

# The Sahûl Chronicle

Turn 17

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1531–1535 SA

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*As the Empire becomes increasingly interdependent and vigorous, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. We... are one Empire with one common destiny.... These great truths compel us to proclaim this Charter to the peoples of the Empire, and to dedicate its promise to the prosperity of their descendants.*

—From the Preamble of the Great Charter



THINK WE CAN all agree that this turn on both continents is something of a game changer. The Emperor has issued a new *Great Charter*, and he has paid the consequences. Virtually every Realm in Sahûl was affected one way or another by this event, making this easily the most challenging turn to process to date. I supposed it's too much to ask for a calm turn?

There are a lot of openings this turn, so we're running a special: refer a player! If someone you refer actually signs up, purchases the rules, etc., we'll credit the Realm of your choice an additional two turns.

## CURRENT PUBLICATIONS:

*The Chronicle, Volume 1*—The compiled Sahûl Chronicle from Turns 0 through 10 inclusive, plus some other nifty bits including a compendium of all Imperial decrees and proclamations and a list of Universities and other important institutes of higher learning throughout Sahûl. Available in both paperback (\$18.00) and hard cover (\$30.00).

*Atlas of Sahûl, Second Edition*—With maps updated to Turn 10 and some other supplementary material, including an index of all regions. Available in paperback (\$22.00).

*Cruenti Dei Oratoa Campaign Guide*—This campaign guide provides a look at the warm and sunny continent of Oratoa. It is a land steeped in mystery and deep in the embrace of an Heroic Age (\$20.00).

*Cruenti Dei Rules Supplement 1: Errata and Additions*—This supplement contains the corrected Movement system, information on plagues, famines, and corruption, and new rules for heirs and religious Orders. Available as a free download or in paperback (\$10.00).

*Cruenti Dei Rules Supplement 2: the Underlands*—This supplement details the Underlands, a series of vast caverns underneath eastern Sahûl, and a new Kindred, the Yaminon, and their peculiar culture. Available as a free download or in paperback (\$10.00).

*Cruenti Dei Rules Supplement 3: the Age of Discovery*—This supplement expands the basic rules for NSR 10 and beyond. Included are rules for new combat and non-combat Units, new Megaliths, Intelligence Agencies, exploration, Mana Crystals, Holy Weapons, and an introduction to world-falling (\$12.50)

## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS:

*The Cruenti Dei Great Books Series*—A series of relatively inexpensive paperbacks, already published as free PDFs. Titles include: *The Chivalry of the Common Man*, *An Explorer's Tale*, and *The Great Charter*.

*Atlas of Oratoa*—Enough said!

NEXT TURN DUE: FRIDAY 01 APRIL 2011.

Any late orders will be processed at my whim. No fooling.

## SARDARTHION: THE JEWEL OF THE EMPIRE

*Sydath Besieged: 1531–1533.*



THE EMPEROR SYDATH II was beset on all sides by those who sought his counsel and by those who hoped to cash in on his immense popularity.

On the first of Sec̄tilis 1531, a Raven ambassador was admitted into the spring gardens to see the Emperor. He submitted a formal request to the Emperor, asking whether the continuing military actions against his liege Prince Meriasek were legal, and if so, what the rationale was behind them. The envoy made a bit of speech, speaking more to the Imperial court than to the Emperor proper. He asked why the Emperor had ignored the pleas of his Prince of Duedhyn for justice in this matter, and pointedly asked whether the Emperor considered himself above the law. Sydath escaped as quickly as he could, but the first day of the following month the same envoy was back at court giving the same speech. And the month after that. In fact, on the first day of every month, a Raven ambassador spoke to the Imperial court and harangued Sydath about his continuing inaction.

When the Emperor started staying in bed on the first days of the month, the Raven ambassador scheduled his audience on the second.

King Tirach Bæn of Zarkhandu, given to understand that he would be appointed as Imperial Chancellor, made his way towards Sardarthion, all the while keeping up a very noisy and very public debate in the newspapers with his vassal of Yani, who was withdrawing his allegiance. While legal scholars (and many amateurs) pored over the documentation to try to work out whether the Yani had met their legal obligations under the original treaty, Sydath tried his very best to ignore the entire thing.

The issue of the dragon in Sondrim (otherwise known as “the Dragon Bandit Sanngrithr”) was hotly debated by the Electors, and the King of Zarkhandu offered a large reward to anyone who could “take or destroy the Savage commonly called Sanngrithr”. The Emperor was exasperated with

the King who would dare meddle in the affairs of the Imperial Demense, and he publicly ordered Zarkhandu to withdraw their offer, which Tirach Bæn quickly did.

Instead, the Zarkhandu King began calling for the head of the First Matriarch, saying that she had imported foreign princes to the Empire, potentially dangerous princes that had not been presented to the Emperor. King Tirach Bæn suggested darkly that this was against all law and tradition, and it clearly pointed to an anti-imperial conspiracy. Several scholars of the law rebutted that the situation of a “foreign” prince had not existed in the empire for a thousand years or more, and nobody really knew what the rules were in these sorts of cases. In any case, plans were laid in Urdraháhn for a field trip to Sardarthion to lay the issue to rest.

Perhaps tired of his pounding Zarkhandu headaches, Emperor Sydath appointed Count Palatine Gwariva Trememeres IV of Ingazi as Imperial Chancellor, a fact that *infuriated* King Tirach Bæn, who had by now arrived in the capital. Although the King was very careful to maintain his icy smile and not to show his displeasure in public, stories circulated from the staff of the Zarkhandu embassy about towering rages and broken furniture.

Escorted by her personal guard, the Order of the Owl, the Saurian First Matriarch Jerröe X of the Church Universal and Triumphant came through the Sardarthion Gate accompanied by Prince Ataíri the Dragonborn of Kuroa, the ten-year old Princess Iritána of Pakoa, Lord Zharharn<sup>1</sup>, and a small tribe of Thacian Princes and Princesses. They all settled into quarters at the Shrine of Iurdana, which they toured. Princes Ataíri and Biard were awed by the enormous building, quite the largest construction project in the world, even though it remains unfinished. Prince Merryn and Princess Lowenna spent much of their time in the gift shop, while the younger Princesses were much too giggly and distracted to get much out of the excursion. Lord Zharharn, a law school student, was much more interested in the library.

<sup>1</sup> Son and heir of the Baron of Iáthedain.

The next day, the entire party was presented at court, and each of the various Princes and Princesses had at least a few minutes of semi-private conversation with Emperor Sydath, all under the watchful maternal eye of First Matriarch Jerröe. The older Princes and Princesses attended a sumptuous state dinner that night.

The next evening, everyone attended the opera: the Sardarthion première of Johannes' masterpiece, *Paharnes the Great*<sup>2</sup>. With the Mæstro himself conducting, opening night was attended by Emperor Sydath. With Sydath in the Imperial box were First Matriarch Jerröe, her various charges, and Lady Nyssa, who has been linked romantically with the Emperor. By all accounts, the Emperor thoroughly enjoyed the opera, and some witnesses said that the aria "Sardarthion, my Love" moved him to tears.

The Urdan field trip continued with a week-long tour of the various sights of the city, including the House of Peers, Embassy Row, the Imperial Library, and the Mausoleum of Paharnes the Great.

The gaggle of well-behaved Urdan Princes and Princesses charmed the city during their stay, and the entire trip seemed to cheer up the Emperor considerably. When they left, there was a palpable sense of loss in the capital. The First Matriarch herself remained at Iurdana for study of the ancient mysteries.

The increasingly shrill tone of the public spat between the King of Zarkhandu and his vassal of Yani reached a crescendo when King Tirach Bæn himself claimed the crown of Golmath. Under what pretext was unclear, but the Emperor was reported to have doubled the palace's weekly shipments of aspirin.

*Sydath Triumphant: Early Morning, 1 Primilis, 1534.*

**I**n August and Imperial Majesty Emperor Sydath II stood solemnly at the great circular table in the Blue Chamber as the scribes unrolled the vellum scroll for his inspection.

<sup>2</sup> The story follows King Paharnes of Hyrágec from his conquest of Sardarthion, through the Reestablishment Wars, and culminates in his coronation as Emperor in the final scene.

He read the entire document as the increasingly uncomfortable scribes continued to hold the heavy scroll. Finally, satisfied, he motioned for them to put it on the table. They withdrew from the chamber in haste, leaving the Emperor with only three heralds, a handful of aides, his private secretary, and his new Chancellor, Count Palatine Gwariva Trememeres of Ingazi.

The Emperor took his pen, carefully dipped it into the inkwell, moved it to the signature line, paused for a moment, and then dropped the pen.

When Chancellor Gwariva asked why, the Emperor replied, "If my name goes into history, it will be for this Charter, and if my hand trembles when I sign it, some gorram fool will say, 'he hesitated.' I won't have that." Emperor Sydath then turned to the table, took up the pen, and boldly signed his name.

The Chancellor applied the Great Seal. It was done. The Chancellor nodded once to the lead herald, who crossed the long chamber to the massive doors of ornately carved Aradécan cedar to summon the Electoral envoys who waited anxiously outside.

The Emperor turned and walked up the worn and stained steps to the iron throne. As Sydath sat, the Chamberlain placed the massive Imperial Crown on his head.

Among the Electoral envoys was one actual Elector: King Tirach Bæn of Zarkhandu. Though he had arrived in Sardarthion in 1532 with the expectation of being appointed Chancellor, he had stayed. That the Emperor had so publicly spurned him had planted the seeds of a hatred in his heart for the young Emperor so deep that it took another Yagnarist to fully appreciate.

The envoys and the King were led in by the herald. If they were surprised to see the round table, normally reserved for imperial elections, none showed it. The table was ancient—it had been made at the command of Paharnes the Great for his councillors and it was carved with an intricate design depicting the Nine Sacred Animals.

The table was surrounded by nine rough wooden chairs. After each envoy had taken their seat<sup>3</sup>, there were several seats at the back of the chamber left over. A herald announced the envoy of the King of Hyrágec, who entered and took one of the seats. The Hyrágecan envoy doubled as the newly-elected Speaker pro-tem of the House of Peers, and he had the slightly dazed look about him of someone who had been roused from his bed with no warning. Moments later, the heralds announced the envoys of the Grand Duke of Araxes<sup>4</sup> and the Duchess of Taneki. They were no less befuddled than the Hyrágecan envoy. The thirteenth audience seat was filled by the Urdan Curé of Iurdana, who swept into the chamber almost before the herald had finished announcing her. She was inscrutable beneath her burkha, but her every movement signalled irritation.

Once the envoys were all seated, the Emperor spoke. “My noble cousins, this day fulfills the promise of my coronation address almost ten years ago. Some of you aren’t going to like it. Some of you are going to want to get instructions from your governments. That’s fine. I’ve got plenty of heralds standing by in the hall—can you pull them in here, Darri? Thanks. So just sit back and listen to Chance here read you all about it.”

At this, the Chancellor began reading from the heavy vellum scroll on the ancient table before him.

“We stand at a critical moment in Sahúl’s history. As the Empire becomes increasingly interdependent and vigorous, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. We recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and Kindreds, we are one Empire with one common destiny. We must, therefore, dedicate ourselves to bringing forth an Imperial government founded on the principle of respect for its peoples, their princes,

3 Amusingly, the Principality of Golmath had been allocated a bench rather than a chair, presumably to accommodate envoys from both factions. Although both envoys did in fact attend, neither took the seat, each preferring instead to stand at the back and glare at each other.

4 The Araxean envoy was, in fact, the Grand Duke’s heir Count Tramandes of Thangkar, who happened to be in the city on other business.

and their faiths. These great truths compel us to proclaim this Charter to the peoples of the Empire, and to dedicate its promise to the prosperity of their descendants. This Charter abrogates and replaces *The Golden Edict of 1387* and the *The Ingazi Declaration of 1487*. Chapter one: the Emperor...”

By this point, the consternation among the envoys was in danger of drowning out the Chancellor’s reading, but still he kept going. Envoys were engaging heralds, some more discretely than others. By the time the Chancellor read Article 8, the noise had reached a crescendo. The envoys from Araxes and Taneki jumped to their feet in astonishment. The poor Itaxik envoy actually fainted and had to be carried out by palace staff. They brought her to the palace infirmary for medical attention.

Through it all, King Tirach Bæn of Zarkhandu and the Emperor Sydath II sat unmoving and expressionless, each staring at the other. Still, the Chancellor continued reading, “...Article 11: the Imperial Chamber Court. There shall be established an independent Imperial Chamber Court, to serve as the Supreme Court of and for the Empire...” One of the palace staff brought the Chancellor a mug of water.

By the time the Chancellor began to read *The Enabling Ordinances*, only a handful of envoys remained. The others had ensconced themselves in the corridor outside, fielding the comings and goings of their heralds as only Sardarthion-based envoys can.

Tirach Bæn and Sydath continued their staring contest. The King changed expression only twice, subtly flaring his nostrils as the Chancellor read out *The Protection of Itaxik Ordinance* and curling his lip ever so slightly as the Chancellor read the second paragraph of the *Recognitions Ordinance*.

Finally, the Chancellor solemnly pronounced the formula “Done by our hand and under seal in the City of Sardarthion, on the first day of Primilis in the one thousand five hundred and thirty fourth year since the Shatterment, and of our reign the tenth, His August and Imperial Majesty, Sydath II.” He then lifted the weighty scroll and showed it to



what remained of the audience, that they might see the Emperor's signature and seal.

When the Chancellor's final words had finished echoing through the vast Blue Chamber, the Chamberlain announced the audience was over. The remaining envoys fled the chamber, most with alacrity, though the elderly envoy from Aradéc sort of waddled out.

For a long moment, Tirach Bæn did not move.

Then, slowly, the King of Zarkhandu stood. He had been denied the Chancellorship by his erstwhile ally of Atuburrk, and now his Kingdom had been denied its Electoral rank. Without a word, he swept from the Chamber.



The King's aide-de-camp joined him in the corridor, struggling to keep up with his master's long, purposeful strides.

"How went the audience, your majesty?"

"We are still a King, so that's something. I'm returning to the embassy. When I arrive, I'll need parchment, quills, ink, and a glass of the new Zyleen. In half an hour I'll need five heralds and the rest of the bottle. Change out the livery on the embassy guard for something in black. See if you can't get my personal insignia sewn on. Same with the embassy flag. That will do until we've official word from the Tiger King on our new arms. If any Zarkhandine subject fails to obey or gives you any trouble, have them arrested. We'll string up a few if we need to."



The mood in the Imperial vestry just off the Blue Chamber was much less frenetic, but no less grim. As his Chamberlain removed the bulky Imperial Crown from his brow, the Emperor let out a heavy sigh. "Well, Darri. That went well."

"Indeed, majesty. Future generations will raise statues to you."

"That fits. Every man ever got a statue made of him was one kind of sumbitch or another. I've betrayed my friends, betrayed my House, betrayed my country, betrayed my allies, all for the sake of the Empire's future. Yeah, I'm a regular gorram hero."

"Majesty, you are a Yagnarist and an Emperor. No one would expect any less."

*Sydath Alone: 1534–1535*

The Grand Duke of Araxes, now an Elector, ceased to be a vassal of the Grand Duke of Atuburrk. This was just the start of Atuburrk's great unravelling.

Buried deep within the *Great Charter* was the establishment of the Imperial Free Cities of Punchedga and Wagga Wagga from Atuburrk territory, and the ceding of those cities to Cappargarnia and Electoral Thace respectively. In addition, the Emperor had given orders for the transfer of the Kicitchat Prefectures of Cauaros and Nolvonn to the Principality of Cappargarnia. To say that these territorial changes were popular – or even tolerable – within Atuburrk or Kicitchat would be to seriously overstate the case.

In Kicitchat, the Cauaros garrison was withdrawn, and the region rebelled when no Cappargarnian troops arrived to take up residence. The Baron of Nolvonn, meanwhile, pleaded with the Countess of Kicitchat to save his patrimony from the Republic. The Countess, sickened at what she considered the gross mismanagement of the Emperor Sydath, consented to take Nolvonn under her wing. She then abrogated her vassalage agreement with Atuburrk, saying in the strongest terms that "vassalage is not slavery, and protection of one's vassals does not mean reducing them to penury."

Meanwhile, many Atuburrk nobles considered the loss of any territory on Atuburrk Island to be a betrayal of the unification achieved by Grand Duke Challik III. The Emperor's popularity in his own Realm fell precipitously, and in the spring of 1534 anti-Sydath riots broke out in the major cities of Atuburrk. To avoid a revolution, the leading nobles confronted the Prince Regent and demanded that

he assume the crown. Count Rahnes accepted, not because of the pleadings of his nobles or his people, but because “my brother is a gorram jackwagon”. It is said that when King Tirach Bæn was informed, he actually toasted the health of Atuburrk’s new Grand Duke.

With this wholesale desertion, Sydath was left only with the Imperial Demense and the lands of the scrupulously loyal Baron Dolmathes of Lynnarvor. Curiously, the Adhanggar Guard remained loyal to their Emperor. Even so, in 1535 Emperor Sydath announced his intention to abdicate.

*continued on page 220*

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## Western Sahûl

### THE KIT’IXI COAST

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#### COUNTY OF TOKATL (14 I/TA)

*Her Excellency, Tinikatua VII, the Vain, Mistress of the Totek Hive, Countess of Tokatl, Lord Admiral of the Green.*

**Trade:** Averon, Kachar, Sakkar, Taneki, ThaceD

**DP:** None.

**C**ountess Tinikatua resolved to make her little realm the last word in luxury and splendid decadence. She ordered the construction of a great palace in Tza’a’aktes as a showplace for the fashion and design industries. The public rooms of the palace received a steady stream of tourists and other visitors since opening, and many of the top designers now engage in cut-throat competition to have their wares displayed there.

The expanding government noted an improvement in Naval quality, or at least the quality of their uniforms.

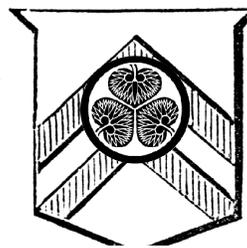
#### ELECTORAL DUCHY OF TANEKI (25 I/YG)

*Her Victorious Majesty, Toktoka I, Lady Talkeltik of Akeltl, Baroness Ketatl, Electoral Duchess of Taneki.*

**Trade:** Atuburrk, Averon, Chi’tixi, Itaxik, Kachar, Pexiki, ThaceD, Tokatl, Yarni-Za

**DP:** Histaun (A)

**T**he judges’ results are in, and the brothers of the Church Universal and Triumphant’s Cathedral of Yankuik were the clear winners in the contest to design Taneki’s grand Ducal palace. Construction began in 1531 and is ongoing. Other new building projects include a road from the southern city of Xintec northwards into Tepeuh Prefecture, and many new public works. The northern city of Jirum continued to grow.



An agreement was signed with the Electoral Queen of Itaxik. Histaun Prefecture was transferred from Itaxik to Taneki control with the clear understanding that Itaxik’s military forces retained right of free passage through the region.

Duchess Torakka II died in 1533. The following year her savvy successor, Toktoka, discovered to her confusion and delight that she had been elevated to the title of Elector. In celebration, she decided to re-start the numbering of Taneki’s rulers.

Parliament enthusiastically supported the realm’s new status, and proclaimed 1 Primilis to be a holiday under the name “Elector Day”, ignoring the fact that it was already a holiday under the name “New Year’s Day”.

The Equerries are extremely proud in their improvements in cavalry tactics.

#### ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF AVERON (59 SI/IL)

*Her Gracious Majesty, Jera IV, the Wise, Lady Drax, Countess of Darida, Electoral Grand Duchess of Averon, Protector of the Faith.*

*Tiketua VII of Tishrak, the Puny, Margrave of the North.*

*Cleon II, the Devout, Grand Master and Knight-Commander of the Champions of the Renewal, Margrave of Yax’te.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Carcë, Chi’tixi, Itaxik, Kachar, Nikka, Pehuatoka, Taneki, ThaceD, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**G**rand Duchess Jera reinvested Averon's tax revenues in infrastructure projects. Probably the most impressive was a canal from the Upper Miçtian River between Itaxik's Olya and Ohoka Prefectures, built in large part by Yax'te workers with Averese supervision and expertise. In Averon's new dominion of Yax'te, three new priorities were built, as was a road from Yoltet to Anate, and the river port town of Dortet in Ozto.

Tithes continued to pour eastward to Sistramedes, though Averon spent considerable resources on the continuing construction of the Archemandrite's palace in K'ah.

Averon concluded a treaty with Sakkar, transferring Yax'tean Kwetatl to Sakkar for their claim to Auicalo Prefecture. An Averese fleet and army took control of Auicalo in 1532 without incident despite the 30,000 Sakkari allied troops remaining in the region<sup>5</sup>. As a result, Yax'te was more closely integrated with Averon proper, as trade flowed freely between the Grand Duchy and the Ice-mark.

Averon celebrated a slew of royal weddings. The most prominent was that of Princess Jushana, the Grand Duchess' daughter and heir. She was married in 1531 to the rather poncy Lord Gilquibble Tarlan (of the Polyimia Gilquibbles). After several failed attempts<sup>6</sup>, the couple announced the birth of their son Gondulan in 1534. He is reportedly quite sickly.

Princess Jushana's younger brother Challik, a brilliant naval officer serving with the Southern Fleet, eloped the following year with his Yax'te sweetheart. Naval quality improved. The two events are (probably) not related.

