies, too terrified to tell old Sal 'thank you for the nice new homes, but we'd really like to leave now.' Some of the other new generals said something, and now Sal is using their heads as bird feeders. He's totally paranoid, but he's still smart, you know? If I know him, he's probably listening to us right now.

Hell with it. Buy me another drink, and I'll tell you about his private life, too.

— Source: audio transcript, General Erica Slade in conversation with Centerpoint Field Operative KM32, January 2212

Republican Guards recycled KA71 yesterday morning. The tip apparently came from the Texan Marshals' office. I'm going to have to back off. The Marshals were good before, but now that Diego's trying to get them under his control, they're getting even better. They don't answer to anyone, and their lifestyles are guaranteed by the Republican constitution, so I've got no leverage. Can't bribe these fanatics, either. They're short on resources, but as free agents, they're the most effective tool the Republic's got.

— Source: audio transcript, observation report, Centerpoint Field Operative KE82, May 2211



GREEN STATES OF CALIFORNIA ▼

Recognized as a socialist paradise and the food bowl of North America, California is a study in contrasts. On the surface its citizens seem happy and content, but its secretive and repressive regime uses pervasive monitoring and social propaganda to maintain absolute control. As a result, the tightly controlled Californian arcologies have social systems rather like those of some Solar Nations; aside from the obvious secret police presence, it is easy to imagine that one is on Venus or in the Martian Federation.

The Green States' strong government is the legacy of a massive earthquake in 2108. Under protest, Analita Hintz, a militia officer, was appointed military governor. Despite her recalcitrance, Hintz kept the state together through the Fall, resorting to forced relocations and compulsory labor to increase food production and water availability. She remains a loathed figure to this day. Hundreds of thousands died, but civilized society survived. The military also drove back bandits and refugees from Central America, preventing them from overwhelming the already overburdened state. After Hintz' successor was removed from office in 2133, a short spate of infighting ended with a loose alliance, uniting the handful of rebel factions that had developed under military rule.

The new alliance consolidated as it fought off bandit raids from the south and dealt with the ongoing problems of pollution, droughts and earthquakes. In 2148, the ruling elite of revolutionaries who led the overthrow of the military officially formed the Green States of California, dedicating their new nation to repairing the damage done to the Earth. The libertarian and socialist ideology of the new state was initially effective, but external strife and the resultant intolerance to criticism eventually created a police state. The new government's territorial expansionism led California into conflict with NAS, starting the Unification Wars.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

Decades of community reinforcement and social security have made Californians a happy people. Anyone who isn't happy either pretends to be or finds themselves working in a reeducation camp and learning why they should be happy. It's like either a nicer NAS or a meaner Jovian Confed.

Californian arcologies are small, a hundred thousand inhabitants at most. It makes it easier to keep citizens in line. There are no real avenues of relaxation here. Either you're working or you're learning socialist dogma. Some of it's not bad reading, but a lifetime of it probably gets boring. Suicide, drug addiction and unplanned pregnancies are serious problems, but talking about any of those subjects is considered an 'unsuitable leisure activity.'

The Executive Council, the pinnacle of a series of councils that reaches down to individual housing blocks, has decreed that not only is manual labor environmentally friendly, but is also the key to providing full employment. Hence, no mechanization. Since agriculture, forestry, fish farming and eco-restoration are California's key industries, there's actually a labor shortage. Although the arcology maintenance crews use robot welders and lifting equipment, the outside workers use fishing poles and manual farming implements. I went out on a farming trip once. I've never seen so much mud in my life.

— Source: audio transcript observation report, Centerpoint Field Operative KH66, September 2200

Californian ideology is strictly anti-capitalist; this puts it at odds with its CEGA partners, especially given the Californian Executive Council's recent obsession with VenusBank influence. The State makes constant denunciations of Solar capitalism and dramatizations of the repression of Solar labor are popular viewing at community meetings. Despite its paranoia, the Executive Council is working hard to maintain cordial relations with all the other CEGA states except the NAS. However, the Council's recent decision to allow the Organization for Public Peace to set up a series of intelligence operations directed at Venus may betoken an increasingly aggressive stance.

While not technologically backwards, California has always concentrated on a few specific industries, mainly those with specific environmental or military application; this practice has only intensified since the Green States joined CEGA. Also, California's research pool is further limited by the stringent psychological and political requirements for higher education. Its few successful projects have given California the best ecological situation of any CEGA state, but it lags significantly in other fields and lacks many key facilities necessary for more specialized research. California's obsessive secrecy, combined with its avowed hatred of the NAS and recent difficulties with the Venusians, put it at high risk of committing a major Edicts violation within the next five years.

— Source: text report, Scientific Update, Edicts Enforcement Bureau, July 2211

◇ POLITICS

Like the briefing said, the government is everywhere. Since I arrived in my new apartment, I've had to present myself to my work team socialist-cadre group, my housing unit people's committee, the local Green Front officer and enroll in the correct socialist learning collective for my recreation section. None of these groups is officially part of the government. They're all spontaneous, grassroots workers' movements. These groups go all the way up, though, to the National Socialist Executive Cadre, the People's Executive Council and the National Green Front Executive Committee. In between, in every factory, suburb, arcology and county, there are more councils, cadres and committees. Everyone reports to everyone else. It makes for a lot of order, a lot of confusion and very little free time.

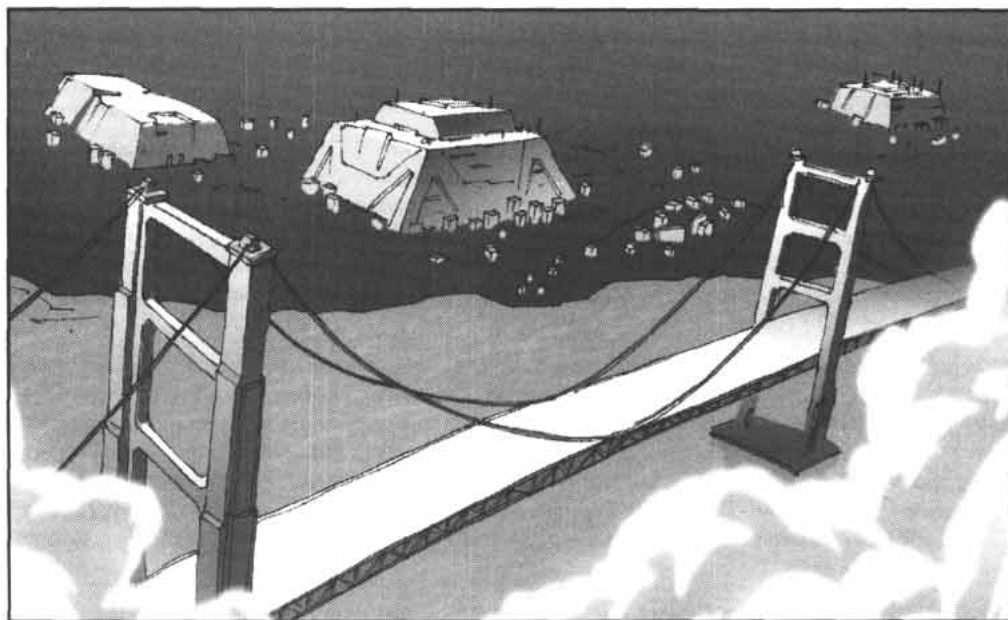
It's only been a week, but I've already verified some speculations. There's definitely a growing problem between the Californian Executive Council and the Joint Service Pacific OCU. The new OCU commander is Captain-General Jennifer Alkins. That's right, the Butcher of Brisbane, all rehabilitated, and with some very interesting new links to corporate interests in the League. She's behind the Joint Service push to allow what the Californians call 'ecologically disruptive' mining in the Pacific Ocean. Relations with the Californians are at rock bottom. They're burning Alkins in effigy at community meetings here. If she manages to annoy ANZAC, too, then things are really going to get rough.

— Source: audio transcript observation report, Centerpoint Field Operative KG31, January 2212

My siblings, you have all made a brave decision. Our Planet thanks you. You have given up your families, your names and your lives. Our Planet thanks you. More sacrifices lie ahead. Pain, humiliation and degradation pave your road. You will die either forgotten as a nameless criminal or hated by those who do not, and cannot, understand your heart's calling. Our Planet thanks you. If my words frighten you, turn and look to the faces at your side. They are your siblings, and will carry you when you are weak, and lend you the will to continue your fight. If you find no comfort in those faces, then leave now. Without siblinghood, we cannot win, cannot overcome the odds that face us and reclaim our motherworld from those who have plundered her and plunder her still.

Even with your siblings at your side, these years will be hard. You must learn to hide in the world outside, without being tempted by it. You must learn to commit sins of wealth and technology, without holding them to your heart. You must learn to kill mercilessly, without forgetting how to love. Many have failed. In fighting the unclean, some have become unclean themselves. Some of you here today will fail, and be punished for eternity after your Earthly death. The rest of you, blessed soldiers, will earn everlasting peace in our Mother's bosom. Let us give thanks to our Planet.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory speech at Green Front Training Camp Omega Three, October 2211



INDEPENDENT STATES ◀

The Alliance is too divided to tolerate further members. While I doubt either the League or California would object, the mere prospect of widening the membership brings vocal protests from the NAS, who fear a diminishing of their influence, and from the Republic, because the Generalissimo doesn't like the idea. I don't think either the West Indies or Quebec has much to fear from the Alliance. If nothing else, the Alliance's too busy muddling its way through CEGA-level politics to worry about a couple of independent states.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation report, Centerpoint Field Operative KE64, November 2211

3.3.1 QUEBEC FEDERATION ▼

During the Fall, pollution depopulated the lands around the St. Lawrence River, leaving the few survivors to seek shelter in the ancestral lands of the hill communities. These communities remained only loosely affiliated until the formation of the NAS encouraged closer ties. A loose federal system developed, whereby the elected mayors of each town in turn choose a ruling cabinet. Originally a highly democratic system, the League has corrupted Quebec's political process to ensure a pliable neighbor. The League pressed Quebec to apply for CEGA membership by threatening to allow the NAS to occupy their territory. Quebec has not been totally abused by the League, since it makes a useful geographic buffer between the League and the NAS.

Quebec is only a provisional territory of CEGA; this displeases the population greatly, but Quebec's armed forces are not advanced enough to qualify for membership in the Joint Services. Worse, League economic assistance has subsumed Quebec's economy. Despite public disquiet, Quebec's government is stable; the ever-present threat of the NAS, especially its repression of the Northern Resource Zone, keeps the populace in line. The local militia system is well-staffed and highly trained, and large sums are being spent on improving its technological abilities. In this way, Quebec hopes to achieve full membership in CEGA as well as create a force capable of facing the NAS head-on.

Environmentally, Quebec is in a shambles. The League has moved many resource extraction facilities into Quebec, slowing eco-restoration. The fact that the Great Lakes Toxic Region drains through the St. Lawrence River exacerbates matters further. The river valley is one long biological dead zone, its floods spreading the toxic waste far inland. Resentment of the League and a need for environmental technology has resulted in strong ties between California and Quebec. Quebec is currently seeking to lessen its dependence on the League and find an ally against potential problems with the NAS.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics,' Academy St. Cloud, May 2211

3.3.2 WEST INDIAN FEDERATION ▼

The islands of the West Indies dot the Caribbean Sea, one of the few areas to benefit from the climate change. In addition to the increased rainfall and reduced incidence of tropical storms, the isles' physical isolation separated them from the worst effects of the Fall. The modern West Indies have adequate resources, but more importantly, they also have a technology base unmatched on Earth and virtually no environmental problems.

In what should now seem a familiar process, the West Indian Federation reached true nationhood during the trying times of the Long Winter. By 2149, the Federation had expanded into southern Florida and all along the northern coast of South America. During the Unification Wars, its technologically advanced navy crushed a Republican invasion and blockaded League sea trade. On land, however, the continual fighting in Florida put a significant strain on the Federation's relatively small population. Thus, in 2185, despite being protected by the Jerusalem Accords, the Federation surprised the entire planet by applying for provisional CEGA membership. Peace with the Alliance, its nearest neighbor, was ensured, and high demand for their skills and supplies resulted in hefty trade profits.

Even before gaining full CEGA membership in 2205, the Federation was the scientific clearinghouse for North America. In various underwater arcologies, West Indian biological, electronics and engineering facilities pushed the boundaries of science, even to the point of Edicts violations. In the past two decades, fifteen Federation facilities have been raided by Edicts Enforcement, and dozens of individuals have been charged and sentenced. Nonetheless, the Federation has persisted, evidently persuaded by territories in Florida and exclusive exploitation of the central Atlantic seabed granted by its CEGA allies.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics,' Academy St. Cloud, June 2211

3.3

3.3.1

3.3.2

end of section 3.3 independent states

▶ CEGA-ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES

We, the free people of America, will not lie docile beneath the heel of the Alliance. Our lands may be captured, but our hearts remain free. Our bodies can be broken, but our souls will cry out for justice from beyond the grave. Until our lands are governed by the free choice of our peoples, until every last jack-booted OCU thug is driven from our homes, until the CEGA Council is truly an administration for all, we will not cease our fight to make this nation once again into a Land of the Free.

— Source: audio transcript, Northern Liberation Militia pirate broadcast, February 2211

▼ NORTHERN RESOURCE ZONE

The Long Winter heavily depopulated most of America's northern latitudes, mostly due to loss of infrastructure and supplies. The land itself, however, was virtually untouched by the pollution that destroyed areas further south. Those people who stayed were a hardy folk who survived by hunting and farming, maintaining only a modicum of technology with which to make their lives easier. When faced with forced inclusion in CEGA, the thinly spread and poorly armed northerners could not hope to muster any real resistance, and have been a second-class CEGA territory ever since.

When CEGA set up the Northern Resource Zone in 2187, the initial occupation went smoothly. The NAS and California were given joint administration of the Zone; this proved to be problematical when the NAS attempted to impose its social and legal structure on the Zone's populace. Rebellions sprang up overnight, operating out of mountain hideouts and attacking CEGA troops regardless of their national origin. The attacks drew the Californians into the fighting, starting a cycle of violence that persists to this day. Despite the overwhelming forces they face, the rebels continue to resist, and have openly announced that they are receiving arms and supplies from sympathetic external sources.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

As suspected, the Californians' new extraction techniques have restarted oil production. Additionally, the data I've acquired suggest the northern fish farms are among the richest protein sources in CEGA. Finally, both the NAS and California are still expanding ice and peat mining operations, presumably to supply more resources for eco-restoration projects. Given the previous debacle of joint rule in the Zone, it appears that it's the total lack of cooperation between the Californians and the NAS that's allowing the rebels to resist. A few of the more levelheaded northerners, based in local cities, are actively working to build harmony, while at the same time pushing for Zone administration to be handed over to Quebec. If Quebec starts butting in on the NAS-California slap-fight in the Council, this area's probably going to start seeing more soldiers. I'm guessing the mountain rebels haven't been consulted about any of this.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KD56, August 2211

▼ PACIFIC OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Despite being badly damaged by rising sea levels, the Pacific islands became important nations during the twenty-first century. Their waters were perfect for fish farming, they possessed valuable seabed resources and tidal power provided enough cheap energy to run both industries. The islands' potential was recognized by both ANZAC and Japan, which split the islands between them in the 2150s. During the Unification Wars, the Alliance moved into the Pacific; thousands of Alliance troops died in the assaults on the heavily fortified island fortresses. By the time the armistice was signed in 2183, the Japanese had lost Hawaii, the Ratik island chain and the western portion of the Ralik islands. The smaller ANZAC lost almost a third of its Pacific territories; only the cease-fire prevented further Alliance gains.

California has administered the Pacific Occupied Territories since 2185. Mass colonization of the various islands, using civilians from the mainland, has been very successful; a string of arcology-fortresses now houses a multicultural society that has rebuilt the old aqua farms, making the Territories the second-largest protein producer in CEGA. Although the area is a prime spot for mineral extraction and seabed-dredging, the eco-friendly Californian administration has thus far proven reluctant to restart the pre-Fall mining operations. Their unwillingness to ramp up mineral extraction rates has led to some talk about reassigning control of the Territories, but so far the threat of war with ANZAC because of supposed threats to the environment has allowed the Californians to deflect criticism.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

GREAT PLAINS RECLAMATION ZONE ▼

The center of North America was totally devastated in the twenty-first century, ravaged by unsustainable farming and mining, contaminated by pollution caused by industrial and urban development along the Great Lakes and Colorado Plateau and devastated by climatic changes that brought drought and constant tornadoes. Nuclear and biological war finished off what was left, contaminating the water table and adding radioactivity to the worsening dust storms. The area remained virtually uninhabited until the demands of the Unification Wars prompted exploration for usable resources.

Today, there still remain areas of extreme toxicity. Only near the borders of the NAS is it safe for humans to venture outside with nothing but a respirator. Under the CEGA regulations regarding the Great Plains, a state may add to its territory any land it successfully eco-restores. The League and Republic have displayed little interest in the Great Plains, but the NAS has undertaken some extremely ambitious projects in the region.

The NAS' mines and eco-restoration projects are supported by CEGA-built arcologies staffed with NAS laborers. Life is harsh and dangerous, and life expectancy is short; few of the workers are volunteers, but conscript labor is permissible under NAS law. There are reports of groups of escapees, living by stealing and raiding, but if such bands exist, their existence is, by necessity, extremely difficult to verify.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

I found the escapees hiding out in some old caves. In exchange for some batteries, they told me how to contact a smuggling group that operates through the Plains. It took longer for the smugglers to trust me, but I eventually got a couple to talk to me. Turns out they know a surprising amount about a CEGA installation a few hundred clicks west of Old Kansas City. Satellite info shows a base there, and CEGA has it listed as a hostile-environment training center. However, the smugglers pointed out some spots that look like covered-over impact craters. Testing ortillery isn't an Edict violation yet, but we might find something else out there that is.

— Source: text file, mission debrief, Centerpoint Field Operative, KE85, November 2211

SOUTHERN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ▼

Colloquially known as the Hot Zone, for both the guerillas and mutated bioweapons that lurk in its stifling jungles, Central America is considered the worst posting for those in the Joint Services. Though technically under joint administration by California and the Republic of Texas, the local OCU commander's position was combined with the position of territory governor a decade ago, thus ensuring coordinated operations. Despite the change and the posting of tens of thousands of soldiers to the local OCU, the guerilla warfare continues. Most of the time the rural villages exist peacefully and in a state of technology-free simplicity, trying to ignore the constant OCU patrols. The guerillas, on the other hand, use modern weapons acquired from unknown sources, and fight in order to get extra supplies as well as to remove the OCU presence.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

Even with imported Martian medical technology, disease is still claiming as many casualties as the fighting. Finding cures isn't too difficult, but the rate of mutation of both natural organisms as well as mutated bioweapons means that fresh outbreaks happen all the time. The environment's gone crazy here. The infections jump species and change hosts, so humans aren't the only targets. Plants and animals get wiped out regularly, only to be replaced by something else that's immune and grows faster. Quarantine procedures are Hazard Level 5; last week, a departing civilian air transport was shot down because one idiot passenger picked up a local plant as a souvenir.

