

The Sahûl Chronicle

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Turn 19

1541–1545 SA

Now that day is come, bright and joyous under the sun, when the world shall be remade, whole.

—Lady Goshtikka Mirra

NOW THAT THE southern rivers are largely frozen for most of the year, some map adjustments are in order. These frozen rivers are still rivers for the purposes of land movement crossing and air movement, but they should be considered Inimical Sea Zones for purposes of naval movement and CCR until further notice. The rivers affected are: Choloa River (B-3), Darriow River (C-3), River Yann (C-3, D-3, and D4), River Tondaris (D-3 and D-4), River Sunnaday (D-3), and Minrao River (D-4).

Likewise, Lake Sardath is icing up pretty good and should be considered an Inimical Sea Zone. Parts of Lake Sardath may be used by the daring for land movement (see the map below) during the next Turn *except for the Summers* (Phases 3, 8, 14, 18, and 23). All of these Regions are considered Inimical. Of course, if the weather improves during the Turn, you may find the area unexpectedly liquid. Good luck.



A note on sea movement: please do not assume that Monsoon or Current arrows exist that are not on the maps. *All Sea Zones are on the maps.* Yes, that makes the Jannes Sea and the Sea of Tranquility both choke points.

Schooners are abbreviated SO, regardless of what it might say in the rules.

Some of the Crunchy Con goodies have been distributed, but not all. You'll have to wait for next Turn for the rest.

NEXT TURN DUE: FRIDAY 03 FEBRUARY 2012.

Western Sahûl

THE KIT'IXI COAST

COUNTY OF TOKATL (141/TA)

Her Excellency, Tinikatua VIII, Mistress of the Totek Hive, Countess of Tokatl, Chancellor of the Empire.

Trade: Averon, Chi'tixi, Kachar, Sakkar, Taneki, ThaceD

DP: None.

Countess Tinikatua VII died in Sardarthion in 1543, having served as Chancellor of the Empire a scant five years. Landgrave Tarn gave up the Regency to one of the Totek Princesses, who became Tinikatua VIII. The new Countess quickly earned a reputation as an genius administrator, something lacking in Tokatl for some time.

Admiral Tapatua returned home to a hero's welcome, despite not having accomplished much.

Several high-fashion houses from Tokatl sent bulky crates to the Lich Ystar. Speculation runs rampant, but the favourite rumour of the moment is that Ystar is trying to remake his image as a dashing corpse-about-town.

Tokatl's sorcerers made a great leap.

ELECTORAL DUCHY OF TANEKI (271/YG)

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

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Averon, Chi'tixi, Itaxik, Kachar, Kichitchat, Pexiki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Yarni-Za

DP: None.

The Electoral Duchess accepted the fealty of the Countess of Pexiki. To cement their friendship, piles of cash for development were sent east, and a new road was constructed from Koten to the town of Montola in Kisar to better link the two Realms.

The great city of Jirum in Ketatl expanded.

The Saurian Baron of Ormacar invaded Zundaun with 13,000 infantry with the idea of conquering the region in the name of the Duchess of Taneki.

What actually happened was slightly different. The one-eyed Baron of Zundaun gathered his army of 7,000 mixed cavalry and infantry and met the Taneki force at a place called Yak's Meadow. The wily old Baron called for a parley. And then he called for roasted meat and rice wine. The parley lasted weeks, but it ended with Zundaun paying tribute to Taneki.

The winters came earlier and lasted longer. The horrible winter of 1545 was the worst of all, and many mountain villages were relocated downhill.

Thanks to years of wise investments and a little bit of luck, the Duchy's infantry, siege, and naval quality all improved. Likewise, Taneki's sorcerers are becoming wise in the ways of magic.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF AVERON (53 SI/L)

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, 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, CM, Itaxik, Kachar, Pehuatoka, Pexiki, Taneki, ThaceD, Tokatl, Urdrahahn

DP: Usutbes (A), Poror (F)

Grand Duchess Jera continued investing in infrastructure. Vast new public works were built throughout Averon and Yax'te. Averon's engineers built roads from Kevelek to Onisba to Zanthia, where they built the port town of Tilleinet, named for Margrave Tillein the Silent of blessed memory.

The Grand Duchess continued paying tithes to both the Church Militant and the Iluvarian Orthodox. She also broke ground on a new Theology College at the University of Kongros. Hoping to finally resolve the festering religious questions in the west, she authorized the return of all the seized religious properties back to the Church. Now which Church was a bit of question until the momentous events of 1544...

Margrave Tiketua VII entered the direct employ of the Grand Duchess, though her tiny anachronistic Northern March remains intact.

Crown Princess Jushana uncovered a vast conspiracy, reaching into the very heart of the Averese government and the Ruling House. Hundreds were arrested in the deep of the night, including Duke Merrin Muldalan, the widower of Grand Duchess Derica I (reigned 1499-1523), as well as four of his five grandchildren¹. They stand accused of plotting to place a descendant of Derica on the throne, whenever the current Grand Duchess should die.

Duke Muldalan had for years led the Grand Army of the North in Usutbes. He was smoothly replaced by his second in command, who affected the Duke's arrest personally.

The winters came earlier and lasted longer. In Yax'te, the weather was worse than most could remember. The Choloa River was choked with ice, even into the summers, and in the winters of 1544 and 1545 froze solid. Were it not for Yax'te's long preparations, it could have been much worse. Even so, it surely wasn't pleasant. The snow in most parts of the country hasn't melted since 1543.

Averon's Infantry quality improved.

THE CHURCH MILITANT: UNIFICATION!

The rumour that Averon was going to return some of the seized monasteries to Church control reached the Holy Synod. That these properties might be given over to the supervision of the Orthodox Pontiff, however, was a point of intense dispute. In the meeting halls of the Holy Synod, voices were raised, fingers pointed, and (during one particularly heated debate) pens thrown. By contrast, Archemandrite Sardula V was perfectly serene, and the local religious superiors – the actual priors and abbesses – enthusiastically supported whatever the new arrangement might be. This probably had something to do with vari-

¹ The grandchildren range in age from 4 through 12. The youngest (age 2) was not placed under arrest, although her mother was. The whereabouts of their father, Derica's only son Prince Muldulan, remains unknown. A substantial reward has been posted for information leading to his arrest.

ous Averese diplomats smoothing things over with honeyed words, persuasive arguments, and large donations.

Through much of 1541, Baroness Nenepillah III of Sakkar attended these meetings, championing the Restorationist cause and spreading some wealth of her own. In a series of closed-door meetings with the Archemandrite and the senior members of the Holy Synod, the Baroness went so far as to offer them land if they would relocate to the south. Unfortunately for Sakkar, the Baroness is not a terribly persuasive speaker, and her voice was eclipsed by those of Averon. When she left in early 1542, she seemed bitter and troubled.

In 1544, Brother Huygens of the Orthodox Church was allowed to address the Holy Synod, where he read a statement from the Pontiff. At the phrase "the return of all cathedrals, abbeys, and priories that were in the safe-keeping of Averon back to the control of Her Holiness Sardula V of the Church Militant..." the chamber erupted into happy pandemonium. This was far better than any had dared hope. There were even shouts of "long live Pope Harmony!"

The Archemandrite restored order and motioned for Brother Huygens to continue. The statement continued on in the usual effusive language of praise for the rulers and government of Averon before concluding, "We also would like to take this opportunity to commend Her Holiness Sardula V for her incredible efforts to reform the liturgy of the Church Militant. We also commend her willingness to work with Our representatives and look forward to a future of cooperation and harmony between the Orthodox and Militant Churches."