Baroness Nenepillah of Sakkar pursued her scholarly studies in the Iluvarian University at Tikata.

<sup>5</sup> The troops belong to the Sakkari ally, the Baroness of Tlapan. They stayed in their barracks and generally tried to keep out of trouble.

<sup>6</sup> The palace scuttlebutt is that *soft shell syndrome* runs in the House of Gilquibble.

## THE CHURCH MILITANT (2 IL)

*Her Holiness Sardula V, Iluvarian Matriarch of the West, Archemandrite of Tikata.*

**A**rchemandrite Sardula V continued her slow, methodical, brick-by-brick approach to what some are calling "Integration without assimilation". Of course, this plan is palatable to neither the hard-line Restorationists *or* Integrationists. Nevertheless, real progress was made. Averon worked diligently on the Archemandrite's palace, and the Pontiff returned the administration of the Cathedral of Sahn'akl to her.

The Holy Synod spent much of their energy working on an immense project to codify and reform the Western liturgy. It proved another venue for argument, though the lines of contention cut right across the Restorationist and Integrationist factions, with the "high church" clergy and laity of both camps opposing those favouring a more radical simplification of the rites.

## COUNTY OF PEXIKI (23 I/YG)

*Her Excellency, Xitar III, Mistress of the Coactoka Hive, Countess of Pexiki, Lady Amoxcali.*

**Trade:** Itaxik, Kachar, Taneki

**DP:** None.

**X**itar II unexpectedly died in early 1532 and the new, vigorous Xitar III took over. She proclaimed Amoxcali as the Pexiki capital and financed the construction of a glorious palace there, built by her brand new Corps of Engineers. Wishing to concentrate on the affairs of state rather than church, she signed over ownership of the County's religious sites, including three cathedrals, to the Veiled Masters. Reaction throughout the country was mixed, as many were unaware that there *were* churches in Pexiki, never mind cathedrals.

In 1532, Mount Kish in Kisar erupted for the first time since 1308. The lovely little mountain villa of Montola was buried in ash by two subsequent eruptions in the following year.

The army's infantry quality improved.

## ITAXIK: END OF THE ELECTORATE

**I**taxik continued spending every effort to advance their farming techniques and follow every research thread, no matter how peculiar, in an effort to stave off the coming Winter. The University of the Ice was the focal point in Itaxik's growing intellectual culture. All of the Electorate's schools were opened to all the Queen's subjects, even those from Kachar and Pehuatoka. A new intelligence academy was even built, probably in the capital.

A grand canal was begun at the border of Tauane and Notekua Prefectures from the Xos River. Averse engineers began a similar project from the Upper Miçtian River between Itaxik's Olya and Ohoka Prefectures. Are the two canals destined to meet? Only time will tell.

In 1534, news began to filter into Itaxik that the Emperor had issued the *Great Charter*, disenfranchising the Itaxik Elector. When the text finally arrived at the Queen's court, it soon became obvious that the revelations had shattered Queen Yautlatoaya II, aging her beyond her years. Nevertheless, she was determined that the Queendom would go on as it had gone on. This was simply not to be.

News soon arrived that the new Countess of Kachar had declared her realm independent of Itaxik. She said, "my ancestor pledged fealty to an Elector. I am taking my leave from an ordinary sort of Queen. We wish Itaxik no ill will, but the time has come for our nation of great navigators to chart our own destiny."

In the territories of Kachar, reaction ranged right across the spectrum from joy to indifference at the news. Few, if any, of Kachar's subjects could remember a time before the Itaxik alliance, and they were content enough with Itaxik while the alliance lasted. All, however, dutifully followed their Countess in her decision.

It is said that when Queen Yautlatoaya II heard the news, she aged five years. Nevertheless, she clung to the seventh *Enabling Ordinance* for



strength. Titled "the Protection of Itaxik Ordinance", it referred to Itaxik as loyal and responsible, and declared that Itaxik's territorial integrity would be protected by the Emperor and the Church for a generation. This came as something of a surprise to the local officials of the Church Universal and Triumphant, who were caught flat-footed at the news. As for the Emperor, by now he had his own problems.

Shortly thereafter, Cipaçtonatha V, the latest in a long line of supercilious Countesses of Pehuatoka, citing the initial terms of their alliance with Itaxik and about 300 pages of closely-written legal precedents culminating in the vaguely worded fifth *Enabling Ordinance*, not only declared the independence of her realm, but also applied for membership in the House of Peers.

In her palace, Queen Yautlatoaya II fretted and paced, muttering over and over, "loyal and responsible, loyal and responsible..." until even her closest advisors feared that she had been driven mad by these events. Already news was coming into the capital that the various tributary states had reasserted their independence. Co'atepec, Cozcapilla, Milaka, Noyokka, Opuchi, Shiakalo, Tlani, Yöllök, Yuitla, Zundaun—as the herald read the list, the Queen fidgeted with an imaginary piece of dirt under one of her claws. When the herald had concluded, the Queen brightly announced, "who's for ice cream?" before sinking back morosely into her throne.

### *The Assakan Conspiracy*

It seemed as if all of Itaxik would come apart at the seams. Rumours of even more grievous rebellions were already filtering down the Xos River.

For 800 years, Akassa had been the splendid capital of the Miçtian Federation, and it now enjoyed its status as the intellectual centre of the Queendom. It was here that three of Itaxik's most loyal nobles conspired to save their beloved realm from its own Queen. The Countess of Akassa, Lady Iteamik, and Lady Oktli were without troops or resources, but

they nevertheless journeyed upriver with the fixed idea of knocking some sense into their Queen or, failing that, of elevating another of her brood to the throne.

In Molko, the conspirators were met by a number of other nobles, including Captain-General Yix, venerable author of *The Art of War*. After spending some time ascertaining each others' motives, the conspiracy of three became a conspiracy of five. Yix indicated that should the Queen resist, they must attempt to rally the army to their cause.

Success in that case would depend entirely on whether the conspirators could convince enough regimental Colonels that loyalty to the Queendom was a higher virtue than loyalty to its Queen. Since there were something like 65,000 cavalry, infantry, and engineers in the city, the consensus was that this might prove problematic.

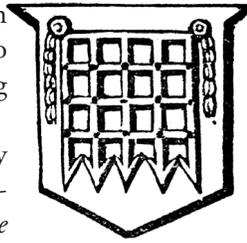
When news arrived that several isolated prefectures in the north had rebelled<sup>7</sup>, the Queen took no action. The people of the capital and the home army grew restive. The question on everybody's mandibles was, "why isn't she doing something?"

There was little that could be done immediately, of course, but the rumours of the Queen's madness combined with her inaction, convinced the conspirators that the time to act was now.

#### *Toppling the Last Elector (1535)*

The newspapers called for the Queen's abdication. People took to the streets in protest, wearing as a badge the old pre-Electoral symbol of Itaxik, the portcullis, usually in the green and gold colours of the ancient heraldry<sup>8</sup>. In the Royal Army itself, a growing number of soldiers and even officers could be found wearing the same badge.

After being carefully vetted by Yix, a member of the ruling House Tis'chok joined the protests. This was the charismatic Princess Chath'cutla, and she took the ancient Itaxik arms as her own. With the



help of the conspirators, she soon became the voice of protestors within the palace.

On the fifth of Tertilis, the Itaxik newspapers reported the rebellion in the east of Colonel Asatdya. Commanding a great army – supposedly 30,000 Equerries – she had struck a deal with Lady Ohoka

and together they had decisively defeated a loyalist army on the plains near Nikka in Omei Prefecture. The newspapers called for a military expedition to the east, and the abdication of the Queen who had led the realm to such disaster.

Protesters marched on the palace, bearing yellow and green banners and calling for the Queen's abdication. In response, the Queen sent the army to disperse the crowd, lest the crowd become a mob. Bearing the black and white banners of (Electoral) Itaxik, mounted Equerries began riding up the avenue towards the protestors. As so often happens in these sorts of situations, cooler heads did not prevail.

Isolated scuffles soon became a riot, which quickly degenerated into a battle in the streets. The Equerries rode down the protestors, and they were followed by infantry to "restore order". Within hours, large elements of the royal army had hauled down their black and white colours and replaced them with the green and gold. A desperate battle took place in the palace grounds, culminating in an assault by the green and gold up the sweeping palace steps against the last formations fighting under black and white.

Although the Queen's personal guard, the Black Beetle Company, fought ferociously, in the end they could not stem the tide rising against them. To their credit, they died to the last in defending Queen Yautlatoaya II. When Yix's troops arrived in the throne room, they found evidence of an attempted palace coup. Mutilated bodies were scattered throughout the throne room, and the old Queen still sat on her throne, covered in ichor and blood.

Although she was quite dead, not a mark could be found on her body to indicate how she had died,

<sup>7</sup> Coz'tic, Habinah, and Jarrok.

<sup>8</sup> Vert, a portcullis or, nailed of the first, chained argent.

and the bewildered court physician signed a death certificate indicating natural causes.

When Queen Chath'ecutla was enthroned the following week, it was under the green and gold banner.

#### COUNTY OF KACHAR (17 I/UR)

*Her Excellency, Kassa VIII, Mistress of Calpolli, Lady Tchantli, Countess of Kachar, Protector of the Fair Isles.*

**Trade:** Averon, Itaxik, Pexiki, Sakkar, Taneki, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**K**achar picked up right where they had left off. While the County's infrastructure improved under the hand of Itaxik, the people are hoping that as an independent County they will do even better.

Elements of the Countess' fleet and army, not to mention her ally the (new) Baroness of Uilaokatl, remain engaged in the Duedhyn campaign.

#### QUEENDOM OF ITAXIK (29 I/UR)

*Her Majesty, Queen Chath'ecutla I, Mistress of the Tis'chak, Countess of Takkikik, Queen of Itaxik, Golden Beetle of the West.*

**Trade:** Averon, Carcë, Kachar, Pexiki, Sakkar, Taneki, Urdraháhn

**DP:** Failed.

**Q**ueen Chath'ecutla firmly established her authority in the capital, and the remaining prefectures soon fell in line. Although the disruption in the capital had damaged several government facilities, the hard-working Itaxik soon fixed things back up. The University of Akassa expanded its campus.

The new Queen sponsored a national program that allows individuals to lend monies from one person to another so entrepreneurs can start or expand their cottage industries.

The venerable Captain-General Yix died in late 1535, aged 36, a national hero.

In the rebellious states of the far east, fanciful tales emerged of the wanderings of the ancient-sighted Baroness of Tlani. Few, if any, are true.

#### LANDGRAVATE OF NIKKA (2 I/UR)

*Landgrave Asatdya the Mighty.*

**Trade:** Averon, Carcë, Sakkar, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**A**satdya has a large army and controls six prefectures on the west bank of the River Miçtia, including the site of Averon's canal. With the ongoing disintegration of the Itaxik Electorate, she sees it as her duty to maintain order in the east.

#### COUNTY OF PEHUATOKA (2 I/UR)

*Her Excellency, Cipaçtonatha V, Baroness Aueuetl, Countess of Pehuatoka, Guardian of Miçtia.*

**Trade:** Averon, Carcë, Sakkar, Urdraháhn

**DP:** Failed.

**C**ipaçtonatha has pledged to raise her little realm back to the levels of power, prestige, and wealth they enjoyed during the days of the Miçtian Federation. She's more than willing to return her Emerald Shard to the Emperor (whoever that might be), but she's hoping to negotiate a "handling fee" to ensure its safe return to Sardarthion.

#### BARONY OF SAKKAR (17 IS/IL)

*Baroness Nenepillah III of Sakkar, the Dim, Mistress of Nelhuayotl, Heir of the Prophet, Imperial Governor of Withidan, Beloved of the Light of Iluvar.*

*Dame Tarik Tiketua, Grandmistress of the Military Order of the Sword of Iluvar, Warriors of the Ice.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Averon, Carcë, Itaxik, Kachar, Nikka, Pehuatoka, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

**DP:** Kwetatl (F)

**B**aroness Nenepillah went to foreign lands to further her education, leaving the well-oiled Sakkari bureaucracy to run the county in her absence. Sakkar traded Auicalo to Averon for Kwetatl. The transaction went fairly

smoothly, though the Averese officials were concerned at the hefty Sakkari garrison left behind.

Sakkar continued preparations for the return of Winter. Localized tunnel systems were begun in urban areas and even villages to create underground distribution and communications networks.

Lady Lynnel and her Tiryowgli lancers rode into the deep, dark forests of Narmona with the idea of conquering the Prefecture. Lord Narmona had other ideas, however. The region is wealthy and well-populated, and its Lord had 9,000 infantry, including archers, at his command. Tactically he was no match for Lady Lynnel, but Lord Narmona's troops were heavier, and they made full use of the terrain. The lancers could not make much use of their superior mobility in the tangled undergrowth. The lancers took fairly severe casualties before retreating back to Laimak.

The knights of the *Sword of Iluvar* were rather more successful, pacifying the boundless steppes of Penkni and Chidrûl in quick succession.

Sakkar's ally the Baroness of Tlapan provoked *the Delin Incident*.

The Military Order of the Sword of Iluvar began retiring their enormous naval assets, colonizing Rossilion (2132)I and building a new fortress there. In other Church matters, a Malebolge Sister Curie arrived from the Pontiff of Sistrameides with the mission of swaying the Restorationists to the Integrationist cause. In this, she was only modestly successful, but she was tactful and judiciously aware of local sensibilities, which won the Pontiff many new admirers.

Naval and sorcery quality both improved. Small numbers of shadow knights continued staffing garrisons throughout the realm.

#### THE DELIN INCIDENT

**T**he frozen isle of Delin seems an unlikely spot for an international incident. A tiny brown smudge of hardy grasses and wind-twisted trees in a sea of icebergs, Delin is warmed by hot springs and populated mostly by wild cattle

and sheep. It is thousands of miles from the nearest inhabited land or town.

A small, overburdened Zarkhandu flotilla called at Delin in 1535, unloading many thousands of refugees. These were not, however, Saurians or even Humans. No, these were shaggy mountians closely resembling the common Zarkhandi yak. They call themselves *Gornya Rogami*<sup>9</sup>.

They quickly settled the island (1111)G, but this did little to relieve their burgeoning population, for they were breeding at a prodigious rate and growing to maturity with startling speed. By the time they landed, the little fleet was already not enough to hold them all comfortably.

Within months, the crowded little Gornya Rogami colony began suffering what they call "the time of troubles". A Sakkari fleet of about 150 vessels under Admiral Virgifera dropped anchor on the lee side of the Isle of Delin and unloaded 14,000 cavalry and infantry. The Baroness of Tlapan commanded these forces, and she took control of the island and the fiercely Yagnarist Gornya Rogami in the name of Iluvarian Sakkar.

While the conflict was clearly not intended by either realm, nevertheless Sakkar and Zarkhandu found themselves at war, and Sahûl's latest kindred found themselves in a state of crowded misery and squalor.

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## Thacia and Aret

### THE HIGH PLAINS & NORTHERN COAST

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#### ELECTORAL QUEENDOM OF THE GREAT HIVE OF CHI'TIXI TIRRIX KI (41 I/YG)

*Her Most Puissant Majesty, Taxitiki II, the Illustrious, Mistress of Tirrix & the Great Hive, Black Claw Baroness of Tichiir, Duchess of Chax and Tix'itikata, Countess Itax, Elector & Lich-Queen of Chi'tixi, &c., &c.*

*Her Excellency, Tannix V, Lady Ch'tort, Countess of Cærrat, Vice-regent of Western Chi'tixi.*

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<sup>9</sup> The singular form is *Rogam*.

*Lady Tchatrix Tixit, Grandmistress of the Military Order of Gidaxa.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Atuburrk, Averon, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Taneki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za, Zarkhandu

**DP:** Talking is overrated.

**O**fficials gave in to public demand and named Chi'tixi's coliseum the *Tarossarium* since other than soccer the most popular event there are gladiatorial games featuring Tarotists (and sometimes lions).

The Queendom expanded their army, even as their infantry quality improved.

An attempt to gift the fortress in Chitteri to the Order of Gidaxa failed when local officials explained that there wasn't a fortress there, only a handful of hive forts.

*The Taporí Uprising (1534)*

**T**he pogroms continued unabated in crypto-Tarotist Taporí, as the local Tarotist churches and their clerics went underground to escape imprisonment or worse.

It was in Taporí that the nephew of Baron Annavas III of Kommolek himself became Baron, and then Count Palatine, of Kommolek as Derryk I in 1534. Derryk quickly married a refugee aristocrat to ensure the continuation of House Goesek. Indeed, in the following year the couple announced the birth of their first son, named Derryk after his father.

Just weeks later, Count Palatine Derryk and his wife were brutally knifed in their beds. The large Kommolek army on the ground in Taporí quickly moved to secure the person of the infant Count Palatine Derryk II. The Chi'tixi garrison commander, meanwhile, assumed the assassinations to be the work of Tarotist radicals, and she issued orders to find and kill the assassins and all those who harboured or aided them. The Prefecture, already under martial law, became a war zone. Rangers moved into known Tarotist villages and engaged in a programme of arbitrary arrests and assaults.

Reaction was swift; the Tarotist minority rose up against their Yagnarist masters.

One particularly bold Tarotist highwayman calling himself Janosik claimed descent from the old Cappargarnian Landgraves of Taporí. He helped organize the uprising, and he appealed to the Prince of Cappargarnia for aid and assistance. As the Chi'tixi Rangers slowly ground down the rebellion, the Tarotists fought ever more fiercely, going so far as to stage daring raids against the Yagnarist town of Tirritix.

Without Cappargarnian aid, their cause was doomed, and Janosik and his rebels made increasingly desperate pleas to the Republic for help. No help was forthcoming, however, and less than a year after the initial uprising, the rebels were crushed. The Chi'tixi Prefect announced Janosik's capture and death, though she has thus far been unwilling (or unable) to produce a body.

**DUCHY OF THACE (34 S/UR)**

*His Grace, Brannis II, Lord Goshtikka-Ourane, Baron of Brennadein, Marshal of Thacia, Duke of Thace.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Averon, Cappargarnia, Carcë, Chi'tixi, Ingazi, Hyrágec, ID, Taneki, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**D**uke Brannis' engineers continued his building programme, extending the road from Sybok in Nottesan to Herrûnd in Ensar. The town of Ordah rose in allied Branahim, while the city of Drannhír grew. Numerous new public works projects went in all over the Duchy.

The citizens of the Imperial Free City of Thûnd were treated to the ravings of the Sorceress Salthia. She wandered through the city, frequently exclaiming on the fine herds of cattle that no one else could see, and praising the quality of the orchards along the river where there are only warehouses and wharfs. She has become a bit of a celebrity in the city, in the way that entertaining madmen sometimes are.

The Duke invited the Order of Saint Annír into the Duchy to teach in his schools.

*ELECTORAL COUNTY-PALATINE OF THACE (29S/UR)*  
*His Most Excellent Majesty, Brannis VI, the Gallant,*  
*Lord Goshtikka-Snamarthis, Burgrave of Wagga-*  
*Wagga, Overlord of Carcë, Electoral Count Palatine*  
*in Thace.*

*Margrave Thosh the Wicked of the Severed Steppe,*  
*Sar of Nemidor.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Averno,  
Cappargarnia, Carcë, Chi'tixi, Hyrágec,  
ID, Ingazi, Kitchat, Sakkar, Taneki,  
ThaceD, Urdraháhn

**DP:** Gabaghúl (F), Faghúl (T)

**E**lectoral Thace invested in infrastructure development, beginning with five new priorities. The port town of Pachröe rose in Jannas across the bridge from Snamarthis, while in the steppe, the town of Galledein was established in Somath. Q Division expanded, while siege and naval quality improved. The Elector's new interest in exploration brought the foundation of a Naval Academy in Rhistaun. The Medical College at Snamarthis University was the site of a new foundation, the Five Jewels Center for Medical Research<sup>10</sup>.

Electoral Thace took control of the Imperial Free City of Wagga Wagga in 1534. Urdan missionaries convinced most of the Yagnarists to claim conversion, but the shallowness of their sincerity is already the stuff of legends.

A new religious revival in the County Palatine prompted Brannis the Gallant to pen a small pamphlet titled *On Simplicity and Modesty* in which he detailed a philosophy of austerity, hard work, and prayer. Specific examples of excess mentioned include the wearing of Tokatl fashions, jewelry, and fancy hats; elaborate parties and purple prose. He encouraged Thacians to dedicate themselves to their jobs and to Urda. Count Palatine Brannis led by example, purging the royal family of all Tokatl fashions, much to the dismay of his daughters.

The Count's oldest son, Biard, finished his studies in Urdraháhn and returned home to much ac-

<sup>10</sup> The eponymous five jewels being physical, mental, nourishment, diseases, and spiritual health.

claim. He is popular with his people, though he has thus far shown little in the way of administrative talent. He fell in love with a lady of the court, the Lady Tranierre, and they were married in 1534 to the astonishment of both sets of parents. The next year, their first child, a daughter, was born. At the time of her birth, a strange glow appeared to radiate from the palace. No one knows the cause.

Ebalondrir, the second son, was commissioned into the army at the age of 16 in 1531. Within a year, he had been discharged, reportedly for a lack of discipline and being a bad influence on the other junior officers. He then took some "time off" to "find himself". Although his father suggested a sojourn in the steppe, Ebalondrir and a group of his companions travelled down river, spending time in the various cities of Thace and Araxes<sup>11</sup>, before returning to Snamarthis in 1535.