The villagers used to avoid infection by staying indoors and not disturbing the environment. Now that CEGA's down here tramping around, the death rate in the villages has quadrupled, and they don't get any of the medical care the OCU troops get. It's no wonder the villagers are helping the guerillas. The priests and shamans who lead the villages all talk to each other; that's how they maintain an educational system among the leaders. They've all apparently agreed to denounce CEGA, resulting in several example executions. It's just making the guerillas angrier.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KU49, June 2211

3.4.3

3.4.4

end of section 3.4 cega-administered territories



► ZONES OF CONFLICT AND DISRUPTION

While North America is relatively peaceful under the hand of CEGA and the Alliance, its periphery is not so calm. The abrupt end of the Unification Wars has left many areas where bitterness and anger still linger and armies stare at each other over long-held defenses.

▼ BERING FRONT

The site of bitter fighting between Siberian Republic and Alliance naval forces, the Bering Strait remains a heavily fortified war zone. The Eurasian Forward Defense Army has an infantry corps and a naval fleet deployed in the area further raising tensions. Disputes over nearby Arctic seabed resources have led to a number of naval skirmishes, but so far, no serious damage has been inflicted on any side. Perhaps the biggest risk to peace along the front are the arms smuggling operations run by rebels from the Northern Resource Zone. CEGA claims that the Siberians' failure to stop the arms traffic constitutes a breach of the Jerusalem Accords; it is only USN disapproval that keeps CEGA from declaring open war.

▼ GREENLAND FRONT

The accession of the Democratic Kingdoms of Scandinavia to the USE put a stop to their bloody war with the Maritime League for control of Greenland. CEGA officially set the border as the former front line in 2191, over strenuous Scandinavian objections. The huge island remains heavily fortified by the League against any attempt by the Scandinavians to seize more territory. Recently, the League has demonstrated great concern regarding the tensions in Greenland; it is said that the League is too occupied with CEGA-internal matters and military control of North America to be able to continue its alert stance in the North Atlantic. A CEGA mediator has been appointed, and the League has made initial offers to the Scandinavians for joint administration.

▼ GREAT LAKES TOXIC REGION

Poisoned by three centuries of unrestrained development and neglect, the Great Lakes are unequivocal dead zones. Their poisonous waters pollute the environment for hundreds of kilometers around their shores and are partially responsible for ongoing deterioration of the North Atlantic. Apart from CEGA-sponsored research facilities, nothing lives along the shores of the Lakes, and nothing more complex than bacteria live in them. Intensive research into ways to purge the Lakes of long term contaminants is considered the most important eco-restoration project in North America. If such a goal could be achieved, the restoration of the Great Plains would be brought forward decades.

▼ PACIFIC FRONT

Both ANZAC and Japan remain bitter about their losses in the Unification Wars. To counter both of these nations' fleets, CEGA has equipped the Pacific Forward Defense Army, based from the island-fortress of Molokai, with the most advanced weapons available on Earth. The recent CEGA decision to deploy Triton-class submersible exo-armors has created a new naval arms race in the region. Further raising tensions are CEGA's plans to use seabed dredging to mine in the South Pacific. An extremely environmentally destructive process, dredge mining would almost certainly produce a military response from ANZAC. ANZAC's lack of proper USN representation is forcing it to resort to military vigilance to curb CEGA activities, presenting yet more opportunities for open violence.

▼ PANAMA FRONT

The ancient canal separating North and South America was occupied a scant month before the armistice in 2183, obviating the need for a full-scale Alliance invasion. Since the disunited South American nations have yet to present any military resistance, the area has not been militarily reinforced by CEGA. The Southern Occupied Territories Occupation Control Unit is responsible for this front, but takes no aggressive actions against local communities; instead, the CEGA Joint Service is attempting to win Panamanian loyalty with offers of economic and industrial assistance, coupled with an occasional politely-delivered threat.

These entreaties are the result of initiatives undertaken by moderates on the CEGA Council; apparently they are trying to prove that Earth can be united without another full-scale war. Hard-line factions are pushing for military action, however. Joint Service negotiators have reportedly been harassed and obstructed by both OCU troops and other Joint Service personnel. Despite these diversions, the negotiators are making headway, and public opinion makes it likely that Ecuador might lodge an application to join CEGA in the next few years. The emperor of Argentina is also loudly touting CEGA's glories, although political analysts remark that CEGA's investment in Argentine industry may have much to do with CEGA's popularity in that nation.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

MAP OF NORTH AMERICA 



Le premier qui fut roi, fut un soldat heureux.
 The first who was king was a successful soldier.
 — Voltaire, *Merope*, Act I, Scene 3

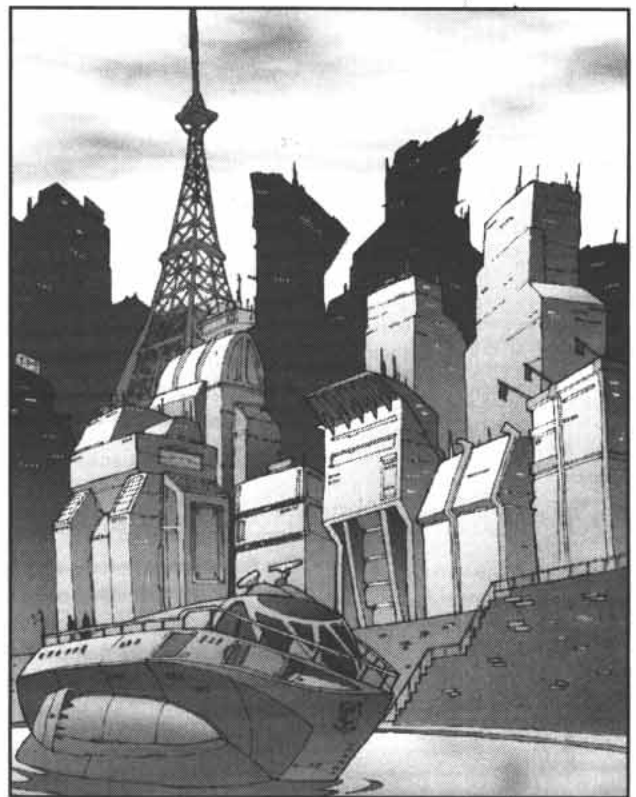
NOBLESSE OBLIGE ◀

You colonials are really too much. You live thousands of kilometers away, safe in your sterile, lifeless space stations, never having set foot on your home planet until this very week. You cannot even go outside for a stroll, because your skin is too sensitive to our atmosphere. Yet, you feel you have the right to sit here in a city whose history is older than your entire nation, and tell my people how to live their lives. Does it not seem foolish to you? Should I now lecture you on the proper use of a spacesuit?

I look at your faces, and I see the remnants of old bloodlines, centuries of tradition that you have discarded in favor of shiny new toys and constant change. Why do you condemn us for remembering our past? Is it because you envy what you no longer have? Do you look down at night and wish you walked on the same stones as did humanity's greatest thinkers, artists, soldiers?

What would you have me do? Shall I go outside and tell the peasants that they are free, that they can move into my palaces and live as kings? Who will grow our food and rebuild our cities? Of course the Jovians can live that way. They have ten thousand robot factories that spin straw into gold. If I had such factories, all my people could live as I do, but your Edicts conveniently keep us in our place. So, hard choices must be made. Some must work, others must lead, and it is those who have not yet earned their noble names that must be guided by we who have the weight of centuries behind our words.

— Source: audio transcript, discussion between Sofia Tokat, Sultana of Bucuresti, and a USN Human Rights Delegation, July 2211.



EUROPEAN INTRODUCTION ▼

There is an element of truth to the oft-quoted statement of King Jean-Marie of France that "Europe is the USE, the USE is Europe." Unlike North America, there is no sign of any attempt by the poverty-stricken European Occupied Territories to establish separate identities for themselves. While the three mighty empires that dominate the USE are unchallenged in Europe, the growth of the UK and the less obvious influence of the Swiss are quite considerable.

Europe has a certain traditional idealism that is not present in the Alliance. Due to popular acceptance of their leaders' professed nobility, the people of Europe all tend to regard themselves as culturally superior to the "new blood" of the rest of the Solar System; this spirit has, if anything, increased since the formation of CEGA. The domination of offplanet arts and entertainment by European productions has reinforced the self-perception of aristocracy. The USE's uniformity of political systems has encouraged peaceful cooperation as well as the development of a continent-wide cultural identity. While the nations of Europe all have social differences, their monarchical governments share enough political traits such that international affairs are easily coordinated, with few of the ructions that vex the Alliance.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

INVENTION OF CULTURE ★

When a European asks what your family does, it's like having your papers checked in the Martian Federation. If you don't answer fast, and convincingly, you're dead. Go with your cover, but improvise if you have to. Being a farmer will keep you well-fed in a pub and unnoticed by the aristocracy. A merchant or other professional can make deals and attend meetings, but he can get mugged in alleys, too. Faking nobility will get you anything you want from anyone who believes you. Of course, you'd better be able to back up everything you say with skills and references or, if I must say it again, you're dead.

— Source: audio transcript, advanced training lecture, 'Operations on Earth,' Academy St. Cloud, August 2210

4.1.1

HISTORICAL FACTS

4.1.2

▼ POLITICAL OVERVIEW

Despite the prevalence of monarchical titles, much of Europe is actually ruled by military dictatorships. The differences in terminology are useful to know in social and diplomatic settings, but for all practical purposes, kings are generals, dukes are field commanders, peons are support personnel and so on.

There are three great clichés of European politics: the USE believes that the rest of Europe is irrelevant; the UK hates Europe; and the Swiss want to own Europe. These are all fairly accurate, but one should take note of the undercurrents. The USE ignores both the UK and Switzerland and, in so doing, gives them freedom to act as they please. The antipathy the UK holds for the USE and the unscrupulous business dealings of the Swiss are, in turn, Europe's Achilles' heel, a break in the political armor that the USE has created for itself.

Internally, every nation faces more or less the same pressures; increased political and economic freedoms are rallying cries for any large social group. The European nobles are keenly aware of the possible consequences of these pressures; ancient history is a topic of study for all young aristocrats. Avoiding the mistakes of the eighteenth century (and thus forestalling further revolutions against absolute monarchical rule) is the uppermost goal in all European states. This internal focus makes the European nations socially and politically conservative and somewhat blind to the consequences of Alliance dominance of CEGA.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics,' Academy St. Cloud, 2211

▼ ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The European economy is vibrant and healthy, with a sound agricultural base due to successful eco-restoration. The USN Health Commission has recently certified foods from some European regions, like Champagne, for offplanet export. Guild members should take note of this new and highly lucrative luxury trade. However, also note that the European economy lacks capacity for further export growth at this time. Additionally, there remains substantial Solar bias in regard to Earth-made goods. If this bias changes in future quarters, Europe's leaders are almost certain to focus more resources on offplanet trade.

— Source: excerpt from Mercurian Merchant Guild Financial Report, July 2211

▼ ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

Centuries of massive development and careless disposal of industrial waste have irreparably scarred portions of Europe past the ability of current technology to restore completely. While green fields, forests and marshes are now more common than dead soil, only filtered irrigation, heavy-metal-absorbent plants and intense manual labor make the greening of Europe possible. Any interruption of dedicated environmental maintenance efforts would likely result in a drastic and catastrophic ecological backslide. This likelihood has led the European aristocracy to claim that without a defined peasant class, Europe would be devoid of workable agricultural units.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "Earth: The Battered Planet."

★ RULING THE MASSES

You'll be reading a lot of papers and articles from various social commentators and academics about the lack of popular resistance to monarchical rule in Europe. Note the ongoing conflict of opinions. From our perspective, information regarding low levels of public education, gradually increasing living standards, arms restrictions and the stability of hierarchical rule are useful data points for quantitative analyses. Other topics, such as those regarding the "natural" incompetence and submissiveness of the peasantry or speculating on poor "breeding" in the lower classes, are worthwhile only from a standpoint of cultural study of the nobility.

Particularly important is an understanding of land and technology control. For example, in 2208, there was an outbreak of violence against Turkish rule in the city of Ragusa. All of that city's water runs down from the Dinaric Alps, which are still poisoned from the last Yugoslav War in 2098. The water was only drinkable because of a series of water purification plants located along the watercourses. The local sultan simply stopped providing the chemicals and filters necessary to purify the water. Without a single shot being fired at a peasant, the disorder was halted in a matter of days.

— Source: audio transcript, lecture, 'Theories of Colonization,' Quantico Arcology Military Academy, Maritime League, June 2211

4.2

4.2.1

5

0041

For example, the Turkish economy's vibrancy is the result of disinterest on the part of the aristocracy regarding the financial activities of the subject peoples. The feudal aspect is visible in tribute and tax levies, but from a business standpoint, the corporate structures are no different from those seen in the Alliance. Given that they have very little freedom otherwise, it is perhaps understandable that the subject peoples have funneled a great deal of energy into entrepreneurial endeavors; Turkish merchants have gained a reputation for being diligent and trustworthy business partners.

▼ECONOMY (CONTINUED)

The function of peonage in France is another economic practice of archaic descent that does not have drastic consequences. French peons are in many ways similar in social class to twentieth-century third-world workers, with the exception of the more obvious political disenfranchisement of the modern peon. The middle-class economy in France is typically capitalistic, and the concentration on luxury goods and financial management owes more to excellent planning and finding niche markets than to the so-called super-consumer influence of the nobility.

The other USE states possess economies no different from those of any Solar Nation, except that ownership is much more highly concentrated. Any person of wealth is a noble, by appointment if not birth. Indeed, to progress beyond a certain point, a business within the USE must have aristocratic connections. Some poorer nobles-by-birth from Turkey and Scandinavia have made a lucrative business for themselves acting as titular Chairmen of concerns otherwise lacking noble investment.

The one potential problem that members should be aware of is that we forecast a coming economic decline because of a lack of open markets. Some analysts fear this may push the USE to a more aggressive stance.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics,' Academy St. Cloud, 2211

▼PRESENT STATUS

Hello, Janus. My father's files are appended to this message. I found them rather interesting. You said the USE was not sufficiently concerned about the Jovian threat. You're wrong. We're quite terrified, Janus. I don't think we really know what to do, though. The North Americans have instinctively lashed out, but our reaction is exactly the opposite.

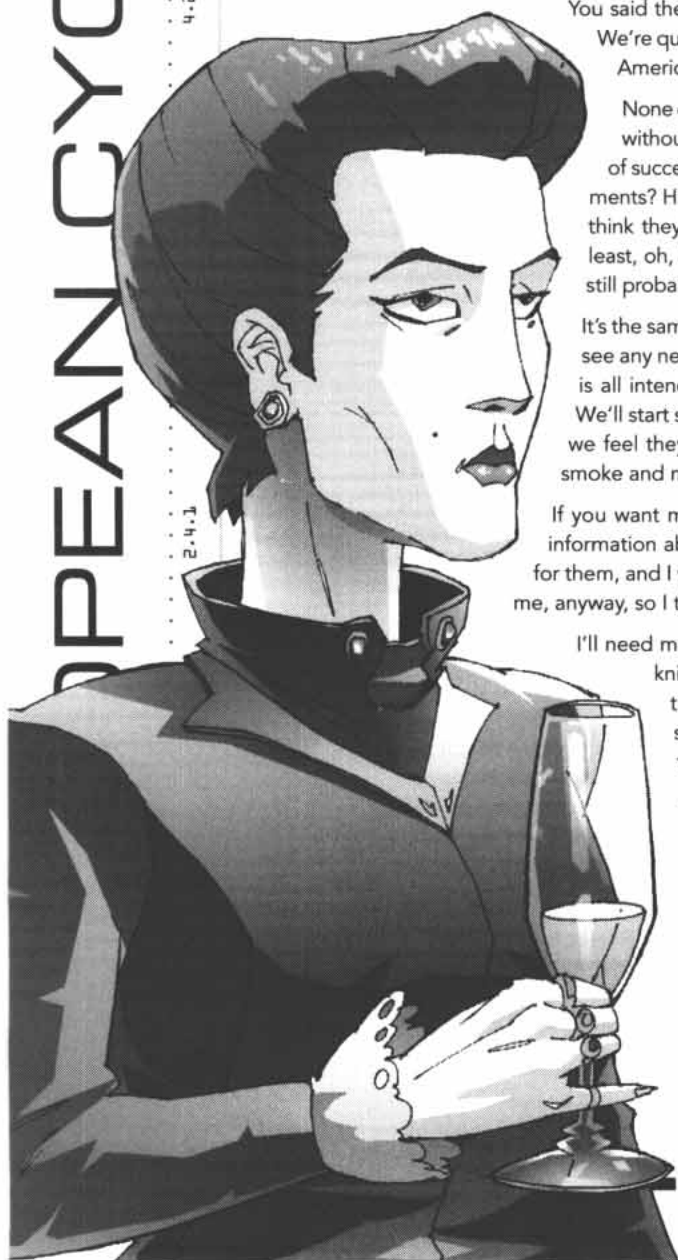
None of my peers really want a fight with anyone. Our positions are precarious enough without a flood of homecoming war heroes to create more difficulties with the lines of succession. Look at the ATS front. Do you think we're actually bringing in reinforcements? Hmph. In two weeks, our on-station troops will be sent home, and the ATS will think they've won a political victory of some sort and thus behave themselves for at least, oh, five months. Even if the Pacific FDA nuked Hong Kong tomorrow, we would still probably find an excuse to pull the front back. It's the way things work for us, Janus.

It's the same with the Jovians. Until Hannibal is truly at our doorstep, we probably won't see any need to go out and sit upon his. The military buildup you're seeing from Above is all intended for local garrisons; most of it will never leave Europe. Watch and see. We'll start sending our old units out for Joint Service, but new ones will stay right where we feel they are needed. All of Europe's aristocratic war-cries, mine included, are just smoke and mirrors. In two years, we'll be curled up like porcupines used to do.

If you want more specifics, then we'll have some more negotiating to do. I want some information about Amazigh internal affairs. They must think our new weapons are meant for them, and I want to find the best way to keep them calm. It's in your best interests to tell me, anyway, so I think you're getting off easy this time.

I'll need more protection, too. Knowing that you're watching me isn't going to stop a knife between my ribs. That's why I didn't say anything on the open lines last time. I'm still not used to all this cloak-and-dagger nonsense, but I imagine someone from my father's security division was probably recording the whole thing.