At this point, the Emandrite of Dranalda asked to be recognized.

"Sisters and brothers in Iluvar" she began. "The Pontiff is correct inasmuch as it is the responsibility of the Holy Synod, led by Her Holiness, to reform the sacred liturgy. This task nears its arduous conclusion, and it is my hope that we shall see its end before I pass from this world."

“Perhaps we should heed the Pontiff’s other wise words as well.

“While our liturgy, our language, our customs, and our canon law are very different from our Orthodox brethren in the east, our faith remains one with them. And as our explorers traverse the globe, we are finding other separated brethren who share our faith. We must greet them with one voice.

“If the history of the last centuries teaches us anything, it teaches us that in unity there is strength. One may break a single arrow in half, but a bundle of arrows may not be so easily broken. Brethren, it is time, I think, for the Church Militant to be an arrow in the Pontiff’s quiver.

“As we profess our obedience to Her Holiness the Archemandrite, so I call upon Her Holiness to profess obedience to the Pontiff at Sistrameides. For Iluvarians must be united in our struggle to proclaim the Truth.”

The Emandrite of Dranalda sat down in perfect silence. Minutes passed.

Finally, the Abbess of Saint Sirrix stood. “Unity in diversity is what we have always been taught, and what we have in turn always taught. Shall we not practice it here? I second the call of my learned brother from Dranalda. What says this Holy Synod?”

This was the traditional call for a vote. Her Holiness Sardula V stood and claimed the floor, echoing the ancient formula², “What says this Holy Synod?”

The vote was taken, and the Integrationists prevailed over the remaining Restorationists by a substantial margin; the Holy Synod said yes.

ILUVARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH MILITANT (10 IL)

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

Trade: Averon

DP: None.



rchemandrite Sardula v celebrated the unification of the western Church Militant with the Orthodox Church at Sistrameides by changing out all the stationary.

COUNTY OF PEXIKI (31 I/YG)

Her Excellency, Xitar III, the Vampyr, Mistress of the Coactoka Hive, Countess of Pexiki, Lady Amoxcali, Lord Admiral of the Green.

Trade: Averon, Itaxik, Kachar, Taneki

DP: None.



itar III swore fealty to the Electoral Duchess Toktoka of Taneki. The palace announced the new arrangement, saying “in response to the retraction of trade from Sakkar, we have accepted a treaty of fealty with Taneki to display the strong bond between our two sister countries. The goods of Sakkar were low quality anyway”.

The *Jollyboat Bedlam* sailed west and north up the Taneki Coast, ostensibly because of noise regulations adopted in Pexiki and to extend Pexiki’s trade. The word on the street, though, is that they sailed north because it was so cold in Pexiki. Indeed, the winters were harsher than had been seen in many a year.

Pexiki spent down its enormous treasury, investing in the future of their realm. Siege, naval, and airship quality improved, and the government expanded. New public works projects were built in every corner of the County. The University expanded. An urban population boom saw a number of new port towns built: Chamaih in Peua, Xerbah in Tlalia, Chamaix in Tlicata³, in addition to the inland town of Kuxnah in Yecoa. The towns of Ajchac, Itzelchoa, Jacoatec, and New Tatol all expanded into cities on the strength of retiring military personnel.

Great sacrifices were raised to Yagnar, and the pyres of Pexiki continued night and day. In the midst of these dark celebrations, Countess Xitar III herself participated in the darkest of necromantic incantation, the transfiguration into an undead vampyr.

² In faet, she chanted it in the fourth solemn tone.

³ This town proved popular among Pexiki’s retiring military.

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, Pehuatoka, Pexiki, Taneki, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: Chalkko (F), Uilaokatl (F)

Kachar cut trade with Sakkar in support of the Urdans in Pehuatoka. A tremendous homecoming was celebrated with the return of the fleet to Kuxetl. The extremely wealthy Baroness of Uilaokatl, Miklata IV, lately of the Duedhyn campaigns, swore fealty to the Countess and retired to a life of luxury and scholarly pursuit at a relatively young age. The Order of Saint Annir established schools throughout Kachar.

During a land survey, local officials in Kachar Prefecture found a perfect location for a fortress in a narrow crevasse in the mountains. The locals put a small wall with a gate on it. This natural fortress is known as Ch'enitzer, meaning "mountain cleft".

The winters came earlier and lasted longer. Fortunately, Kachar had long been preparing for the cold and snow, though few expected it to be as bad as it is.

QUEENDOM OF ITAXIK (30 I/UR)

Baroness Chass'ika of Ixkana, Regent of Itaxik.

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

DP: Opuchi (F), Yuitla (F)

Regent Chass'ika continued the Itaxikan tradition of investment and infrastructure. The government expanded under her watch, and naval quality improved. Work continued on the Grand Canal, and the University of the Ice continued and expanded its agricultural programmes. Some experiments with hardy kale are showing progress. A megalithic structure rose in the ancient city of Akassa. It is designed to be a depot for the proposed "Peer Trade Network".

The winter of 1541 was cold, but the famed Itaxik University of the Ice, cold-hardy farmers, and various other ventures blunted the worst effects. The

following winter was worse, and still Itaxik was up to the task. As the growing season shortened and the mountain glaciers grew year by year, the hardships began to make themselves felt throughout the Queendom. The winter of 1545 was truly horrible, but the plucky Itaxik just put on more layers.

Considerable time and effort were expended to find the Lady Nabari, missing since the rebellions of 1535. Despite their best efforts, little could be found other than some rumours of a half-mad princess, chattering to herself in the desert. Nevertheless, every lead no matter how small was tracked down. The investigators have found no confirmed sighting of her more recent than about 1538 in Nechyetti, with a possible later sighting indicating a general northward trail. Even the rumours die out after about 1542 in the wilder country of the Ormic Hills.

COUNTY OF PEHUATOKA (4 I/UR)

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

Trade: Averon, Carcë, Kachar, Urdraháhn

DP: None.

Countess Cipaçtonatha was relieved at peace with Sakkar, however she continues to demand the return of Narmona and reparations for the attack. Her ally, Lord Narmona, has himself journeyed to Sardarthion to make his plea to the Empress personally.

The port town of Chathetel, named after the Empress, was raised in Okwiksan.

BARONY OF SAKKAR (20 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, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: Failed.

Baroness Nenepillah returned to Yeyeċtin in 1543. Confronted with a people who were neatly split between the Integrationists and the Restorationists, she sent tithes to both the Church Militant and the Orthodox Pontiff.

She also found that her Barony was deep in the middle of a long, cold winter that in parts of the country had been going on for a year already. It warmed up a little in the summer of 1544, but since then, there has been snow. Sakkar's lengthy preparations seem to be keeping the people alive for now, even if the cold has basically wrecked the economy.

The Baroness obeyed the order of the Empress and made her peace with Pehuatoka. She retained control of Narmona, however, and even sent diplomats to try to persuade the locals to support her. Alas, it was not to be; it turns out that the people, recently "converted" by the Sword of Iluvar, were in no mood to be friendly to their occupiers. Many secret Urdan shrines have been found by the Sakkar garrison, and most of these contain portraits of the exiled Lord Narmona.