The third son, Merryn, was dispatched to the University of Urdraháhn in 1531. He was soon followed by the oldest of his three sisters; Lowenna left to study medicine. The next daughter, Gorthis, has joined the sisters of Saint Annír. Youngest daughter Tilda seems also destined for Urdraháhn, one way or another.

Mount Gor in Belorn erupted, just once.

The Count's programme for breeding faster and stronger steppe horses in Duzjun received more funds, and more horses<sup>12</sup>.

Sar Thorvok of Duzjun proved an odd choice as a diplomat in the steppe, since he was continually conversing with people that nobody else could see. Nevertheless, he did have some small success.

The Count Palatine continued prosecuting the "just war" in Duedhyn.

<sup>11</sup> Some of the more scurrilous newspapers reported the young prince's journey as "a gang of debauched rakes drinking their way down the Húrn".

<sup>12</sup> It should be noted that the distinctive *Steppe pony*, while hardy and swift, is generally incapable of carrying a fully armed and armoured rider of the Thacian variety. The challenge to breed these famous horses to handle the needs of a modern knight or cataphraçt is ongoing.

## LORDSHIP OF CARCĚ (9 S/UR)

*Sar Grotan Tahnik II, the Dragon, Third Lord CarcĚ, Master of the Horseclans, Scourge of Urda the Fierce, Defender of the Steppe.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Averon, Itaxik, Nikka, Pehuatoka, Sakkar, ThaceD, ThaceE, Udraháhn

**DP:** Masinis (F)

**S**ar Tahnik ordered the construction of the town of Dozhanes on the Great Steppe Road in allied Růckar and many new public works projects. The Great Steppe Road itself was extended to the town of Shandů in Nemelyssa, and Thacian engineers continued the road from Růckar into Zannemeth. Siege quality improved.

The impatient Sar Tannis rode westward from his adventures atop Ranarádu and vanished into the steppe.

Sar Tahnik II, three of his sons, and his steppe horde rode swiftly to war in Duedhyn! The ride has become legendary for both the unearthly speed and determination with which the stepperiders flew across the plains.

When they arrived, these sons of the Tiger confronted the Raven in the Battle of the Grievous Field in 1534.

## THE RETURN TO RANARÁDU

**A**s the pilgrims left the little steppe village, bound for their homelands, one of their number turned back. Reverend Mother Margot walked back towards Ranarádu, stopping finally at the 2,800-year old Harun Priory. She saw it as it was, a dusty old complex of buildings the colour of old terra-cotta with makeshift repairs of mud and stone surrounded by the dry brown stalks of spring wheat and the gnarled old trees, half dead for want of rain.

And then she saw it as it *was*. New. Gleaming walls of polished limestone. Green gardens. Flowing water with ponds and pools. An orchard. She heard the sound of Saurian children, laughing and playing somewhere out of sight in the trees.

Beyond the priory, she could see the looming mass of the rock of Ranarádu itself, but not bare red rock of later days. Stairs were built up the side to terraces and walled gardens near the top. And at the very top stood a tower, almost like a lighthouse, stretching upwards to the sky.

The Wenematron walked up to the priory gate. She was greeted by a young Saurian maiden, perhaps fifteen summers. “What manner of creature are you that visits the Holy Rock?”

Reverend Mother Margot assumed the voice that she used with the novices, “Is this the way you were taught to greet guests?”

The Saurian bowed in embarrassment. “No, ma’am. Welcome to Harun. Please feel free to join us for lunch at... only, not today. But please join us for prayers.”

Margot cocked an eyebrow, a move completely lost upon this young Saurian. She considered removing the veil of her burkha. “Why no lunch today?”

The young girl raised her head, eyes rimmed with red. “Surely you have heard, ma’am? Perhaps not... we only just got the news ourselves.”

“What news? What are you on about, girl?”

“Have you not heard then, that the blessed Emperor is dead? There was a great battle at Yattel in Chilorthas. The House of the Black Sun is ended, and Belesar the Last has been laid in his tomb. We are all subjects of Drakketh of Sardarthion now.” The girl broke down in tears, and suddenly Margot was back in the present, where another young Saurian novice peered at her quizzically.

“Are you Reverend Mother Margot?”

Margot nodded, still breathless at the sudden change.

“Reverend Mother, the Prioress has instructed me to give you this letter.”

Margot took the envelope in her paws. It takes centuries for Miĉtian rice paper to discolour, and this envelope was such a dark shade of brown that the ink was almost impossible to read. She brought it up to her face to get a better look. It was her name.

And it was in her own handwriting.

**ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ARAXES**  
(30 W/UR)

*His Gallant Maješty, Pangku Kapalless III, Baron Pinyerrel, Elector and Grand Duke of All Araxes.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Atuburrk, Averno, Cappargarnia, Carcë, Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Hyrägec, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Kicitchat, Kumara, Sakkar, Taneki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.



Araxes finally finished their road across the Tothogo Mountains, connecting their capital to the steppe road in Galingdri. As part of the continuing programme of public works throughout the Grand Duchy, a statue of Grand Duke Tramandes II (1468–1526) was erected in the plaza in front of the commodities exchange in Pinyerrel.

In a ceremony of legendary opulence and majesty, the Grand Duke's heir Count Tramandes of Thangkar was married to the Lady Panierre at Saint Nemar's Abbey in 1531. Those great nobles who were not at war all attended, and Parliament voted the young couple a one-time grant of 100,000 Crowns. The funds were used to pay for the ceremony, reception, and honeymoon. The "wedding of the century" proved a boon to Araxes' growing fashion industry.

The happy (and enormously popular) couple left Pinyerrel shortly after the ceremony for a "grand tour" honeymoon. They announced the birth of their first children, twin boys named Pandalless and Ursardes, in Sardarthion in 1533.

Grand Duke Kapalless III became an Elector with the promulgation of the Great Charter in 1534, an event witnessed by Count Tramandes, who was in Sardarthion at the time with Countess Panierre and the twins.

Araxes pursued the Urdan war aims in Duedhyn to their general satisfaction.



**COUNTY OF KICITCHAT (17 I/YG)**

*Her Mandibleness, Cir'ik VIII, Lady Tchac'at, Countess of the Kicitchat Hive and Associated Dominions.*

**Trade:**

Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Hyrägec, ID, Ingazi, ThaceE, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None



Countess Cir'ik VIII reasserted her realm's independence from the Emperor Sydath, whom she considers quite insane. Relations with Atuburrk proper remain cordial, though cautious.

**ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ATUBURRK (30 W/YG)**

*His Gracious Maješty, Adhanggar Rahnes II, Count of Erran and Odol, Imperial Governor of Ardebon, Elector & Grand Duke of Atuburrk.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Golmath, Hyrägec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Kumara, Taneki, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za

**DP:** None.



Count Rahnes became Grand Duke Rahnes in 1534. He is a bluff, plain-spoken Wenemet with zero tolerance for stupidity. He ordered the expansion of the towns of Sto Helit and Darkfall into cities, and he created Atuburrk's first primary schools.

Thanks to the confusion surrounding the dissolving of Sydath's dominions, the government in Atuburrk is slightly smaller than it was. Massive investments helped a little.

Siege and naval quality improved.

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## Central Sahûl

### THE HEART OF EMPIRE

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**ELECTORAL REPUBLIC OF CAPPARGARNIA (72M/TA)**  
*His Sublime Majesty, Deirn Caranthes II, Burgrave of Punchega, Lord Admiral of the Blue, Electoral Prince of Cappargarnia.*

*His Great Holiness, Fenric v, Pontiff of the Hidden Lords at Golluz.*

*His Excellency Tiribissi Lanbarnes II, Guildmaster of the Innkeepers, Hereditary Burgrave of Adndar, Chancellor of the Guilds Council of the Imperial Free City of Adndar.*

*Sir Steene Caranthes, Grand Marshal of the Holy Blood Legion of Swords, Consul-General of the Tempest March.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrárec, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, Kumara, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**P**rosperity was the byword in the Republic, and the merchants of Cappargarnia grew fat and happy. Prince Caranthes targeted a handful of Prefectures for economic development, a programme that included making Adndar the most beautiful and prosperous city of the Empire. Resources also targeted Jarvæl, both to develop the area and to repair some of the damage done by the dragon attacks of 1529.

The Republic continued to settle army veterans into their cities. Anabrin, Olba, and Inh Alal all expanded, and a town was built in the colonies in Oratoa. A road was constructed from Kattras in Dramûl, through Prosperos in Bufalein, to Halak in Adément. Two new priories were constructed.

The Prince offered sacrifice to the Lords of the Tarot, praying loudly for the success of Raven arms. In, perhaps, a related development, in the spring of 1533 the trees on the east bank of the Byrrin sprouted blue leaves, while those on the west bank sprouted pink. What this may auger, none can say.

A Chi'tixi fleet of 175 warships based in Tapori patrolled the Lower Byrrin River. The local river merchants complained loudly of harassment. It's not as though the Chi'tixi ships were doing anything illegal – they didn't board or fire at any merchants – but they came dangerously close to any number of merchant vessels and the Yagnarist crews loudly taunted or even threatened the Tarotists on board. Numerous complaints flooded the Cappargarnian Admiralty offices, but they could do nothing.

In 1533, a flotilla of Kommolek transports paid the toll in the Adndar Canal and headed down river.

An armada of more than 300 ships arrived in Adndar from the north in early 1535. Meticulously decorated, they sported gold filigree all along their decks and resplendent painted sails. They flew the flag of the Countess of Tokatl and paid their toll in cold hard cash before sailing to the Upper Byrrin.

Emperor Sydath II deeded two Kicitchat territories to the Republic. The Baron of Nolvenn convinced the Countess of Kicitchat to repudiate her vassalage with Sydath rather than give it over. Cauaros merely rebelled.

The Emperor also deeded the Imperial Free City of Punchega on the Wild Coast to the Republic. Miraculously, it did not immediately rebel. Indeed, while this Yagnarist and Tarotist city remains largely the hive of scum and villainy™ it has always been, the citizens have thus far been very impressed at the astonishing increase in trade through their city, and (perhaps more importantly) the exponentially larger number of visiting sailors they can con out their pay.

To their very great surprise, the Republic found themselves at war with Ingazi.

**IMPERIAL FREE CITY OF EINANDHU (4M/UR)**  
*Sir Forngian Dareth, Tiger King of Arms.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Duedhyn, Elphárec, Golmath, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Zarkhandu

**DP:** It's a living.

**T**he Heralds were caught unawares by the *Great Charter* and the subsequent crisis in Electoral heraldry. By ancient Imperial law and custom, only the Nine Electors may possess arms with the Nine Sacred Animals. The stripping of these devices was relatively simple: in Itaxik the revolution adopted the old, pre-Electoral arms, and in Zarkhandu the King on his own initiative temporarily replaced the Electoral arms with a badge depicting his initials.

The matter of redistributing the Beetle and Lion arms to Araxes and Taneki is, however, new ground for the Heralds. They are inclined, based on the Realms in question, to award the Beetle to Taneki and the Lion to Araxes, but the fact of the matter is that grants of arms are normally awarded on a first-come first-granted basis.

The Heralds have therefore extended to both new Electors a request that they register new arms based on either the Beetle or the Lion. The only caveat is that they neither can request the same colour combination of the older Electoral arms, as these are now retired.

Similarly, the Heralds have sent a request to the King of Zarkhandu to register new arms.

**THE IMPERIAL DEMENSE (22 M/UR)**

*His August & Imperial Majesty, Adhanggar Sydath II, Sovereign of Sahúl, Lord of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion, Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Emperor of All the World.*

*His Most Urdan Excellency, Gwariva Trememeres IV, Overlord of Gawan, Captain of the East Riding, Burgrave of Deriháhn, Count Palatine of Ingazi, Chancellor of the Empire.*

*Baron Ebarrew Dolmathes the Dashing, Baron of Lynnarvor and Burgrave of Fair Belsûnd.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi, IOC, Kicitchat, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Zarkhandu

**DP:** Not so much.

**IIP:** 2

*For appointments, please see Gazette.*

*Much of the Imperial events are related beginning on page 204. The narrative here picks up from there.*

**I**n the face of increasing corruption in the Provinces, the Emperor spent virtually the last of his political capital reforming Tramelis, Yann, Orinos, Sardior, and Kaidu Provinces. Despondent and abandoned, the Emperor published the *Instrument of Abdication* just after his 35th birthday in 1535. In accordance with the *Great Charter*, he summoned the Electors to choose his successor.

*The Election of 1535*

The nine Electoral envoys arrived at the Imperial Palace on the appointed day at dawn. They were met on the palace steps by Count Palatine Gwariva Trememeres IV of Ingazi, Chancellor of the Empire, flanked by armed guards of the Emerald Watch. There was still a chill in the spring air, and a light snow began to fall as the Chancellor administered the oath to the envoys. Then he led them inside to the ancient audience hall known as the Blue Chamber.

Floored in the deep blue Kranthic marble that gave the room its name and dimly lit with the sorcerous lights of nine hanging lanterns, it was cavernous and cold. Delicately cracked blood red columns vanished into the gloom above. Lanterns at the far end of the chamber illuminated the Emperor Sydath II, sitting upon the simple, dull grey iron throne. Flanked by tarnished lion statues that might once have been gilded, the throne was set upon a stone dais cut with three shallow steps, worn round and smooth by millennia of supplicants and stained with the blood of Emperors.

All other furniture had been cleared from the Chamber except for nine roughly-hewn chairs set around a circular table, carved with an intricate design depicting the Nine Sacred Animals. After each

envoy had taken their seat<sup>13</sup>, the Emperor stood and welcomed them. Then he laid the Imperial Crown on the throne and, turning back to the Envoys, he said, “don’t frack this up, people.”

The Emperor left the Chamber, whistling the aria “Sardarthion, my Love”, and the Chancellor read the *Great Charter* to the envoys. Then he left as well, and soldiers of the Emerald Watch sealed the great door behind him.

The discussions dragged on. That evening, food and cots were brought into the Blue Chamber. Still, the envoys talked and argued for days, then weeks. After thirty days of deadlock, the envoys’ rations were reduced to bread and water. Four days later, the envoys informed the Chancellor that they were hopelessly deadlocked and required instructions from their governments. The only candidate even close to the required five votes was the Emperor’s brother, the Grand Duke of Atuburk, and he was disqualified from election under Article 2 of the *Great Charter*.

For the moment, the politically crippled Sydath II remains a lame-duck Emperor, and Chancellor Gwariva Trememeres remains in his office. The Electoral envoys are scheduled to reconvene on the first of Primilis, 1536, and the campaigning among the Electors has already begun in earnest.



The card game at the Regency Hotel drew several distinguished players. Although the Saurian spinster known as Miss Scarlet left the game in 1531, the melancholy old Wenemet Lord Injyi was joined by a retired Thacian colonel named Sarac and a young (but wealthy) Saurian noble who called himself Lord Black.

Although the young rake Black attempted to befriend the elder Injyi, the old Wenemet was content to just win his money.



<sup>13</sup> The Araxean and Taneki envoys took the empty chairs nearest to where they happened to be standing.

In Sondrim, there was a noisy kerfuffle in the dragon’s lair. What transpired, none know, but the local dragon watchers reported that she was later seen using a Malebolge antenna as a toothpick.

Some time later, the dragon Sanngrithr inexplicably vanished and was not seen again. The locals, long under the tyranny of the dragon, celebrated their deliverance.

#### THE DUEDHYN CRISIS (1506-1534)

*Ravenists vs. Araxes, Carcë, Duedhyn, Hyrägec, Ingazi, Kachar, Thace (Electoral)*

##### 1531: Manoeuvring into Position

**D**Prince Meriasek announced his signature to and his realm’s full participation in the *Recognition of Religious Primacies Decree (1503)*. Unfortunately, this is not actually a treaty, but an Imperial decree, so there isn’t really a legal way to “sign on” to it. The Prince also sent heralds to the Emperor on the first of every month to demand clarification on whether the military campaigns against him were legal, and under what authority.

Meanwhile, the full force of Urdanism converged on the Raven Principality of Duedhyn and its ruler, Prince Meriasek. Four armies, two fleets, and an airfleet bore down on the capital of Pareis with a fury unmatched in recent conflicts. Commanded by Count Puntha Borthes of Thûduaxa, an Araxean pike and infantry force in the region put the city to siege while awaiting these reinforcements.

The city organized its defenses under Garrow Lord Kyndyr. He put together as many men as he could muster to defend the wall and, perhaps more impressively, he flew fifty airships and 450 gryphon air cavalry in the city’s defense. They easily held off the Araxean besiegers, even killing the valiant Count of Thûduaxa.

In Derrow, meanwhile, the great Raven host broke off the ineffectual siege of Trenk and, leaving their infantry and engineers to garrison the region, they rode north for a rendezvous with the other Raven forces converging on Lowarthow. The frozen

army of shadow knights in the region faded away into an insubstantial mist, scattered by the wind.

A group of yahoos intent on fomenting rebellion was chased out of Raven Koes.

*1532: The Whirlwind*



As the great Raven host of 135,000 horsemen thundered across northern Dorrow, they were suddenly beset by dark clouds. Seemingly within moments, black funnel clouds descended upon the land. Fortunately, Dorrow is a land of gently rolling hills, so the damage was much less severe than it could have been. Even so, a small number of casualties were reported among the light horse and hussars<sup>14</sup>. Prince Meriasek and Grandmaster Mordrek quickly rallied their men and put their spurs to the ride.

*The Assault of Pareis (1532)*

The forces of the Urdan Alliance gathered. From Araxes, there were 64,000 infantry led by Sir Ronnel Torthes<sup>15</sup>. A Thacian fleet landed 15,000 marines and auxiliaries, as well as 20,000 Hyrägecan troops, including cavaliers, knights, engineers, and archers, led by none other than Captain-General Lord Irrjir Grenthe. Overhead, Ingazi's Lord Torrin rode the dragon Temeyre and led an airfleet of 125 vessels. At sea, the Thacian fleet stood blockade.

Leading them all was Prince Merryn's eldest son, Count Merryn of Pareis<sup>16</sup>. He proved a brilliant tactician and an able administrator, a skill desperately needed to pull all of these individual forces, each led by formidable and proud field commanders, into a single fighting force. Count Merryn offered the city the chance to surrender, but Lord Garrow rebuffed him.

<sup>14</sup> The only casualty among the knights was Sir Korevow Diwir, a somewhat portly old gentleman who fell off his horse in surprise and was trampled by hussars.

<sup>15</sup> Sir Torthes is the youngest son of the fabled Sir Ronnel Rannes, once Lord Protector of Araxes.

<sup>16</sup> "Count of Pareis" is the traditional title of Duedhyn's heir. Although previous Merryn heirs have styled themselves a Count, the current Count is the first to explicitly use the title.

The assault began on a warm summer morning with an Ingazi fire-bolt bringing down the nearby Raven fortress of Lynnyeyn. Thace's sixty galleons sailed right into the port, sweeping through the fifty longships defending it, all the while disgorging landing boats stuffed with marines. Araxean archers and Hyrägecan engineers peppered the defender on the landward side.

The real action, though, was in the air, where the dragon-led Ingazi airfleet duelled with the Raven airfleet and swarms of gryphons.

The end was never really in doubt. The walls of Pareis were cast down, and no defending soldier remained alive. Allied casualties were limited to a few Ingazi airships that had been overrun by the gryphons and a handful of Araxes' light infantry.

Count Merryn laid claim to Pareis as his father's capital (and his own patrimony) and wasted no time in moving his command center into Morvoren Hall. Of the treasury and the great Raven Spell Crystal cache, there was no sign, but the granary was full.



The Raven host arrived in Lowarthow. The Merryn faction fielded 10,000 knights and 3,000 hussars under Sir Nowthes Grydek that did little but briefly slow down the charge of the Raven knights. It was a tremendous and much-needed victory for Prince Meriasek. Unfortunately, the Prince himself was among the casualties. A single, black-hafted arrow was found in the Prince's throat, which was odd as there were no archers on the field. The Prince's bound dragon, the mighty Skuld, reared up from the battlefield and flew north towards Glasdor. Some time later, a similar arrow was discovered tangled up in Grandmaster Mordrek's cloak. Apparently whoever the archer was, he was targeting the Raven leadership.

With the Prince's heir Lord Dallyn missing since the fall of Pareis, Grandmaster Mordrek declared himself Regent until one of the late Prince's sons could be located. Mordrek is very popular with the Raven Order, and in a military state he who con-

trols the military controls the state, so there were no complaints.

Relieving the Raven fortress of Noweth Dinas, the Ravens were able to add another 22,000 auxiliaries to their host, bringing their numbers to over 150,000.

When the earthquake began, panic broke out within the Raven ranks. Huge fissures opened up in the earth, swallowing whole regiments—men and horses both. The fortress of Noweth Dinas swayed with the heaving ground, and villages throughout Lowarthow Prefecture were flattened. The Raven host estimated about twenty percent casualties, so as bad as it was, it certainly could have been worse.