— Source: intercepted Polish Intelligence audio transcript, private memo, Countess Greta-Marie Obtag of Silesia to Director-General Janus O'Grady, New Berlin, April 2210



4.2.3

2.4.1

KINGDOM OF FRANCE ▼

Every year hundreds of films, artworks, books and other artistic works flood from France into the Solar nations, making it the best known of the CEGA nations. Indeed the Great Parisian Arcology is regarded as the most desirable travel location in the Solar System, with people longing to enjoy the luxury that defines this most pleasure-loving of cities. What few people are aware of are the many thousands of peons who labor to provide this quality of life for their social betters. Still, France is more like pre-collapse Earth than anywhere else on the planet, and its green fields and ancient towns are the images that define much of humanity's ancestral home.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

Through nearly a century in the European Union, France insisted on maintaining industrial, military, diplomatic and cultural independence. Despite the great economic costs of these policies, they persisted, and they placed France in a strong position during the Fall. They were already in good shape because French territory was not directly hit in the Chinese-EU nuclear exchange, possibly because of a secret deal with China. After the EU's collapse, France immediately announced its neutrality and turned inwards, leaving its allies hanging. Even so, the government fell as harvests failed and France's massive cities were emptied by famine, but as the French like to boast, "France always survives." Ecological disasters and raiding gangs mired the country in chaos until 2135 when a Lorrainer, Miriam du-Loir, forged a coalition of communities in the northern provinces, created a duchy and over the next three decades built this up into the Kingdom of France. Remember this history when dealing with the French: they survived, they have always survived and they're always on the winning side.

— Source: audio transcript, arrival briefing, Centerpoint Field Operative, KQ96, November 2211

France has a small population, no doubt because it remains a rural country. Eighty percent of the people of France are peons, the property of various aristocrats. They are dependant on their masters for housing and food in return for laboring in farms and factories. Above the peons is a middle class who owe fealty to their provincial duke. As servants, artisans, soldiers, technicians and overseers, the middle class keep the Kingdom running. Less than one percent of the population is nobility, families who owe their position to loyalty to the Crown. Living in palatial residences, the nobility lead a life of luxury and debauchery matched only by the pride and fierceness with which they defend their lands and privileges. Apart from managing their already great wealth, art, science and war are the only acceptable career choices for a young aristocrat. Thus the French nobility are heavily represented in among the Joint Service officer corps and produce a surprising number of well-respected scientists.

— Source: text report, cultural evaluation, Centerpoint Analysis and Records, February 2211

Aristocratic domination has made the French almost as schizophrenic as the nobles themselves. On the one hand French industry is very high-tech, matching the League and West Indies. Yet on the other hand you will come across vineyards being worked by hand and villages where cloth is woven on wooden looms. In each and every case the proclivities of the local noble decide the type of industry you are likely to see.

The one constant is eco-restoration; ever since the Kingdom's foundation, it has been a top priority and, as a result, France produces good harvests, enough for large volume export. France's major exports however, are art, entertainment and the products of the Solar System's largest luxury goods industry. With high value and low mass, these goods are traded extensively with the Solar Nations. Luxury industries, apart from being extremely profitable and labor intensive, have the added bonus of having limited environmental effects.

— Source: excerpts from USN Solar Bank report, "USE: The Economic Engine of CEGA," July 2211

France has a small standing army and commits few troops to the Joint Service, so you see few French lords and ladies on the CEGA Council. Yet France profits greatly from CEGA and supports it wholeheartedly, devoting a high percentage of their technical resources to CEGA projects. Nobles I've questioned on this generally responded with condescending amusement, claiming that anything as pedestrian as dominating the Solar System is beneath them. As Analysis suspected, however, this is a very subtle front. Various dynastic marriages, which I'd almost guarantee were deliberately arranged, have built strong ties with the Poles and Turks and through these family ties the French have more sway in CEGA than it may first appear. Interestingly France has slowly created a strong diplomatic presence throughout the Solar and non-aligned Earth nations. Exactly why is a closely held court secret.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KX51, October 2211

▼ KINGDOM OF FRANCE (CONTINUED)

You would not believe where the king of France lives; could you accept that it's Versailles? No, not a replica, but the original as built by Louis the Fourteenth. I mean, the place is about six hundred years old, so I am sure it has had maintenance work done to it, but it is still the Sun King's palace. The defenses are as modern as you would expect but the fantastic luxury, decadence and opulence are everything they ever were. I'm an old hand at diplomacy, with a masters degree in cynicism, and even I found walking down the Hall of Mirrors to be introduced to the king an awe inspiring experience.

— Source: audio transcript of an intercepted report, David Gemmel, Jovian Ambassador to the Kingdom of France, to Jovian President Itrange, February 2211

The French love art, it's a national passion, but don't think they don't realize the power that their entertainment industry gives them. The Royal Ministry for the Arts subtly influences fashions within the French arts scene to push specific grants towards specific projects. Less subtly, the CEGA Information Commission often funds popular productions that have a pro-CEGA message, though such films and books tend not to sell well outside CEGA territory. In general, French artists, safe in their commercial success and noble patronage, disdain what they see as the Administration's ham-fisted propaganda approach to art.

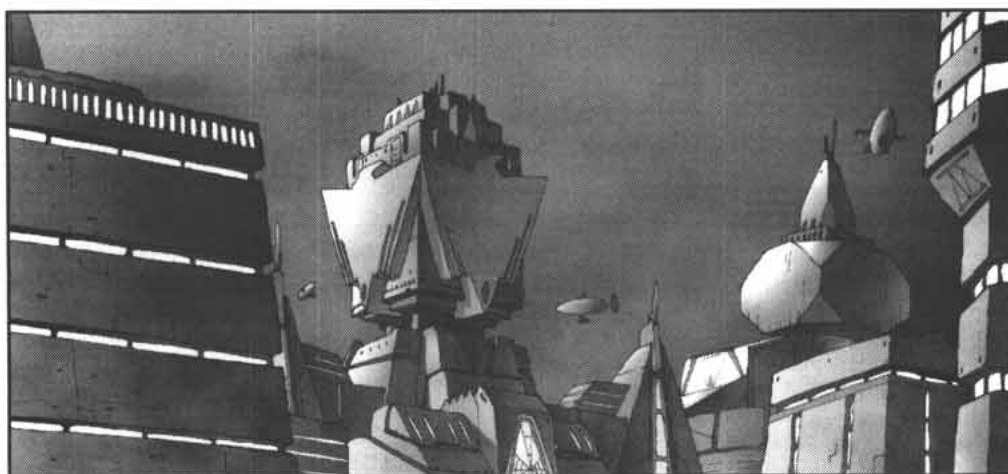
The many noble artists and art entrepreneurs, indeed all the major film studios, are owned by the nobility and actively resist being involved in what they see as the pretensions of the American peasants in CEGA. The French claim that their approach is more successful because Solar nationals and non-aligned Earthers will purchase what they produce. Many Administration stalwarts, on the other hand, argue that the French are more concerned with making good art and profits than with promoting CEGA's manifest destiny. Hard-line Imperialists on the Council have called for CEGA to take control of the arts, a move decried by the French and likely to lead to a serious political battle.

— Source: text report, political analysis, Centerpoint Analysis and Records, November 2211

In the center of the German Protectorates there rises one of the greatest architectural achievements of France, New Berlin. Designed as a neutral meeting ground, this massive arcology acts as the political hub of the USE and the European capital of CEGA. Technically a direct underling of the King of France, the ruling baron is actually chosen by vote of the USE Council of Monarchs and can be of any nationality. France began construction as soon as the USE was formed as part of their plan to draw Europe together, with an emphasis on vast grandeur, drawing on the greatest monuments of European history for inspiration and granted near limitless funding by the USE and CEGA.

A self-sustaining environment amidst the devastation of the central European plain, New Berlin was finished in 2191 and hosts, in addition to housing for its thirty million citizens, numerous colleges and bureaus dedicated to the arts, sciences and politics of European noble hegemony. Most visitors ignore these powerful institutions for the luxurious palaces where the European noble elite flock to politic and party. It is in the glittering corridors, in a world diametrically opposed to the dull tower blocks of Gaia City, that the European influence on CEGA is wrought.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"



CONFEDERATE KINGDOM OF POLAND ▼

A land of sweeping plains and open-air cities, Poland sometimes seems to be out of place in the twenty-third century. Certainly the attitudes of the Polish nobility would be more at home in the Middle Ages, but a vigorous royal family has modernized the Kingdom since the founding of CEGA. As a result, a divide has opened between the traditionally orientated provinces ruled by nobility and the forward-looking provinces ruled directly by the Crown.

The monarchy's pro-active guidance dates back to the Fall. Though the Baltic coast and central plains had been badly damaged by rising sea levels, industrial pollution, over-farming and nuclear strikes, Poland survived as a military government in mountainous Carpathian region. With a modicum of industry and surplus food, the last chief of staff of the Polish Republic, General Thadeus Kosciusko, kept Poland alive. While many died in the Long Winter, many more survived and it was popular acclaim that named Kosciusko king in 2124. Over the following decades the Poles slowly absorbed most of Eastern Europe, a farsighted policy of respecting local customs and creating local nobility bringing the Kingdom a respectable level of popular support from non-Poles.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

When territorial expansion brought Poland into conflict with the resurgent Empire of Turkey in the early 2160s, the fighting dragged Europe into the Unification Wars. By 2160 Poland had a very respectable industrial base and was well placed to fight the much larger Turkish army. Though the fighting was bloody and religion separated the two sides, the conflict never became sectarian and both armies showed a respect for human rights notably absent in the fighting in North America. As a result, this conflict stands unique in the absence of war crimes allegations.

— Source: audio transcript, lecture, 'Understanding Victory: The Unification Wars,' Quantico Arcology Military Academy, Maritime League, May 2211

Poland is one of the most civilized nations on Earth, with a strongly multicultural population and an influential and pacifist Church. Civilization matters greatly to all citizens, whether they are Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Lithuanians, Ukrainians or Finns. Proud of their history, their King, and of what they have built from the rubble of the Fall, Confederate citizens believe very strongly in good manners, honor, generosity and being true to their religious values. If the spoiled nobility thought likewise, it is likely that Poland would be without blemish. Unfortunately the nobility, excepting the Royal family, are everything foul that their citizens are not.

— Source: audio transcript, arrival briefing, Centerpoint Field Operative, KQ96, November 2211

The conflict between the Polish nobility and the Crown dates to the formation of CEGA. At the time, Queen Mary took the opportunity to reduce the nobility's political influence substantially. Left with wealth, little to do and lingering anger over their sudden powerlessness, many nobles retreated into debauchery, bitterness and petty politics. In the few provinces they still rule, mostly border areas, the aristocracy has tried to build a separate power base. Yet the pillars of the Polish state, a capitalist economy, the strict rule of law and universal education for all, have continued to undermine the nobility's influence. Indeed, if it were not for the rule of law and the fact that the constitution protects the nobility from civil prosecution, it is likely the Crown would have taken steps to solve the problem once and for all.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics,' Academy St. Cloud, 2211

The Polish Crown relies heavily on industrial development and eco-restoration to reinforce its domestic legitimacy and support. Poland remains the industrial powerhouse of the USE, second only to the Maritime League in terms of output. Poland may have actually outstripped the League with its equally vigorous pursuit of eco-restoration. Thus while Poland's production has not kept up with the League's, it is possible to walk outside without a breathing mask, and Poles, therefore, live in open-air cities and not in arcologies or beneath domes. Eco-restoration has also increased available agricultural land, further strengthening the domestic economy. Poland's traditional weak spot, low levels of technology, is being met head-on by the Crown, with huge sums being invested to create viable high-tech industries.

— Source: excerpts from USN Solar Bank report, "USE: The Economic Engine of CEGA," July 2211

The Polish Royal Army is highly disciplined, and securing assets within it is proving difficult. Many units are assigned to the Joint Service with the openly professed desire of ensuring Poland a strong voice on the CEGA Council. Many of Poland's growing middle class are volunteering for service in the Space Navy, since their technical skills are in demand and, after a tour, veterans are certain to find high-paying civilian jobs. The king has also built strong ties with the Orbitals, a factor in the high-tech industrial developments I have been authorized to investigate.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KP74, January 2211

I've lived all my life on orbital stations of one sort or another, but I can't really describe how much like home Minsk seems to be. There is something that speaks right to the soul living in the open air, beneath a blue sky, amidst nature. There is a sense of freedom you just don't get anywhere else, even in arcologies also here on Earth. Maybe it's this feeling of freedom that makes Poland such a pleasant place to live. I mean, I know I shouldn't start to empathize with the nation I am meant to be infiltrating, but that's becoming very hard. Whatever the reason, the Poles are a very amenable people. Crime is low, respect for others is high. Even Solar nationals receive polite treatment, and support for CEGA here is somewhat tempered by a very strong sense of ambiguity in regards to the USE's North American allies.

— Source: audio transcript, Progress Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KC21, April 2211

This continental spread of Catholicism, even to provinces that were strongly non-Catholic before the Fall, is a function of the survival of the Catholic Church through the Fall as a vigorous and proactive force. In Poland, however, the political power of the Church is considerable, and that power has been encouraged by the Crown as a unifying force within the Kingdom. The relationship became somewhat strained in the latter Unification Wars, as the Church has been a constant advocate of peaceful unification. Now, following the Odyssey Affair, the Church is pushing for the Polish Crown to oppose the excesses of the Joint Military Service. This is not a showdown between Church and State, however. We believe that the Crown agrees wholeheartedly with the Church on this issue and that the present 'disagreement' has been deliberately concocted so the Polish King can argue his position has been forced on him.

— Source: text report, political analysis, Centerpoint Analysis and Records, March 2211

His Illustrious Majesty, King Carol the Fourth, is a man of the people. This may seem strange, given he is an absolute monarch, but it is true nevertheless. His style of rulership has much in common with the down-to-earth monarch of the Scandinavian Kingdoms. One of the most obvious facets of this is that his court has more commoners than nobles; commoners he has elevated to the nobility hold most senior administrative and military positions. While this is partially due to his rocky relations with most of the great aristocratic families, it is also because, under the Kosciusko family rule, merit and ability have been held higher than birth rank.

As a result the King and Royal Family in general are exceedingly popular, and I am having a great deal of trouble making useful contacts. The middle class aren't so willing to betray their king as they are in France and certainly aren't as amenable as the Turkish subject peoples to making money on the side. I have even heard rumors that the king might even be considering creating a democratically elected House of Commoners to sit with the Assembly of Barons. If so, you can expect the French to go ballistic.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KX67, August 2211



EMPIRE OF TURKEY ▼

The rugged mountains and primitive villages of the Empire contrast sharply to the high-tech tanks and copters that equip its mighty army, the largest and most feared on Earth. NAS soldiers may be more vicious, Republican soldiers more skilled and Polish soldiers better equipped, but Imperial Janissaries are known throughout the Solar System for their relentless assaults and insane bravery. Few look any further, which is a mistake, because the Empire is not the strong nation it may appear to be.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

Worn down by the Third World War, natural disasters, deteriorating harvests and religious fundamentalism, Turkey's central government collapsed in 2112. On the back of strong local ties and the remains of the army, however, the ancient Turkish tribal structures were resurrected to fill the vacuum. Then, pushed by continuing harvest failures, the Turkish tribes began to move westward into Greece and the Balkans and eastward into the Caucasus and Central Asia. This slow migration, the first of its kind in more than a thousand years, lasted for decades as the Turks subjugated the peoples whose lands they occupied.

In the 2140s, a powerful tribal state in southern Bulgaria, the Kemal, began the slow path to empire. Through a combination of excellent generalship, keen diplomacy and clever use of salvaged technology, the Kemal conquered Anatolia and Greece. Their tribal chief formally took the title of Empress of the Turks in 2154. From their new capital in the ruins of Istanbul, the Kemal quickly expanded their rule by extending significant privileges to the tribal chiefs in return for their loyalty. Though this process quickly built the Empire into a formidable state, it also gave the nobility tremendous power and laid the seeds for future unrest.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics,' Academy St. Cloud, 2211

Since the end of the Unification Wars, a bitter and secretive power struggle has reduced the Imperial Family to merely the first among equals. Analysis indicates centralization failed in the Empire because of the nature of Turkish society, whose loyalties remained tribally-focused. The Turks did not rebuild their technical and industrial base during the Long Winter; instead the tribal nations relied on their subject peoples for technical skills and industrial production. This reliance enabled the maximum number of soldiers to be fielded, but the unintended consequence was that modern technical culture became classed as something fit only for lesser societies. This disdain, combined with a cultural pre-occupation with martial skills and constant fears of rebellion by the subject peoples, re-created the Turkish peoples as a near-feudal warrior class.

— Source: text report, Political Analysis, Centerpoint Analysis and Records, February 2211

The Imperial economy is totally dependent on the subject peoples, except in agriculture. Paranoia has kept the technology level of the subject peoples carefully controlled and as a result the Empire is a major exporter of resources and low-tech goods and an importer of high-tech products. Recently the Emperor has allowed the construction of a few arcologies, the first in the Empire. The purpose of these arcologies is to promote high-tech industrial production, with the hope of breaking the Empire's import dependence. The Janissaries have also become major earners, with the Imperial government and nobility being paid significant CEGA subsidies to keep large numbers of troops in the Joint Service.

— Source: excerpts from USN Solar Bank report, "USE: The Economic Engine of CEGA," July 2211

Pollutants from Russia and uncontrolled twenty-first century industry left many coastal and lowland areas in the Empire badly damaged. The Black Sea and Mediterranean, for instance, remain biological dead-zones, too polluted for fish farming. Since the Turks prefer the mostly undamaged mountainous uplands, there has not been much effort made at eco-restoration. Some rumblings from the Imperial Palace indicate this maybe about to change, but probably only in Imperial lands.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "Earth: The Battered Planet."

The numbers I have acquired show that the Empire has the largest individual number of votes on the CEGA Council, thanks to a huge commitment to the Joint Service. Their lack of clout can only be attributed to the conflict between the aristocracy and Imperial Family. My diplomatic sources confirm that the Turks have excellent relations with all their CEGA partners, except the NAS, and the apparent rivalry with the Poles is only at the popular, not aristocratic, level. The military threat of the Janissaries makes relations with the rest of Earth strained however, and I've overheard Solar diplomats call the Empire CEGA's trained dog, a misperception that could prove costly.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KT66, June 2211

▼ EMPIRE OF TURKEY (CONTINUED)

The Imperial Court is beyond my descriptive abilities, a massive palace whose soul purpose is pleasure and decadence. All the normal day-to-day affairs of running Imperial lands are dealt with in the city of Istanbul, which lies around the palace. Within the palace pleasure and politics are the only concerns, and the two seem to mix easily for the Turkish nobility. Despite their hostility towards the Imperial Family, most tribal chieftains spend at least a third of their year in the palace, since too much power is concentrated here and too many deals are made for them to be able to stay away.

Since the Emperor has his guards and all the chieftains bring their personal hordes too, the palace is awash with soldiers. This makes for some very tense discussions, as more than a few assassins also seem to lurk in the long, velvet-draped hallways, but I'm surprised by how little open violence there is. While the issues change as time passes, the battle for control of the Empire is always being waged behind the scenes. The Emperor wants to rule unchallenged, the nobility want an equal say, and all the convoluted plotting and bloodshed in the palace, whatever the issue at stake, is always, ultimately, about this issue.