A large number of armed peasants formed a new port town in Onnok, which they named Behrbir. Similarly, dispossessed peasants settled into new neighbourhoods in Finnedor, expanding Samia into a city. The original Saurian inhabitants, fervent Ravenists all, did not much care for the newcomers. While the region is Iluvarian, the city remains split, often violently so. There were fights in the streets as the two cultures, kindreds, and religions struggled for supremacy. Order was maintained by constant patrols by members of the Order of the Sword of Iluvar. The Ravenists have become a despised underclass in the town they founded.

Sakkar threw itself firmly behind the Empire in their war with the Oratoan barbarians, sending many ships and troops northwards to Wagga-Wagga.

Thacia and Aret

THE HIGH PLAINS & NORTHERN COAST

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

Her Most Puissant Maješty, 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, Imperial Warden of the North, &c., &c.

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

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

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

DP: At war with a whole @#\$% continent

Chi'tixi's lich queen was granted the title "Warden of the North" by the Empress. Work began immediately on an armed response to the Oratoan attacks. Galleons were laid down and marines recruited and trained. The great fortress of Gidis rose in Girkkah. This imposing structure is now the headquarters of the Order of Gidaxa.

Minor protests continued in Chi'tixi's eastern cities against the corruption of the Imperial government and constitution. Protests have started spreading to the western regions. Military forces of the Countess of Cærrat dispersed a protest in the streets of Tantor, where the anti-Imperial marchers had a distinctly anti-Chi'tixi tone as well.

DUCHY OF THACE (35 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: Lahai (F)

Construction of the four new colleges at the University of Ourane⁴ was completed, and they began accepting students. Small investments were made everywhere, but education was favoured with additional expansion at the University of Ourane, one of the première places of higher learning in the known world. Otherwise, the treasury was filled to bursting.

The Sorceress Salthia the Shadowless continued her odd perambulations in the Närn countryside. She grew ever more translucent, until one day in 1543 she simply vanished.

The winters were long, particularly in the mountainous north.

*ELECTORAL COUNTY-PALATINE OF THACE (33 S/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, Averno, Carcë, Chi'tixi,
Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kitchat, Sakkar,
Taneki, ThaceD, Urdráhán

DP: Deiradjur (F)

Thace's winters were long and cold, particularly in the mountainous north and in the southern steppe. A freak storm in the autumn of 1542 brought snow to the streets of Snamarthis, which the city was not finally rid of until mid-spring of the following year.

Count Palatine Brannis the Gallant journeyed into the steppe in 1543, to one of the last Tiger holdouts of Zaculo, where he supervised the latest spate of missionary effort and dedicated the new Priory of Saint Berthilde. Brannis personally preached to the old Tiger shamans, and in the end the majority in the region finally embraced orthodox Urdanism.

In 1544, 735 ships under the flag of the Warden of the North sailed past Wagga-Wagga. With banners flying and Malebolge sailors on every yardarm, the ships saluted the shore batteries before heading out to sea. Sakkari Admiral Virgiferá arrived in Wagga-Wagga with 190 ships and many troops in 1545, seeking passage north to the Oratoan war zone.

After years of preparation, Lord Merryn⁵ announced the opening of the "Oratoan Birds of Mystery" exhibit in Snamarthis. This menagerie of colourful Oratoan birds includes examples of the riding *kura* and other flightless birds, as well as the homing *tui* and other exotic flying specimens.

Sar Kortiss of Hurrimak raced around the steppe with his 5,000 hussars, convincing several of the tributary sars to join their destinies more firmly to that of Electoral Thace. In 1545, he arrived at the village of Dhúl in the lonely scrubland of Harza, in the shadow of the great red rock of Ranarádu. There he met with a motley group, including Lady Itemik of Itaxik, Sir Nadith Jamalan from Hyrágec, and most peculiarly, Baron Ennor II of Jorun

The prefectures of Kyndyr and Tiogyon were returned to Duedhyn, along with a lovely case of wine and several crates of *The Azure Chronicles*. The twelfth volume of this bestselling series was published in 1545, and their popularity has spread throughout the Urdan and Iluvarian west.

The Thacian government conducted a survey of some of their northern regions in the shadow of the Arrake Mountains. Foundations were laid for a large structure in Andiga Prefecture.

The Count Palatine's youngest daughter Lady Tilda joined Imperial high society in Sardarthion. As for his granddaughter Mirra...

⁴ St. Chlöe College of Law, St. Naskeb College of Theology, St. Nöena College of Medicine, and St. Sebbar College of Engineering.

⁵ The Count's studious third son, currently serving as Director of the Society of Urdan Scientists.

The brawny Saurian Sar roared at the little clerk, who bowed abjectly at his feet.

"You go in and tell her to pack. We've orders to move. And when the Great Lord says 'move', we *move*, do you understand, Nardir?"

"My lord Ortak, she says..."

"I don't *care* what she says! Tell her... never mind, you cretin, I'll tell her myself."

The great and powerful Ortak, hereditary Sar of Fior, swept into the chambers of the tiny, six-year old Saurian girl. The walls were whitewashed plaster, and rustic furniture was in the steppe style. The little girl was seated on the floor, reading a picture book. He loomed over her.

"Now listen here, little miss, your grandfather has ordered us to move to Davica, so you'd best pack unless you want us to leave your gear here." His voice was firm, with more than a trace of frustration and anger. Hers, by contrast, was calm and sweet.

"Oh, Ortak, we're not moving anywhere."

"Yes, yes we are." She looked up from her book and into the old warrior's eyes. She smiled, and it broke his heart.

"No, Ortak. Davica is too far from the mountains. I'm not ready for the river yet."

"Now what is *that* supposed to mean?" He bent down low, his face right in hers. "We've got our orders, and I mean to follow them. You are the most stubborn little..."

She touched one finger to his beak, and he fell helplessly silent. She said, "Sar Ortak, my teacher Master Nardir says that we must obey all lawful authority, except when a higher authority bids us otherwise."

Sar Ortak nodded helplessly, incapable of speech.

"Ortak, you have been my loyal protector since I was a hatchling, and I have never disobeyed you. But now we must obey a higher call."

Sar Ortak, defeated, left the chambers in silence.

The Reverend Mother Iona cautiously entered the warm earthen receiving room of Sar Ortak. She was small for a Saurian, a fact curiously emphasized by her cream coloured burkha. Sar Ortak, seated in a low wooden chair, regarded her dubiously.

"I understand you came from Davica by foot. That can't have been pleasant."

"I did. Why was the child not moved as planned?"

"Well, you're a real charmer, Mother, you know that? Why don't you ask her yourself?"

"Just who's in charge here? You? Or a six year old child?"

An elderly Saurian entered the chamber at that moment. "She's seven today. It's her birthday."

The Reverend Mother sniffed. "And who are you?"

The old Saurian bowed in a courtly manner. "My name is Master Nardir. I'm Lady Mirra's tutor. You must be the Reverend Mother Iona, come to give our charge her religious instruction."

The Reverend Mother waved him off. "Where is the child?"

Nardir silently pointed through the door from which he had come. The Reverend Mother gathered herself and practically charged through the doorway.

Sar Ortak motioned for Master Nardir to sit, and he gratefully accepted. "Well, Nardir, how long do you think she'll keep that attitude?"

Nardir laughed. "She won't last an hour."

In fact, it was considerably less than an hour later when the Reverend Mother emerged from Mirra's room. She had removed her veil, and the Sar and the tutor smiled at the dazed expression in her eyes. Sar Ortak gestured to an empty chair, and she nodded. As she collapsed into the rough chair, Master Nardir brought her the jug of wine and a cup.