As it was crossing the river from Tiogyon to rendezvous with the Raven host, Captain-General Hendra's army came under attack by no less than two fire-bolts. They came from a Thacian scouting force of hussars. Rumours of a dragon flying further south also reached the Ravens. It turned out that this raid was simply a distraction, designed to aid in a botched attempt to kill or abduct Prelate Artyrs, who was travelling with the army. Some distraction: almost 10,000 Saurians lost their lives in the attack. Nevertheless, the army finished crossing the river and joined the host, bringing their numbers back to 124,000. With the blessing of His Holiness Prelate Artyrs, the flower of Raven chivalry and holiness were now united in their ride to take back their capital.

It was then that the second, far more deadly earthquake hit. Noweth Dinas swayed dangerously before it partially collapsed, leaving only portions of the main keep standing. The force of the quake was so powerful that the Darriow briefly reversed its flow for several dozen miles. The Raven host was scattered, and many were swallowed up by the earth or crushed by falling horses or shelters. In all, nearly half of the remaining army was destroyed. Fortunately, the army's leadership survived intact.

It was a much reduced, though still formidable force of 71,000 horse that rode north for Pareis with bloody vengeance on their minds.

In Derrow, meanwhile, the besieged Merryn ally, Lord Wydhenn of Derrow, ventured outside the walls of Trenk to attack the Raven garrison. This, he quickly accomplished, wiping out the garrison and reclaiming his patrimony.

In the south, Prince Merryn III led 5,000 cataphraḱti and 5,000 cavalry into Egheldyr. They made quick work of the Raven garrison and occupied Arghans Priory before setting up around the imposing fortress of Dyogel and demanding its surrender. The Raven commander declined and instead taunted the Prince and his heritage, strongly implying that his mother was in fact a Wenematron, and his father smelled of elderberries.

In Kothonan, a ceremony was held when the Thacian garrison commander turned the Prefecture over to Merryn ally Lord Pynbrendyr. Lord Pynbrendyr's 6,000 infantry also took over the long, boring siege of Fentenlas.

#### *1533: Clash of the Titans*

**U**rdan reinforcements arrived in Pareis. So did the dragon Skuld. Perhaps it was homing instinct, perhaps chance, but whatever the reason, Skuld arrived in Pareis in the spring.

She arrived just as two fleets were unloading Urdan armies in Pareis harbour. An Itaxik fleet commanded by the Countess of Kachar unloaded 18,000 Malebolge infantry, while a Hyrágecan fleet put another 7,000 knights and a brace of archers ashore.

#### *Dragons over Glasdor (1533)*

Skuld was met in the air by the dragon Temeyre, ridden by Ingazi Lord Torrin and accompanied by 120 airships. The battle was fierce, as these two mighty dragons clearly had an age-old enmity for each other. Ingazi's airships were batted down out of the sky like toys. Dragon breath claimed many of the fleet, as Skuld seemed intent on causing as much damage as she could.

Finally, the two dragons locked their claws around each other in mid-air and plummeted to

earth, claws still raking and biting each other as the fell. The sound of their impact on the ground could be felt in Pareis, many miles away. Both dragons were dead, as was Lord Torrin. The scattered remains of the Ingazi airfleet, perhaps twenty working vessels all told, limped back to Pareis under the command Torrin's senior most surviving Captain.

With the Urdan Allies still reeling from this slaughter in the air, the Raven host entered Glasdor. The terrified pickets fell back to Pareis. With the walls not repaired, the city appeared completely open to attack, and the wide avenues of Pareis seemed the ideal field for the might of Raven chivalry.

Count Merryn called a meeting of the Urdan Generals, where the decision was taken to meet the Raven host in the field rather than in the streets of Pareis. The next day, the Urdan armies marched out of the city to take up defensive positions near the ruins of Lynnyeyn in the hopes of fashioning defensive works from the great blocks of stone that were formerly part of the great fortress.

It was not to be. Before the army was even in position, the Raven host was already upon them.

*That Bloody Day: the Battle of Lynnyeyn (1533)*

The Heralds have pronounced it the greatest assemblage of Urdan nobility to take the field in the modern age. On the Urdan side, commanded by Count Merryn of Pareis, were Countess Kassa VII of Kachar, Baron Sarrik of Sansoleth, Baroness Miklata III of Uilaokatl, Captain-General Lord Irrjir Grenthe of Hyrágec, Colonel Sir Ronnel Torthes of Araxes, Captain Sir Rikken of Ingazi, and Lady Kat'kax of Eleçtoral Thace. Collectively, they commanded 117,000 infantry, 11,500 Hyrágecan cavaliers and knights, and twenty Ingazi airships.

On the Ravens' side, commanded by that tactical genius Grandmaster Mordrek of the Military Order of the Raven, were Prelate Artysr of the Raven Orthodox Church and Captain-General Hendra. They commanded the Raven host: 3,000 cataphraçti, 50,000 knights, and an additional 14,000 hussars and auxiliaries. Although they were

outnumbered, Grandmaster Mordrek ordered the charge. Within moments, they had completely overrun the disorganized Urdan infantry.

It looked as though the entirety of the infantry were going to fall under the hooves of the charging Raven host, but then Lord Grenthe ordered his cavaliers and knights to counter-charge into the very jaws of the Raven onslaught to give the infantry time to regroup. Though they must have known they were doomed, the flower of Hyrágecan chivalry shouted their traditional battle-cry—*for Urda and Empire!*—and charged to their certain deaths.

Captain-General Lord Irrjir Grenthe, leading the charge, was killed in the first moments of the tumultuous clash. Barely half the Hyrágecan knights and none of the cavaliers survived.

The Raven host simply rode through and over the Urdan army, leaving all their auxiliaries dead on the field but with few, if any, casualties to their cataphraçti and knights. Though there was no time to count the dead, it would not be an exaggeration to say that a third of the Urdans were dead on the field. Counted among the casualties were the Countess of Kachar and the Araxean commander Colonel Sir Ronnel Torthes. Ingazi's airships, which had swooped low during the battle to protect the van as best they could, were in disarray; fully half of them were grounded.

To the north, the Raven host wheeled in perfect unison and prepared again to charge. At the very sight, the Urdans trembled. Were it not for the commanding presence of Count Merryn, aided surprisingly by the grimly determined Baroness Miklata, the Urdan army might very well have broken right then. The Urdans formed up a line as best they could while the very ground shook with the thundering of the Raven hoofbeats.

The massive Saurian cataphraçti were the tip of the Raven spear that again plunged through the heart of the Urdan lines. Again, the infantry were overrun, but this time there was a difference. The Araxean longbowmen proved their mettle, sending volley after volley of arrows into the charging knights. As horse after horse went down, the ranks

of Raven knights behind found their movement impeded, and many crashed into the piles of the fallen and went down themselves.

The incredible discipline of the Raven knights, however, proved their deliverance, as they were able to redirect the charge and disentangle themselves from the massed heaps of the dead. Even so, the Ravens had lost fully a third of their knights, an outcome neither side had expected. As the 34,000 Raven cataphraḫti and knights withdrew to regroup, Count Merryn took stock of the Urdan forces. What he found horrified him. Nothing remained of the Ingazi airfleet. Baroness Miklata was dead. Scarcely 70,000 men remained, and more than a quarter of them were archers. Count Merryn was not sure that the Urdan army could survive another charge.

On the Raven side, there were similar doubts. Although Grandmaster Mordrek was certain his forces could win the day, and the recapture of Pareis was a clear priority, he was not completely convinced that enough of his men would survive another charge to retake the remainder of Duedhyn from the rebels and invaders. His plans had been thwarted at every turn, and he was starting to believe the Prelate that invisible flying Urdan nuns really were spying on his every move. In any case, it was clear that these archers would bleed them dry. Better to strike across the river. From Glasdor, the next logical move was to retake Avalow and then sweep around into the center of the country, taking as much land as possible from the invaders.

His mind made up, Grandmaster Mordrek ordered the Raven host to withdraw from the battlefield. The exhausted Urdans did not pursue them.



In the crisp autumn, just as the snows of October were beginning, the Thacian scouts returned to Tiogyon with the rest of their army. More than 50,000 cataphraḫti and 11,000 hussars were led by the Count Palatine's own brother, General Lord Basodir. The army's ensign fluttered from the Holy

Staff of Saint Berthilde, and the dragon Róta flew overhead. This enormous force wiped out the thousand or so Raven knights defending the region. Basodir had no trouble convincing the locals to pay him tribute. The burghers of Mordeis wanted no trouble, though the Raven fortress of Tallan resists the invaders.

After five long years under siege, the Raven fortress in Fentenlas finally surrendered.

*1534: One, United Duedhyn?*

**T**he Emperor finally spoke on the Duedhyn succession, and the news was devastating for the Raven cause. In the tenth Enabling Ordinance attached to *the Great Charter*, Emperor Sydath II recognized Prince Merryn as "the true and legitimate Prince of the Realm of Duedhyn". The Ravens, who had steeled themselves for a possible Imperial suppression of the Military Order, were utterly unprepared for this. With no Raven Prince visible anywhere, only a continuing Regency under the Grandmaster, popular support in Duedhyn for the Raven cause collapsed. Gwydhen rebelled from the Ravens, and the Raven fortress of Fowydh in Glastenen, under siege since 1530, surrendered to Prince Merryn.

Nevertheless, the Raven host pushed on into Avalow, which they hoped to make a lynch-pin in their sweep through the west Darriow plains. Instead of the feeble Merryn garrison they expected, they discovered to their horror that an Araxean army and the mighty steppe horde of Carcë had arrived the previous autumn.

The Raven host was much diminished, but still fielded 34,000 cataphraḫti and knights. Merryn-loyalist Baron Glannyn of Avalow had a smattering for troop, and Araxes had 17,000 cavaliers and 21,000 additional horsemen. The real problem was the Carcë horde, however. The great Sar Tahnik commanded 93,000 cavalry, including perhaps 5,000 cataphraḫti.

*Battle of the Grievous Field (1534)*

Grandmaster Mordrek was no fool; he immediately ordered evasion and retreat. Rather than chance the river, the Raven host rode flat-out to the south, fleeing across the countryside towards Kyndyr. They lost the Araxean and Avalow armies soon enough. Like lightning they rode, but the steppe horsemen pursued them with supernatural speed.

Just a few leagues shy of the Kyndyr border, near the cemetery of a small village church, the two armies met in battle. They say the sounds of the trumpeting cataphraçti could be heard for a hundred miles. Sar Tahnik's leadership corps included the sars of Anadë, Beshtria, Hoonisbe, and Rückar, and three of his sons fought at his side. In his youth, Tahnik received a classical military training in Thace, and he was a formidable general. Only one military leader in all of Sahúl might have matched him that day, and that was his opponent on the field, Grandmaster Mordrek.

The first resounding clash of these armies was a terrible sight to behold, as they swept into each other like converging rivers. Almost 130,000 horses and their riders struggled for supremacy on the field. The Carcë fought like wild tigers, while the Ravens were methodical and disciplined.

When the first charge parted, it was clear that ferocity had trumped order, for while the Carcë had lost 30,000 of their light cavalry, the Ravens had scarcely 15,000 men remaining. The Raven Prelate was among the dead, and it was all the Grandmaster could do to keep his army from breaking.

He sounded retreat, but again the stepperiders ran them down. This time, the outcome would not be in the slightest doubt. They fought with valour and with honour, but they could not stem the overwhelming force of the stepperiders.

At one point, Grandmaster Mordrek, unhorsed, fought back to back with a fellow knight. When Sar Tahnik was told of this, he ordered one of his own war-horses sent to the Grandmaster, "so he can die in his saddle as a true Saurian." And die he did, in the saddle of his enemy's horse, charging with the

last of his knights into a mass of steppe cataphraçti at overwhelming odds.

As evening fell, though there were still scattered skirmishes on the fringes of the field, it was clear that the Raven host had been utterly destroyed on the field of battle. Both Grandmaster Mordrak and Captain-General Hendra were dead.

On the Carcë side, there were but 10,000 dead, including Sar Dohzyel Tazeshin of Anadë.

As is their custom, the stepperiders gathered all the dead of both armies into an enormous pile and set them ablaze in a funerary pyre that burned for days. Once the bones were cool, they were heaped up in a great pile decorated with the banners and arms of the vanquished.



Though Kachar was newly independent, the Kachar fleet nevertheless followed their orders and enforced a trade blockade of all Raven transport on the Darriow.

With Prince Meriasek's heirs all missing, and the secretive senior leadership of the Raven Military Order and Church dead, Meriasek loyalists had no where to turn. Even as the Military Order of the Raven elected a new Grandmaster in their mountain fastness of Brandinas in the person of Sir Dewethva of Pesk, the garrison in Lowarthow rebelled, choosing Sir Morthwith of Noweth for their master. The Raven Orthodox Church found it difficult to replace the ancient Artyrs, and when they finally did, the fellow promptly changed his name to Artyrs the second.

The triumphant Prince Merryyn III, meanwhile, rode at the head of a detachment of cataphraçti into Thacian-held Tiogyon, where he and his company were greeted with great hospitality by General Lord Basodir and his men.

In Pareis, Count Merryyn played host to the Araxes heir, Count Tramandes of Thangkar, and his family.

### PRINCIPALITY OF DUEDHYN (7 S/UR)

*His Highness, Prince Merryn III, the Great, of Duedhyn, Lord Goslowes, Baron Dhanos, Defender of the Faith.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Elphárec, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, ThaceE, Urdráhahn

**DP:** Failed.

**D**Prince Merryn got by with a little help from his friends. With the defeat of the Raven host and the disappearance of all of Meriasek's heirs,

### MILITARY ORDER OF THE RAVEN (3 S/RA)

*Sir Dewethva of Pesk, Grandmaster of the Military Order of the Sacred Raven.*

*His Holiness Artys II, Prelate of the Raven Orthodox Church.*

**Trade:** None.

**DP:** None.

**R**educed to their mountain holdings, the Order believes it can defend itself indefinitely from the invaders. Having said that, without trade his little realm appears on the verge of economic collapse.

### COUNTY OF TIRYOWGLAS (29 SW/IL)

*His Excellency, Count Truedhek II, Baron Kwilkyn, Count of Tiryouglas, Defender of the Faith.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi, ID, IOC, Murali, Urdráhahn

**DP:** None.

**T**iryouglas spent its vast treasury investing in infrastructure and public works. The Count's heir, the young and handsome Lord Sarrik, remains the most eligible bachelor in the County. While the newspapers have paired him with several ladies of the court, none of the liaisons appears serious as yet.

The irascible old Colonel-General Dalleth Lord Kyger, a fixture in the Tiryouglas army for almost fifty years, died in his bed in Alwedh in 1535. A national day of mourning was declared.

Infantry quality improved, and the Tiryougli sorcerers made a major breakthrough.

### ILUVARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (26 IL)

*His All Holiness, Pope Harmony VIII, Pontiff of Sistrameides, Archemendrite of Ilúbir.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Cappargarnia, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Elphárec, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Murali, Tiryouglas, Urdráhahn

**DP:** None.

**P**ope Harmony VIII threw more resources at his many half-completed building projects. As a result, Amity Priory in Sennow finally became an abbey. Assorted internal investments paid off with some improvements to the Pontiff's airship.

Papal nuncios were sent clear across the continent in an effort to find common ground and make common cause with the other Iluvarian Churches.

The Ingazi School of Law sent the wise Iluvarian Pope their largest wheel of cheese. While this was acclaimed initially as a mighty gesture of friendship, the fact is that after a year or so, you couldn't find anywhere in Sistrameides that didn't smell of cheese, and the clerics working in the Chancery are getting mighty tired of "fondue Fridays".

The Elphárec airfleet withdrew from Sistrameides briefly to accompany the young Duke home.

### MOST SANGUINE DUCHY OF ELPHÁREC (34 W/IL)

*His Grace, Eparreb Tashnes V, the Well-Liked, Count of Angûron and Siddhan, Duke of Elphárec.*

**Trade:** Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Hyrágec, Ingazi, ID, IOC, Tiryouglas

**DP:** None.

**T**he Regent's last major act was signing the *Treaty of Perendar* with the King of Hyrágec. The dashing and dapper Duke Tashnes returned home from University in 1533 to a grand reception, gloriously escorted by the mighty Elphárec air armada. He was fêted everywhere he went; every village and town held a festival or fair in his honour as he passed through. By the time the Duke's travelling party arrived in the capital

of Epadh, it had actually become something of a travelling party.

The Regent had arranged a tremendous celebration for the Duke's return to Epadh, which suited the young Duke just fine. For days the streets of the city flowed with wine, and the Duke himself quickly earned a well-deserved reputation as a charming playboy. With some misgivings, Count Gorran turned over the keys to the palace to his nephew the Duke and resigned his regency.

Morcrades Lord Ebléc remained in command of the army, and he helped organize the parades for the return of his brother-in-law, the Duke.

The Regent's "new, shinier Elphárec" programme continued under the Duke with massive spending in public works in every corner of the Duchy. A new Diplomatic Academy was built in Epadh and named after the former Regent: the *Count Gorran School of International Studies*. Large sums of foreign investment are evident throughout the Duchy.

Dowager Duchess Enebrel took a long vacation in a secret, undisclosed location before returning to the capital with her armed escort of cavaliers, knights, and auxiliary horseguards.

A considerable sum of unclaimed Imperial monies and materials for Winter Relief was held in trust, as no petitions were made directly to the Duchy.

#### **KINGDOM OF HYRÁGEC (31 W/UR)**

*His Valiant Majesty Irrjir Frenthes v, King of Hyrágec, Beloved of Urda.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Elphárec, Golmath, Ingazi, ID, IOC, Kitchat, Kumara, Tiryowglas, ThaceD, ThaceE, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.



King Frenthes funded the merit-based scholarship programme he had initiated as Crown Prince. Continuing his stress on education, he also expanded the Kingdom's primary school system. Royal engineers in Mænárec surveyed a great canal from the Odelan River, and some preliminary excavation commenced. Where the canal is intended to terminate is as yet unclear.

A career military man, the new King himself rode at the head of the enormous Royal Army from Perendar down the Royal Road to the capital of Pahasar. In contrast to the continuous party attending the Duke of Elphárec, this entry into the capital was sober and steady, a magnificent triumph at the head of almost 70,000 cavaliers and knights, not to mention hussar outriders and airships. By the time the King arrived in 1535, with Queen Alvitirre at his side and their four children riding behind, he was being hailed as the reincarnation of the mighty and glorious Kings of the past.

Reports of a shambling forest grove following the army are surely exaggerated. Surely.

The King's eldest son, the brilliant but self-effacing Crown Prince Rahnes, entered the Pahasar Military Academy in 1535. His perspicacious brother Prince Andjes looks forward to entering the Royal University in 1536.

The great Hyrágecan baby boom started coming of age, flooding the Kingdom's labour market with younger sons as the yeomanry overgrew their feudal farms.

Naval technology hit a new milestone.

Near the ancient Shrine of Moroko, the Abbey of Our Lady of Chivalry was expanded to a Cathedral using Royal funds and Church labour.

Lady Eratha returned to Hyrágec with considerably more alacrity than she left. She wandered about in a daze much of the time, speaking to people not present and looking at things not there. She referred to it as her "past sight", and claimed to be living simultaneously in the present and 2,800 years in the past. She visited the ruined city of Apirri, an ancient city laid waste by the Hyrágecan Crusades. It was, as it turned out, even more ancient than many had supposed.

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# The Gawan Peninsula

## THE FEUDAL NORTHEAST

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### COUNTY PALATINE OF INGAZI (37 W/UR)

*His Excellency, Baron Razhim of Marriya, Prince-Regent of Ingazi.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, Golmath, GUT, Hyrágec, Iäthedain, ID, IOC, Kitchat, Kumara, Murali, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**C**ount Palatine Trememeres IV named his son and heir Razhim as Baron of Marriya<sup>17</sup> and Prince-Regent of Ingazi, as he travelled to Sardarthion to take up his new position as Chancellor of the Empire.

The Prince-Regent continued investments in public works and military expansion, including the construction of a new fleet of sloops of war.

Ingazi expanded the national rugby programme, reorganizing their national league and forming an international league: the All Sahûl League (ASL). As a first test of the new ASL, the Ingazi national team hosted the Zarkhandu All-Blacks, a *Human* team in what they euphemistically called “a friendly” in 1531. The game began with the All-Blacks coming on to the field a performing a *haka*, a fearsome traditional Human dance, performed with vigorous movements and stamping of the feet with rhythmically shouted accompaniment.

The Ingazi Nationals were positively terrified.

The All-Blacks won the coin toss and almost immediately scored a try and a conversion as they ran circles around the still-shocked Ingazi. By the half, the All-Blacks were up 13–0 on three tries and two conversions. During halftime, the Ingazi coach harangued his players and got a bit of their fighting spirit back into them.

Ingazi dominated the second half, tying the score on a converted try and a pair of drop goals. In the final minutes of play, the All-Blacks scored

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<sup>17</sup> A title long in abeyance, the Count Palatine intends it to be borne by future Ingazi heirs.

a drop goal of their own, winning the game 17–13 and earning themselves a bye in the first tournament round of 1537.

The game's aftermath included the Ingazi National team and the All-Blacks attempting to drink each other to death in the general celebrations throughout the Stadium District of Ingazi City. Although there were no casualties, the last player standing was one of the Ingazi props, so he declared victory and promptly passed out for two days.

King Tirach Bæn of Zarkhandu briefly visited Deriháhn in 1532 on his way to Sardarthion. He visited a small bakery on Daffodil Street, renowned throughout the East for its pastries. Rumour has it that he was wearing an All-Blacks jersey.