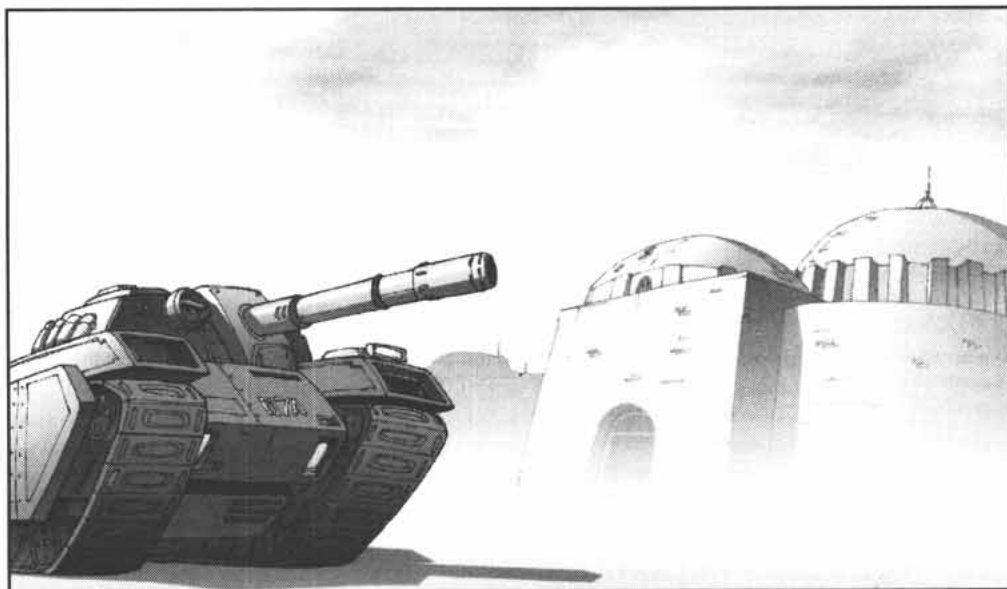
— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KM04, December 2211

Estimates on the exact number of subject peoples within the Empire are hard to judge because the Turks keep very rudimentary census figures. Our best estimate is that there are between seven and eight hundred million people currently classified as subjects. The vast majority of these are Greek, Yugoslav, Bulgarian, Russian or Hungarian, but sizeable minorities of Arabs and Caucasians also exist. Despite the initially brutal occupation during the Long Winter, the various subject peoples have been subsequently left to their own devices as long as they pay their taxes and cause no problems.

Causing the Turks problems is a very foolish endeavor. The last major rebellion was in the Dniester region towards the end of the Unification Wars. After putting the revolt down, everyone in the region was transported to the Russian Protectorates as 'volunteer' laborers on eco-restoration projects. Despite running all the Turkish armaments industries, the subject peoples simply don't have the military training to resist the Janissaries.

An interesting way out of this dilemma is to seek a tour of duty in the Joint Service. With relatively high levels of education being the norm among the subject peoples, the Turks often recruit units of them to provide maintenance support for the Janissaries. In the Joint Service, they are treated as normal recruits and at the end of their tour get full benefits, including CEGA citizenship. This effectively removes the veterans and their families from Turkish restrictions. Needless to say, the subject peoples are very pro-CEGA. We don't think the Turks have quite realized the risk that this process poses to their hegemony, but when they do it will be a major problem for CEGA.

— Source: text report, Political Analysis, Centerpoint Analysis and Records, February 2211



DUTCH-FLEMISH FREE CITIES ▼

Only strict planning laws kept the small nations of Holland and Belgium from becoming a single conurbation during the twenty-first century. By 2050 their need for housing space meant they possessed the largest number of arcologies of any nation on Earth. With increasing problems with storms, flooding and pollution, the arcologies took on an added purpose and many were reinforced to survive the dangers of ecological collapse. This was especially true of the Dutch arcologies after the first major dike collapse in 2056 flooded a third of the country.

Within their cities the Dutch and Belgians survived the tribulations of the last half of the twenty-first century in remarkably good condition. Their economies remained vibrant, if smaller, and all citizens had enough food. The Third World War was a crucial turning point when the EU forced the arcologies to turn much of their industrial resources to war production, which undermined their self-sufficiency. Worse still, military industries were prime targets for the Chinese nuclear strike in 2110. When the smoke cleared, two-thirds of the arcologies were gone, the Belgians were exterminated as a people and the entire region was left shattered.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

The Dutch lost entire arcologies to starvation during the Long Winter, but a few cities managed to maintain the most basic of services and pull through mostly intact. When the Kingdom of France was founded, the Dutch quickly signed a pact of alliance with the French Crown, eager for markets and trade and offering the French technical resources it would have taken them decades to redevelop. In the years since then, the Dutch and Flemish have become integral to the French economy, providing services the aristocrats won't trust to the lower classes. This economic alliance remains central to the economic health of both nations.

— Source: excerpts from USN Solar Bank report, "USE: The Economic Engine of CEGA," July 2211

The Free Cities have not worried much about repairing their flooded lands, operating extensive ground-effect cargo fleets and importing what they can't grow in vats. Project plans I have accessed show that rebuilding the dikes alone would nearly bankrupt the cities, disrupting CEGA's economy, since they are CEGA's largest financial centers. The stock exchange and futures market are both located in New Ghent, for example. The one eco-restoration project receiving increasing attention is the removal of radiation contamination from the vicinity of the arcologies. My investigations indicate radiation has been penetrating into the bottoms of some of the arcologies; thus the sudden interest in removing the dangerous contamination. If this information became public knowledge there would probably be large-scale civil unrest.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KM12, June 2211

BERBER KINGDOM OF CORDOBA

The hundreds of thousands of North African refugees who entered Spain and Italy in the mid-twenty-first century became the dominant political force in those countries following the Fall. They established small feudal states that existed in relative peace till the 2140s. The lords of El Djézair had united the Amazigh settlements of the North African coast and then started raiding the western Mediterranean as far north as the French Coast from about 2139. When the El Djézair turned from raiding to conquest, none of the local states could resist them and they created the Berber Kingdom in 2148.

The Berbers continued to press north and their advance was only stopped by French military intervention in 2159. Following a decisive naval victory off Corsica and massive casualties inflicted by their high-tech weaponry, the French were able to force a clearly defined northern border on the Berber Kingdom. Smarting from their defeats, the Berbers directed their attention into rebuilding their technical and industrial facilities, as well as expanding south of the Sahara.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

The French are seemingly unable to stop interfering in Berber affairs. They started their meddlesome ways in 2172 when they forced the reluctant Berbers to join the USE. This brought the Berbers into the Unification Wars and their army suffered massive casualties fighting the Azanian Compact in the Congo Basin. The French further destabilized their southern neighbor when they negotiated away all Berber territory south of the Sahara as part of the Jerusalem Accords. A popular rebellion against the Berber king was crushed with French assistance and since then, the Kingdom has been a French puppet.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics,' Academy St. Cloud, 2211



▼ BERBER KINGDOMS (CONTINUED)

I have made an interesting contact in Cordoba. According to my new source, the French decision to weaken the Berbers by categorizing the southern half of the Kingdom as part of the African Union, subject to the CEGA Governor in Alexandria, was not malicious. Apparently it was part of a trade-off with the Turks to secure mining privileges within the Union. This was a serious mistake, I think. Popular resentment here is extremely high and foreigners are not safe. The foolish thing is that by alienating the Berbers, CEGA has lost itself the one ally that could have made the African Union work. Anyway, I'd like you to pull me out of here ASAP because I anticipate a major rebellion any day now, and it is going to get very, very bloody.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KZ29, February 2211

▼ DEMOCRATIC KINGDOMS OF SCANDINAVIA

The Scandinavian lands were not spared from environmental collapse, despite many popularly supported environmental projects. Local plans could not stop the entrance of acid rain from Germany, toxic fog from Russia, fallout from Central Europe, poisons from half a dozen countries in the Baltic Sea and huge winter storms that destroyed entire forests and crippled civil infrastructure. To top it all off, the Long Winter dropped harvest levels by more than half. Yet there was nowhere to flee, because the rest of Europe was worse off, and so thousands starved to death.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

The failure of the democratic governments of Scandinavia was interesting in that there was little violence; government did not so much fall apart as fade away, the people more interested in survival than politics. When population levels matched what the land could support and immediate needs were more secure, then various communities began to rebuild, but again without the violence integral to this process elsewhere in the world. Amazingly the Scandinavians had formed central governments, constitutional monarchies as before the Fall, and an alliance by 2138. Through hard work the islands of Iceland and Greenland were contacted and admitted to the alliance by 2142, thus uniting all the Scandinavian peoples in a political and social recovery unparalleled in history.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics,' Academy St. Cloud, 2211

Don't let their peace and flowers image deceive you; it could be a fatal error. When the League tried to absorb Greenland, the Scandinavians fought to protect their lands. It was a campaign as vicious as any fought by the NAS and pursued right up until the armistice in 2183. People don't learn, however, and when the USE tried to bully Scandinavia into joining, they were shocked when the Scandinavians deployed their armies and defied the threats. These days we lose more agents here than anywhere else in CEGA. Sure, the Scandinavians won't kill you, but I don't wish to spend the next ten years replanting pine trees.

— Source: audio transcript, arrival briefing, Centerpoint Field Operative, KQ96, November 2211

Since joining the USE, Scandinavia has honored its commitment to the letter. However, in line with the government's domestic policies, it only supplies support personnel. Scandinavia has continued this role in CEGA, and their friendly Joint Service troopers, who just seem to want to lend a hand, have surprised many people. It is unfortunate that the small numbers of Scandinavian soldiers in the Joint Service means that Scandinavia never has more than one vote on the CEGA Council; these people actually seem to believe CEGA's better world rhetoric.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KA85, August 2211

INDEPENDENT STATES ◀

Join the USE? Don't be daft! Why would we want to have aught to do with that pack of Frenchies? Bah! The Poles and Turks and all the rest are just French lackeys. Let me tell you, the USE takes its orders from Versailles and we aren't about to follow suit. Don't think Britain has forgotten how the frogs betrayed us. Don't think the Swiss trust 'em either. If you want to see what the USE really offers and why we're not in it, ask a Berber. Besides, with CEGA we 'ave everything the USE does and no frogs neither.

— Source: excerpts from surveillance record, Vice Admiral James Kilgore, Baron of Cawdor, in conversation with Phillip Nygume, USN Consul to Dublin.

SWISS CORPORATE STATE ▼

Stubbornly neutral throughout the twenty-first century, the United Cantons of Switzerland watched the Fall from fortified arcologies and mountain fortresses. The Alps helped keep their air and water clean and the Swiss had always located their polluting industries in developing countries. A few unkind people have referred to the Swiss as the prototype for the cliché Orbital citizen: smugly superior, greedy and cowardly. The Swiss point out the hardships they suffered during the Long Winter: the cold hit their harvests very hard and their borders were under assault for decades by desperate bands of marauding refugees. Nevertheless, in a world of suffering the Swiss suffered less than anybody else and that breeds resentment.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

During the Long Winter, the Swiss absorbed Liechtenstein and the Alpine portions of Austria and Italy, though only with widespread local support. When Europe began to rebuild, the Swiss were among the first to send out traders, creating economic ties to the emerging nations. When approached to join CEGA, the Swiss refused. A war would have hurt Swiss trade, however, so the Swiss offered the Administration a deal: they wouldn't join but they'd create a country that would. They formed a company, the Swiss Corporate State, owned by the United Cantons, and then leased Switzerland to the new company. The Corporate State then joined CEGA while the United Cantons went about its normal duties, letting expert diplomats and bureaucrats take care of the USE. The compromise was one with which the Administration was prepared to live. While the set-up is unorthodox, its legality has been upheld by the USN and, as result, the United Cantons sit as a USN member separately from CEGA.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics' course, Academy St. Cloud, September 2211

The Swiss are really taking CEGA for a ride. They keep the Corporate State near bankrupt, minimizing their financial levies, and they make sure that no soldiers are employed so that none of their troops are required for the Joint Service. Only the fact that the Swiss provide many discreet services to the wealthy and powerful has kept their dubious membership from becoming an issue before the CEGA Council. However, my information about their very close relationship with the Venusian Bank virtually ensures that the Council will eventually have to take corrective action. An invasion will be hard fought because Switzerland is as technically advanced as the League, a fact that they conceal, and they have made the Swiss Alps the Solar System's greatest fortress. Nevertheless, the sheer military might that can be brought to bear on them guarantees that they will eventually lose such a battle. I suggest that we now have the Swiss right where we want them.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KS47, March 2211

UNITED KINGDOM ▼

The twenty-first century was one of political turmoil for the UK, even before coastal flooding, massive storms and industrial waste caused environmental desolation. EU membership led to the slow dissolution of the nation, as Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland used EU funding to push for independence. Wales became the first to vote for secession in 2031 and the rest followed by 2042. The rump of the UK was actually better off without the poorer regions, and the secessions were welcomed in London. Without exception, however, the armed forces remained loyal and hundreds of thousands moved to England.



▼ UNITED KINGDOM (CONTINUED)

The new republics were unable to cope with the problems of the late twenty-first century and soon collapsed into anarchy. Even England struggled, but martial law kept the state afloat until 2110 when old animosities and the UK's leading role in EU military operations saw thirty percent of the Chinese nuclear strike hit England. The result was the most horrendous single loss of life during the Fall. Orbital observers estimate ninety million died, and today England remains a radioactive wilderness. A few million refugees, including many military units, escaped to the west and north, but otherwise, England died that day.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

Following the destruction of England, the British Isles descended into utter chaos. Only a few communities dominated by British army units kept any semblance of modern civilization. Eventually there emerged semi-feudal military states located in the ruins of Glasgow, Dublin, Cardiff and Belfast, each competing to take control of the rubble and wilderness that was rest of Britain. It was only the formation of the USE in 2170 and the unexplained but extreme distrust of French intentions that led the four countries to elect the Lord of Glasgow king, reforming the UK with its capital in Dublin.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics' course, Academy St. Cloud, June 2211

The UK was never granted full membership in the USE, but their undoubted commitment in the later Unification Wars won them full membership in CEGA. Despite the small numbers of British troops in the Joint Service, the UK has proven remarkably influential because UK officers were chosen to form the Space Navy. As a result, nearly a quarter of all naval officers are from the UK. This commitment to the Space Navy has led to strong links with the Orbitals. Trade and development have followed, resulting in the UK's rapid economic growth. If the present boom continues, the UK will be able to press for a larger Joint Service quota, and they are definitely a power to watch.

— Source: text report, Political Update, Analysis and Records Bureau, June 2211

► CEGA ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES

Despite what you may have heard, my job is really very easy. Here in Europe the Occupied Territories are happily integrated into the great future CEGA is building for Earth. The Reconstruction Zones, as I like to call them, have many problems, but they are much better off than they were before CEGA. Despite the bandits and environmental problems, we have taken the locals from their desperately primitive conditions and given them housing and work. CEGA has brought these places hope and the people I have arranged for you to meet will show you how much goodwill the Administration has created in these new lands.

— Source: audio transcript, interview between Lady Charlotte de Chreseigny, Commissioner for European Occupied Territories, and Wilson Tuckey, Zenith Orbital Network News, January, 2211

▼ GERMAN PROTECTORATES

The lands between the Rhine and the Oder are a blasted and desolate wasteland, with only small areas in the mountains remaining capable of supporting human life. Industrial pollutants started the destruction and nuclear and biological war finished it off. Of the hundreds of millions who lived in Germany's crowded cities in the twenty-first century, fewer than one in twenty lived to see the twenty-second. No cities survived, no industry, no transport, nothing but isolated villages high in the Alps. Fewer still were the survivors who stayed; most fled to Poland or Denmark. Those remaining in the mountains reverted to an agricultural lifestyle more primitive than any seen in that part of Europe for a thousand years.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

Neither the French nor the Poles bothered with the German wastes until after the USE was formed. The Poles, with their eyes fixed eastward, want little to do with the area, but the French have taken an active interest. Their interest was rewarded by CEGA with territorial governance in 2185. Despite a few decades of control however, little if anything has changed. A few prison camps for political dissidents provide labor for some minor eco-restoration work, but apart from that the wastes and its people remain unchanged. Except for New Berlin, of course; it's the only thing that makes this assignment worthwhile.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KT45, April 2211

IBERIAN PROTECTORATES ▼

Though CEGA officially granted France governance of Iberia in 2184, the northern third of Spain has been under French control since they stopped the Berbers in 2159. Locals are quite loyal to France for stopping the Muslim advance. This religious point is important to the Iberians, who retreated into religious primitivism during the Long Winter. Among the arid plateaus and hills, the most notable sites are the various monasteries, safe havens and storehouses for the subsistence farmers and shepherds who make up the majority of the population. Young people spend a few years in a monastery learning their letters and catechism. Teaching is done in Spanish, despite repeated attempts to get the monasteries to change to French.

— Source: text report, cultural evaluation, Centerpoint Analysis and Records, December 2211

The French don't bother the locals much; there isn't anything that interests France among the bleak hills except their use as a geographic buffer to the Berbers. Recently many Iberians have gone to work at the new Joint Service base rising out of the ruins of Barcelona. Doing menial work in the Barcelona Arcology for just a few years would allow an Iberian peasant to retire to his village and buy enough goats to live well for the rest of his life. The French aren't happy with this disruption of traditional life. It's stirring up the conservative priesthood, which is busy condemning the changes to village life. Still, the workers are needed and so far the French have not banned their employment.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KX99, November 2211

RUSSIAN PROTECTORATES ▼

The massive industrial complexes of Russia were an environmental nightmare before the beginning of the twenty-first century, and during the Fall, it got even worse, with entire regions left desolate by pollution. During the Third World War, weapons of mass destruction were heavily used against Russian targets. The surviving population became nomadic, moving from inhabitable area to inhabitable area as the seasons dictated. The survivors developed an anti-technology outlook, viewing all things technical as the legacy that had brought their land to ruin.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

The Poles and Turks both sought to control Russia; its ruined cities were laden with machinery, information and other salvageable resources. They occupied the inhabitable land to build bases, ignoring most of the local primitives and killing those that got in their way. Alienating the Cossack tribesmen rather than co-opting them was a foolish decision, however. Eventually, charging out of the swirling toxic dust storms, Cossack raiders would attack salvage camps or ambush convoys, and Cossack snipers plagued every base. The Cossack guerillas were so effective that they survived the loss of their French support after the formation of the USE.

Polish and Turkish cooperation forced many Cossacks to migrate eastward. Those who did not leave were relocated to labor camps and put to work; few survived more than a few years. The Free Cossacks, those who went east, fought for the Siberians during the latter Unification Wars. After CEGA declared Russia a protectorate under joint Polish and Turkish governance in 2186, Free Cossack veterans infiltrated back into their lost homeland and reinvigorated the guerilla war. Despite thousands of troops, heavily fortified colonies and even satellite surveillance, CEGA cannot eradicate the Cossacks. The damage done to the colonization effort is immense but short of war with the ATS no solution is in sight.

— Source: audio transcript, lecture, 'Theories of Colonization: Co-option and Suppression,' Quantico Arcology Military Academy, Maritime League, September 2211

I hate to say this, but I told you so. Go infiltrate the Cossacks, you said, discover who's backing them and why, you said. Well, after six months grubbing my way around Cossack refugee camps in Siberia and the Turkish Alliance, I finally got a contact and joined a smuggling convoy out of Ayaguz. Getting past the border defenses was the scariest thing I've ever done, but we managed it. We spent three weeks slogging across radioactive desolation until we met a Cossack band deep in the Urals. Then the Cossacks told me to get lost and sent me back — they had already known I was a fake! As I've told you, whoever does their intelligence has all the right resources.