She nodded gratefully and took the cup.

Sar Ortak said, "she has that effect on people."

"I find," said Master Nardir after he had taken a drink himself, "that she is actually a rather good

student. Quite precocious, though. Questions everything. I wish you the very best in your efforts.”

Reverend Mother Iona nodded emphatically.

Sar Ortak laughed. “We’re going to get along just fine, Mother. Just fine.”

1543

As they did early every morning, the young Lady Mirra and the Reverend Mother Iona took a walk through the rolling steppe near the town of Gorathis. They rarely walked more than a few miles, although on the occasional jaunt, they’d gone as far as Saint Veetas Priory. The two prayed their beads as they walked, sometimes silently, and sometimes chanting together. After prayers, they often talked as they walked.

On this day, as they finished chanting the final bead, they found themselves a long way from town, in the shadow of a small hill. The sun was still low in the sky, and morning sunlight gave the grassland a magical, glowing look. Even the black plume of Mount Gorice to the east seemed to glow with a golden light.

Quite suddenly, young Mirra turned to the Reverend Mother and solemnly asked, “is this the centre of the world?”

As the Reverend Mother looked quizzically back at her young charge, Mirra suddenly turned and bolted up the hill.

When Reverend Mother Iona arrived at the top of the hill on her short little legs, she found Mirra sitting cross-legged at the top. She was carefully examining a dead raven on the ground in front of her. It was relatively fresh; the wound on its right wing still glistened in the sunlight.

The Reverend Mother sat beside her, and they both regarded the dead bird. Finally, Mirra asked, “why do you supposed it died?”

“Child, this is the way of the world. The predators attack the prey. The scavengers eat whatever the predators leave. The bones turn into soil for the grass and the worms. These are eaten by those who become prey for others.”

“I know that, Reverend Mother. But why did *this* raven die? No one has eaten it. They’ve only taken the smallest bite.”

“Who can tell the ways of the world?”

After a moment of silence, Mirra leaned forward and picked up the dead raven.

“Put that down, Mirra.”

But Mirra looked up at Reverend Mother Iona and sang the ancient chant,

*Oh Urda, gracious Mother of the World,
Whom blowing wind and raging sea obey,
Though the wicked sprout up like springtime grass,
Take them into your gentle heart, we pray.*

And its injuries healed, the little raven lifted up its head and flew away. The Reverend Mother gasped, for blood flowed freely from an open wound on Mirra’s right arm, a wound that had not been there moments before.

It was Mirra’s eighth birthday.

1544

The little Saurian girl stood atop the low hill, eyes closed, feeling the wind from the steppe brush her skin, smelling the grassy autumn air, hearing the distant rumbling of Mount Gorice to the east, feeling the hum of the earth beneath her feet. Far in the distance, a small family of nomads and their animals crossed the horizon; she could hear the bells on the cattle and the snorting of the horses.

She felt the looming presence of her keeper long before he arrived. She heard him puffing and wheezing as he crossed the last quarter-league and climbed the low hill. His shadow fell across her face.

“Lady Mirra!” he gasped.

She did not open her eyes. “Master Nardir.”

“You should not be so far from town. You told no one where you were going...”

“And yet, you found me, Nardir.”

“You are missing the celebration. Your grandfather came all the way from Snamarthis to see you, and you’ve barely said three words to him.”

The little girl opened her eyes and shrugged. “But it’s my *birthday*, Nardir. Can’t I can spend it as I wish?”

The exasperated old Nardir wrung his hands. “Lady Mirra, it’s really not very polite at all to keep the Count Palatine waiting. You’ve been taught better than that.”

Mirra sighed. So far, nine years old was not much better than eight. She sulkily walked down the hill towards town.

1545

On her tenth birthday, the Lady Mirra of Thace returned to her birthday hill. This time, she was accompanied by her dour old tutor, Master Nardir, the Reverend Mother Iona, and three armed guards. In their heavy armour, the guards struggled to keep up with the delighted dancing and skipping of the girl. The Reverend Mother followed, her short legs unable to keep up with either the young girl *or* the lanky clanky guards. Last in the parade was old Master Nardir, whose huffs and puffs were louder than the clanking of the armour or even the delighted squeals of the barefoot girl.

She arrived at the top of the hill as the guards and the Reverend Mother were still climbing. Master Nardir flopped to the ground at the hill’s base.

The song of the earth was loud today; Mirra could feel the vibrations of the ground in her bones. She saw the blazing, cascading sheets of Mana pour up from the ley lines in exactly the same way that nobody else did. The magic of the world permeated her, and all of her senses were full. She laughed with delight as she spun around on the hill top, arms spread wide. Today was the day.

She began to sing.

Her song was exquisite. The guards paused in mid-step, overcome by the beauty of the high, piercing tones. Suddenly, she sounded a deep tremolo from her crest, accompanying herself. Now even Master Nardir stared up at her. Her song reverberated across the steppe; it rang off the northern mountains and echoed back in perfect time. It

was as if the very earth answered her song in divine choir and the wind breathed the beat.

The guards, the Reverend Mother, and Master Nardir were all absolutely entranced. And then, slowly, it began to dawn on them that perhaps it was not a trick of the geography; perhaps some of the echoes were not echoes at all.

Some of the echoes were indeed their own bellying song, not matching, but harmonizing. And the beat they felt was not the wind, but the beat of colossal wings. A dragon was flying from the north, from the mountains, and answering the song of the child, Mirra.

It was the dragon Skögul, and together, they sang the ancient song, with new, unfamiliar lyrics:

*Where is the horse gone? Where is the rider?
Where is the giver of treasure?
Where are the seats at the feast?
Where are the revels in the hall?
Pour out the bright cup!
Sing sweetly for the mailed warrior!
Returned is the splendour of the prince!
Now that day is come,
bright and joyous under the sun,
when the world shall be remade, whole.*

And the immense dragon gently lit upon the hill, and together she and the little Saurian princess danced until the setting of the sun.

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, Averno, Itaxik, Pehuatoka, Sakkar, ThaceD, ThaceE, Urdraháhn

DP: Mosahn (T), Roon (A), Hobith (T)



Sar Tahnik II marshalled his forces in Thacian Memisen, this time for possible service in Oratoa. Envoys were sent to the independent desert tribes to convince them to join under the CarcĚan war banner. It could have been worse. Additionally, another envoy was sent to the

Ormic Hills. He received a nice hat of yak felt for his troubles.

Hats were, in fact, all the rage in Carcë, preferably nice warm ones with lots of fur; the steppe was gripped in the icy hand of winter for nine months of the year. There are those who say you can ride a hundred miles or more across the steppe before finding a snowless spot of earth large enough to set up your yurt.

Infantry, siege, and sorcery quality all improved.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ARAXES (28 W/UR)

*Grand Duchess Sardierre the Fair, Regent for...
His Gallant Majesty, Kapalless IV, Baron Pinyerrel,
Electoꝛ and Grand Duke of All Araxes.
Baron Kuakomanh Sardes, Lord Protectoꝛ of Araxes.*

Trade: Aradéc, Atuburrk, Averoꝛ, Carcë, Chi'tixi,
Einandhu, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, IOC,
Kicitchat, Kumara, Sakkar, Taneki,
ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn,
Zarkhandu

DP: None.

he Regency recalled the popular former heir, Count Tramandes of Thangkar home from Tythyen. Fearing a trap, his wife Panierre tearfully begged him not to go, for her sake and for the sake of their growing family⁶. Duty won out, however, and the former Crown Prince set out for the capital in the spring of 1541.