Meanwhile, a Cappargarnian airfleet entered Ingazi over the mountain fastness of Yiannis, having apparently spent some time in Golmath. They made a bee-line for the volcanic vents on the Ingazi side of the holy mountain, Mount Aradaun. Some months after they landed, the mountain rumbled to life, frosting much of the Holy Mother's demense with a light dusting of ash. Shortly thereafter, 10,000 of the stout mountain folk of Yiannis showed up at the site of the Cappargarnian landing. They wasted no time in attacking.

The Cappargarnian airships were grounded, as their leader<sup>18</sup> was busy near one of the volcanic vents, forging a Spell Crystal. The Yiannis made short work of the invaders, capturing the airships and a considerable sum of raw materials and Spell Crystals.

Ingazi's airship quality improved.

### CHURCH UNIVERSAL & TRIUMPHANT (57 UR)

*Her All-Holiness Jerröe x, the Leaping Horse, First Matriarch of Urda, Proteētor of Sahûl.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Aeron, Cappargarnia, Carcë, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Golmath, Hyrágec, Iäthedain, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Itaxik, Kachar, Kitchat, Murali, Nikka, Pehuatoka, Sakkar, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas

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<sup>18</sup> A scion of one of the Republic's ancient Houses, Sevas Porrin.

DP: None.

**F**irst Matriarch Jerröe trundled up her various charges for a field trip to Sardarthion! Escorted by the Order of the Owl, Prince Ataíri the Dragonborn of Kuroa, the ten-year old Princess Iritána of Pakoa, a gaggle of Thacian princes and princesses all spent a few weeks taking in the sights and meeting with Emperor Sydath. Although the students returned within the month, the First Matriarch remained in Sardarthion until mid-1535.

A largish construction project in Urdraháhn wrapped up, and vast amounts of cash were sent out of the city to various Urdaun realms.

In 1532 Mount Aradaun rumbled briefly to life, frosting much of the Holy Mother's demense with a light dusting of ash. The eruption (three times!) of Mount Pupini resulted in a great deal more noise, but a great deal less ash.

### GOLMATHI CIVIL WAR (1523-1535)

*Prince Parndarra vs. Prince Zhogian, Aradéc*

*1531: A Mixed Bag*

**P**rince Parndarra's Puritans made one last bid for righteous victory against the forces of moral and cultural degeneration. Prince Zhogian, meanwhile, sent flying columns throughout the countryside while his ally King Deric of Aradéc maintained the defenses of Golmath City and Madran.

Both Princes sacrificed to the Hidden Lords, but if the gods heard their supplications, they gave no obvious sign.

Parndarran Colonel Wilgi led 24,000 dragoons and 8,500 horsemen into Pirayi to bring down the center of FOCT power once and for all. Although the defenders quickly fell, Wilgi's dragoons pillaged the region. The town of Elam was sacked, and the Cathedral of Serri accidentally burnt to the ground. The senior clerics of the "Mordican church" were rounded up and tried for heresy<sup>19</sup>. Several of the

higher churchmen were found guilty and burnt at the stake. Apparently their being high officials in the FOCT was proof enough of their depravity in the eyes of the judge.

In Dalkurnu, a parley was held with Zhogian's man Adama and the mercenary captain "Spears" Willefor, under contract to Prince Parndarra. Money changed hands, and Captain Willefor stood down his intended attack.

Zhogian's younger brother Count Sardirian led an imposing force of 24,000 pike and 3,000 dragoons, not to mention the Hawkwood Company, into Khurnurrir, which they quickly occupied. At Anshan, the army split. The Hawkwood Company, Sardirian, and the pike headed north, while the dragoons under Lady "Gertrude" swept down the coast road through Daryis and into Marniyi.

### *The Bay of Ebalon Naval Campaign*

Puritan Commodore Watli led a fleet of about 170 ships in what was obviously intended to be a blockade in the Bay of Ebalon. Against this, Zhogian sent the Wizard Baltar and 160 ships of his own. Commodore Watli's incompetence was more than matched by the utterly hopeless Baltar, and both fleets flailed at each other without doing a great deal of damage.

Then came the Royal Aradéc Navy: 885 ships led by the able and experienced Admiral Henri. The fleet included a fair number of galleons and caravels, not to mention a pair of Devas. They sailed past the floundering Baltar and engaged Watli's Puritan fleet.

The hapless Watli never stood a chance, and the battle was over almost before it began. As scores of Royal Aradéc Marines swarmed his flagship, Commodore Watli scuttled the ship. The marines fled, lest they be drowned, and several reported seeing a cache of spell crystals tumble from the hold as the ship went down. Not a one of the Puritan ships remained afloat.



<sup>19</sup> Not being Puritans, they were immediately suspect.

Lord Gussie, ruler of the Golmath Underlands Territory, was fearful of his position being over-run by Zarkhandu-backed Yani<sup>20</sup>. Therefore, he made a carefully-worded deal with the one Golmathi faction that had actually concluded a peace treaty with Zarkhandu. In the agreement, Lord Gussie was very careful to note that he was in no way making a decision over claims to Golmath's throne. Nevertheless, the GUT became a vassal of Prince Zhogian.

#### *1532: Zhogian on the March*

**I**n the northwest, "Spears" Willeforn and his crew retreated into hilly Yukarra while Adama and his dragoons struck out west to Dalgányi, where they were required to extract tribute from a hostile Puritan population.

Lady Gertrude's dragoons swept down the road through Vara and into Kirtirryi, claiming those regions for Prince Zhogian. Although Puritan sentiment is strong in Kirtirryi, there's little evidence of it in Vara at all.

The major action, however, was in Makuwali. Here in the Puritan stronghold of Pagumath, which Prince Parndarra had made his temporary capital, the people were seriously riled up against the "apostasy and heresy" of Zhogian's "Mordican" Tarotists. Although there was no defensive army at all in the region when Zhogian's younger brother Count Sardirian and his 24,000 pike showed up, the battle for Makuwali was far from a forgone conclusion. The Zhogians were beset by assassins and Puritan partisans, which whittled away at Sardirian's forces while they put siege to the hastily-rebuilt walls surrounding Pagumath. In the end, Sardirian was required to pacify the region and string up a few of the Puritan leaders as an example.

#### *1533: Win Some, Lose Some*

**C**ount Sardirian's siege of the Puritan stronghold of Pagumath continued in bloody fashion, as the Puritan fanatics would not willingly give an inch to those they regarded as "unclean betrayers of the Gods". A fleet of caravels under the Laird of Clan Duich sailed upriver to join the blockade. Within months, the last of the hastily-constructed defensive walls there fell. Even in victory, the Count suffered another assassination attempt when an arrow nicked off his gorget.

To the east the Puritan Prince Parndarra was himself leading his armies in battle against the Baron of Windra's 8,500 invading men in the hills of Nunharri.

#### *Battle of the Spurs (1533)*

It was the classic battle of cavalry versus infantry. The emaciated Prince Parndarra led 10,000 black-clad Puritan knights against the Baron of Windra's 8,500 footmen and engineers. Given Golmath's superior infantry, the battle was largely decided by leadership and battle magic.

The brilliant (if slightly crazed) Colonel Justanni led the initial charge into the Windran infantry. There was no need for a second charge. The Baron of Windra and his entire force were dead on the field of battle, while the Puritans lost perhaps a thousand knights.



Commodore Baltar paid a visit to Nappamiri, bringing that island back into Zhogian's orbit.

Zarkhandu's claims to Golmath were duly noted and promptly ignored.

#### *1534: The Emperor Decides*

**W**ith the publication of the Great Charter, the Emperor found in favour of Prince Zhogian. This had rather less effect on the Puritan cause than one might expect. While many

<sup>20</sup> As he put it at a particularly memorable dinner party, "Z to the Y means a big X for us, I'm afraid."

of Golmath's fence-straddling nobles now firmed up their support for Prince Zhogian<sup>21</sup>, the true believers in Prince Parndarra's camp were not about to let the Tarotist religious question of the age be decided by a mere *Yagnarišt*, Emperor or no.

In the far west, Colonel Adama's dragoons forced tribute from the now *extremely* hostile Puritans of Karirpulyi.

Prince Panndarra's army reached Windra in the summer, and they found that region in active rebellion from both sides as the young new Baron of Windra declared his independence. Having no armies to back that up, however, the region soon fell under Puritan rule. The city of Wendahahn's walls were never rebuilt following the assault of that city in the Twenty Years' War back in 1386. Consequently, it surrendered to the Puritans without a peep, while the Baron of Windra escaped into exile. The FOCT priory of Nari was cleared of its Mordican priesthood, and severe Puritan preachers were installed.

Having secured the eastern bank of the river and, more importantly, Windra Bridge, the Puritans felt pretty good about retaking the capital of Golmath in the spring.

### *1535: A Right Proper Thumping*

**S**pring came to Golmath, and the Puritan army converged on Madran. From the south came the zealot Colonel Wilgi and his 32,000 dragoons and cavalry. From the east, Prince Parndarra's knights set out across Windra Bridge. It was at this moment that King Deric of Aradéc led his enormous army to attack the Puritans crossing the bridge.

### *Battle of Windra Bridge (1535)*

The might of Aradéc's Royal Army was terrifying. While archers and artillery took up positions in the western towers and Golmath's walls and seventy airships overflowed the bridge, 50,000 spectral knights rode *through* the charging Puritans. If

<sup>21</sup> Civil War rules are no longer in effect in Golmath.

that wasn't enough, 27,000 Iluvarian cavaliers and 25,000 knights counter-charged the approaching Puritan knights<sup>22</sup>. The deafening clatter of hooves on stone shook the bridge as the two armies charged each other.

The battle was a bloodbath, and the horror of dying horses and wenemet falling a hundred feet into the river below was a scene that no one who witnessed it will ever forget. Somehow, the tides of battle brought together Deric and Parndarra, the cavalier in pomp and finery and the gaunt Puritan in somber black. Their swords crashed against each other, and time itself seemed to slow down as all eyes turned to these two warriors. A great shout rose as Parndarra's magical sword raked across the front of Deric's visorless helm, trailing royal blood behind.

Parndarra had overreached, however, and King Deric swung his great sword up and into Parndarra's shoulder. The force of the blow was sufficient to unhorse the Puritan Prince, and the swirling tide of battle soon forced them apart.

When night had fallen, Aradéc had secured the bridge, and they discovered Prince Parndarra among the dead. As for King Deric, he could not seek medical attention until the battle was nearly over, and by that time he had lost a lot of blood. The doctors prescribed bed rest for the weakened king, and they informed him that Parndarra's sword had claimed his left eye, as well as leaving a deep furrowed gash across his muzzle.



The beautiful and beguiling Baroness Jejodh Dara of Nydoon led her 24,000-man army into Wirni, reclaiming that forest prefecture for Prince Zhogian with minimal losses. She is increasingly happy to have backed the right Prince.



<sup>22</sup> And let's not dwell overlong on the second rank of Iluvarian forces, including 24,000 dragoons, 20,000 hussars, and 12,500 pikemen. After all, the bridge couldn't really support all of them at once anyway.

When Colonel Wilgi's dragoons heard of the Prince's death, there was panic in the ranks. The Colonel was able to get his men under control, and they beat a hasty retreat back to Pirayi.

With the death of Prince Parndarra without heir, the remaining Walarri Clan Mothers grudgingly accepted the reign of Prince Zhogian. The true-believing Puritans, however, were not about to submit to the rule of the Mordican Church and "the Hierarch's kilted errand-boy".

While some tried to persuade Wilgi to accept the crown of a "Puritan Commonwealth", the Colonel refused. Instead, he and his army remain in Pirayi. The Colonel instead indicated that he will stand down his forces in return for amnesty for himself and his men.

The remaining Puritan regions passed into independence except for Murrugapa, where Commodore Baltar just happened to be visiting.

In the Underlands, Lord Gussie accepted the decision of the Emperor and (more importantly) the Clan Mothers. There is still some question of the GUT's status within the Principality – vassal? march? none of the above? – but for the moment Gussie is happy that somebody with an army has his back.

#### **PRINCIPALITY OF GOLMATH (50 W/TA)**

*His Gracious Majesty, Volpel-Walarri Zhogian, Baron Volpel, Count of Runazar, Electoral Prince of Golmath.*

*His Great Holiness, Mordican II, the Really Old, Hierarch of the Fellowship of Connate Tarotists and Pontiff of the Hidden Lords at Serri.*

*Baroness Jejodh Dara of Nydoon, the Beautiful and Beguiling.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Atuburrk, Hyrágec, Iäthedain, Ingazi, ID, Murali, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

**DP:** Failed.



he kilted Runazari Prince Zhogian is now sole and legal claimant to his Principality. Of course, there are still an awful lot of

Puritans running around, and the religious divide in his realm is deeper than it has ever been.

The Laird of Clan Harret landed a small army in Yuwa in 1534 and took the place. The town of Tyrvale surrendered after a year-long siege.

Meanwhile, deep in the south, Golmath spent oodles of resources improving the lot of their Thalari subjects. The last of the Thalari colonists settled in Nurl (3222)τ.

Siege quality improved, and the government thankfully expanded.

#### **REPUBLIC OF KUMARA (4W/KY)**

*Baron Abmbur Kašten II of Dambiyi, First Speaker of the Republic, Servitor of the King in Yellow.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Hyrágec, Ingazi

**DP:** Minyappa (F)



he Republic played host to an ambassador from Zarkhandu. Although intrigued by the Yagnarist's offer, Baron Kasten carefully explained to him that the Republic followed the King in Yellow, of the True Arcana, and not Yagnar. He allowed as how there were a number of similarities in their theology and liturgy, so there is certainly some basis for further negotiations.

The Baron also showed off several handsomely bound copies of the new Kumari Catechism. He cheerfully explained to the ambassador that the entire press run had been bound in the skins of Iluvarian missionaries, probably from Aradéc.

To Kumara's delight, their own missionaries made some headway in Karruni.

New public works went up in Dambiyi.

#### **ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ARADÉC (48 W/IL)**

*His Royal Majesty, Sansollen Deric II, the One-Eyed, Baron of Wanumarra, Count of Abijar, Electoral King of Aradéc.*

*Urlarra Perrim, esquire, Speaker of the House of Commons.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia,

Einandhu, Golmath, Hyrágec, Iäthedain,

ID, IOC, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Kumara,  
Murali, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

**DP:** Failed.

**K**ing Deric became a blooded hero in Golmath, which certainly upped his stock in Darnuldeis. The capital, meanwhile, was home to the usual round of Deva summoning and parliamentary wrangling. In fact, Parliament has started solidifying into political parties.

The two dominant parties are still the Whags and the Royalists, with the Royalists easily the largest party in both houses and enjoy an outright majority in the Commons.

Two new parties have been formed as well: the *Prosperity Party* (self-interested urban merchants supporting commerce and the towns above all), and the *Silly Party*, which seems to advocate the wearing of red rubber noses and yellow galoshes, even when it isn't raining. Between them, the two new parties have less than 10% in the Commons and no representatives in the Clanmoot.

Sir Onmon Dagames, the elderly Speaker of the Commons, died on a state visit to Karruni. Although some are crying foul play, Sir Dagames was in his seventies and not in the best of health. The House chose the head of the Royalist Party as their new Speaker.

Large amounts of resources were invested in public works to promote sustainable cold-weather agricultural practices and methods.

Crown Prince Paharnes entered the Royal Military Academy and is expected to graduate in 1536. The Academy itself expanded, and Aradéc's infantry quality improved.

#### COUNTY OF MURALI (22 W/TA)

*His Excellency, Kilyara Torthes II, Baron of Karrka, Count of Murali, Lord Admiral of the Red.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Golmath, Ingazi, IOC,  
Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Yani

**DP:** Ebalon March (F)

**T**he ancient Count Drathnes celebrated his 80th birthday in 1531 with a week long national celebration that included wine,

music, and fireworks. Rumour has it that a Prince of Golmath attended a private dinner party celebrating the birthday, though nobody in the palace is talking about it.

The Count made the Margrave of Ebalon an offer he couldn't refuse. Although Murali is now at war with Zarkhandu, the Count is convinced that he can strike a deal with his southern neighbours. Apparently, he was mostly after Ebalon's fantastic rugby program and the odd city.

New public works projects were started in every region of the County, and large investments in the County's future continued undiminished. Infantry, naval, and airship quality all improved.

Count Drathnes died in 1533 at the age of 82. He was succeeded by his son, who is no spring chicken either. The following year, Count Torthes was appointed Lord Admiral of the Red, keeping the office securely in Murali hands.

The navy continued joint patrols with Ingazi on the Antean.

#### THE PARTITION OF THE MARCH OF EBALON

**T**he young Margrave Volpel Tregarion III knew when he'd been dealt a bad hand. War with Zarkhandu, a disintegrating realm, and the ever-looming threat of a re-united Golmath all served to severely curtail his options.

When a Murali diplomat showed up in 1531 with large piles of cash and a rosy promise of future employment, the Margrave jumped at the chance. Unfortunately, the following year saw an enormous force of Zarkhandu pikemen<sup>23</sup> and zombies shamle into Ebalon's home region of Zadok. They, too came with piles of cash, with the promise of a cushy retirement. The Margrave had already cast his lot in with Murali, however, and he was determined to resist<sup>24</sup>. That didn't go terribly well.

<sup>23</sup> Although the zombies were certainly ex-Saurians, the pike were overwhelmingly Malebolge, a fact that the locals treated with some alarm. In any event, they wore the livery of the Twilight March.

<sup>24</sup> Were it not for the zombies, the Zarkhandine force would certainly have arrived first.

Zarkhandu swept through the region, forcing tribute from the frightened farmers and fishermen. What remained of the Margrave's army holed up in the nigh impregnable city of Baratak while the Yagnarist armies burnt Ruulk Tor Priory and raided the countryside for slaves. The small fortress of Rhetan also holds out against the invaders.

In Yarnith, 20,000 Yagnarists (and the understated but devastatingly lethal demon Pachad) assaulted the venerable Tarotist Cathedral of Random. Although the Cathedral canons and staff mounted a spirited defense, they stood very little chance against a proper army. The Zarkhandu army captured numerous high churchmen, and locked down the entire place before advancing into Vess in 1532. After sweeping aside the meagre defenses there, they set to besieging the city of Iannib.

The walls of Iannib proved quite daunting, but the Yagnarists had an answer. More than a hundred great stone golems were enchanted from the native stones, and they methodically tore down the walls of the city. The army occupied Iannib without further incident.

The following year, a Zarkhandu fleet landed 5,000 knights, 11,500 infantry, and 10,000 zombies in Toworrah. The hapless natives managed to kill some of the zombies, but were otherwise quickly pacified. To punish them for their defiance, the Zarkhandu commander ordered slaves to be taken from the villages of all those who resisted. In practice, this meant that every village was raided for slaves.

#### DRACONIC BARONY OF IÄTHEDAIN (9 SW/UR)

*Baron Darandein Zharharn II of Iäthedain, the Lovable but Gruff, Lord Dragonwood.*

*Sir Trefusis Pennires, Grandmaster of the Military Order of the Red Dragon.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Golmath, Ingazi, Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za, Zarkhandu

**DP:** Nope. But we're friendly!



ided by continuing massive infusions of resources and personnel from the Church, the gruff old Baron Zharharn continued to build his tiny realm. The Urdan town of

Anúrdar rose in Tarotist Kefádhu, and the town of Pescara in Treal. Roads were built from Glenurda to Pescara, and from the capital of Iäthedeis to Ardona. A new river port was built where the Antean meets the Shuden road.

Finally, Tarotist Kefádhu was overrun with friendly, well-scrubbed Urdan missionaries. The prefecture had been majority Urdan as recently as 1475, and there were still communities of underground Urdan worshippers in the highlands. Within five years, the situation had completely reversed, and now the majority of Kefádhu is Urdan with an uneasy Tarotist minority.

Some instructors from the Order of Saint Annír took up positions in the Iäthedeis Academy. The government expanded.

#### IÄTHEDEK: THE PROTECTORATE OF FRIEBÆLD



he great Wyrms Friebæld was unseen, working deep within the recesses of her domain. The forests of Pendiron were judged by her to be finally healed of their scars, and so she sent notice that she was withdrawing her dominion of that land. Scagadon and the Wyrmwaste, however, remain firmly hers for some time to come.

#### VEILED MASTERS OF YARNI-ZA (29 YG)

*His Unholy Magnificence, the Lich Ystar, Thirteenth Patriarch of the Priests of Ozahn, Dread Hand of Yagnar, Voice of the Hidden Masters of Yarni-Za, Lord of the Fell.*

**Trade:** Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, Iäthedain, Taneki, Zarkhandu

**DP:** Why should we tell you?



star the Lich continues to rule through trusted intermediaries. These days, nobody gets in to see the Lich. Some have speculated that Ystar's corpulent corpse has collapsed into a puddle of goo and his "advisors" are the ones running the show now. Some of the Masters of the outlying Cathedrals are showing a lot less deference than they used to.

Perhaps taking a clue from Zarkhandu, a bizarre new construction was undertaken in Yarni-Za. It

appears to be an artificial pond or vat of some sort. What it is, no one seems to know.

Well, at least airship quality improved.