— Source: audio transcript, Mission Debrief, Centerpoint Field Operative, KG86, March 2211

4.4.2

4.4.3

end of section 4.4 CEGA administered territories

► ZONES OF CONFLICT AND DISRUPTION

The peaceful nature of the USE is reflected by the fact that polluted areas are more of a problem than military confrontation. Yet eco-restoration has made little impact in this most over-developed and deeply damaged part of the Earth. The Princes of Europe show remarkable dedication to making their lands green again, but will it be enough?

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

▼ RUHR TOXIC REGION

I can well believe that the Ruhr is the most polluted area in the German Wastelands. For my next assignment, I'd like a safe place. Like the Martian border. I've confirmed that the French and the Free Cities have initiated major eco-restoration projects along the Rhine; French political prisoners are providing the labor and death rates are extremely high. Not all the new research facilities within the Ruhr are being used for eco-restoration. I don't have enough evidence to justify an Edicts raid, but I suggest a few "Men in Black" be assigned to follow up, since the information so far suggests human genetic research.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KZ15, August 2211

▼ RUSSIAN TOXIC REGIONS

The toxic legacy of the Soviet Union and Russian Republic has left large stretches of the western and eastern steppes polluted by everything from nuclear waste to chemical fertilizers and buried bioweapons. Areas devastated by the Third World War and the Unification Wars pale in comparison to the older sites. Despite this fact, the toxic regions are heavily traveled. Cossack insurgents and OCU troops crisscross the regions in a lethal game of cat and mouse. All this movement within the toxic regions has led to deadly plague outbreaks, some of which have been deliberate on the part of the guerillas. I've no evidence that the insurgents are doing more than deliberately infecting hosts with naturally existing diseases. The ongoing fighting, however, has hampered my investigations.

— Source: intercepted report from Doctor Marie Berlemont, Solar Cross, May 2211

The salvage gathered from the toxic regions continues to draw explorers from all parts of the USE. Entire factories of machinery have been recovered from beneath collapsed buildings and even after costly decontamination such finds can make a person wealthy for life. In some regions, especially the Karelian Chemical Swamps, eco-restoration projects are actually mining the contaminants and refining them into useable resources. The commercial interest in the regions is such that if the fighting were stopped, it is possible the toxicity problems could be cleaned up in only a few decades.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "Earth: The Battered Planet."

▼ SIBERIAN FRONT

Stretching from the icy waters of the Gulf of Ob to the dusty heat of the Kazakh Hills, this front is the longest continuous military fortification in the history of the human race. Clearly visible from space, the fortifications range from a few hundred meters to five kilometers in depth. Hundreds of thousands of troops are deployed by the Eurasian FDA, backed by the best ground weaponry that the CEGA nations have developed. Both sides, despite pleas from the Orbitals not to deploy such systems, also field anti-orbital weapons and aerospace fighters.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

Despite an equally large ATS force facing the FDA troops, or perhaps because of it, the front is remarkably peaceful. Only in the rough hills to the south are there regular exchanges of fire. Elsewhere the major problems relate to Cossack arms smuggling. Occasionally, over-enthusiastic FDA pursuit of Cossacks has led to major confrontations with the ATS forces. One such battle lasted for a week and cost nearly a thousand Joint Service lives. The potential for horrid losses in any concerted assault by either side is the best guarantor of stability on this front, because neither side has an advantage and conflict would inevitably become a war of attrition.

— Source: audio transcript, lecture, 'Stalemate Earth: The 3rd Cold War,' Quantico Arcology Military Academy, Maritime League, September 2211

SOUTHERN COUNTIES TOXIC REGION ▼

England remains a radioactive dead zone, even a century after the Third World War. Run-off from the area is the major cause of pollution in the English Channel and Irish Sea. Calls for major eco-restoration projects have not been followed through because of the vast cost. Studies have shown that not even bacterial life exists in many places, and unless CEGA subsidies are forthcoming, the UK is unlikely to spare the time or the effort. The toxic fogs that roll off the counties have become a staple of French horror movies, but no truth exists in their stories of cannibalistic mutants and Edicts-violating weapons labs.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "Earth: The Battered Planet."

MAP OF EUROPE □





A good plan, violently executed now, is better than a perfect plan next week.

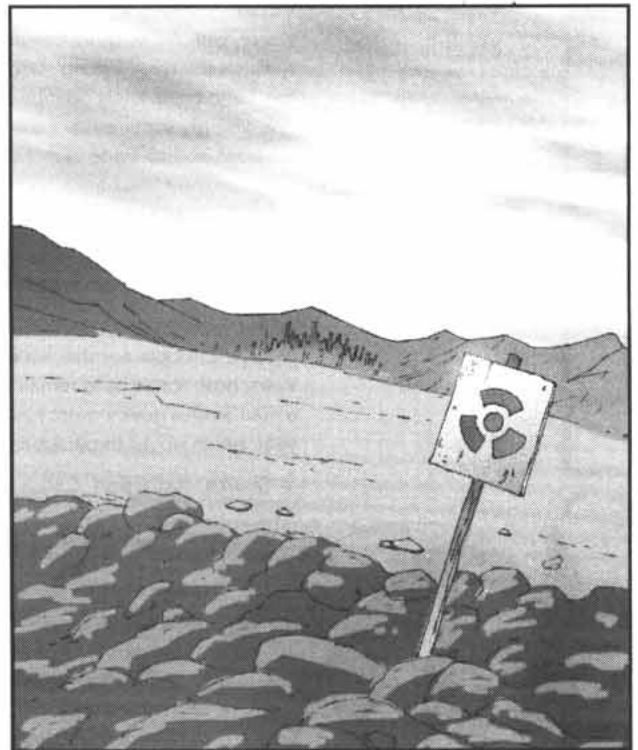
— General George S. Patton

PROMISE ◀

Into these lands have come all the great prophets. Perhaps the messages of peace and love they brought us were too much for this sorry world; perhaps that is why God has inflicted so much hatred, misery and violence on the poor peoples of the desert. First came the Turks, then the Europeans, then this CEGA that rules over us with the iron hand of the unbeliever. Divided, we did not resist; poor, we could not resist; faithful, we have endured. Yet still we were persecuted by your CEGA, for it took our land, driving us from the places that God ordained for us. Still we turned the other cheek. Then this CEGA rebuilt Sodom and Gomorrah, leaving my people to eat putrid scraps at the feet of its dens of iniquity.

There are limits to what can be endured, and this limit your CEGA crossed when it went among our people and told them that they could no longer teach the children the ways of our ancestors. It was not enough that you should have stolen our homes and livelihoods, now you try to steal our children as well! So now we will sow the land with the blood of a new generation of martyrs, as though all that have died before were not enough. From the Valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates to the Pillars of Atlas, your CEGA will know no peace. All the Peoples of the Book will rise up against you and nothing that you have built will be allowed to remain.

— Source: audio transcript of the JSI interrogation of Sheik Sadat Nassar, leader of the Egyptian Freedom Brotherhood, 2211



NORTH AFRICAN INTRODUCTION ▼

CEGA dominates this region, with the sole exception of the Republic of Judea-Samaria, which is protected by its advanced military and its status as a signatory to the Jerusalem Accords. CEGA has constructed a continental alliance to rule Africa and the Middle East, but the African Union is nothing more than a front for CEGA rule and is completely ineffectual. The region is also CEGA's poorest, though major eco-restoration works might at least make it agriculturally self-sufficient inside this decade. While CEGA rules the interior with an iron fist, the region's borders are hotbeds of friction due to the absence of the major fronts that stabilize so many of CEGA's other borders.

To the east there is Persia and the Turkish Alliance, while to the south lie the Ethiopian Empire, Swahili Confederacy, USN administered Congo Environmental Protectorate and the violent and ever-shifting Guinea States. In such an environment, intrigue and smuggling have become major industries, further encouraging the growth of internal dissent in the African Union. As a result many believe this region may be more dangerous than the growing tensions in the South Pacific, because in Africa and the Middle East, the small nations facing off against CEGA have little room to maneuver and may choose to lash out unexpectedly.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics,' Academy St. Cloud, 2211

THE OLD DIVISIONS ★

The Middle East and North Africa are home to more than a few nasty reminders of the Earth's past. I'm not talking about the pollution; I'm talking about the evil that lurks in men's hearts. Sorry, sounds a bit biblical I know, but this whole area has that sort of effect on you and you have to understand that is how people around here think. You'll be asked if you are of the Book. That means, are you Jewish, Christian or Moslem. You'd better have read up on the beliefs of those religions because here if you're not a believer, you're in big trouble. There's even a fair amount of infighting between factions within the religions as to whose interpretations are more correct. Nothing worse than someone who thinks they can kill you because God said so.

— Source: audio transcript, arrival briefing, Centerpoint Field Operative, KP66, November 2211

5.1.1

HISTORICAL FACTS

▼ DIPLOMATIC OVERVIEW

CEGA's relations with the small states that border its African and Middle Eastern territories go from bad to worse, with the only ray of light being relations with the Swahili Confederacy. CEGA's overbearing behavior towards the neighboring states since the Jerusalem Accords, behavior meant to 'encourage' them to join, has been completely counter-productive. The small states have armed themselves to the teeth, the weapons willingly supplied by the ATS and Azanian Compact at discount rates. At the same time, the small states have refused to trade with CEGA, leaving the region precariously balanced. Only Guinea and Swahili are likely to upset this fragile stability.

When the Berbers pulled out of their Sub-Saharan possessions, they left chaos and death behind them. West Africa has remained in that state ever since. Why this region has been so affected is hard to say, but neither the Azanians nor CEGA have been responsible.

With regard to the Swahili Confederacy, CEGA believes it is on the verge of a stunning diplomatic coup. Neither Ethiopia nor the Swahili joined the Azanian Compact following its creation during the Unification Wars; both states have remained uneasily neutral in the years since. In just the last twelve months however, a new Swahili government has made tentative moves to join CEGA. A formal request is expected within the year, which would throw Africa into a strategic uproar and could see a preemptive strike from the Azanians.

— Source: text report, CEGA Political Update, Analysis and Records Bureau, March 2211

▼ 5.1.3 ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

There is little to say for the North African economy that is not prefaced with words like "dismal," "unpromising" and "disappointing." At the end of the Unification Wars the region was poor and desperate, and thirty years of CEGA rule have kept it poor and desperate. This is not entirely CEGA's fault however; indeed the region has been an ongoing and substantial drain on CEGA resources, with the USE investing a great deal of money as well. Guild economists can't understand why good money is being thrown after bad in a region that was mostly uninhabitable even before the Fall.

— Source: excerpt from Mercurian Merchant Guild Financial Report, July 2211

▼ 5.1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

Although it seems besieged by political, social and economic problems, CEGA can at least claim success over its ecological achievements in North Africa and Mesopotamia. The entire Nile Valley as far south as the White Nile has been returned to a pristine state that it has not enjoyed since the early nineteenth century, an outstanding achievement given the damage it had suffered. The increasing work being done in the valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers means that within a few decades, two of the oldest areas of human habitation — birthplaces of modern human civilization — will once more be home to vibrant human communities.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "Earth: The Battered Planet."



AFRICAN UNION ◀

CEGA publications often refer to a third continental alliance. This is the African Union, but no-one should be fooled into comparing it with the Combine or USE. The Union is a political façade created to counter accusations from the Non-Aligned States that CEGA is nothing more than a front for European and North American imperialism. Whom CEGA thought they were going to fool is anyone's guess, because they have never bothered to do more than build a headquarters in Alexandria and staff it with an ugly collection of yes-men and semi-competent bureaucrats.

— Source: audio transcript, introductory lecture, 'Nature of Political Dynamics,' Academy St. Cloud, 2211

POLITICAL AIMS ▼

It would be true to say that the officials running the African Union have no political aims. Their French and Turkish masters, on the other hand, have very clear goals for the region. It is important to note that apart from a very small number of local collaborators, the officials running the African Union are all French or Turkish, with a small number from other CEGA states for appearance's sake. There will not be, therefore, any rebellions in the corridors of power, especially because local officials concentrate on garnering wealth and influence and protecting their own necks.

The French and Turks aim to keep the Mediterranean a Franco-Turkish lake where their political and economic dominance is not challenged. Both nations have made it clear that if this means oppressing the Arabs and Berbers, so be it. The one problem in this grand design is the secretive Republic of Judea-Samaria. Not unnaturally the Turks and French are leading calls to make an example of the Judeans if concrete evidence is found of their backing rebels within CEGA. Besides this small blemish however, there is no sign that the French and Turks will not maintain their bloody stranglehold for decades to come.

— Source: text report, CEGA Political Update, Analysis and Records Bureau, March 2211

ECONOMY ▼

The eastern portions of the Union are dependant on CEGA subsidies to survive; eco-restoration has not yet progressed to the point where the region is even capable of feeding itself, and outside the region, few districts possess worthwhile mineral resources. These facts considered, it hard to see how the Union will ever be economically independent, especially given the ever-increasing military and internal security expenditures needed to keep the restive Arab population in line. CEGA's great hope is that the colonial arcologies will develop self-sustaining economies, though Guild analysis indicates they lack the industrial investment required for this outcome.

The North African territories of the Berber Kingdom, which makes up the western portion of the Union, are both economically viable and dynamic, having already undergone significant eco-restoration and possessing a strong resource base. By themselves these territories should be able to support the rest of the Union until it is self-sustaining. However, given the level of popular discontent in the Berber Kingdom, the reality of its economic depression lasting since the Unification Wars is not surprising. Our advice to members is to avoid this area entirely, since even the most optimistic political analysis is that the present problems will have a violent outcome and this will destroy the Berber economy.

— Source: excerpt from Mercurian Merchant Guild Financial Report, July 2211

PRESENT STATUS ▼

No one, in or out of CEGA, has any doubts that the Union is heading to hell in a bucket, Janus. The fighting will be terrible, thousands will die and in the end, CEGA will still be in control and the Arabs even more oppressed and sullen. I've tried my best. The information I leaked at least got some questions asked in the USN, and while it's unlikely the USN will do anything concrete, it's a source of embarrassment to the USE. It amuses the cynical side of me that the Europeans like to be seen as the humanitarian face of CEGA. I'm a Scandinavian, Janus, not a European, thank you very much.

▼PRESENT STATUS (CONTINUED)

Further east, matters are more interesting. My people tell me there is a major smuggling ring operating out of the Arabian Toxic Desert and I'm sure you've seen reports of the heavy fighting along the Zagross Front. I have a few contacts in Persepolis and I don't think the fighting will lead to a new war, especially with the warmongers in the Eurasian FDA presently more interested in the deployments of the Judean Defense Force. The smuggling in the Arabian Toxic Desert seems to be developing into a major industry though; I'd suggest you might want to stamp it out.

Not a pretty picture is it? What did you expect, Janus? Not everyone appointed to the Union is a corrupt bootlicker, but the resentment here is so very deep and perhaps inevitable. My readings on colonialism on ancient Earth suggest that you almost have to exterminate the natives, like they did in America and Australia, or eventually they will throw you out, like they did in India and Africa. I'll send you a few books on the subject; you'll find it very educational, I'm sure.

— Source: audio transcript of conversation with Ola Leifdottir, African Union Health Secretary, personal log files of Director-General Janus O'Grady, New Berlin, September 2210

▼CAUCASIAN PRINCIPALITIES

In the ancient city of Gandzha, high in the Araks Mountains, the eastern palace of the Turkish Emperor sits in gold-domed splendor. These eastern provinces of the Empire of Turkey, while officially part of the African Union, are still very much part of the Empire. They look to Istanbul rather than Alexandria and are protected by Imperial Janissaries rather than the North African Legion. From the Don and Volga rivers in the north to the Zagross Mountains in the south, the Principalities are a collection of small Turkish tribes, much less powerful than those in the western provinces. One reason for this is that there are no subject peoples in the Caucasus, thus the technology level is not much different than it was a thousand years ago.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

The Caucus tribes are among the poorest and least powerful in the Empire, yet being Imperial Governor in Gandzha is a position coveted by every noble family in the Empire. The reason is one of the biggest frauds on Earth. Copper, petroleum, tungsten and many other valuable minerals are found in the Principalities, ancient deposits being reworked with modern techniques. The greatest resource, however, is the abundant hydroelectricity the region generates. Power exports from the Caucasus meet a large percentage of the Empire's energy needs. For all these riches, the local tribes are paid only a pittance because they lack the knowledge to work the resources themselves. Their resentment is slowly rising, however, especially as young warriors return from the Joint Service with an understanding of how their tribes are being robbed.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KA67, January 2211

The Empire has already quietly crushed a number of small rebellions, but in the event of a major revolt, the fighting would be bloody and drawn out. The tribes of the Caucasus are noted for their fighting prowess and many have served in elite Joint Services units. Also, the mountains that make up their traditional lands are harsh and unforgiving and not good terrain to fight a civil war. The failure of the Imperial Family to deal with this problem is at odds with their otherwise forward-looking policies. It is possible they are encouraging the problem in order to recruit the Caucasian tribes against the western nobility. If this is the case, then the Emperor is playing a dangerous game, for the western tribes have close ties to Persia. If the Persians backed the revolt, it would trigger a major war along the Zagross Front and major unrest throughout North Africa.

— Source: audio transcript, lecture, 'Theories of Colonization: Co-option and Suppression,' Quantico Arcology Military Academy, Maritime League, August 2211

▼MESOPOTAMIAN PROTECTORATES

Nuclear and biological warfare have left the once fertile valley of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers a baking desert. Little remains for anyone to covet; the oil wells have long since been pumped dry, and even the waters of the two great rivers have been stolen away by Turkish irrigation and hydroelectric schemes. The region has great importance strategically, however, being the only direct land route to Persia and the Indian sub-continent. CEGA has therefore made a determined effort to colonize the area, seeking to build self-supporting forward bases for the Eurasian FDA.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

▼ MESOPOTAMIAN PROTECTORATES (CONTINUED)

The Mesopotamian arcologies have been built and populated by Turkish subject peoples for the most part, and major eco-restoration projects have been initiated to reclaim some of the wasted land. The majority of projects are in the north, along the borders of the Empire of Turkey, since the Empire stands to acquire any restored land. The economic viability of the southern settlements, however, has always been in doubt, especially since all attempts to get oil from the old wells has proven to be complete failures. Apart from supporting the armored and mobile divisions of the Eurasian FDA's Southern Corps, there is apparently little for the citizens of the southern arcologies to do.