He arrived in Pinyerrel in 1543, where much to his surprise he was not arrested. It seems that news had recently arrived of the death of the great Countess Ranierre of Kayew⁷, Tramandes' grandmother. With her death, much of the support for the accession of Tramandes melted away, leaving only his core supporters of House Thiuli⁸ to agitate for him. Once again, Tramandes reiterated his support for his cousin, Grand Duke Kapalless IV, now just six years old.

⁶ The birth of their daughter Ranierre in 1541 brought the number of children to four.

⁷ Her Excellency Captain-General Thiuli Ranierre, Countess of Kayew, was Lady Protectoꝛ of Araxes from 1506 to 1513 and Administrator of New Araxes from 1533 until her death in 1542 at age 78.

⁸ Ruling house of the Duchy of Thunta.

The following year, Tramandes' father died, leaving him the title of Count of Kayew. In order that there would be "no confusion about who might succeed the Grand Duke", the Regency stripped Count Tramandes of his other title of Count of Thangkar, a title normally reserved to the heir, and also of its associated membership in the ruling House Pangku.

Although many of House Thiuli, including not least the elderly Duke of Thunta himself, protested mightily, calling it an insult and an affront, Count Tramandes himself was perfectly calm about the situation, even calling it "necessary for the peace". Nevertheless, several members of Parliament have called for an investigation into charges of corruption at the highest levels of the Regency government. The Lord Protectoꝛ, Baron Kuakomanh Sardes⁹, has dismissed these charges as baseless.

Construction continued on the Trans-Araxean Road, this time from Tishark into Moruna. The fashion and publishing industries continued to expand with government patronage.

The University of Pinyerrel expanded, even as a new Primary school system was founded the town of Inchin in Yibthúdu. The excited young Grand Duke was among the first signed up.

Mount Gor continued its constant eruption, keeping Gorice in an endless twilight of ash. The local public works have essentially been destroyed. Kamukapi has been essentially abandoned, and in the countryside, the locals are moving out.

Most of the rest of the country experienced snow falling, rather than ash. The winters were worse than normal, particularly in the southern reach.

COUNTY OF KICITCHAT (22 I/YG)

*Her Mandibleness, Cir'ik VIII, Lady Tchac'at, Countess of the Kicitchat Hive and Associated Dominions.
Grandmistress T'ivik of the Nameless.*

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia,
Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Hyrágec,
ID, Ingazi, Lynnarvor, Taneki, ThaceE,
Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za, Zarkhandu

⁹ Who by complete coincidence is the Regent's father.

DP: Failed!

Countess Cir'ik VIII continued the economic development of her realm with a vengeance. She ordered the construction of few public works throughout the realm, and she expanded the bureaucracy. Kicitchat's urbanization increased, fueled at least in part by retiring army veterans. They raised two new towns: Taxitki in Karadeg and Ystar in Nertik. The city of Inyib grew as well.

Baron Dorrak of Nolvonn politely reaffirmed his family's alliance with the Countess to yet another Kicitchat diplomat, but he again declined to fold his family heritage into the Hive.

The winters were colder and drier than normal

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ATUBURRK (38W/YG)
His Gracious Majesty, Adhanggar Rahnes II, the One-Armed, Count of Erran and Odol, Imperial Governor of Ardebon, Elector & Grand Duke of Atuburrk.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Cappargarnia, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Golmath, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Kumara, Taneki, Tokatl, Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za

DP: None.

Grand Duke Rahnes returned victorious to his capital, missing his left arm but none of his vigour or enthusiasm. As the Grand Duke's exploits were repeated *ad nauseum* in the popular press, the Navy was deluged with volunteers, and three ports worked day and night building new ships. The prestigious Engadh Naval Academy proved a popular draw for the sons and daughters of the Great Houses. Even the Grand Duke's obnoxious son Count Caranthes entered in 1544. His much more popular (and intelligent) daughter Drannea has also indicated her desire to enter the Academy when she comes of age in 1546.

New public works were dedicated, and a small port town grew on the bleak, windswept Isle of Ibungiy. They're holding a contest to name it, since the locals thought the name proposed by the Grand

Duke was entirely too silly. These are a very serious people, the people of Ibungiy.

Despite truly massive investments in virtually everything, only siege quality managed to improve.

Central Sahûl

THE HEART OF EMPIRE

ELECTORAL REPUBLIC OF CAPPARGARNIA (85M/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 Blood Swords, Consul-General of the Tempest March.

Trade: Aradéc, Atuburrk, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Kicitchat, Kumara, Lynnarvor, Thaced, Tiryouglas

DP: See below.

The Republic continued to grow fantastically wealthy, investing more in public works than most realms see in a decade.

The cities of Anabrin, Olba, and Inh Alal all expanded, and the town of Kattras in Dramûl grew into a proper city. The Republic raised four new fortresses for the Blood Swords¹⁰ and connecting highways for the merchants from Alkandh through Golluz to Udhibar.

Even as the Republic continued to settle army veterans into their cities and provide them new employment in building roads, the Senate hawks grew ever more restive, complaining that Prince Caranthes was weakening the Republic. When the Prince ordered several allied prefectures to dismantle their militaries, a crisis was at hand.

¹⁰ Deathwatch in Mælör, Greenwatch in Djarden, Blackwatch in Triffin, and Bloodwatch in Dunvaël.

Tiribissi Lanharnes, Burgrave of Adndar, simply refused the Prince's "request" and holed up in his capital complaining of a sudden illness.

The Blood Swords (noble warriors all) point blank refused to spend their time in road-building, deeming it an insult to their Order. Grandmaster Steene Caranthes returned to the Order's temporary barracks in Adndar to take personal command of their main force there and soothe the ruffled feathers.

Baron Sandrim Haryt of Ebmadh, meanwhile, received orders from the Prince referring to him as "Prefect of Ebmadh" and ordering him to disband his army and report for training in Cappargarnia. The hotheaded Baron pointedly reminded the Prince of his family's *Sterling* historical military service to the Republic, *and* that his House was *allied* with the Republic¹¹, *and* that he could certainly *end* that alliance at *any* convenient time. To make his point, he and his men journeyed to Erediar and camped outside the walls of the capital. Only the infusion of piles of Cappargarnian cash prevented Ebmadhi independence, though the Baron is still expecting an apology from the Prince.

The argument in the Senate escalated into a duel of words between young Abramín Madasar and the wizard Deirn Drandir, leader of the Pro-Deirn faction, with various representatives of the Noble Houses backing one or the other. And then came a genuine military crisis: a Tokatl fleet of some 200 warships and 60 transports sailed up the Byrrin. Their commander, the Lady Karzax, simply "forgot" to pay the toll at the Adndar Canal. Neither the Cappargarnian military nor the Cappargarnian navy made any effort to stop them.

In the Senate, Lady Anabrin demanded to know, "where was the fleet?" The cry was soon taken up throughout the chamber, along with cries of "shame!" The Senate seems to have turned very much against the Prince and his policies. Some of the more radical voices even called for the Prince's abdication.

¹¹ Cemented by the marriage between Midshipman (later Captain) Tiribissi Taric and Lady Sandrim Kieräel in 1459.

In Adndar, the Guilds Council demanded that the Burgrave give them an accounting of the colossal failure now known as the "Karzax Incident". He declined to see them due to his illness¹², but the rumour quickly spread that the old Burgrave blamed the entire mess on Cappargarnian "mismanagement".