#### **KINGDOM OF ZARKHANDU (55 S/DF)**

*Her Majesty Queen Tannika, Regent for...*

*His Dread Majesty, Tirach Bæn, Lord Sakkath, Count of Vùhlath & Mlideen, Duke of Hyáglión, King of Zarkhandu.*

*His Majesty, Tirach Zhur the Magnificent, Prince Imperial, Grandmaster of the Order of the Second Sons.*

**Trade:** Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Iäthedain, ID, Yarni-Za

**DP:** Garghas (F)

**Z**arkhandu's religious fervour cooled as the former Kommolek lands integrated into the Kingdom. With King Tirach Bæn out of the country, his wife the sorceress Tannika served as Queen Regent. She effectively prosecuted the war against the Ebalon fragments of Golmath while her husband the King was humiliated in Sardarthion.

With news that the Kingdom had been stripped of its electoral status, it very much appeared as though civil unrest would again convulse Zarkhandu. The usual tributaries renounced their tribute, and it appeared that rebellion might be spreading through the army. Thousands of ordinary people marched in fear and anger on the palace. The Queen, however, would have none of it.

She appeared on the balcony overlooking the plaza and addressed her people. The people were captivated by her resolve and her strength. By the time she had shouted out the final lines of her speech<sup>25</sup>, the crowd had been transformed, cheering for the Queen and chanting praises to Zarkhandu and the House of Sakkath.

<sup>25</sup> "For two thousand years we have been Zarkhandu. Hundreds of years before the Empire, we were a Kingdom, and long after this present Empire has passed into history, we shall still be a Kingdom."



A Wenemet spy was caught and killed nosing around the royal treasure vaults in 1534. His identity remains, for the moment, a mystery.

Andel of Kommolek died at the age of 77 in 1535. He was much mourned by his students.

Haidek was colonized, and Zarkhandu's navy reported some small improvements. Iägadur in Garghas was resettled into a city again.

Zarkhandu was involved in *the Delin Incident*.

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## The Underlands

### DOWN UNDER

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#### **GOLMATH UNDERLANDS TERRITORIES**

**L**ord Gussie thanked the gods for the reunification of Golmath (mostly). He only wishes he could get a decent gin and tonic in the Underlands.

#### **LORDSHIP OF YANI (17 Y/-)**

*Mani Tunapri, Lord Yani, Master of the Union Guilds of the Federated Towns of Yangina and Putini.*

**Trade:** Murali

**DP:** Temma (F)

**Y**ani repudiated their vassalage to Zarkhandu, which caused a long and very public argument in the press between Lord Yani and the Electoral King of Zarkhandu, Tirach Bæn. The entire argument was rendered moot by the promulgation of *the Great Charter* in 1534.

The Yani concentrated on development, building the towns of Vilani in Lutana and Yamina in the beautiful Caverns of Song.



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# Imperial Gazette

Published by the Ancient and Undaunted Order of Heraldry by Appointment to His Imperial Majesty

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His August & Imperial Majesty  
**Emperor Sudath II**

Count of Odol, Elector and Grand Duke of Atuburrk,  
Sovereign of Sahûl, Lord of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion,  
Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Emperor of All  
the World.

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## APPOINTMENTS

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To Governor of Kaidu, Orinos, Sardior, Tramelis,  
Yann: *by exam.*

To Chancellor of the Empire: Count Palatine Gwariva  
Trememeres IV of Ingazi.

For further appointments, please see *The Great Charter*.

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## IMPERIAL OFFICES

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Chancellor of the Empire:..... *Ingazi*

Speaker of the House of Peers: .....*Hyrágec*

Justices of the Imperial Chamber Court:

..... *Chancellor of the Empire*

.....*Speaker of the House of Peers*

..... *Chi'tixi* (through 1574)

..... *Averon* (through 1569)

..... *Tokatl* (through 1564)

Lord Admiral of the Blue: ..... *Cappargarnia*

Lord Admiral of the Green: ..... *Tokatl*

Lord Admiral of the Red:.....*Murali*

Marshal of Thacia: ..... *Thace (Duchy)*

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## ENNOBLEMENT

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Please see THE GREAT CHARTER.

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## FREE COMPANIES & ERRANTRY &C.

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WILLEFORN'S SPEARS—14mi 4li

Captain: "Spears" Willeforn (LA53W) TR age 34

Location: *Yukarra Prefecture, Kaparis Province*

Min. Bid: 20GP / TURN / *hired by Golmath*

HAWKWOOD COMPANY—32mc 18pk 10mi

Captain: Lord Dwinbi Sardes (L974W) TR age 46

Location: *Pagumath, Makulali Pref., Kaparis Prov.*

Min. Bid: 60GP / TURN / *hired by Golmath*

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## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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ALL BANK LOANS must be repaid within two Turns at 120%  
of the original amount of the loan. Those wishing to borrow  
from the Imperial Bank must contact the Board of Directors  
in advance.

*continued on page 3*

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS OF THE EMPIRE

Province	GPv	Ref.	Governor	Province	GPv	Ref.	Governor
Agador	55	—	bureaucrat	Kembul	50	—	bureaucrat
Anabreis	45	—	bureaucrat	Kiermon	65	—	bureaucrat
Aradaun	75	—	bureaucrat	Kinsidan	25	14	bureaucrat
Arador	55	—	Aradéc	Kordier	60	14	vacant
Ardebon	50	—	Atuburrk	Kumarand	55	7	bureaucrat
Artier	60	8	vacant	Lambris	35	—	bureaucrat
Balashan	60	—	vacant	Larloc	55	14	bureaucrat
Belegaridor	55	—	bureaucrat	Mondahan	8	—	vacant
Biralis	65	14	bureaucrat	Muralis	50	—	bureaucrat
Chos	45	—	vacant	Narchoal	25	7	bureaucrat
Dorthacia	25	—	bureaucrat	Nauatidran	5	8	bureaucrat
Dranchoal	45	8	vacant	Orinos	65	17	bureaucrat
Dranmul	50	—	bureaucrat	Sachon	35	—	bureaucrat
Drazhan	10	—	bureaucrat	Sardior	100	17	bureaucrat
Endior	45	—	bureaucrat	Sistramidior	65	—	bureaucrat
Iantier	55	—	bureaucrat	Tepalis	50	7	bureaucrat
Iasedior	35	—	vacant	ThaciaMaior	70	11	bureaucrat
Kaidu	35	17	bureaucrat	ThaciaMinor	60	11	bureaucrat
Kanapad	10	8	bureaucrat	Thebia	45	—	vacant
Kanmul	75	—	bureaucrat	Tramelis	65	17	bureaucrat
Kaparis	65	10	bureaucrat	Withidan	50	—	Sakkar
Kassaria	25	—	Zarkhandu	Yann	15	17	bureaucrat
Kastier	40	8	bureaucrat				

For each Province of the Empire, the income (GPv) and Turn of the most recent reform (Ref.) is given, as is the holder of the Governor's office.

REPORT OF IMPERIAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES, 1531-1535

INCOME		Creation of Kommolek as	
Regional and Provincial Income.....	370.4	a County Palatine.....	100
Public Works Income.....	904.0	Creation of Wagga Wagga as	
City Income.....	13.0	an Imperial Free City .....	25
International Trade (Tariffs) .....	2574.8	Creation of Punchega as	
From Exchequer.....	10.0	an Imperial Free City .....	25
TOTAL .....	3872.2	Provincial Reform.....	560
		Archæology.....	150
		Counter-Intelligence.....	100
		TOTAL .....	2040.8
EXPENDITURES		To EXCHEQUER.....	1831.4
Army Support .....	80.8		
Sorcery investment .....	500.0		
Bureaucracy investment.....	500.0		

SPORTS

With the organization of the All Sahûl League (ASL), headquartered in Ingazi, and the success of the first exhibition game between Ingazi and Zarkhandu's All-Blacks, international rugby play has resumed. All Realms may enter up to two teams in the League, subject to the approval of the League Trustees.

The current ASL teams are: Aradéc, Chi'tixi, Golmath, Ingazi, Murali, Runazar, and the Zarkhandu All-Blacks.

National leagues are encouraged, and results will be reported here if they prove of interest to the Gazette's readership.

Championships will be held every five years. Next cycle's matchings are:

Round 1 (1537)

Aradéc at Murali [yellow]  
Chi'tixi at Golmath [blue]  
Runazar at Ingazi [red]  
All-Blacks (bye)

Round 2 (1539)

Yellow at Blue  
Red at All-Blacks

The Championship game will be played in Ingazi's Cheesemaker Stadium in 1560.



IMPERIAL BANK OF SAHÛL

Locations: ..... Einandhu, Sardarthion

Available to borrow: ..... 4,960 GP

(No single borrower may borrow more than 700 GP)

INVESTORS MAY PURCHASE shares in the Imperial Free City of Einandhu for 200 GP each, any profits to be divided by shares. Rule 10.5.2 investment income accrues normally. The four chief shareholders, together with the Tiger King of Arms, form the board of directors (indicated \* below).

Shares:

Guilds Council of Adndar .....	8*
Imperial Exchequer.....	7*
House Gwariva of Ingazi .....	5*
House Pangku of Araxes.....	4*
Ancient and Undaunted Order of Heralds...	3*
Printers Guild of Zadres .....	1

Loans: None outstanding

BANK OF ITAXIK

Location: ..... Itaxik

Available to borrow: ..... 3,781 GP

Ice Relief Fund..... 145 GP

Loans: None outstanding

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NOTICES

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A Bounty of 100,000 Sovereigns! (1531)

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the gracious offers of friendship and protection made by Itaxian Diplomats and by polite letters by us to the Dragon Bandit Sanngrithr inhabiting this Province of Sondrim, The Dragon Bandit have of late in a most treacherous manner taken leave to pillage an additional Imperial Prefecture of Jarvæl, and carried off a sloop belonging to Adndar, and a boat from this Settlement of Sakkarah, founded by the Emperor Onin Zho, and basely attempted to seize two Tiryowgli Sloops and murder their crews and actually killed severals, and on Saturday the 30th of Primilis, this Bandit beast fell upon some men cutting wood and without arms near the saw mill of Sakkarah and barbarously flattened four and carried one away.”

For, those cause we by and with the advice and consent of His Majesty Tirach Bæn of the Electoral Kingdom of Zarkhandu, do hereby authorize and entreat all Officers Civil and Military, and all Peace Loving Subjects or Others to annoy, distress, take or destroy the Savage commonly called Sanngrithr, wherever she is found, and all as such aiding and assisting it, give further by and with the consent and advice of this Letter of

Marque do promise a reward of 100,000 Sovereigns for the skeletal proof that the Bandit is taken and killed, to be paid upon producing such complete Remnants taken including her head excepting her eyes and foreclaws (as in the customary perquisites of the Hunter in Zarkhandu) if killed to the Officer Commanding.

*King Tirach Bæn,*

Electoral Kingdom of Zarkhandu.

Zarkhandu, Vúhlath Prefecture.

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Golmath / Golmathi Underlands Territory

Vassalage Agreement (1531)

LORD MINIPPYI GUSSIE, acting on behalf of the Golmath Underlands Territories, does hereby pledge his fealty to Count Volpel-Walarri Zhogian of Runazar and claimant to the title of Electoral Prince of Golmath, subject to the following five articles:

1. Lord Minipyyi Gussie does not, by this instrument, support any specific claim by any individual to the title of Electoral Prince of Golmath.
2. Lord Minipyyi Gussie will not be required nor requested to use any forces under his command in support of any specific claim by any individual to the title of Electoral Prince of Golmath.
3. Count Volpel-Walarri Zhogian of Runazar will render unto Lord Minipyyi Gussie and the Golmath Underlands Territories such assistance as may be required to maintain control over such regions as may now be under Golmathi suzerainty in the Underlands.
4. The terms of this instrument shall continue during such time as Count Volpel-Walarri Zhogian of Runazar maintains his control over the city of Golmath and his claim to the Electoral Principality thereof.
5. Upon acceptance of these terms by Count Volpel-Walarri Zhogian of Runazar, he shall inform the Emperor of this agreement and shall cause the Heralds to publish the same in full.

(signed and sealed)

*Lord Minipyyi Gussie,*

Regent of Golmath's Underlands.

Pama-Ati, Caverns of Tawatja.

*Count Volpel-Walarri Zhogian of Runazar,*

Electoral Prince of Golmath.

Golmath, Madran Prefecture.

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## Orders Regarding the Dragon (1531)

BY ORDER OF HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY:

Any and all 'bounties' on the head of the dragon in the Imperial Demense are hereby suspended. No realm or individual will assault or molest the dragon without the express written permission of the Emperor.

While it is clear that the dragon remains a threatening presence, she is currently a presence within the Imperial Demense. Provoking her to additional violence or destruction will not be tolerated; the Emperor is taking steps to resolve the situation with minimal strife.

However: If the dragon enters into any other Realm or Prefecture of the Empire, the rulers and inhabitants of that Realm or prefecture may take whatever steps are necessary to ensure their own safety and well-being within their own borders.

By Order of His August & Imperial Majesty,  
*Sydath II.*  
Sardarthion.

## An Open Letter—Yani to Zarkhandu (1531)

Lord Zarkhandu,

WHILE WE OF THE YANI-PUTINI ALLIANCE value this agreement between our peoples, we also value our way of life and do not have any intention of joining the Yagnar religion. Also I must apologize if our many previous responses have been confusing in any way, shape, or form. And as it appears that this relationship will not work well while we choose to remain as we are, we will terminate our vassalage as of this moment under Part 3, Article 4 stating Zarkhandu shall not try to influence our religion or way of life. And part 2; Article 1 stating that we must supply troops for his 'Defense' yet refusing us the same, or believing they cancel out. It is unfortunate that we could not work out the way my father had hoped and I have no wish to have my son suffer the same headache I have."

*Lord Mani Tunapri,*  
Lordship of Yani.  
Yani Town, Caverns of Uka.

## An Open Letter—Zarkhandu to Yani (1531)

Dear Cousin and errant Vassal,

IT IS WITH NO SMALL AMOUNT OF MEH that we receive your latest correspondence. We have, time after time, received and acted upon your requests for protec-

tion against the big bad Golmathi. Time after time we have come to your defense, even hazarding the chance that good Zarkhandine lives or unives would be spent defending you from your heathen nature and enemies. Our defense of you was total and uncompromising and according to our agreement was all that was required of us. Indeed, your heathen nature was a source of consternation among the populace of our realm yet, we signed a deal and that was it. Your heathen nature was left intact. No missionaries, no priories built, and none of your heathenish second hand mana entertained in transfer.

Now, dear boy, this is where your decent writing skills have gotten ahead of your reading skills. In our agreement, which all the proper parties have access to, you mention that you had to come to our aid when attacked by providing 15,000 troops and two nobles to lead them while I was to come to your 'defense' if attacked. You see my vassal (for the time being you still are my vassal until the starting of the new year) or even my dirty ex-vassal you have been in breach for some time. Because you were never attacked during my watch. Sure I made some vague and outlandish claims regarding the "Yaminon Cultural Sphere" but everyone new what a pile of busted shinty sticks that was. So I was never actually obligated to come to your aid at all either politically or militarily yet I did defend you from your own nature.

However, and this is critical, where were the troops you were obligated to arrange for? No mercenaries hired, no national troops, no 'friends of friends' sent to assist? Your Father would not have made that mistake. But he was both an excellent scholar and a wise man.

There are other terms which, having violated, you shall answer to. You have made the Union Guilds look like pikey fools whilst you spend the word of the Yani like a drunken miner fresh out of his first diggings. The negotiations of how you, or they, if they decide to depose you which I recommend for the good of the Yani, will pay for your violations, These discussions will be conducted between ourselves and the Emperor. As I said in my initial message to you...we are not as others when a vassalage contract, broken and owing, remains unpaid. You may go and we wish you will but the debt you have remains and it will be collected.

*King Tirach Bæn,*  
Electoral Kingdom of Zarkhandu.  
Mírad-súl, Mekellan Prefecture.

## An Open Letter—Yani to Zarkhandu (1531)

Well 'Lord', first we have no method of sending these troops to you. As you yourself have informed other, we have no way to send troops. Perhaps you would order us to declare war on Murali? Or through the Electoral Golmath that 'We' have a peace agreement with? There is of course the issue that you yourself are not under attack, but more of attacking others. While attack is considered the best defense in tactics, it is not so for obligations. And while you have not sent missionaries or built priories, the refusal to accept 'No' as an answer and refusing certain 'aid' such as trade as we are not of your religion, while also sending missive after missive stating how we could be 'benefited' by Yagnar is no different. And even if you refuse to accept these answers, there are other methods in our 'Servitude Contract' that we can use to gain our independence.

*Lord Mani Tunapri,*  
Lordship of Yani.  
Yani Town, Caverns of Uka.

## An Open Letter—Zarkhandu to Yani (1532)

Dearest Cousin,

YOU, A MERE LORD, DO INSULT A KING. You couldn't stop by besmirching your own name and now seek to sling your mud elsewhere. For our part the talking stops now. Enjoy your life.

Yrs etc etc,

*King Tirach Ban,*  
Electoral Kingdom of Zarkhandu.  
Imperial Free City of Deriháhn.

## A policy upon the Disposition of Tewynn (1532)

A great many words were spoken about this topic and, never once, did We hear a voice raised to state a simple and obvious fact on our behalf. The region of Tewynn, having already declared its independence from the Raven heresy, later decided to cast its lot with Araxes. We seized nothing.

Be that as it may, it has no bearing on our words now. Rather, We acknowledge the wisdom of the King of Aradéc who, not for the first time, brings a sharp perception of the clear realities at hand.

Therefore, I state clearly that—although I will brook no reprisals upon the good kindred of Tewynn—I will

gladly accede to the disposition of the true ruler of Duedhyn.

Of course, We also reiterate our support the cause of His Highness, Prince Merryn III of Duedhyn, finding him in all ways superior to his foe. He is truer to Urda, nobler of birth, fairer of visage and he has never put me on trial before a jury of his imaginary friends.

Thus it is written,

*Grand Duke Pangu Kapalless III,*  
Grand Duchy of Araxes.  
Pinyerrel, Thudu Prefecture.

## An Open Letter—Yani to Zarkhandu (1532)

Lord Zarkhandu,

WHILE WE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE, we will give you the same response we have given time and time again. We will NOT give you a single Copper, We will not send a single bit of Ore, and you Will not receive a single piece of land or a drop of our blood without shedding your own.

*Lord Mani Tunapri,*  
Lordship of Yani.  
Yani Town, Caverns of Uka.

## The Treaty of Perendar (1532)

EXECUTED HEREIN TODAY by faithful representatives on behalf of His Grace, Eparreb Tashnes V, the Well-Liked, Count of Angûron and Siddhan, Duke of Elphárec and His Valiant Majesty Irrjir Frenthes V, King of Hyrárec and Beloved of Urda, for the closer growth and common good of the people of the Most Sanguine Duchy of Elphárec and the Kingdom of Hyrárec. In this, the 1532<sup>nd</sup> year since the Shatterment, we commit our hands to this parchment for the commission of greater trade and mutual economic growth with the provisions outlined below.

*Article I. Provision for the Construction of roads, canals, and other venues of trade.*

The Realms of Elphárec and Hyrárec, desirous of greater trade exchange between them, shall work together to commission roads, canals, and any other venues of trade under this Article as deemed necessary and proper to assist the growth of trade and mercantile traffic between Elphárec and Hyrárec.

*Article II. Tariffs and Taxes.*

Upon venues designated by Article I of this Treaty, the nations of Elphárec and Hyrágec shall pay no taxes, tariffs, or tolls for use of these roads, canals, and venues, even for the movement of military troops under a flag of truce.

We the undersigned, as due representatives of His Valiant Majesty, King Irrjir Frenthes V of Hyrágec, and His Grace, Eparreb Tashnes V of Elphárec, commit our respective nations in this bond of filial love and everlasting friendship.

(signed and sealed)

For the King of Hyrágec:  
*Lord Whirripi Dranthes.*

For the Duke of Elphárec:  
*Air Marshal Count Eparreb Gorran, Regent of Elphárec.*

Letter from the Peers to the Emperor's majesty:  
Election of a new Speaker (1532)

May it please your August and Imperial Majesty,

AS MY LAST OBLIGATION as Speaker of the noble House of Peers, it is my duty to inform your August and Imperial Majesty of my resignation as Speaker and the unanimous election by the voting Peers of the *King of Hyrágec* to same, effective immediately.

May it please your august and imperial majesty, your majesty's most humble most obedient and faithful subject and servant,

*Count Palatine Gwariva Trememeres IV,*  
County Palatine of Ingazi.  
Sardarthion.

The King of Zarkhandu to the Yani (1533)

To the Union Guild Masters of Yani,

YOUR LIEGE HAS DESERTED ALL HONOR. Your liege has accepted help while providing none. At the point of being able to repay debts your leader has become a cheat, thief, and oathbreaker. We therefore entitle you to depose him by any means you see fit, up to and including his death and the extermination of his line if that is your tradition. His person is Outlaw and subject to the whims of the basest order. We consider him deposed and will have no further communication with him or his lineage. When your new master is elevated to

the Lordship we will recommence with instructions of how your penalty payments shall be made.

While honor is priceless we hope that your common sense will propel you to make amends for the theft and disloyal reputation your common fool of a 'Lord' have made you out to be. Let no other realm interfere until such time as this debt has been cleared unless you wish to pay the debt for them. The sum for insult, theft of service, disobedience, and oathbreaking are 500 Talents of Gold and 15,000 Pikemen fully equipped. Such is the combination of their military duty to their liege and the gild for oath breaking and theft.