— Source: text report, regional evaluation, Centerpoint Analysis and Records, June 2211

The arcologies here are incredibly busy. I haven't seen a boom this big since that gold strike on Alba Patara on Mars. If you want economic data, you're going to have to send me help or extend the time period. There's too much business here for me to handle it within current mission parameters. I can't confirm the reports of illegal shuttle flights landing in the Arabian Toxic and Syrian Radiation Deserts, but there is a definite orbital connection somewhere. A few industrious locals are also setting up their own sweatshops with Arab labor to turn out hot copies of legitimate Orbital goods as well. CEGA and Turkish officials are acquiring very fat bank accounts for ignoring all this activity, which is why the official reports show economic problems and not boom towns.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KO81, September 2211

BERBER KINGDOM OF CORDOBA ▼

The decision to divide the Berbers' kingdom was based on the fear that the Arab nation would grow into a powerful threat, a fear founded on the waves of marauding refugees from North Africa that assaulted Europe during the Fall. The potential power of the Berbers was considerable; their southern territories now make up two-thirds of North Africa and even with the ongoing civil disturbances, the Berbers are proving industrially and technically dynamic. Divided, however, the Berbers are politically castrated and all the work done by so many Berber nobles to drag their nation into the twenty-third century will be for naught because a massive rebellion is inevitable. Resentment of CEGA's treatment of their country is palpable throughout the Kingdom.

— Source: text report, CEGA Political Update, Analysis and Records Bureau, March 2211

The most immediate problems stem from the vast refugee shantytowns on the outskirts of the major cities. In these camps the Berbers who had to evacuate the Kingdom's territory south of the Sahara still live in squalor. These places are a breeding ground for terrorists, but the African Union has done nothing about them. I can't fathom such negligence. Control of the Berber king will not prevent a rebellion; from my experiences I believe that the high regard in which the monarchy was once held has been seriously diminished by a succession of kings who have been obvious French pawns.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KI32, May 2211

The African cities of the Berbers are an interesting mix of the ancient and the modern. Bazaars that predate space flight stand next to office buildings built of Orbital alloys. There is a lot of activity in these cities; the USE has invested a great deal in the African Union. New industries, eco-restoration projects and support for the African FDA have combined to generate boom times. Cheap and skilled labor is what brought European money to the southern Kingdom, but with it have come European supervisors whose treatment of the workforce is an unfortunate stain on the other achievements of the African Union.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

Things are not as bad yet here as they are in the Nile Protectorates, but the growing tensions have not gone unnoticed by the North African Legion, which is the local OCU. More and more troops can be seen on the streets and, more disturbingly, new bases are being constructed outside major towns and cities. It puts FDA troops far closer to potential problems than the deep Saharan bases. Another new occurrence is daily sweeps by internal security agents, carefully combing the bazaars and coffeehouses for the slightest hint of subversion. Very heavy handed, but it won't stop the coming revolt any more than the rebellion will free the Berbers.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KI32, September 2211

▼ NILE PROTECTORATES

There are two different worlds to be found in the Nile territories. One is a vibrant colonial society that has made the Nile Valley a verdant land of flowers and lush farmlands reminiscent of the time of the pharaohs. The second world is one of misery and despair, a world that lies in the shadows of the great colonial arcologies of Alexandria, Cairo, Thebes, Aswan, Nubia and Khartoum. These slums are the most desperate places in CEGA — nowhere else is life so cheap or so brutally short.

— Source: excerpt from IGS textfile "An Introduction to Earth"

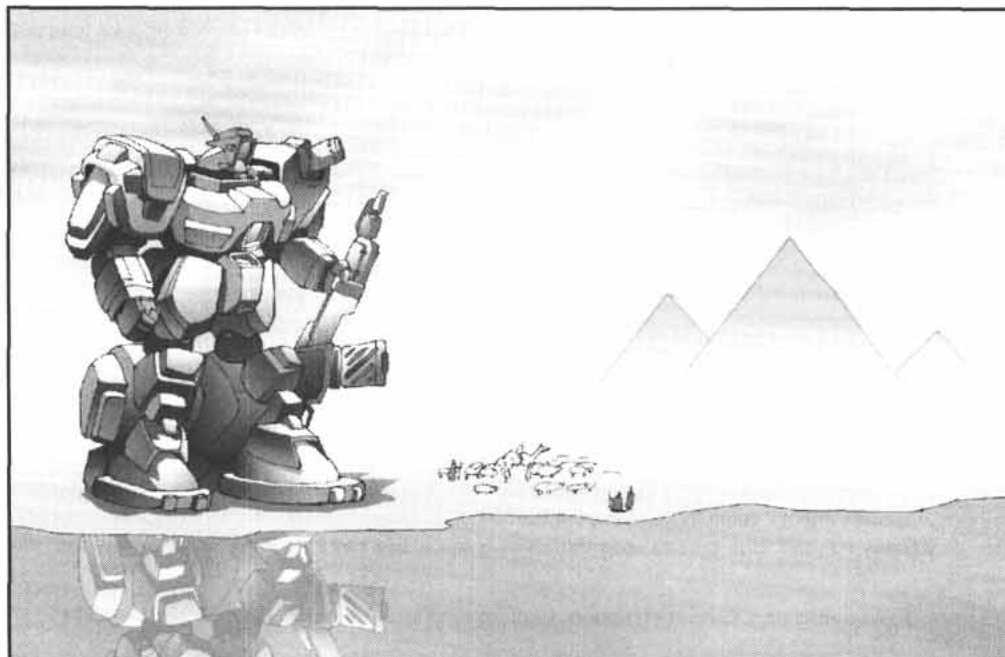
The source of CEGA's political problems lies in its ecological successes. CEGA paid no mind to the primitive Arab nomads who drifted from oasis to oasis among the radioactive sands. Rather than go to the trouble of educating and integrating these desperately poor people, CEGA simply imported colonists who already had the skills that they required. The new colonists were a mixture of French middle class, Turkish subject peoples and Berbers wishing to build a life outside their falling Kingdom. Immense eco-restoration projects were initiated, and over a period of two decades, the Nile Valley was restored.

This restoration completely destroyed the lifestyle of the Arab nomads. The marginal lands that they had once lived upon were turned into irrigated industrial farms, and the lands beyond are too arid to support human populations. With no place to go, they have slowly migrated into shantytowns around the arcologies, finding a little work as manual laborers on the farms or ongoing eco-restoration projects. Embarrassed that a project meant to enhance CEGA's reputation was having such negative consequences, officials put much time and energy into trying to improve conditions in the shantytowns. The only result was the development of militancy as a newly educated generation of nomads grew up resenting the fact that the European arcology-dwelling colonists refused to let them share the good life the Nile is now providing.

— Source: text report, CEGA Political Update, Analysis and Records Bureau, July 2211

CEGA has let matters go too far and now they are seriously stuck. Officials here are desperate to find a solution. The problem is that every proposal, like the one to relocate the Arabs into new settlements in Arabia, has been rejected because the territory's economy is dependent on cheap Arab labor. So if they do nothing, they've got spiraling violence, and if they take action, they'll upset a whole lot of influential colonists. Still I think with the discovery that Judea-Samaria is actively supporting various terrorist and guerilla groups, CEGA has realized it is only a matter of time before the riots and demonstrations erupt into a more serious problem.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KR98, November 2211



ZONES OF CONFLICT AND DISRUPTION ◀

As a percentage of land area, the African Union possesses more territory classified as hazardous than it does land classified as habitable. This is due both to the naturally marginal state of this region and to the effects of the ninth Arab-Israeli War and the Fall. Yet in Africa eco-restoration has also had the most dazzling success.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "Earth: The Battered Planet."

ARABIAN TOXIC DESERT ▼

Arabia was always an inhospitable land of burning desert and bare rock. Pollution, radiation, and biological contamination during the twenty-first and twenty-second centuries have made it one of the most hellish places on Earth. Except for the arcologies of Judea-Samaria and the mountainous lands of Yemen, nothing but a few bands of nomads exist among the poisoned sands. The peace of the desert was briefly broken when CEGA absorbed the area to exploit possible oil resources, but the occupation was short-lived, for the oil proved to be another desert mirage and the nomads were naturally unhappy with the effort.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "Earth: The Battered Planet."

Little has changed in the twenty years since CEGA abandoned its naval base at Muscat in 2191, forced out by a massive nomad assault. The heavily armed nomads, with reliable support from Persia, Judea-Samaria and Yemen, remain a dangerous menace. Their presence is one reason that reports of orbital smuggling activity in the region were ignored for so long. Since the Odyssey Affair, the smuggling has become undeniable, though the exact relation between the nomads and the smugglers is still unknown. A dozen operatives have died trying to establish the full extent of the smuggling activities in Arabia. Further operations are on hold pending a high level review of this problem.

— Source: text report, Operation Lawrence update, Special Investigations Bureau, February 2211

LEVANTINE FRONT ▼

One of the most heated minor Unification Wars was that between the USE and the Republic of Judea-Samaria. This small land of fortified arcologies fought with great valor and in 2184 hosted the negotiations that led to the Jerusalem Accords. For many years the Judeans returned to their previously secretive existence. The southern corps of the Eurasian FDA, though it maintained regular reconnaissance patrols, did not bother much with this small and apparently unthreatening country. This attitude changed when, four years ago, Judea-Samaria launched a number of space planes and started the construction of a space station in geo-synchronous orbit over the Mediterranean.

— Source: audio transcript, lecture, 'Stalemate Earth: The 3rd Cold War,' Quantico Arcology Military Academy, Maritime League, September 2211

The Joint Service has been caught completely off-guard by the Judeans and they're putting a huge effort into finding out more about this secretive little country. We've been left high and dry as well and so we've put a tourist into the JSI investigation. The information that has been turned up so far is very dangerous; it is now undeniable that Judean agents have been involved in fomenting anti-CEGA activities across North Africa.

Not surprisingly the Joint Service has deployed a much stronger military force to the front as a result. The only thing preventing a war is CEGA wariness over rumors of Edicts violating weaponry in Judean hands. Worse, since the Judeans refused entry to the Edicts Enforcement Bureau, CEGA has been screaming about double standards, but Judea-Samaria is not a signatory to the USN or the Edicts and is therefore within its right to refuse SolaPol entry. We're presently trying to discover what other surprises the Judeans may have in store for CEGA.

— Source: audio transcript, Judean Situation Report to Director Janus O'Grady, November 2211

S.E.3

▼ LIBYAN TOXIC DESERT

The long dead nation of Libya had the dubious honor of being attacked with nuclear, chemical and biological weapons more often than any other nation on Earth during the Fall. From its neighbors to various superpowers, all sides hit the Libyans as payment for real or perceived past infractions. As a result the Libyan Desert now extends all the way to the coast of the Mediterranean and is so poisonous that not even Arabian nomads can survive there. Even CEGA's need for resources has not been enough to persuade it to investigate the long-abandoned oil fields within this hellish region. It is said that only fools and madmen go anywhere near Libya — and neither return.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "Earth: The Battered Planet."

S.E.4

▼ SAHARAN FRONT

The responsibility of the African FDA, this front is misleadingly named because no armies confront each other in the sandy wastes of the Sahara. The Azanian Compact lies far to the south, beyond the Congo Environmental Protectorate. Yet under the Jerusalem Accords, this is where CEGA's border lies and so here the African FDA is based. The front is quite active, however, with smuggling into and out of the Guinea States making the Sahara a surprisingly high-traffic desert.

— Source: audio transcript, lecture, 'Stalemate Earth: The 3rd Cold War,' Quantico Arcology Military Academy, Maritime League, September 2211

I've found no evidence to support the claims that FDA troops have been involved in the ongoing wars wracking Guinea. My information makes it clear that CEGA is highly reluctant to involve itself in the mess created by the Berber evacuation of the African west coast; it's hardly an unexpected position, since a greater pit of human misery is hard to find in the Solar System. If the Saharan Front is going to see any action, it is likely to be in its own rear areas. The North African Legion has been doing extensive training with the African FDA and many FDA units have been relocated to place them within striking distance of major Berber cities. I'd lay odds on the possibility that the Sahara will become a front in CEGA's first major revolt within a year or two at most.

— Source: audio transcript, Observation Report, Centerpoint Field Operative, KA55, October 2211

S.E.5

▼ SYRIAN RADIATION DESERT

Attacked by neutron bombs during the ninth Arab-Israeli War, the Syrian Desert is one of the more hospitable contaminated zones in the Middle East. Even the fighting here during the Unification Wars did not substantially worsen the situation. As a result many eco-restoration projects are underway along the desert's periphery. Already green zones can be seen in Judean-held Lebanon and massive CEGA-funded Turkish projects are underway in the foothills of the eastern Taurus Mountains. Nothing lives in this desert; the fighting during the Unification Wars drove out all the nomads and now the only movement is that of the increasingly well-armed patrol convoys of the Eurasian FDA.

— Source: excerpts from IGS textfile "Earth: The Battered Planet."

S.E.6

▼ ZAGROSS FRONT

The cold and windy peaks of the Zagross Mountains are an abrupt change from the baking deserts of the Middle East. High in their rocky fastness lie hundreds of kilometers of entrenchments and bunkers, standing guard over battle lines that have not changed since the armistice in 2183. The Persians fought with ferocious courage against the mainly Turkish USE forces that tried to invade their nation. Historic enmity added a level of barbarity to the fighting that was absent elsewhere in the European Unification Wars. While exact details are discreetly hidden, what is known of the fighting is only that no prisoners survived to be exchanged at the war's end.

— Source: audio transcript, lecture, 'Understanding Victory: The Unification Wars,' Quantico Arcology Military Academy, Maritime League, August 2211

— Source: audio transcript, lecture, 'Stalemate Earth: The 3rd Cold War,' Quantico Arcology Military Academy, Maritime League, December 2211

A map of the Islamic Empire at its greatest extent, showing various regions and fronts. The map includes labels for the following areas:

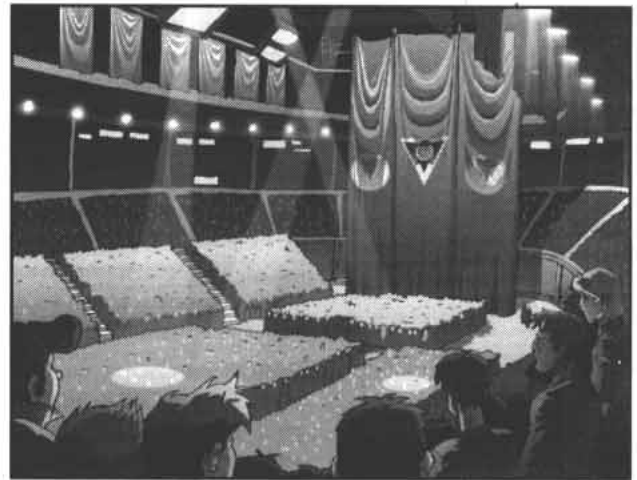
- Southern Berber Kingdom of Cordoba
- Libyan Toxic Desert
- Saharan Front
- Nil Protectorates
- Alexandria (El Iskandariya)
- Istanbul
- Caucasian Principalities
- Syrian-Radiation Desert
- Eurasian Protectorates
- Zagross Front
- Arabian Toxic Desert
- Levantine Front
- Ganzha



CEGA ◀

The average Solar national often perceives the Central Earth Government and Administration as a monolithic political power, unified both in its control of the Earth system and in its exterior goals. Only the few individuals who elect to make a deep study of Earth politics are aware of the fragmented nature of CEGA's existence.

Created primarily as a false front meant to impress the Orbital colonies and encourage their membership, CEGA was forced into full legitimacy when an elated solar community welcomed the new government into the United Solar Nations. In order to prevent the various independent states from gaining significant voting power in the USN, CEGA's member nations agreed to maintain their support of its façade as a unified world government. The USN granted CEGA a planetary-level seat, making it equal to all of the combined independent states with regard to interplanetary affairs.



A POLITICAL COMPROMISE ▼

During the Unification Wars, cooperation between the USE and Alliance grew enormously, to the point of joint coordination of military operations. All factions realized, however, that in order to be effective within the politics of the Solar System, they would have to cooperate more closely. The problem was that the continental alliances remained split by hatred and mistrust, especially in North America. These factors had hindered joint operations during the Unification Wars and some way had to be found to work around them.

The solution was the creation of a completely new political organization, the Central Earth Government and Administration, a monumental name to hide the very limited powers it was to possess. CEGA's main function was to coordinate all military and diplomatic initiatives needed to bring the rest of Earth and the Solar System under European and North American rule. Beyond this, CEGA was to be subordinate to the continental alliances and powerless to interfere in their internal affairs. Finally, to give CEGA a façade of political legitimacy, rigged popular elections and wide discretionary powers were written into CEGA's constitution. This constitution was never meant to be a problem, because the alliances thought that they would always control the CEGA Council.

THE MILITARY IS POLITICS ▼

CEGA holds elections every five years to choose the forty members of its ruling council. The elections use a modified version of the Texan voting system, a system that gives a central role to serving and retired military personnel. Council seats are apportioned on the basis of the number of troops a member nation commits to Joint Military Service; in elections, serving and veteran Joint Service troops have their votes counted first. Thus, a Councilor is elected as long as an absolute majority of military votes is received; only if no candidate achieves such a majority are civilian votes counted.

Since all the original members of CEGA except the Maritime League were dictatorships of one variety or another and carefully vetted and indoctrinated their troops, this system was thought to guarantee that elections would always produce the correct result. Since the intention was that all nations in the Solar System would eventually join CEGA, the original member nations limited votes to assign Joint Military Service troop quotas to Councilors from their nations, ensuring that they would always be able to control how many Council seats any member had.

However, almost as soon as this system was developed, cracks began to appear. The first was the exception granted to the Orbital and Lunar colonies in 2185. As part of their voluntary membership, the Orbitals were granted the right to set their own voting requirements for CEGA; despite decades of pressure from the Imperialists in Joint Service, Orbital voting remains fully democratic. This has introduced uncontrolled and popularly elected Councilors into CEGA, ones whose numbers were dictated by the Space Navy's dependence on Orbital engineers and technicians. This unexpected infusion of democracy suddenly made CEGA more publicly accountable for its actions than the dictatorial Alliance nations had ever envisaged.

▼ THE MILITARY IS POLITICS (CONT.)

After the problem with the Orbitals, no new CEGA members were allowed to set their own voting systems, but even so, the new states introduced issues and beliefs outside those the continental alliances had foreseen. Still, this would not have been a problem if the USE and Combine had presented a united front. Instead they allowed their internal differences, especially among the Combine states, to be manipulated by the independent members. As a result, the CEGA Council became a true political forum outside any one faction's total control.

Ultimately, the internal divisions of the original members had an even more negative impact. The bitter factionalism common in many of Earth's governments quickly spilled over into the Council, as domestic political factions realized they could use it to push their political agendas back home. Soon, many Councilors were more interested in interfering in national politics than overseeing the progress of solar expansion, which was exactly what the system had been designed to avoid. This bickering also allowed the entry of the Venusian influence into CEGA politics, furthering complicating an already Byzantine situation.

Beneath the Council, the original members had appointed some of their best and brightest officers and bureaucrats to CEGA and the Joint Service. Following the orders given to them by their home nations, these people pushed ahead with CEGA's grand design to conquer the solar system, doing so well that they managed to obscure the political problems on the Council. However, a lack of oversight gradually became a critical flaw, as military officers and senior bureaucrats started to manipulate CEGA for their own personal or political gain. Some officers even used their close connections to their troops to get elected to the Council themselves. These moves were initially welcomed by the continental alliances because the Joint Service Councilors seemed to be intent only on Solar conquest, not petty politicking.