The winters were longer and harder than usual, and ice floes could be found in the River except in the summer months.

Prince Caranthes, meanwhile, spent much of his time pursuing his building programme and overseeing the sacrifice of many heaping coffers of gold to The Lovers. If his sacrifices produced any effect, none noticed.

IMPERIAL FREE CITY OF EINANDHU (4 M/UR)

Sir Forngian Dareth, Tiger King of Arms.

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

DP: It's a living.



The Heralds registered Electoral arms for Araxes, incorporating the Electoral Lion and the Araxean chaplet: *Argent, a lion rampant tail nowed sable, grasping in dexter forepaw a chaplet of roses proper.* They're still working with the King of Zarkhandu on his Kingdom's new arms, something about the silhouette of a jackal with a hammer and anvil hovering over snow white mountains with six silver stars and a red comet sailing through the sky. It's complicated.

THE IMPERIAL DEMENSE (14 M/UR)

Her August & Imperial Majesty, Chath'ecutla, Mistress of the Tis'chak, Countess of Takkikik, Queen of Itaxik, Golden Beetle of the West, Sovereign of Sahûl, Lady of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion, Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Empress of All the World.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrárec, Ingazi, IOC, Kicitchat,

¹² To be fair, he is a Wenemet in his late 60s.

Lynnarvor, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas,
Urdráhahn, Zarkhandu

DP: None.

IIP: 4

For appointments, please see Gazette.

The new Empress wasted no time in settling into her Imperial rôle. After listening to the Electoral Envoys discuss and argue for a bit, she issued an Imperial declaration of war against five Oratoan realms¹³ and created a new Imperial Officer, the Warden of the North, to prosecute the war. Not to be outdone, Zarkhandu declared war against a sixth Oratoan realm for no apparent reason¹⁴. The Empress then approved the Diet's repeal of the *Non-Continuity Ordinance*, and ordered the Lords Admiral of the Blue and the Red to stage their forces to Wagga-Wagga.

The Peers were also busy, passing a bill known as *The Non-Proliferation Act* and another bill amending the *Great Charter*. After some discussion, the College of Electors tabled both measures. The Electors also acknowledged an application by the Oratoan Kingdom of Pakoa for membership in the Empire and discussed the matter.

Lady Karzax's fleet withdrew from Sondrim and headed home, inadvertently causing a crisis in the government of Cappargarnia.

The winter of 1541 set in early; the first snowfall in Sardarthion was recorded on September 12.

The next year, the Empress and the Iluvarian, Urdan, and Yagnarist Primates announced the *Edict of the Sheathed Sword*, which essentially outlawed war within the Empire and defined the crime of treason for the first time. The King of Aradéc more or less immediately ran afoul of the anti-war clause.

The Imperial Chamber Court issued a ruling on their most contentious case yet, and for the first time their ruling was gazetted. Aradéc vowed to appeal directly to the Empress.

Chancellor Tinikatua of Tokatl died in the frigid autumn of 1543 at the relatively advanced

age of 43. She was but one of many who did not make it though the seemingly endless snow and cold. The Empress attempted to develop the same sorts of winter survival methods that were helping in Itaxik, but it was much too little much too late. The cold was so deep that for the first time in living memory the ice on Lake Sardath formed solid sheets, sometimes hundreds of miles in length.

With no Chancellor, there were now two vacancies on the Imperial Chamber Court. The Empress did not move to fill them. In fact, she rather seems to have spent the vast majority of her political capital. While the Imperial bureaucracy continued grinding on as it ever had, the Diet paid less and less attention to Empress Chath'ecutla. Even her Imperial audiences were sparsely attended.

The Electors finally took a vote on the admission of Pakoa to the Empire. Only five of the Envoys actually bothered to vote, and the 3–2 vote, though a majority, was not enough to recommend admission to the Empress. The pro-Pakoa Envoys are reportedly trying to scare up some more votes for another attempt.

Several other Oratoan realms, spurred on by the Imperial declaration of war, also applied to join the Empire. Their applications didn't even come up for a proper vote.

The Emerald Watch's infantry and naval quality both improved.

The Empress, meanwhile, helped with the multinational research into the Emerald Shards. Very little progress was reported, though it was relatively easy to determine how they originally fit together. Researchers estimated that the nine shards (including the one forged into the Imperial Crown) probably represent about 85% of the original material of the original Emerald Crown.

Lord Narmona arrived in Sardarthion in 1545 to petition the Empress for justice in the case of the Sakkari invasion of his lands.



¹³ Ancalimë, Tongi, Whutoa, Pouákaitoa, and Orofer

¹⁴ Kuroa.

In the cold autumn of 1543, a strange heavily bearded Human ambassador, without any facial tattoos whatsoever, arrived in Sardarthion and sought audience with the Empress.

Haltingly, he said his name was Abdas of Jeen-aym-ju and that he was the duly appointed ambassador of “His Holy the Ahk-hooda” to “the noble ruler of Sah-jool.” He presented credentials written on finest silk in writing that looked like a mass of wedge-shaped brush strokes, with a translation below in the extinct Old Imperial language. The heavy seal was of solid gold.

He presented gifts to the Empress of several scrolls of “Kevanzyi” literature (translated into Old Imperial), wine, and strange musical instruments. After presenting his credentials, he withdrew from court for a year to the colleges of Einandhu, where he greatly improved his language skills and learned Sahûlian customs. He returned to Sardarthion in 1545 and commissioned the construction of a combination embassy and symphony hall in a columned architectural style. His entourage performed concerts and he himself publicly offered his own peculiar religious ceremonies at noon each day to his God, Akhuda, in the symphony hall.



Ah, the Sardarthion social scene!

We begin with sad news: Lord Injyi, who many think was in fact the exiled ex-king Rhazahan of Aradéc, died in the cold winter of 1541 at an advanced (but indeterminate) age. The card room at the Regency Hotel was renamed in his honour.

The game itself continued to draw various exiled and ex-patriot nobles from all over Sahûl. The rather poncy Duke Gilquibble Tarlan of Avero¹⁵ and the vacuous and dissipated Lord Ebalondrir were both regulars. On rare occasions, Lord Mortain has been known to show up for a hand or three.

The big social news, however, was the arrival of Lady Tilda of Snamarthis, daughter of the Count Palatine of Thace and sister of the drunkard Lord

¹⁵ Of the Polyimia Gilquibbles.

Ebalondrir. Her arrival was a breath of fresh air through the stuffy corridors of Sardarthion society. Her residence quickly became the place to be seen, the center of an emerging sal n culture. Her parties were the most lavish thrown in recent memory, and the newspapers breathlessly recorded her alleged secret dalliances and affairs.

The reporters don’t get too close, however, as she has two unsmiling Tur hu bodyguards who carry daggers made from shark teeth in addition to their rather formidable swords. While the swords will certainly kill you, the daggers *hurt*.

Lady Tilda is known to favour several top-name Araxean dressmakers, and overnight the fashions changed: Tokatl was *out*, and Araxes was *in*.

The peculiar music of the Akhudan embassy proved very popular among the young and edgy.

PRINCIPALITY OF DUEDHYN (9 S/UR)

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

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Einandhu, Elph rec, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, Lynnarvor, ThaceE, Urdrah hn, Zarkhandu

DP: Tiogyon (F)

Elector Thace returned administration of the prefectures of Kyndyr and Tiogyon to Duedhyn garrisons, followed quickly by Duedhyn diplomats. Araxes evacuated their armies from Duedhyn, but a considerable foreign military presence remains in-country; Electoral Thace alone has 40,000 troops stationed in Pareis.