We hereby offer a reward of 75 Talents of Gold for the severed Head of the current Lord of Yani. If the guild masters deliver it to us in a timely manner we shall waive 200 Talents of Gold as a special indulgence toward the debt of the Yani people to their diligent Zarkhandine Overlords. Let it all be done.

*King Tirach Ben,*  
Electoral Kingdom of Zarkhandu.  
Sardarthion.

Ministerial Statement on Delegations (1533)

IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION of His Majesty the Emperor that there is some discussion amongst the Electors to send a delegation to the lands of Oratoa; specifically, to the Mark of Orofer. To do so is the unquestioned right of any realm of the Empire if they so choose, and no action or statement by the Emperor nor by the Electoral Grand Duchy of Atuburrk will gainsay such action.

Be it known, however, that should such a delegation be sent, they do not in any way represent the Empire nor the Electors as a group. Rather, they represent only the realm and Ruler from whom they are sent. To be considered a representative of the Electors, such delegation will require the approval of a clear majority of the current Electors in a binding vote.

At this time, His Majesty does not recognize nor authorize any official delegation from the Empire unless duly and specifically appointed by the Emperor himself.

*Curtis Interruptus,*  
His Majesty's Minister for Making Sure Everyone Understands His Majesty's Opinion

## The Great Charter (1534)

**Preamble**

WE STAND AT A CRITICAL MOMENT in Sahûl's history. As the Empire becomes increasingly interdependent and vigorous, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. We recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and Kindreds, we are one Empire with one common destiny. We must, therefore, dedicate ourselves to bringing forth an Imperial government founded on the principle of respect for its peoples, their princes, and their faiths. These great truths compel us to proclaim this Charter to the peoples of the Empire, and to dedicate its promise to the prosperity of their descendants.

This Charter abrogates and replaces *The Golden Edict of 1387* and the *The Ingazi Declaration of 1487*.

**Chapter 1: The Emperor***Article 1. Qualifications*

The Emperor must be worthy sophon of majority age, alive and mortal, reside in the Empire, be of lay status, and not a divine avatar. At any point that a sitting Emperor chooses to prolong his or her life beyond a natural lifespan by whatever means, he must immediately abdicate and announce an election.

The office of Emperor is not hereditary, but elective, with the right of election belonging to the Electors.

*Article 2. Beginning and End of the Emperor's Reign*

An Imperial reign begins with the swearing of the *Electoral Capitulation*, an oath of duty sworn by the Emperor. This oath precedes the coronation.

The rulers of the Imperial Free Cities shall take an oath of loyalty at the time of the coronation, but not the other realms of the Empire, since each ruler takes such an oath at the time they inherit their fief.

The reign ends by death, abdication, or deposition of the Emperor. In the case of abdication, the Emperor must summon the Electors to meet and vote for his successor, and he must remain Emperor until the vote is completed. No member of the abdicating Emperor's house may be considered a candidate in this election. Deposition may be declared by a no-confidence vote of the Electors, according to Article 8 Section 5 of this present Charter.

*Article 3. Text of the Electoral Capitulation*

*"I do swear that I, to the utmost extent of my discretion and intelligence, and in accordance with the laws of chivalry and of the Empire, will defend and protect the Empire of Sahûl, obey the Great Charter, not interfere with the rights*

*of the Prince Electors to conduct Imperial elections freely and without coercion, and uphold the rights and privileges of the Princes and Realms of the Empire, including: to have seat and vote at the Imperial Diet; to be suspended or deprived of their status only by their peers; to have their succession laws automatically approved by the Emperor; to have precedence over all subjects of the Empire; to have autonomy with respect to their Clan or Hive affairs; to form alliances with other states of the Empire for peaceful purposes; and to assemble themselves by college."*

*Article 4. Imperial Powers and Responsibilities*

The powers of the Emperor are exercised in a broad range of areas, but are everywhere restricted and not absolute. The powers not herein delegated to the Imperial Diet or the Imperial Chamber Court are reserved to the Emperor alone.

*4.1 Executive*

The Emperor shall take care that Imperial laws and rulings of the Empire are enforced.

The Emperor shall appoint Imperial officers in accordance with law and tradition. [*IIP per PRB §11.1.2.5*]

The Emperor shall publish to the Diet an accurate report of all revenue and expenditures from the Imperial Demense every five years.

*4.2 Legislative*

The Emperor may propose and promulgate laws; in particular, he has the right to withhold approval of any act of the Diet excepting his own deposition. [*2 IIP*]

The Emperor may not levy taxes without approval of the Imperial Diet.

*4.3 Judiciary*

The Emperor is the ultimate judicial authority, although except in the case of an Imperial Bann, he can only exercise this power through the legally appointed courts, and he has no right to intervene in the Imperial Chamber Court.

The Emperor has the right of pardon, as well as the right to confer exemptions and privileges (i.e., exceptions to the application of Imperial laws). [*5 IIP*]

In pursuance of specific instances contained in this Charter, the Emperor may impose an Imperial Bann on any Realm. This prevents any other party from engaging in trade with the affected Realm, for a period not to exceed twenty-five years. [*10 IIP*]

*4.4 Feudal*

The Emperor is overlord of all Imperial fiefs.

*4.5 Titles and Styles*

The Emperor is styled "*His August & Imperial Majesty, Sovereign of Sahûl, Lord of the Nine Hills of*

*Sardarthion, Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Emperor of All the World.*”

The Emperor has precedence over all monarchs. The Emperor’s wife, the Empress, also has rank, but not his children, since the office is elective.

Article 5. Chancellor of the Empire

When, by resignation, death, or other means, the office of Chancellor of the Empire becomes vacant, it shall be the responsibility of the House of Peers to provide to the Emperor, with all speed, a list of three suitable nominees as candidates for said office. The Electors of the Empire shall not be eligible for nomination. If the House of Peers fails to make such list of nominees available to the Emperor within five years of the vacancy of the Chancellor’s office, the Emperor shall freely appoint whomsoever he may wish. [1 IIP]

The Emperor may select the new Chancellor from the list provided by the Peers or, if he desires, select someone else. [Peers’ Nominees: 0 IIP / Other non-Elector: 1 IIP / Elector: 2 IIP]

The Chancellor retains all traditional rights, privileges, and duties of his office. These duties shall include service as an impartial Justice on the Imperial Chamber Court.

## Chapter 2. The Imperial Diet

### Article 6. Composition of the Imperial Diet

The Imperial DIET is the legislative body of the Empire. Its decisions are binding on all subjects of the Empire, and it is the only institution with which the Emperor deals.

The Imperial Diet is divided into three houses:

1. the College of Electors,
2. the House of Peers,
3. the Council of Imperial Cities.

All members of the Imperial Diet or their envoys enjoy safe passage through any Imperial Realm going to and returning from Sardarthion on penalty of the Imperial Bann.

### Article 7. The Imperial Realms

The status of *Imperial Realm* is attached to a particular territory and is a right of the owner or ruler of that territory. Consequently, if several individuals jointly rule the Realm they share the vote. Conversely, the owner of several Realms with votes attached exercises a corresponding number of votes. The vote is inherited by the next possessor of the Realm.

At the time of the inception of this Charter, the Imperial Realms consist of:

The Kingdoms of Aradéc, Hyrágec, and Zarkhandu;  
The Queendoms of Chi’tixi and Itaxik;  
The Principalities of Cappargarnia, Duedhyn, and Golmath;  
The Grand Duchies of Araxes, Atuburrk, and Averen;  
The Duchies of Elphárec, Taneki, and Thace;  
The Counties Palatine of Ingazi, Kommolek, and Electoral Thace;  
The Counties of Kicitchat, Murali, Pexiki, Tiryouglas, and Tokatl;  
The Baronies of Iáthedein, Lynnarvor, and Sakkar;  
The Lordships of Carcé and the Yani;  
The Icemark of Yax’té;  
The Church Universal and Triumphant;  
The Veiled Masters of Yarni-Za;  
The Iluvarian Orthodox Church; and  
The Republic of Kumara.

### 7.1 Admission of New Imperial Realms

New realms shall be admitted to the Empire only after a formal request to the Emperor, and with the advice and consent of a simple majority of the Electors. The Emperor must then, by exercise of Imperial Authority [2 IIP] ennoble the new realm and grant it recognition.

Admission to the Imperial Diet is not solely dependent on the Emperor’s will but, except in the case of Imperial Free Cities, also requires qualification and approval by the Imperial Diet itself. Actual exercise of the rights to sit and vote is not necessary.

The creation of a new Electoral position requires the unanimous approval of the College of Electors. Only a realm that is currently a member of the House of Peers or a former member of the College of Electors shall be eligible for elevation to the status of Elector. In no case may an Ecclesiastical State or a Military Order be created an Elector.

The creation of a new prince with individual vote in the House of Peers requires the possession of a significant immediate territory and the approval of the House of Peers.

The Emperor may not make individuals into Realms without the possession of a territory; an Imperial knighthood is not sufficient to be declared a Realm of the Empire.

After qualification and approval, the quality of an Imperial Realm is retained, whether or not a seat in the Diet is taken or the power to vote exercised. Such status can only be revoked by an act of the Emperor [5 IIP] with the approval of the Electors and the House of Peers.

### 7.2 *Guarantee of Privileges of the Imperial Realms*

The privileges of the Imperial Realms are guaranteed by the *Electoral Capitulation*. They are:

- to have seat and vote at the Imperial Diet;
- to be suspended or deprived of their status only in cases of misuse of rights like minting and tolls, and only by the Emperor or the Imperial court;
- to have their succession laws automatically approved by the Emperor;
- precedence over all subjects of the Empire;
- autonomy with respect to their Clan or Hive affairs;
- the right to form alliances with other states of the Empire for peaceful purposes;
- the right to assemble themselves by college.

### 7.3 *Guarantee of Privileges of the Counties Palatine*

The various Counties Palatine are maintained in their customary rights and privileges, most especially the right of Sovereignty, including judicial sovereignty: their subjects cannot be tried in Imperial courts, and no appeals can be made to the Imperial high courts except in cases of denial of justice.

### *Article 8. The Electors*

The Emperor is chosen by the Electors, namely: the King of Aradéc, the Queen of Chi'tixi, the Princes of Cappargarnia and of Golmath, the Grand Dukes of Araxes, of Atuburrk, and of Averon, the Duchess of Taneki, and the Count Palatine of Thace. They and they alone are the true and lawful Prince Electors of the Empire.

#### 8.1 *Rights and Powers*

The powers and rights of the Electors are:

- the right of Election: the Electors choose the Emperor in accordance with the mandates of this present Charter;
- the right of Sovereignty: Electors may create Marches and Dependencies;
- the right of Vassalage: Electors may accept the fealty of any non-electoral Realm;
- the right of Law over their vassals;
- royal rank and precedence;
- the right to propose legislation and to be consulted on all important affairs by the Emperor;
- the right to give their assent without the rest of the Imperial Diet in certain cases (tolls, minting privileges);
- the right to meet on their own initiative;
- the right to enjoy in their territories regal powers, and in particular judicial sovereignty: their subjects cannot be tried in Imperial courts, and

no appeals can be made to the Imperial high courts except in cases of denial of justice.

- the right to be suspended or deprived of their status only by their Electoral peers according to Article 8 Section 7 of this current Charter (except in cases of misuse of rights like minting and tolls, in which case the Emperor or the Imperial court can order the suspension).

Except as elsewhere specified in this Charter, any action by the College of Electors shall require the votes of not fewer than five Electors to be considered legal and binding.

#### 8.2 *Rights of Princely Election in the Republic of Cappargarnia*

The right of the subjects of the Principality of Cappargarnia to elect their Prince upon a vacancy in that office are guaranteed by the Emperor, by the Imperial Diet, and by each individual Elector.

#### 8.3 *The Method of Imperial Elections*

Upon the death of the Emperor, the Electors gather in Sardarthion to choose his successor.

The Electors are free to elect anyone they wish, and the Emperor, in his capitulation, promises not to interfere with this freedom or use any form of coercion. Electors may, nevertheless, pledge their vote in advance. A minor's vote is cast by his regent.

The Chancellor of the Empire at the time of the Emperor's death shall, within one month, announce the need for an election to the different Prince Electors by letters patent, sent through the Heralds. The letters shall state that, within one year, each of the Prince Electors ought to be settled at Sardarthion, or to send their lawful envoys, at that time and to that place, with full and diverse power, and with their letters patent, signed with the great seal of each of them, to elect an Emperor of Sahûl.

If the Chancellor should chance to be negligent or remiss in carrying out his duty in sending the summons, those same Prince Electors of their own accord shall,



even without summons, by virtue of the fealty which they owe to the Empire, come together in Sardarthion within one year.

No Prince Elector or his envoys may enter Sardarthion with more than five hundred armed retainers.

If a Prince Elector, called and summoned to an election, and neither coming to it nor sending lawful envoys with letters patent, sealed with his greater seal and containing empowerment, full, free and of every kind, for the election of Emperor of Sahûl; or one who comes, or perchance sends envoys, to the same, but who, afterwards goes away from the place of election before an Emperor of Sahûl has been elected, and does not formally substitute a lawful envoy and leave him there, shall forfeit for that time the vote or right which he had in that particular election.

The citizens of Sardarthion are enjoined, with faithful zeal and anxious diligence, to protect and defend all the Prince Electors in general and each one of them in particular from the invasion of the other, if any quarrel shall arise between them; and also from the invasion of any other person, and also with regard to all the followers whom they or any one of them shall have brought into the city.

The said citizens of Sardarthion, moreover, throughout all that time when an election is being conducted, shall not admit, or in any way permit anyone, of whatever dignity, condition or standing he may be, to enter the city, the Prince Electors and their envoys and retainers alone being excepted. If, after the entry of the Prince Electors, or while they are present, any stranger shall be found in the city without legitimate business, the citizens themselves shall without delay bring about his exit, under penalty of all that has above been promulgated against them.

After the Electors or their envoys shall have entered the city of Sardarthion, they shall meet together in the Imperial Palace on the following day at dawn. The Chancellor of the Empire shall give to them the form of the oath, and they, or the envoys of the absent ones, shall take the Electoral oath in common.

The electoral oath: "*I, a Prince Elector of the Empire (or, a lawful envoy of same), do swear that I, by my allegiance to the Empire of Sahûl, do intend, to the utmost extent of my discretion and intelligence, and in accordance with the laws of chivalry and of the Empire, to elect one who will be suitable, as far as my discretion and discernment can tell, as Emperor of Sahûl. And my voice and vote, or said election, I will give without any pact, payment, price, or promise.*"

The oath having been taken by the Electors or their envoys, they shall then proceed to the election. From

that point on they shall not disperse from Sardarthion until the majority of them shall have elected the Emperor of Sahûl, who shall hold no less than five electoral votes. If they shall fail to do this within thirty days, counting continuously from the day when they took the electoral oath, from that time on they shall live on bread and water, and by no means leave the city unless first through them, or the majority of them, an Emperor shall have been elected.

After the Electors, or the majority of them, shall have made their choice, such election shall in future be considered and looked upon as if it had been unanimously carried through by all of them, no one dissenting.

If any one of the Electors or their aforesaid envoys should happen for a time to be detained and to be absent or late, provided he arrive before the said election has been consummated, he shall be admitted to the election in the stage at which it was at the actual time of his coming.

He who shall have been elected Emperor of Sahûl, shall, directly after such election shall have been held, and before he shall attend to any other cases or matters by virtue of his Imperial office, without delay or contradiction, swear the *Election Capitulation* and confirm and approve, by his letters and seals, to each and all of the Prince Electors, all their privileges, charters, rights, liberties, ancient customs, and also their dignities and whatever they shall have obtained and possessed from the Empire before the day of the election.

And he shall renew to them all the above after he shall have been crowned with the Imperial adornments. Moreover, the elected Emperor shall make such confirmation to each Prince Elector in particular; and, in these matters, he shall be bound by no means to impede either those same Princes in general or any one of them in particular, but rather to promote them with his favour and without guile.

#### *8.4 Right of Escort*

Whenever the Prince Electors are obliged to journey to Sardarthion for the election of an Emperor, each Elector shall be bound to escort any of his fellow Prince Electors or the envoys through his lands, and even as much beyond them as he shall be able; and to lend them escort without guile on their way to the city, and also in returning from it. This he shall do under pain of perjury and the loss, for that time only, of the vote which he was about to have in such election.

All other peers holding fiefs from the Empire of Sahûl and all other nobles, knights, their followers, citizens and communities of castles, cities and districts of the Empire shall, without guile, in the manner aforesaid, escort through their territories and as far beyond as

they can, any Prince Elector, or their envoy, demanding of them help of this kind. If any persons shall presume to run counter to this, they shall, by the act itself, incur the following penalties: they shall be considered guilty of perjury and deprived of all the fiefs they hold of the Empire and of any lords whatever, and also of all their possessions no matter from whom they hold them.

All cities and guilds presuming to act counter to the foregoing shall similarly be considered guilty of perjury, and likewise shall be altogether deprived of all their rights, liberties, privileges and favours obtained from the Empire, and both in their persons and in all their possessions shall incur the Imperial Bann and proscription. Any man on his own authority and without trial or the calling in of any magistrate may henceforth with impunity attack those whom we, by the act itself, deprive of all their rights. And, in attacking them, he need fear no punishment on this account from the Empire or anyone else.

#### *8.5 Votes of No-Confidence and Deposing the Emperor*

Any Elector may make a motion to call for a vote of no-confidence in the Emperor. The second to such a motion may not be of the same religion as the Elector who made the original motion.

Similarly, a vote of no-confidence may be referred to the Electors by the Peers according to Article 9 Section 4 of this present Charter.

The motion having been made and seconded, or having been referred by the Peers and seconded, and the College of Electors having been called into session by the Chancellor in the same manner as for an Imperial Election, and the Emperor (if he is an Elector) having recused himself, a vote of not fewer than seven of the Electors is sufficient to depose the Emperor.

#### *8.6 Guarantee of Rights of the Prince Electors*

No privileges or charters concerning any rights, favours, immunities, customs or other things, conceded under any form by Emperor or the Diet to any persons of whatever standing, pre-eminence or dignity, or to a corporation of cities, towns, or any places, shall or may, in any way at all, derogate from the liberties, jurisdictions, rights, honours, or dominions of the Prince Electors.

#### *8.7 Loss of Electoral Status*

Any Elector may make a motion to call for a vote to challenge the status of another Elector for high crimes and misdemeanors infringing the rights or status of another lawful Realm. The second to such a motion may not be of the same religion as the Elector who made the original motion.

The motion having been made and seconded, and the College of Electors having been called into session

by the Chancellor in the same manner as for an Imperial Election, and the challenged Elector having recused himself, a vote not fewer than seven of the remaining Electors shall be required before any suspension or deprivation of any rights or privileges elsewhere granted by this Charter. Only the right to elect the Emperor, and to propose legislation and be consulted on all important affairs by the Emperor, shall be suspended by such action. Any and all other powers and Rights of the Electors shall not be infringed.

Such suspension or deprivation shall be limited to a span not greater than twenty years, or until the death of the present Leader of the challenged Realm, whichever shall occur first; after twenty years, or upon ascension of the lawful Heir, full rights and privileges are immediately restored. The voluntary abdication of the censured ruler shall not reinstate Electoral status.

If any Elector's rights are under suspension, then no further Censure may occur without a unanimous vote of all remaining Electors, excepting the Elector being so censured.

Permanent revocation of any established right or privilege of any Electoral Realm shall only be by unanimous vote of the Electors, the challenged Elector having recused himself.

In the event that the Electoral status of an Elector has been permanently revoked, it shall be the first priority of the Electors to meet together to elevate an Imperial Peer to the College of Electors.

#### *Article 9. The Peers*

The second house of the Imperial Diet is composed of the assorted nobles who rank as Imperial Realms. No increase to the membership of the House of Peers is possible without a majority of the Peers assenting. No Realm can be removed from membership in the House of Peers without a majority of peers assenting and the approval of the Emperor [5 IIP], unless that Realm is removed by virtue of elevation to Electoral status.

The members of the House of Peers are:

The Kingdom of Hyrágec;  
The Principality of Duedhyn;  
The Duchies of Elphárec and Thace;  
The Counties Palatine of Ingazi and Kommolek;  
The Counties of Tiryowglas, Murali, Pexiki, and Tokatl;  
The Barony of Sakkar;  
The Icemark of Yax'te,  
The Lordships of Carcë and of the Yani;

and others as may be determined by the Diet according to Article 7 Section 1 of this present Charter.

*9.1 Votes in the House of Peers*

Each of the Peers holds an individual vote.

Any vote undertaken by the House of Peers shall require a quorum of not less than fifty percent of the current membership of the House, rounded upward. Except in cases of the creation of new Realms, advice concerning the choice of the Chancellor, or the election of their Speaker, any act of the Peers requires a two-thirds majority of those voting. Votes shall be open for a specific number of days announced in advance and set at the pleasure of the Speaker.

*9.2 Election of the Speaker of the House of Peers*

The House of Peers shall elect a Speaker, who shall preside over the House of Peers. This vote shall be by simple majority (fifty percent plus one). The Speaker shall serve at the pleasure of the House, and he is subject to a vote of no-confidence.

The Speaker may propose other officers, to include a Secretary and a Sergeant at Arms, to similarly serve at the pleasure of the House.