The result was that by the twenty-third century, the Joint Service and CEGA bureaucracy had become a law unto themselves. They were dominated by a faction of ambitious people intent on increasing their power and influence through the immediate use of military power and by undermining the independence of member nations. If it had not been for the actions of one member of this faction, Admiral Russel Kleb, it is possible that by the time they realized what was going on, the continental alliances might have lost control of Earth before they knew their power was threatened. Once aware of the subtle campaigns of destabilization and disinformation being waged against them, as well as their loss of effective control of the powerful Joint Service military, the alliances swung into immediate action. The massive and bloody purges have yet to return CEGA to its unquestioned control. The continental alliances are starting to realize that they have created a military goliath that has gotten beyond their ability to contain.

▼ THE CEGA BUREAUCRACY

Though CEGA was meant to be a government in name only, a complicated and often confusing bureaucratic structure was created to oversee international cooperation across a whole range of endeavors. After 2184, the CEGA bureaucracy grew into a shadow government, mirroring every service or ministry found in the member nations. This massive growth was explained away by ambitious bureaucrats with the need for improved cooperation and more centralized oversight. As a result, by the time of the Odyssey Affair, the CEGA bureaucracy had developed immense influence, controlling such important functions as inter-alliance policing, educational and health standards, trade regulation, the distribution of subsidies for development and eco-restoration, and the oversight of all occupied territories.

Beyond the bureaucracy's legitimate powers, its ability to manipulate CEGA policy had also garnered it immense influence. Given the substantial financial and political benefits of serving as a CEGA official, many national bureaucrats were keen to ingratiate themselves with CEGA personnel in the hope of improving their chances of being selected, further increasing CEGA's influence. Finally, the failure in political oversight led to massive corruption, with vast sums being embezzled or earned through ties to organized crime. This again increased the already vast reach of the CEGA bureaucracy.

Despite the widespread corruption, many officials held true to the belief of Earth's destiny to rule the solar system. To these politicized officials, bureaucratic empire building had a more important purpose than simply enriching themselves. Slowly, the politicized officials became centered in the judicial and diplomatic ministries while corrupt officials took control of the lucrative financial and trade departments. The occupied territories' secretariats remained split, neither group willing to concede control of such important and powerful posts. As all officials desired expansion of CEGA control, whether for either personal gain or ideological reasons, the majority became active supporters of the Imperialist faction.

CEGA COUNCIL ▼

When they created the Administration the continental alliances expected the CEGA Council to be a dignified body of retired bureaucrats, military officers and politicians, all serving out their golden years and doing as they were told. Instead, the forty Councilors are locked in a bitter and deadly conflict that will determine who controls the fate of CEGA.

Each Councilor represents a non-geographical district; the number of districts per member nation is based on its Council-assigned Joint Service commitments. Election comes with a very significant salary, a large staff, and offices and a residence in each of the two CEGA capitals, New Berlin and Gaia City. Councilors receive constant CEGA press coverage and many lucrative offers from companies and individuals seeking influence or assistance. The biggest lure though, is power; apart from leading a member nation, no other people on Earth wield as much control or influence.

The main source of this power is the Council committee system. There are no set committees; each is created by a Council vote and exists until the Council votes to disband it. Originally, this mechanism was designed to prevent the development of powerful committees able to operate outside the purview of the Council proper. Instead, the flexibility of the system allowed the Council to create committees to look into anything they pleased, which became the main weapon of Councilors wishing to interfere in national politics. The trading of seats and votes on the committees became central to power within the Council.

The best example of the problems of the committee system is the Committee for Loyalty, which was set up following the Odyssey Affair to purge the bureaucracy and Joint Service of those not loyal to the Continental Alliances. Initially, Councilors loyal to the alliance members voted en masse to set up the committee and dominated its membership. Since then, disputes between alliance nations have allowed other Councilors to win seats on the committee and obstruct its activities for their own factional aims. Without unity, the continental alliances have become just another faction on the Council.

FACTIONS ◇

There are presently three main factions vying for control of the Council: the Imperialists, the Loyalists and the Unificationists. The largest faction are the continental alliance Loyalists, who have nearly twenty seats on the Council, but their numbers are counterbalanced by the increasing conflicts between the nations they serve. It was such infighting that lost the Loyalists control of the Council in the first place; now that the immediate outrage regarding the Odyssey is dying down, old disputes are coming to the surface again.

The main beneficiaries of Loyalist infighting have always been the Imperialists, a faction closely aligned to the senior officers of the Joint Service and CEGA bureaucracy and whose professed goal is the reacquisition of the solar system. The Loyalists generally agree with this aim; the difference is that the Imperialists seek power for themselves, not for the nations of Europe and North America. Many powerful members of the Imperialist faction have been cashiered in the recent purges and they are now forced to move more subtly than they have in the past. This is especially true of their use of powerful bureaucratic ties to circumvent proper channels and manipulate the Council into sanctioning imperialist actions after the fact.

The smallest of the factions is the Unificationists. Led by Ignatius Chang, the faction is centered on Councilors from the Orbitals and a few League, West Indian, Polish and Scandinavian moderates. While their proclaimed goal is promoting the peaceful reunification of Earth and the solar system, the Unificationists spend most of their time frustrating the Imperialists and fighting Venusian interference. The Unificationists hold the balance of power, and they have used it to prevent any faction gaining absolute control of any of the major committees, especially the all-important Solar Relations, Joint Service Oversight and Finance committees.

The result has been a dramatic increase in efficiency and decrease in corruption, but the military and bureaucratic members of the Imperialist faction are fuming at having to answer to politicians for their actions. So far, their displeasure has led to a number of violent incidents at Council meetings, but rumor blames more aggressive members of the Imperialist faction for the bomb attack that recently injured Councilor Chang. How far this conflict will go is unforeseeable, though a serious threat from the Jovian Confederation would probably bring the Loyalists and the Imperialists together temporarily. It may only be a matter of time before the factions agree that a unified war with Jupiter is better than the division and collapse of the Administration.

b.1.5

end of section 6.1 cega



► CEGA JOINT MILITARY SERVICES

During the later Unification Wars the two continental alliances set up the Military Coordination Bureau to ensure cooperation between their armies around the globe. The MCB proved its worth many times over, and officers returning to national service after a period in it were usually promoted. Thus, MCB service became a route to advancement, and positions became highly sought after. With the formation of CEGA, the continental alliances realized that no one state could afford the massive space fleet their ambitions would require. This meant they needed a joint fleet that no single state could control, and therefore, under the aegis of CEGA, the MCB was expanded into the Joint Military Service (often shortened to Joint Service).

The JMS is divided into three distinct forces, the Space Navy, Forward Defense Armies and Occupation Control Units. Many observers mistake the FDA and OCU for the same force, since they use the same ranks and uniforms, and collectively call them the CEGA Army. Above the three services is the JMS High Command, which reports directly to the CEGA Council and is located within Goliath Station in the L4 Orbital cluster. The Joint Service does not recruit untrained civilians; all troops come fully trained from member nations. The Navy is an exception in that many of its recruits, while they may have useful skills, almost always require training in zero-g operations, which the Navy carries out at its academy on Goliath Station.

▼ OCCUPATION CONTROL UNITS (OCUS)

At the end of the Unification Wars, the continental alliances occupied vast tracts of territory. Rather than let these spoils of war become a divisive issue, the alliances handed administration of the occupied territories over to CEGA. CEGA then assigned member nations to administer specific areas and created special military units, called Occupation Control Units, to maintain peace and stability within the territories.

The OCUs' main duties include the suppression of guerilla warfare, terrorism and dissent. As a result, they have gained a reputation for extreme human-rights abuses. This is not helped by the fact that the OCUs tend to be assigned the least capable troops placed in Joint Service by CEGA member nations, and large numbers of poorly trained, ill-equipped and under-motivated soldiers are sent into its ranks.

The OCUs place great emphasis on infantry and possess few high-tech weapons, though they usually have access to large air transport units to assist in anti-guerilla operations. When faced with well-armed and better-trained opponents, the OCUs usually step back and allow the superior units of the nearest FDA take care of the heavy fighting. However, the OCU legionnaires are always at the forefront of CEGA's imperial ambitions. In hundreds of remote battlefields, they die in the ongoing struggle to subdue the Occupied Territories, resulting in an odd sense of martial conceit. It is perhaps this pride that allows the OCUs to remain functional and effective units; indeed, few deny that a tour in an OCU produces a superlative infantryman, capable of operating with little support and under constant pressure.

▼ FORWARD DEFENSE ARMIES (FDAS)

There are only three Forward Defense Armies, each one a dagger aimed at the heart of CEGA's Earthbound enemies. Each is a powerful, combined-arms force whose stated purpose is to defend CEGA's borders. In actuality, the FDAs are postured more for attack than defense and are somewhat less advanced than advertised. Not only does the Space Navy absorb the lion's share of CEGA funding, but the FDAs are also considered low-priority shock troops by the individual member nations.

The largest of the FDAs is the Eurasian Army, whose responsibilities stretch from the Arctic to the Indian Ocean. The Eurasian Army faces the allied armies of the ATS along the most fortified border on Earth. The Pacific Army is based out of numerous island fortresses in the South Pacific Islands and its fleets maneuver against the forces of ANZAC and Japan. The smallest and least impressive FDA is the African Army, the only force that does not share a direct front line with its enemy, which in this case is the Azanian Compact. As a result, the African Army has more infantry than armor and tends to be assigned low-quality troops.

Despite having excellent training, low morale is causing some disquiet within the Joint Service. None of the FDAs see much action, except for some units engaged in occasional border disputes. Yet CEGA runs the FDAs on wartime footing, which makes for considerable stress and boredom as troopers train constantly for a war that never comes. Making matters worse, most FDA troopers are barracked in isolated bases along CEGA's long borders, far from sources of relief and entertainment. Senior Joint Service officers have refused to rotate troops in and out of frontline positions, arguing it would interrupt training and preparedness. The result is a continuing downward spiral in morale.

SPACE NAVY ▼

The CEGA Space Navy is easily the most prestigious of the three branches of the Joint Service, with first choice of recruits and funding that the other services can only dream of. All Commanders-in-Chief of the Joint Service have been Naval officers and even in the aftermath of the Odyssey Affair, the Navy retains immense public respect. Service with the Navy guarantees a well paying job upon retirement and morale among enlisted personnel is high, despite the ongoing purges that have hamstrung the once dynamic and aggressive naval officer corps.

The Navy has six fleets, at least three of which are in the Earth system at any given time. Each fleet is a separate entity, its commanding admiral reporting directly to JMS High Command. These units are individually the most powerful and expensive formations ever fielded by Earth and are solely dedicated to CEGA's solar ambitions, since no non-aligned nation possesses anything larger than orbital weapons platforms. The expense of maintaining these mighty fleets is straining even CEGA's massive resources and some Councilors are questioning their worth, especially after the Navy's poor performance in the Battle of Elysee. The Fifth Fleet sustained heavy losses in that battle, and is undergoing a complete refit and reorganization, leaving CEGA with only five fleets for the time being.

In the case of the Navy, however, the Loyalist and Imperialist factions are united in their support and more funds are being made available. In addition to the expedited rebuilding of the Fifth Fleet, billions of francs and dollars are being diverted into new research projects meant to bring CEGA into military-technological parity with the Jovians within ten years. The increased funding has brought rumbles of discontent from FDA officers, who claim that a fraction of the new funding the Navy is receiving would allow them to finish the reunification of the Earth. However, given the political power and influence of the Navy, coupled with the immediate Jovian threat, diversion of funds is unlikely to happen.

CEGA NAVAL FORCES RANKS □

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | |
| E1: Recruit | E2: Shipman Apprentice | E3: Shipman | E4: Petty Officer |
| | | | |
| E5: Chief Petty Officer | E6: Senior CPO | E7: Master CPO | E8: Adjutant |
| | | | |
| W1: Warrant Officer | W2: Warrant Officer 1st Class | W3: Senior Warrant Officer | W4: Chief Warrant Officer |
| | | | |
| O1: Ensign | O2: Junior Lt. | O3: Lieutenant | O4: Lt. Commander |
| | | | |
| O5: Captain | O6: Commodore | O7: Rear Admiral | O8: Vice Admiral |
| | | | |
| O9: Admiral | | | |



▼ SPACE NAVY (CONTINUED)

The Navy does not ignore Earth; it has three Orbital Squadrons dedicated to the support of planetary operations. While of little interest to the Solar nations, these squadrons are of key concern to non-aligned Earth nations. Each of the Squadrons is tasked with providing orbital assistance to an FDA. Their low-earth-orbit battle and reconnaissance satellites, aerospace fighters and armored space stations make the Squadrons powerful formations. Few weapons capable of planetary bombardment are assigned to the Orbital Squadrons; the political, ecological and social ramifications of using such weapons against Earth make it far more strategically practical to keep heavy railguns and other artillery units permanently attached to the main fleets. Bombardment units can be temporarily detached to Orbital Squadron control, but the threat of massive retaliation from the Non-Aligned States has precluded any such assignments, even for saber-rattling purposes.

Beyond the obvious and immediate threat of Jupiter, the Space Navy is very worried by the Non-Aligned States' increasing focus on space assets. Many Solar observers feel that only by reducing CEGA's almost unchallenged control of higher orbit can the Non-Aligned States hope to effectively challenge CEGA. In the last decade, the ATS and Azanians have been making an effort to improve their positions in orbit, and rumors about the possibility of either state seeking a formal alliance with Jupiter have caused the Navy a great deal of concern.

Unlike the FDAs and OCUs, which inherited a hodgepodge of existing military traditions from CEGA's member nations, the Navy, as a wholly new formation, quickly developed its own set of quirks that combined old wet-navy traditions with the new peculiarities of space travel. The CEGA Council, mindful of political sensitivities between the USE and Combine, placed a large number of British naval officers in the Navy, over the objections of both continental alliances. Although the CEGA Navy's culture has matured greatly over the years, it still retains a significant number of old seafaring attitudes and rituals from that initial personnel decision. Although the first generation of Naval officers (who proved to be mediocre spacers at best) are now retired, many of their successors are still drawn from the wet navies of the CEGA member nations.

The unspoken distrust of Orbital-born Naval crewmembers has been a matter of heated argument in the CEGA Council. Since the Navy's formation, Orbital engineers, marines and pilots have been invaluable to its operations and successes, but the vast majority of command positions are still assigned to Earth-born officers with little to no experience in space combat. Currently being debated among political analysts is the case of Karen Hyrath, the Orbital-born ship captain who, along with most of her crew, allowed the Solar Cross to broadcast its findings regarding the Copernicus suppression. Her recent discharge from the service does not bode well for further Orbital promotions into the command ranks.

▼ JOINT SERVICE INTELLIGENCE

The creation of an intelligence apparatus for the Joint Service was a delicate issue for CEGA's member nations. They were well aware of the power that secret intelligence organizations can wield; after all, most of the member nations used such bodies to cement their own dictatorial regimes. Yet the Unification Wars had revealed the problems of having multiple national intelligence organizations; on several occasions, information was not exchanged fast enough to prevent defeat on the battlefield.

Joint Service Intelligence was created reluctantly and with a special safeguard. Three departments, Solar Affairs (SA), Military Affairs (MA) and Territorial Affairs (TA), would work with the Navy, FDAs and OCUs, respectively. A fourth department, Internal Affairs (IA), was created wholly and solely to watch the other three. In order to placate their own paranoia, the member nations decreed that personnel from their own domestic security and intelligence organizations would staff IA.

The rivalry between the IA and the three active departments was extensive, since there were no personal or operational ties to mitigate the hostility common between the watchers and the watched. Given their backgrounds in dictatorial and highly paranoid states, most IA officers were draconian in the execution of the letter of their duties. The rivalry eventually got out of hand, and before the commencement of the events of the Odyssey Affair, senior commanders took to banning IA agents from their commands in order to allow the JSI to function effectively.

Following the Odyssey, however, the Committee for Loyalty gave IA free rein to pursue "disloyal elements" wherever it wished. The purges that followed have effectively destroyed JSI as a functioning organization; more than half of the JSI's personnel have either been removed from service or had their powers and duties severely curtailed for the duration of the investigation, which shows no signs of abatement.

JMS HIGH COMMAND ▼

Central control has always been of prime importance to CEGA's member nations, so the Joint Service is equipped with a powerful High Command to ensure political control down to the very lowest levels of the Joint Service. While the continental alliances may have lost control of the High Command, the officers who staff the various bureaus and commissions of the High Command maintain their unchallenged command of the Joint Service.

Central control is maintained through two separate establishments, Political Command and Strategic Command. Political Command controls the political officers who oversee the loyalty of Joint Service personnel down to the platoon level. PolCom also controls the investigation-tasked Inspectorate and all propaganda, training and personnel support services. The Strategic Command oversees all military operations; while tactical decisions are usually left in the hands of local commanders, StratCom missives, when given, always take precedence over field command.

Many of the initial crop of High Command officers had limited field experience, with political connections being more important than military skill. As the Joint Service escaped political control, the professional military officers who seized control introduced decreed that all staff officers must have served at least ten years in a field unit. As a result, the JMS High Command is one of the most combat-experienced and competent staff organizations in the solar system, and is central to CEGA's military successes.

The High Command has been greatly weakened in the aftermath of the Odyssey. Dozens of demotions, imprisonments and executions have reduced morale and slowed the normally efficient High Command bureaucracy to a standstill. The continental alliances are pushing for the rescinding of the "ten year" rule in order to open the way for replacement officers loyal to the alliances, but they are meeting stiff resistance from the remaining High Command officers.

CEGA ARMY RANKS □

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | |
| E1: Soldier | E2: Lance Corporal | E3: Corporal | E4: Sergeant |
| | | | |
| E5: Staff Sergeant | E6: Gunnery Sergeant | E7: Master Sergeant | E8: Sergeant Major |
| | | | |
| W1: Warrant Officer | W2: Warrant Officer 1st Class | W3: Senior Warrant Officer | W4: Chief Warrant Officer |
| | | | |
| O1: Pilot | O2: Lieutenant | O3: Commander | O4: Major |
| | | | |
| O5: Lt. Colonel | O6: Colonel | O7: Brigadier General | O8: Major General |
| | | | |
| O9: Lt. General | | | |



▼ JOINT SERVICE CULTURE

Though CEGA remains a strictly multinational organization, it is correct to talk of a CEGA culture. Many personnel now spend the greater part of their lives working for CEGA, a small proportion, perhaps, in comparison to CEGA's total population, but one that is highly educated and relatively wealthy. Especially among Naval officers, observers are noticing a tendency to place the Navy before nation of origin. It is also becoming common to find second- and third-generation CEGA families, a trend likely to continue because of the relatively small population of trusted families that most member nations recruit from.

Since recruits usually come from politically reliable classes (except in the case of CEGA's few democratic members), their lives are often comfortable and relatively luxurious. With much of the Earth still a poisoned wasteland, access to clean water and sufficient food is the best even the average loyal citizen can expect. Within CEGA, however, life can be as good as it gets anywhere in the solar system. Food is plentiful, the pay is good and medical care is first-rate. In the orbital-based Navy, these factors are even more noticeable, especially since naval service qualifies a person for permanent emigration off Earth.