Prince Merryn and the Urdan Church sent food and medical supplies, blankets, tents, and nurses for the care and comfort of the Ravenist refugees huddled in Avalow and Tiogyon. Although they were initially resistant, when the winter of 1541 came early, the refugees gratefully accepted the help and kindness.

Throughout Duedhyn, the winters were harsh and snowfall frequent. In the mountains, many of the villages moved down-slope as the glaciers expanded into previously verdant valleys. Reports of leaping snow-cats attacking villagers in the south-

ern mountain regions have again become common. Unlike many of the western realms, Duedhyn had been unable to prepare for the hard weather in the relatively warm years of the past few decades, and so they relied instead on old war supplies. Everything that Duedhyn had, they shared with the refugees.

Raven Prelate Artyrs, meanwhile, exhorted his followers to stay the course. They delivered their own supplies from their vast storehouses in Brandinas Castle, which itself was surrounded by refugee camps. As year after year passed without the promised fleet to take them away, the winters grew worse and worse. Many thousands died in the cold, despite the best efforts of those aiding them.

In Tiogyon, the locals accepted both the establishment of a Raven Ordinariate and full integration into the Principality. This may have been aided by the settlement of thousands of refugees who took advantage of the Prince's offer of lands in exchange for fealty and acceptance of the Ordinariate.

In Avalow, the situation was a little more complicated. An estimated 20,000 cold and huddled refugees accepted Prince Merryn's offer. The Duedhyn army moved them to Lowarthow and Glasdor and settled them there, where abandoned farms and villages dotted the countryside.

Researchers from all over the Empire continued cataloging the Library of Pareis. Prince Merryn announced that scholars were preparing a compiled edition of the Annals of Vator for publication. As a hint of things to come, they published a broadsheet entitled "Timeline of Sahûl" widely and to great acclaim.

The Prince also invited any leader from the Empire to attend the re-invigorated University of Pareis for a modest sum (50GP).

The mad Sar Thorvok of Duzjun vanished without a trace in the hard winter of 1543.

Many new public works were built, and sorcery improved.

TIMELINE OF SAHÛL: ERAS OF THE FIRST EMPIRE

The Sovereign Sages of Sardarthion & the Five Legendary Emperors.....	641 years
The Three Ancient Lineages	850 years
The Reign of Mikosos	9 years
First Civil War	40 years
Era of the Five Kingdoms.....	410 years
Era of the House of Drakketh.....	57 years
Era of the House of Tsannet.....	167 years
Era of the House of Nittesáhn.....	165 years
Era of the Eastern & Western Kingdoms ..	76 years
Second Civil War	46 years
Era of the House of Drandeis.....	323 years
Third Civil War	115 years
<i>The Shatterment: The Second Age Commences.</i>	

RAVENS ON THE MARCH! (S/RA)

His Holiness Artyrs II, Prelate of the Raven Orthodox Church.

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



relate Artyrs despaired as the harsh winters and the kindness of Prince Merryn and the Urdan Church melted away many of his huddled masses in the Darriow River valley. The zeal of those who remained, however, as well as those in Breselek, only increased.

Finally, three hundred Atuburrk transports braved the frozen river in 1545 and began loading the surviving refugees. They appear to need another 145 transports. The last of the Raven buildings were left to ruin, and Brandinas Castle and the ancient Cathedral of Branryn were abandoned to the advancing glaciers.

LANDGRAVATE OF LYNNARVOR (12 MS/YG)

Landgrave Ebarrew Dolmathes II, Landgrave of Lynnarvor and Burgrave of Fair Belsûnd.

Trade: Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Elphárec, ID, Kicitchat, Tiryowglas, Zarkhandu

DP: None.

Landgrave Dolmathes the Dashing died peacefully in his sleep in the cold summer of 1544, aged 79. Wails of mourning reached the heavens from throughout Sahûl, as this great naval hero passed into the claws of Yagnar.

*The old heroes are passing, one by one;
Shall we ever see their like again?
The old heroes are passing, year by year;
Shall we ever hear such tales again?*
(Lament for Dolmathes)

Dolmathes' 17-year old son Dolmathes took the reigns of the young Landgravate in its most desperate hour, as the winter closed in upon it. The young Dolmathes seems up to the task, however – he is, if anything, even *more* dashing than his father.

He started out with strong investments in new public works. It was well appreciated by his freezing subjects.

Following a massive landslide in Vyhan, precious stones and metals were found in the rivers and streams of a remote hillside near the southern glaciers. The resultant rush created the boomtown of Dolow and filled the tiny Landgravate's treasury.

COUNTY OF TIRYOWGLAS (34 SW/IL)

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

Trade: Aradéc, Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi, IOC, Lynnarvor, Murali, Urdráhahn, Zarkhandu

DP: None.

Lord Sarrik, Count's Truedhek's nephew and heir, was married to Lady Karvolvas in a quiet ceremony in 1541. Their first child, a daughter named Dantelas, was born the following year amidst a freak summer snowfall. A son was born to the couple in 1544, and they named him Truedhek.

Many new public works projects were put into place throughout Tiryouglas, which was just as well; the weather was *terrible*, with snow falling

(it seemed) in every season. Certainly the winters of 1541, 1544, and 1545 were all very bad indeed, and in the hollows and the higher elevations, some of the snow that fell during the autumn storms of 1544 still hasn't melted.

The government expanded.

ILUVARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (29 IL)

His All Holiness, Pope Harmony VIII, the Great, Pontiff of Siŝtrameides, Archemandrite of Ilúhir.

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

DP: None.

Dapal nuncios continued discussions with the other Iluvarian Churches. Integration was achieved with the western Church Militant, though relations with Sakkar still seem a bit rocky. Pope Harmony VIII, having achieved unification with the west, now has his sights set on the east, which is proving more difficult.

A haunting love song called "the Snows of Siŝtrameides" has become popular, though the snow and ice and cold and storms that inspired it are not.

Church infantry quality improved.

MOST SANGUINE DUCHY OF ELPHÁREC (34 W/IL)

His Grace, Kanda-Eparreb Morcrades I, Count of Angûron and Siddhan, Duke of Elphárec.

Kanda Morcrades Lord Ebléc, Chancellor of the Regency Council.

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

DP: None.

Duke Tashnes v continued unabated in his libertine ways. Former Regent and uncle of the Duke, Count Gorran, finally lost his temper with the "boy", now approaching thirty years of age. He confronted his nephew, shouting at him to take up the reigns of government and, "for Iluvar's sake, marry! A hundred bastards and not one heir – it's a disgrace!" By way of reply, the drunken Duke giggled at his uncle's outburst. The disgusted old Wenemet stomped his foot once in

reprobation and left the chamber, walked right out of the palace, and kept on walking.

Meanwhile, the Dowager Duchess Enebrel, fell ever deeper into her obsession with the Ring of Djinn. She continually summoned its guardian, Lord Jarien, driving him to distraction and leading to administrative chaos in his position as head of the Duchy's magical research ministry. There was even talk that Lord Jarien might consider "something drastic" concerning the Dowager Duchess' unrelenting need of the ring.

She would stare at it for hours, muttering something like, "it's empty. Where did they go? Why is it empty? Empty empty empty..." When the ring was out of her sight, the Dowager Duchess manifested an acute paranoia, looking at those around her – family, courtiers, staff – with suspicion and anger.