*9.3 Advice to the Emperor Regarding the Appointment of the Chancellor*

In accordance with Article 5 of this present Charter, the Peers are required to furnish the Emperor advice regarding the appointment of the Chancellor.

*9.4 Imperial No-Confidence*

Any Peer may make a motion to call for a vote of no-confidence in the Emperor. The second to such a motion may not be of the same religion as the Peer who made the original motion.

The motion having been made and seconded, it succeeds by simple majority vote and is thereby referred to the College of Electors for their disposition according to Article 8 Section 5 of this present Charter.

*Article 10. Imperial Cities*

The Council of Imperial Cities consists of the representatives of each of the Imperial Free Cities of Adndar, Derihahn, Einandhu, Golluz, Punchega, Sarsis, Sistrameides, Thund, Tikata, Wagga Wagga, and any new Imperial Cities hereafter lawfully created.

The Council is advisory only, and it may not prevent the passage of any legislation of the Imperial Diet. The Council may furnish advice to the Emperor, the Electors, or the Peers on any issue affecting them.

*10.1 Votes in the Council of Imperial Cities*

Each of the Cities holds an individual vote.

*10.2 Guarantee of Privileges of the Imperial Free Cities*

The various Imperial Free Cities are maintained in their customary rights and privileges.

## Chapter 3. The Imperial Judiciary

*Article 11: The Imperial Chamber Court*

There shall be established an independent Imperial Chamber Court, to serve as the Supreme Court of and for the Empire. Its purpose shall be to sit in judgment of violations of the Imperial peace and as guarantor of Imperial law.

*11.1 Composition of the Court*

The Court shall consist of five Justices.

The Chancellor of the Empire, upon lawful appointment to that office and during his tenure therein, shall serve as a Justice of the Court.

The Speaker of the House of Peers, upon lawful election to that office and during his tenure therein, shall serve as a Justice of the Court.

The Emperor is granted the right and charged with the duty to appoint the remaining three Justices [*IIP*], the appointments being for a term of twenty-five years and not subject to recall other than by voluntary resignation or by lawful order of the Court. In the event that a sitting justice dies before the end of his term, the remainder of his term shall be filled by his lawful heir.

If the Emperor fails to make an appointment in a timely manner, the Speaker of the House of Peers shall be charged to do so, using the Imperial authority and subject to all of the same requirements and restrictions.

No individual shall hold more than one position on the Court. Should a Justice be elected Speaker of the House of Peers or be appointed Chancellor of the Empire, a vacancy in the Court is thereby created.

The Emperor may appoint a member of his own faith to the Court only if, at the time of such appointment, no sitting Justice of the Court is a member of said faith. This restriction shall not apply to the appointment of the Chancellor of the Empire.

Justices shall, within the execution of their responsibilities to the Court, be entitled to the same dignity enjoyed by Electors.

*11.2 Competence*

The Imperial Court shall have competence in disputes between Realms; in cases of Justice denied within a Realm; and shall, when called upon, be the arbiter of what shall constitute a Just or Unjust war between Realms.

Although matters of disputed succession within a Realm are held to be an Imperial prerogative, the Court shall, if the Emperor declines to exercise this prerogative, have competence to address such issues. The weight of the Court's judgment in matters of succession shall be in all ways equal to that of the Emperor.

Subject to Rights and Privileges elsewhere granted in this Charter, no one, including the Emperor, shall be exempt from the authority of the Court within its defined Competence.

#### *11.3 Recusal*

No Justice shall render judgment in any case which involves his own Realm or a Realm tied to his by formal treaty or bonds of fealty, nor in any case involving a Realm at war with the Justice's Realm or a Realm tied to his by formal treaty or bonds of fealty.

In the event that the Court is unable to reach a clear majority opinion, the Emperor, as the ultimate judicial authority in the Empire, shall be empowered to render his opinion in the matter at hand. By this means shall a majority opinion be reached, and Justice served.

#### *11.4 Writ of Certiorari*

A plaintiff wishing a case being heard by the court must petition the Court for a *writ of certiorari*. The plaintiff will present the merits of his case to the Justices of the court. If three of the five Justices agree that the case has suitable standing, the Court will hear the case. If not, the Justices may dismiss the case without hearing it.

#### *Article 12: Lower Courts*

Notwithstanding the establishment of the Imperial Chamber Court, each Realm shall have full Judicial authority in matters internal. This right, based on ancient tradition and laws previously established, shall not be infringed. However, in cases of Justice denied within a Realm, the injured party may petition the Imperial Courts for redress.

### **Chapter 4. Structure of the Empire**

#### *Article 13. Political Structure*

The territorial components of the Empire fall into one of the following categories:

- Realms
- Imperial prefectures (regions of the Imperial Demense)
- Independent prefectures (regions not part of any Realm or of the Imperial Demense)
- Ecclesiastical States
- Counties Palatine
- Imperial Free Cities

In accord with the previous articles of this present Charter, all Realms, Ecclesiastical States, Counties Palatine, and Imperial Free Cities are maintained in all their customary rights and privileges.

#### *Article 14. The Imperial Civil Service*

For purposes of the Civil Service and of Imperial justice, the Empire is divided into 45 Provinces, each composed of approximately twenty Prefectures.

Provinces are administered by Governors appointed by the Emperor.

Prefectures are administered by Prefects, promoted from the Civil Service Imperial Judicial Authority, with the Emperor retaining veto power. Candidates are subject to the Examination System.

Desert and waste Provinces may not have Prefectures, but instead are administered directly by the Governor.

#### *14.1 Examination System*

With the exception of Provincial Governors, who may be political appointees, all appointments to positions within the civil service, including Ministers and Prefects, are reserved to those who pass the examination appropriate to the position.

The examination system is maintained by the Auditors, free of any political interference, whether of Realms or of the Emperor.

#### *14.2 Auditors*

The Auditors are a special independent branch of the civil service tasked with investigating the civil service, and where appropriate eliminating corruption and inefficiency.

This program of audits and reform is maintained by the Auditors, free of any political interference, whether of Realms or of the Emperor.

No individual Auditor may serve in the same Prefecture for more than five years, except the Minister and members of his staff, who may serve in the Sardarthion central office for no more than ten years.

#### *Article 15. The Imperial Demense*

The lands of the Imperial Demense are ruled directly by the Emperor. During interregna, the Demense lands are administered in trust by the Chancellor.

#### *15.1 Knights of the Empire*

The Knights of the Empire are minor nobles whose direct overlord is the Emperor. They are maintained in all of their customary rights and privileges.

#### *15.2 The Imperial City of Sardarthion*

The election and coronation of the Emperor of Sahûl, and likewise his court, shall be held in the city of Sardarthion. Whenever any Prince Elector or Peer, detained by a just impediment, is not able to come when summoned to the Imperial court, and instead sends an envoy, that envoy will be admitted in the place of his master, with all the dignity normally reserved to such an envoy.

*15.3 The Emerald Watch*

The Emerald Watch is that portion of the Imperial armed forces, ground, naval, and air, tasked with the defense and security of the Imperial Demense.

Except in cases where required by this Charter, they may not enter the territory of any Realm without an explicit written request of the ruler of said Realm.

*Article 16. Heraldry in the Empire of Sabûl*

Heraldry and all associated arts are the sole purview of Most Ancient and Undaunted Imperial Order of Heraldry, under the leadership of the Tiger King of Arms. They are maintained in all of their customary rights and privileges, free of any political interference, whether of Realms or of the Emperor.

**Chapter 5. Miscellaneous Provisions**

*Article 17. Lawful Money*

All realms have the right, in every place and part of their territories, all lands subject and dependent, of coining and circulating gold and silver money, providing all weights and values are compliant with the standards set by the Empire.

*Article 18. Property of the Electors*

All future Prince Electors forever shall have the right of buying or purchasing, or of receiving in gift or donation for any reason, or in bond, from any princes, magnates, counts or other persons, any lands, castles, possessions, estates or goods, under the usual conditions with regard to such lands, castles, possessions, estates or goods: that, namely, alods shall be bought or received as alods, freeholds as freeholds; that holdings in feudal dependency shall be bought as fiefs, and shall be held as such when bought. The Prince Electors shall themselves be bound to regard and to render to the Empire its pristine and customary rights over these things, lands, etc. which they shall, in this way, have bought or received, and have seen fit to add to their realm.

*Article 19. Unjust War*

Each and every unjust war and feud is prohibited, as well as all unjust burnings, spoliations and rapines, unlawful and unusual tolls and escorts, and the exactions usually extorted for such escorts, under the penalties by which the sacred laws prescribe that the foregoing offenses, and any one of them, are to be punished.

Determination in any specific case of what constitutes just and unjust war, unlawful tolls and escorts, and all other such offenses, shall be judged in the High Court of the Empire, or by the Emperor as appropriate.

*Article 20. Amendments to the Charter*

This present Charter shall be subject to Amendment, as voted upon by the Electors, the House of Peers, and ratified by the Emperor. Any Elector in good standing may propose such an amendment to the College of Electors for debate and vote; likewise the House of Peers may propose an amendment and refer it to the Electors. A proposed Amendment, approved by a vote of no fewer than six Electors in good standing, as well as a two-thirds majority of the Peers, shall then be presented to the Emperor who must then approve it before it is considered legal and binding.

In no case shall such an Amendment alter or supersede Article 7.1 nor Article 8 of this present Charter, unless unanimously approved by the entire College of Electors and ratified by the Emperor.

*Article 21. Definitions*

“Censure” means, for the purposes of this present Charter, a suspension of the rights, privileges, and dignities of an Elector by a lawful action of the College of Electors subject to Article 8, Section 7 of this present Charter.

“Lay status” means, for the purposes of this present Charter, someone who is not a priest, priestess, monk, nun, friar, or other ordained member of a Church or other religious organization.

“Significant immediate territory” means, for the purposes of this present Charter, at least one recognized prefecture or Free City.

“Sophont” means, for the purposes of this present Charter, a member of the Kit’ixi (Malebolge), Saurian, Wenemet, Yaminon, Thalari, Gornya Rogami, Human, or Turéhu (Elf) Kindreds. Additional Kindreds that demonstrate a grasp of civilization may be recognized as sophonts for the purposes of this present Charter by simple majority vote of the College of Electors.

“Writ of certiorari” means, for the purposes of this present Charter, a written request by a plaintiff petitioning the Imperial Chamber Court to hear his or her case. Cases may proceed according to Article 11 Section 4 of this present Charter.

*Article 22. Supreme Law of the Land*

If the Emperor is not willing to fulfill the Imperial constitutions and laws above laid down, or shall presume to act counter to them, the Electors shall depose him according to Article 8 Section 5 of this present Charter.

Any Elector infringing these laws shall, from that time on, be excluded by his co-electors from association with themselves, and he shall lose both his vote in the election and the position, dignity and privileges possessed by the other Electors, according to the procedures described in Article 8 Section 7 of this present Charter.

Any other prince or nobleman infringing these laws shall likewise not be invested with fiefs which they shall obtain from the Empire or from anyone otherwise, and shall, in addition, be altogether deprived of all their rights, liberties, privileges and favours obtained from the Empire, and both in their persons and in all their possessions shall incur the Imperial Bann.

Any Free City, County Palatine, or guild infringing these laws shall likewise, by the act itself, have incurred the above penalties.

Any person on his own authority and without trial or the calling in of any magistrate may henceforth with impunity attack those whom, by the act itself, have been found to have deprived themselves of all their rights. And, in attacking them, he need fear no punishment on this account from the Empire or anyone else.

### **The Enabling Ordinances**

The Following Articles, being necessary for the proper promulgation of the forgoing Great Charter and the general peace of the Empire, are issued simultaneously with and under the same authority as the Great Charter itself.

#### *1. What is the Empire?*

By long tradition and by divine right, all those lands and prefectures within the continent of Sahûl, including the Underlands beneath it, and those islands adjacent to it, are now and forever part of the Empire of Sahûl.

Any prefecture that is part of the Empire but unowned and ungoverned shall be considered to be in the care of the Emperor, to dispose of as he sees fit. Further, those lands and prefectures beyond the boundaries of Sahûl shall be considered part of the Empire when they are ruled by a realm or noble owing allegiance to the Empire.

Those realms and individuals currently outside the boundaries of the Empire shall be welcomed into it upon their formal request and with the legal approval of the Empire, per Section 7 of the Great Charter.

#### *2. Appointments Ordinance*

We hereby appoint our devoted and loyal servant the Electoral Prince of Cappargarnia as Admiral of the Blue.

We hereby appoint our devoted and loyal servant the Count of Murali as Admiral of the Red.

We hereby appoint our devoted and loyal servant the Countess of Tokatl as Admiral of the Green.

We hereby appoint our devoted and loyal servant the Duke of Thace as Marshall of Thacia.

#### *3. Ennoblement Ordinance*

The Baron of Kommolek, his Clan and his Realm, are hereby elevated to the dignity of Count Palatine.

Our Noble cousin the Lord Dolmathes, currently the Lord Lieutenant of Lynnarvor, is hereby elevated to the dignity of Baron of that land; such title to remain with him and his heirs from this time forward.

#### *4. Shards Ordinance*

From the moment of its creation, the Emerald Crown of Yvain was the sole and exclusive property of the Empire in the person of the reigning Emperor. This ownership was not ended by the Shattering, and the various fragments of the Crown known as the Shards are, and remain, the property of the Empire. Therefore, all such Shards will be returned to the Emperor at Sardarthion no later than the Year 1540; failure of any realm or individual to do so will be regarded as High Treason and an overt act of war against the Empire.

#### *5. High Court Appointments Ordinance*

At the time of inception of this Charter, the Imperial Chamber Court shall consist of: The Imperial Chancellor, The Speaker of the House of Peers, The Electoral Queendom of Chi'tixi, The Electoral Grand Duchy of Averon, and The County of Tokatl. The initial appointments of Chi'tixi, Averon, and Tokatl shall be limited in duration, unless lawfully extended by an act of the Emperor:

The Electoral Queendom of Chi'tixi, for 20 years;

The Electoral Grand Duchy of Averon, for 15 years;

The County of Tokatl, for 10 years.

#### *6. Non-Continuity Ordinance*

On occasion, a new Realm may be created when an established Imperial Realm suffers a breakdown of its organization. These new realms shall be, at their inception, full members of the Empire with the generally accepted rights and privileges thereof. The new Realm shall not be held to account for the obligations and treaties of the parent Realm unless the new Realm shall openly and directly choose to adhere to those obligations and onuses. This shall include all trade agreements, treaties, conflicts, and all other formal and informal relationships with other Realms of the Empire.

#### *7. The Ordinance of Common Sense*

Any edict, proclamation, or other official act by the Emperor must be properly announced and made public before it shall be considered legal and enforceable.

The Imperial Heralds shall not be held accountable for the contents of any message or communication delivered by them on behalf of another party. Instructions for delivery may be specified, and the Heralds must hold to such instructions wherever reasonable and legal; having done so, the Heralds shall be seen to have completed

their duties appropriately and shall neither be chastised nor criticized for the same.

Questions regarding the legality or legitimacy of delivery instructions shall be submitted to the Tiger King of Arms, whose decision in the matter shall be final.

#### 8. *The Protection of Itaxik Ordinance*

It is unfortunate that the loyal and responsible Queendom of Itaxik is no longer an Elector; this shall in no way be regarded as a slight against that Realm, not its leaders, nor its people. In light of this knowledge, those lands and holdings of Itaxik as of the Year 1525 shall be protected by the Emperor and by the Church Universal and Triumphant and held sacrosanct for not less than twenty years from the promulgation of this Charter.

During that period of time, no other realm or power, whether part of the Empire or not, shall be permitted to interfere with the internal policy and governance of those lands and holdings, under threat of Doom.

#### 9. *Defense of the Faiths Ordinance*

In anticipation of an upheaval within the Empire upon the promulgation of the Great Charter, it is the will of the Emperor that one realm representing each of the Four Faiths shall be held aloof from and above the coming tumult. To that end, it is hereby ordered and declared that the following realms shall be under Imperial protection from harm or invasion for a period of ten years following the passage of this Charter. Let no realm or ruler seek to molest nor dominate them, under pain of the Imperial Bann, or worse.

For Yagnar: The Electoral Duchy of Taneki,

For the Tarot: The County of Murali,

For Urda: The Barony of Iäthedain,

For Iluvar: The Duchy of Elphárec.

#### 10. *Recognitions Ordinance*

In a bow to the obvious, Merryn of Duedhyn is hereby recognized as the true and legitimate Prince of the Realm of Duedhyn; he and his heirs shall be the legal lords of that Principality and its capital at Pareis, now and in the future. No other existing claim has merit.

As multiple claims to the same Electoral seat can in no wise be conducive to the stability and well-being of the Empire, it is hereby declared that Prince Zhogian of Golmath, and his heirs, shall from this time be the sole and legal Electoral representative of Golmath. It is devoutly to be wished that the contending Princes of this ancient Realm shall, between themselves, find a peaceable permanent solution to this dispute. The Empire and all its resources stand ready to aid such reconciliation in whatever way feasible; the Princes have but to make request.

#### 11. *Imperial Free Cities Ordinance*

Lordship of the Free City of Punchedga is granted to our subject the Prince Elector of Cappargarnia and his heirs forever.

Lordship of the Free City of Wagga Wagga is granted to our subject the Electoral Count Palatine of Thace and his heirs forever.

Done by our hand and under seal in the City of Sardarthion, on the first day of Primilis in the one thousand five hundred and thirty fourth year since the Shatterment, and of our reign the tenth.

His August & Imperial Majesty,  
*Sydath II.*

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#### Instrument of Abdication (1535)

I, ADHANGGAR SYDATH, Count of Odol, Elector and Grand Duke of Atuburrk, Sovereign of Sahúl, Lord of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion, Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Emperor of All the World, do hereby declare My irrevocable determination to renounce the Imperial Throne, and My desire that effect should be given to this Instrument of Abdication according to Article 2 paragraph 3 of the *Great Charter*, thereby immediately summoning the Prince Electors or their lawful envoys to appear at the steps of the Imperial Palace in Sardarthion at dawn thirty days hence.

In token whereof I have hereunto set My hand this tenth day of Primilis, fifteen hundred and thirty-five, in the presence of the witnesses whose signatures are subscribed. Signed at Sardarthion in the presence of Trememeres, Injyi, Nyssa.

By Order of His August & Imperial Majesty,  
*Sydath II,*  
Sardarthion.





# Imperial Strength Index

#	Realm	Player	Forum Name	E-mail	ISI
<i>The Great Powers</i>					
1	Aradéc	Charles Hurst	Xanthi	charlesh@teleport.com	2,192.8
2	Cappargarnia	Kyle Kinghorn	Doppleganger	kyle.kinghorn@gmail.com	1,799.7
3	Thace, Elector	Gareth Anderson	kolgrim	kolgrim@gmail.com	1,767.6
4	Averon	Kevin Lawrence	Averon Inc	privatej67@yahoo.com	1,748.0
5	Chi'tixi	Steven Cagg	Priest King	ragnarstation@hotmail.com	1,629.8
<i>Major Powers</i>					
6	Araxes	Christopher Hord	chordam7	chordam7@yahoo.com	1,566.4
7	Ingazi (all)	Harry Jago	jago	jagoh@yahoo.com	1,526.1
8	Atuburk	Adam Sherman	Gonnagle	mad.angus@yahoo.com	1,443.9
9	Church U&T	Anne Porter	Cupcake	crabbycupcakes@gmail.com	1,395.6
10	Zarkhandu	Theo Moriarty	Mandala of Blood	tmoriarty@gmail.com	1,365.6
11	Emperor Sydath II	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>			1,216.3
12	Golmath	Jon Powell	Golmath	jon.g.powell@gmail.com	1,129.7
13	Veiled Masters	James Hazeltine	Von Malvalken	jhazeltine@pleiadesmm.com	1,050.8
14	Itaxik	Michael Warner	Galen	me1451@comcast.net	1,030.9
15	Elphárec	Lisa Kaattari Garbush	Kaattari	kayleerobinson@gmail.com	1,023.1
<i>Regional Powers</i>					
16	Pexiki	Don Crysler	Plymouth Superbirds		992.7
17	Taneki	Don Wynne	meriden	dpatrickwynne@gmail.com	947.2
18	Tiryowglas	Michael Johnson	Minister of Defense	printermanmj@aol.com	903.7
19	Thace, Duchy	Michael Blythe	MikeB21	mblythe21@gmail.com	902.0
20	Hyrágec	Paul Copenhagen	Wombatia	rossclannoble@yahoo.com	869.9
21	Murali	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>			776.8
22	Yani	Miles Luna	Ryushi	meryushi@yahoo.com	754.9
23	IOC	Jason Pearl	redoubtable1	redoubtable1@comcast.net	550.6
24	Sakkar	Nelson Merritt	hemmy	nelson.merritt@wachovia.com	538.6
25	Tokatl	Shelley Woodberry	Skipperway	desrik@comcast.net	507.6
<i>Minor Powers</i>					
26	Kicitchat	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>			480.9
27	Kachar	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>			433.0
28	Carcë	Attie Kremmling	Attie		400.2
29	Duedhyn	Rick Bishop	ouroboros		378.7
30	Raven Order	Alex James	Clan Dhanos of Duedyn	ClanDhanos@yahoo.com	207.1
31	Nikka	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>			205.8
32	Iäthedain	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>			185.0
33	Pehuatoka	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>			184.4
34	Kumara	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>			152.7



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