Possessed as they are of influence, money and privilege, it is hardly surprising that CEGA personnel have come to regard themselves as a cut above the rest of Earth. Many have brought aristocratic attitudes from their home nations; these behaviors are often learned by other CEGA personnel, resulting in tyrannical command styles and insubordination toward superior officers from the lower classes. There is still hope for a new vision of unity and purpose to arise within CEGA, but given the repressive societies that the majority of CEGA personnel are recruited from, it is an unlikely outcome.

▼ THE JOINT SERVICE TODAY

For such a relatively new organization, the Joint Military Service has gone through many trials and tribulations; this is perhaps not surprising, given the chaotic history of CEGA itself. Yet the Joint Service has so far emerged stronger and more disciplined from all its problems and it seems likely that even the present purges will leave it stronger. Though the purges have caused great consternation and disquiet at senior levels and some morale problems among the junior ranks and enlisted personnel, there has been no dimming of the Joint Service's dedication to its duties. For as long as the soldiers of the Joint Service maintain a belief in their abilities and their equipment, the Joint Service will always be able to rebuild the damage done by internal discord.

The purges will also have at least one positive effect in that they are removing the most politicized officers from the Joint Service. Those that remain are overwhelmingly focused solely on their military duties. This is likely to further increase the Joint Service's already superior military effectiveness, especially over and above that of the militaries of most member nations. Efforts to replace the removed officers with new, politically inclined personnel may reverse this positive point, however.

How the Joint Service handles the fact that they are becoming the most powerful force within CEGA will deeply affect the future of the solar system. If the Joint Service chooses to follow the path of France or the NAS and imposes its will through repression and violence, it may lead to either self-destruction or increased externalized aggression. If, on the other hand, the more enlightened policies of CEGA's moderate members lead to the development of true democracy in CEGA, then civil strife and domestic matters will likely occupy the Joint Service's attention.

Though all factions within CEGA believe in the need to unify the solar system beneath Earth's banner, there have been many suggested paths toward this end. Some Joint Service officers have already been cashiered for statements regarding the positive aspects of peaceful coexistence with the former colonies, and discreet psychological evaluations are showing a distinct trend toward interplanetary tolerance in Joint Service troops who have seen service outside the Earth system.

9.2.9

6.2.7

STRIKE ◀

Despite years of investigation by virtually every intelligence agency in the Solar System, very little hard data exists regarding the organization known as STRIKE. Often branded as an unusually well-equipped terrorist operation, STRIKE's alleged activities are, if truly the work of a single entity, implicative of an organization with high-level production, political and intelligence resources.



b.3

DISSENT FROM WITHIN ▼

CEGA Councilor Eleanor Crati of the Maritime League founded STRIKE in 2190, shortly after her exile on charges of corruption. Accompanied by loyal aides and paid mercenaries, Crati created STRIKE as an anti-propaganda organization. She began to make pirate broadcasts detailing the high level of Venusian interference in CEGA's affairs. The broadcasts were silenced within a year, coinciding with a JSI raid on a remote Earth-system space station.

As expected, the STRIKE broadcast network faded away without Crati's leadership, but the JSI underestimated either Crati's persuasiveness or the loyalty of her former colleagues. Two years after Crati's presumed death, a new organization bearing the STRIKE name pirated and captured three CEGA warships and liberated a Siberian prison camp. Soon, a new flurry of broadcasts began, and this time, the JSI proved unable to trace their source. STRIKE raids and attacks became more common. Today, it is widely believed that several high-ranking JSI and JMS officers are at least tacitly cooperating with STRIKE, which has become the Solar System's most widely known terrorist organization.

b.3.1

STRUCTURE ▼

STRIKE's efficiency stems from the high proportion of skilled CEGA officers that most likely form its upper ranks. The organization is actually made up of dozens of unlinked cells that share little more than the STRIKE name. While some kind of central command is expected to exist, its nature is completely unknown to the individual cells; captured STRIKE members are often even unaware of their teammates' real names.

STRIKE's stated motive is the elimination of Venusian control of CEGA; this goal is logically extended to include the destruction of CEGA as it currently exists. Individual cells carry out operations toward this end, but observation indicates that there is surprisingly little overlap between the cells. This suggests that STRIKE's as-yet-unseen central command coordinates cell activities by guesswork and predictions of how any one cell's combined psychological profile will react to its environment and the events around it.

b.3.2

MODUS OPERANDI ▼

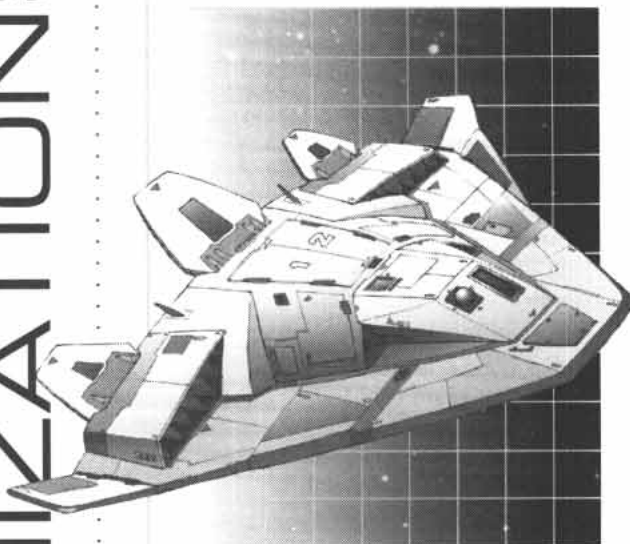
Given the Solar System's basic hostility toward CEGA, it is likely that STRIKE draws recruits and support from every Solar nation; even certain Venusian factions have cause to support the reduction of VenusBank influence in the CEGA Council. Somewhat ironically, this agglomeration amounts to the Solar System's only true multinational military force. This combination of nationalities and ideologies partially explains the apparent schizophrenic nature of STRIKE's activities, which range from child kidnappings to deliveries of medical supplies.

Muddying the question is that fact that far more actions are attributed to STRIKE than that organization can possibly be capable of in a physical, much less moral, capacity. One must take into account the dozens, if not hundreds, of criminal and terrorist groups who perform actions in the name of STRIKE without actually being affiliated with the real STRIKE or its goals. A true STRIKE cell is distinguishable from fakes, but often only after extended observation; STRIKE cells are characterized by a long-range political agenda, high levels of expertise and security, top-of-the-line equipment, reliable intelligence and odd instances of political or military sympathy (for example, several cases in which captured individuals "escaped" from the custody of otherwise competent prison administrators).

In the wake of the Odyssey Affair, many STRIKE groups that previously did not talk to each other show additional signs of coordinating their actions. Further observation has proven difficult, however, since there has also been an increase in STRIKE's ability to root out infiltrators and surveillance devices. All of the Solar System's intelligence agencies are facing this problem, which strongly suggests that some intelligence agents have come to regard STRIKE as a more expedient route to national defense, and have begun providing information detrimental to their own organization's continued operations within STRIKE. The skill and persuasiveness of STRIKE's intelligence recruitment effort is evidenced by its invisibility, implying that all agents who are approached by STRIKE end up working for it.

b.3.3

► CFB-10D GNOME



Dating from the early years of the Unification War, the Gnome was originally designed to rapidly boost into orbit to attack orbital weapon platforms and satellites. The design is straightforward, easy to repair and its mission adaptive wing provides sufficient lift for it to be able to launch from nearly any flat surface. Its armored cockpit provides superior protection for the pilot.

The Gnome's armament consists of a pair of railguns and a retractable missile bay on the back of the fuselage, which creates the distinctive hump that gives the fighter its name. While sufficient for attacking aircraft and the orbital facilities of an earlier era, the Gnome's weapons are sadly underpowered compared to the armor of modern exo-armors. The Gnome's atmospheric very good performance, however, will allow it to soldier on in the planet-based interception and interdiction roles.

Several variants of the Gnome exist. The CFB-10H bomber version, which trades speed for a heavier weapons payload, is commonly used, along with the 10B twin seat trainer, 10R photo-reconnaissance and 10J ground attack variants.

▣ VEHICLE DATA

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------|----|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Threat Value: | | 3400 (2,550,000 credits) | | | | | | |
| Crew: | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Size: | | 10 (24.5 tons) | | | | | | |
| Armor: | | 20/40/60 | | | | | | |
| ► MOVEMENT DATA | | | | | | | | |
| Movement Mode | Combat Speed | Top Speed | Maneuver | | | | | |
| Flight | 40 (1200 kph) | 80 (2400 kph) | -2 (Stall 20) | | | | | |
| Space | 18 (1.6 g) | 31 (0.4 g) | -2 | | | | | |
| Ground | 0 (0 kph) | 0 (0 kph) | -2 | | | | | |
| Deployment Range: | | 2000 km | | | | | | |
| Reaction Mass: | | 300 BP | | | | | | |
| ◆ ELECTRONICS DATA | | | | | | | | |
| Sensors: | | +1/3 km | | | | | | |
| Communications: | | 0/10 km | | | | | | |
| Fire Control: | | 0 | | | | | | |
| ► PERKS AND FLAWS | | | | | | | | |
| Name | Rating | Game Effect | | | | | | |
| Acceleration Protection | - | +1 to FIT rolls due to acceleration | | | | | | |
| Autopilot | - | Acts as level 1 pilot | | | | | | |
| Backup Systems | - | Backup Comm, Fire Control, Life Support, Sensors | | | | | | |
| Computer | 2 | CRE -1, KNO -1, PP 2 | | | | | | |
| Ejection Systems | Ejection Seat | | | | | | | |
| HEP: Radiation | 3 | Mag Screen | | | | | | |
| HEP: Vacuum | - | Space protection | | | | | | |
| Life Support | - | Limited | | | | | | |
| Reentry System | - | Permanent | | | | | | |
| Refueling Equipment | - | Fuel intake | | | | | | |
| Reinforced Crew Compartment | - | Absorbs first "Crew" hit | | | | | | |
| Stratospheric Flight | - | Fly above 12 km | | | | | | |
| Streamlining | - | +1 MP at Top Speed | | | | | | |
| Weapon Link | - | Both Railguns | | | | | | |
| ► OFFENSIVE & DEFENSIVE SYSTEM DATA | | | | | | | | |
| Qty | Name | Fire Arc | DM | BR | Acc | ROF | Ammo | Special |
| 2 | Railgun | FF | x8 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 100 each | - |
| 10 | MAA-5 Light Missile | FF | x10 | 5 | +1 | 0 | Mis, SD, Sk1, Conc. (req. 1 action) | - |

CWV-93P ROLAND ◀

Designed for use against insurgents and patrol duties in “pacified” areas, the Roland armored personnel carrier sees regular service in troublespots around the globe. Featuring high ground clearance and six wheel drive with variable pressure tires, it is capable of traversing almost any terrain and is also fully amphibious, capable of propelling itself in water with its wheels.

Its armament consists of a 11 mm machinegun in a remote turret controlled by the vehicle commander. This turret can also be rapidly swapped with another turret containing a high pressure water cannon if a non-lethal deterrent is required. If a non-lethal response is required a turret equipped with a high pressure water cannon can be quickly fitted and deployed in place of the machinegun. The troop compartment can carry ten soldiers and their gear in reasonable comfort and has an advanced polymer lining to prevent secondary fragments from weapon hits injuring the occupants. In addition, firing slits on both sides of the vehicle allow the troops to engage the enemy without exposing themselves to return fire.

Variants of the basic Roland wheeled chassis include the 93C command vehicle, the 93A ambulance and the 93T exo-suit carrier. A civilian version, popular with riot police everywhere, has also been produced.



VEHICLE DATA ▢

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|----------|-----|------|------------------------|
| Threat Value: | | 350 (175,000 credits) | | | | | | |
| Crew: | | 2 | | | | | | |
| Size: | | 8 (12.3 tons) | | | | | | |
| Armor: | | 17/34/51 | | | | | | |
| ► MOVEMENT DATA | | | | | | | | |
| Movement Mode | Combat Speed | | Top Speed | | Maneuver | | | |
| Ground | 7 (41 kph) | | 14 (82 kph) | | -2 | | | |
| Deployment Range: | | 400 km | | | | | | |
| ► ELECTRONICS DATA | | | | | | | | |
| Sensors: | | 0/1 km | | | | | | |
| Communications: | | 0/10 km | | | | | | |
| Fire Control: | | 0 | | | | | | |
| ► PERKS & FLAWS DATA | | | | | | | | |
| Name | | Rating | | Game Effect | | | | |
| Gun Ports | | - | | For half crew and passengers | | | | |
| Improved Off-road Ability | | - | | -1 to terrain MP cost | | | | |
| Large Doors | | - | | Easy access | | | | |
| Passenger Seating | | - | | 10 infantry | | | | |
| Reinforced Crew Compartment | | - | | Absorbs first "Crew" hit | | | | |
| Searchlight | | - | | 100 m, swivel mount | | | | |
| ► OFFENSIVE & DEFENSIVE SYSTEM DATA | | | | | | | | |
| Qty | Name | Fire Arc | DM | BR | Acc | ROF | Ammo | Special |
| 1 | Heavy Machinegun | T | x4 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 300 | AI |
| X | Water Cannon | T | x4 | 0/0/1/2 | 0 | 0 | 25 | AI, Liquid, Non-Lethal |

Notes: variant — remove HMG, add water cannon, OS 32, TV 320



► FREEDOM FIGHTER

In the face of overwhelming odds, these brave souls risk their lives to free their peoples from oppression. This can be in the form of a CEGA OCU, a repressive national government, or even a CEGA-backed corporation. Whatever their individual ideologies, they are strong and resourceful, well trained in surviving in Earth's poisoned lands and fighting the superior forces arrayed against them. Increasingly many are looking to the stars to find allies against their planet-based enemies.

▣ ATTRIBUTES

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|
| AGI | 0 | APP | 0 | BUI | 0 | CRE | 0 | FIT | 1 |
| INF | 0 | KND | 0 | PER | 1 | PSY | -1 | WIL | 1 |
| STR | 0 | HEA | 0 | STA | 25 | UD | 4 | AD | 4 |

▣ SKILLS

| Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. |
|--------------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|
| Camouflage | 2 | 0 | First Aid | 1 | 0 | Notice | 1 | 1 | Stealth | 1 | 0 |
| Combat Sense | 1 | 1 | Hand-to-Hand | 1 | 0 | Security | 2 | 0 | Streetwise | 1 | 0 |
| Dodge | 2 | 0 | Melee | 1 | 0 | Small Arms | 1 | 0 | | | |
| Survival | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |

Other possible skills: Computer, Demolitions, Disguise, Forgery, Interrogation, Mechanics

◇ EQUIPMENT

Survival suit, knife, survival rations, pistol

◇ SIMILAR ARCHETYPES

Thief, Bandit

► ARCOLOGY DWELLER

Well fed, well housed, and well educated, arcology dwellers are smug in their superiority. Yet their comfortable lifestyle comes with a requirement to adapt to the tightly constrained lifestyle of the highly crowded arcologies, a lifestyle not so different to those found in orbital stations.

Kept docile and submissive by their respective nation's preferred methods, arcology dwellers are often provided with just enough information or education to do their required tasks, and little more. Just as importantly, they also have to support the prevailing ideology of the ruling elite; those who do not find themselves facing exile to the hard world beyond the arcologies' massive walls.

▣ ATTRIBUTES

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|-----|----|-----|---|-----|---|
| AGI | 0 | APP | 1 | BUI | 0 | CRE | 0 | FIT | 0 |
| INF | 1 | KND | 1 | PER | 0 | PSY | 0 | WIL | 0 |
| STR | 0 | HEA | 0 | STA | 25 | UD | 3 | AD | 3 |

▣ SKILLS

| Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. |
|-------------|-------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|
| Bureaucracy | 2 | 1 | Etiquette | 2 | 1 | Grooming | 1 | 1 | Literature | 1 | 0 |
| Business | 2 | 1 | Foreign Lang. | 2 | 1 | Haggling | 1 | 1 | | | |

Other possible skills: Computer, Craft, Drive, First Aid, Music

◇ EQUIPMENT

Consumer electronics, current newsmagazine, modest apartment, food pass

SIMILAR ARCHETYPES

Civilian, salaryman

CEGA OCU LEGIONNAIRE ◀

Often the only way out of the slums for most CEGA citizens, OCU service is neither glamorous nor lucrative. Receiving only basic education and substandard weaponry, OCU troops are generally either angry and resigned to their lot, or relentlessly ambitious. In either case, the result is a military force that is rife with corruption and incompetence. To their credit, however, most OCU troops are extremely hardy, capable of withstanding both physical and mental abuse in elephantine doses.

ATTRIBUTES ▢

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|---|
| AGI | 0 | APP | -1 | BUI | 1 | CRE | 0 | FIT | 2 |
| INF | 0 | KNO | 0 | PER | 0 | PSY | 0 | WIL | 0 |
| STR | 1 | HEA | 1 | STA | 35 | UD | 7 | AD | 6 |

SKILLS ▢

| Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. |
|--------------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|
| Combat Sense | 2 | 0 | First Aid | 1 | 0 | Notice | 2 | 0 | Tactics | 1 | 0 |
| Dodge | 2 | 0 | Hand-to-hand | 2 | 0 | Small Arms | 2 | 0 | Throwing | 1 | 0 |
| Drive | 1 | 0 | Melee | 1 | 0 | Survival | 2 | 0 | | | |

Other possible skills: Athletics, Camouflage, Communications, Computer, Electronic Warfare, Heavy Weapons

EQUIPMENT ◇

Sidearm, uniform, fatigues, flashlight, survival gear, personal medical kit

SIMILAR ARCHETYPES ◇

Soldier, marine, security officer



SLUM DWELLER ◀

Living in the shadow of the massive arcologies and seeing a life of ease that they know will never be theirs has made the poor people of CEGA's member nations cynical and hard. Having to run the risks of radioactive dust storms and work under slave-like conditions has made them angry, as well. In their filthy townships, placed out of sight of the arcology dwellers, they live in fear of the local Security Police and long for a chance to find a better life.

ATTRIBUTES ▢

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|---|
| AGI | 0 | APP | -1 | BUI | 0 | CRE | 1 | FIT | 0 |
| INF | 0 | KNO | 0 | PER | 1 | PSY | 0 | WIL | 1 |
| STR | 0 | HEA | 0 | STA | 25 | UD | 4 | AD | 4 |

SKILLS ▢

| Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. | Skill | Level | Attr. |
|--------------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|
| Camouflage | 1 | 1 | Haggling | 2 | 0 | Intimidate | 1 | 0 | Streetwise | 2 | 0 |
| Combat Sense | 1 | 1 | Hand-to-hand | 1 | 0 | Melee | 1 | 0 | Survival | 2 | 1 |
| Dodge | 1 | 0 | Human Perception | 1 | 0 | Notice | 2 | 1 | Tinker | 1 | 1 |

Other possible skills: Animal Handling, Mechanics, Security, Seduction, Small Arms

EQUIPMENT ◇

Rags, makeshift knife, food scraps, scavenged trinkets

SIMILAR ARCHETYPES ◇

Prisoner



| | |
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