Many in the palace desired relief from the madness of the Ducal family. When the terrible winter of 1541 set in, that number only grew as the government ministers floundered in their response. The summer brought some relief, but the autumn rains in 1542 quickly became ice storms and blizzards, and petitions for relief poured in from the people in every part of the Duchy. These, the Duke ignored, and there was no one who could bring him to heel.

The misery of the people increased all through that dismal winter, and all the while the Duke's treasury expanded to bursting. Unemployment was endemic, and the Duke's rudderless government made few purchases and employed fewer men. Even the *Ice Relief Trust Fund* sat in a locked vault. Thousands died as the harvests continued to be a fraction of what they were in former days.

The Duke himself, meanwhile, continued his lavish lifestyle, throwing party after party for his dissipated aristocratic friends and cronies. Desperate that Duke Tashnes would not suffer the fate of his father, a conspiracy was hatched in the Palace to beg Count Gorran to reassume the Regency.

But it was far, far too late. As the starving peasants and their destitute feudal lords emerged from

under the snow in the spring of 1543, a consensus was emerging that the entire line of Tashnes had exhausted itself and had to go. Even the Duke's own army seethed with revolution. The rebels found themselves an unexpected and welcome champion in the person of Morcrades Lord Ebléc, arbiter of the Civil War of 1522–1525.

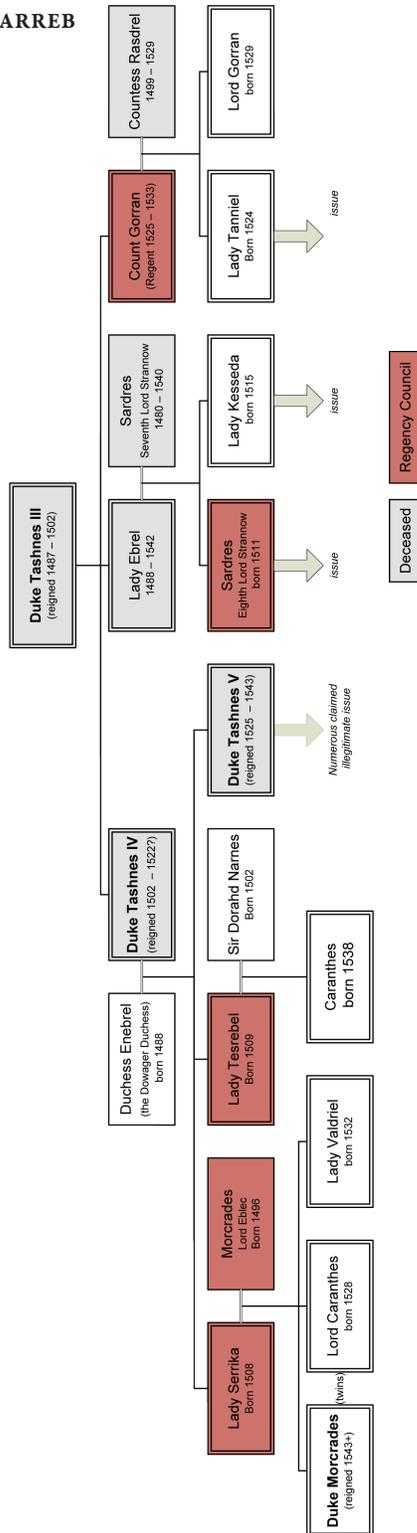
The calming Lord Ebléc made a last-ditch effort to avoid bloodshed. He promised the rebel nobles that he would present their demands for reform to the Duke and seek a new government. His first step was to seek out Count Gorran and convince him to join his efforts to broker a compromise. The irritated Gorran informed Ebléc that he was retired. Ebléc persisted, playing on the Count's patriotism and sense of duty. Finally, Gorran relented and donned his old army uniform.

Together, they demanded to see the pickled Duke Tashnes. When they were refused admittance, a cadre of cavaliers obtained it for them. The Duke's palace apartments were overrun with drunk, unconscious, or otherwise incoherent young aristocrats, many in various states of undress. The cavaliers split up to search for the Duke to search his bedchamber, sitting rooms, and dining hall, while Lord Ebléc and Count Gorran gingerly picked their way through the bodies littering the hallways in the direction of the Duke's drawing room and library.

As the two Wenemet turned into a long corridor, a shout of pain echoed down the hallway. They looked at each other wide-eyed, for it was the Duke's voice. As one, they ran down the corridor to the open door at the far end. Lord Ebléc easily outpaced the old Count and arrived first.

What happened next is mostly a matter of conjecture. Count Gorran heard a muffled yelp just before he arrived at the door. Inside the small drawing room, Lord Ebléc knelt beside the supine form of Duke Tashnes. The Duke was half-clothed, and a puddle of blood was forming around his head. An empty wine bottle rolled slowly across the floor, and the room stunk of wine and stale urine.

HOUSE EPARREB



Ebléc looked up at Gorrán and levelly said, “I found him like this. It looks as though he fell and hit his head on the corner of the desk.”

They carried the Duke’s limp body to the Palace infirmary. The Duke never regained consciousness, and he died a few days later, aged just 31.

The great nobles of the Duchy met together at the Palace in Epadh in the Summer of 1543. Count Gorrán, as the eldest surviving member of House Eparreb in direct male descent from Duke Tashnes III, was the logical choice for the empty throne. The Dowager Duchess Enebrél, however, wailed at the very thought – she clearly blamed him for the death of her son, Duke Tashnes V. She continued wailing for about five minutes, barely pausing for breath, and bringing all business to a halt.

Only after she was escorted out by her niece, Lady Kessedá, and strong wine brought in for the council did business resume.

Count Gorrán categorically refused the throne. He instead proposed that his young nephew Lord Morcrades¹⁶ be made Duke, and that a *permanent* Regency Council be established to keep him and all future Dukes on the straight and narrow.

With this suggestion, the grandees of House Eparreb unanimously agreed. Five senior members of the House were chosen for the Regency Council, and in deference to the sensibilities of Elphárec’s other great Houses (many of which were practically in open revolt in all but name), an additional six slots were created on the Council, to be decided by the Great Houses themselves in election.

Having cleverly turned the focus of the Great Houses from wrath against them into scrabbling against each other, House Eparreb chose the new Duke’s own father as Chancellor of the Regency Council.

The Duke’s twin brother was named heir.

¹⁶ Eldest son (barely) of Lady Serríka and Lord Ebléc.

KINGDOM OF HYRÁGEC (31 W/UR)
His Valiant Majesty Irrjir Frenthes v, King of Hyrágec, Beloved of Urda.

Trade: Aradéc, Chi'tixi, Elphárec, Golmath, Ingazi, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, Kumara, Tiryowglas, ThaceD, ThaceE, Urdraháhn, Zarkhandu

DP: None.

Moved by the powerful story of Thacian Baron Retorok Sendare of Forndonim and Whangwhúatéwua, King Frenthes posthumously awarded him the title “Lieutenant Captain of the Wolf Guard of Hyrágec”. Further mindful of the repercussions of the late Baron’s death, the King ordered the navy considerably expanded with ships of the newest design.

Crown Prince Rahnes took up his duties, which included marrying a pretty little Wenemaide from Andogarn Prefecture named Lady Delega in 1543. His brothers Andjes and Frenthes similarly married in subsequent years. Prince Rahnes and Princess Delega announced the birth of their first child, a girl, in 1545. She was named Finora after her great-grandmother¹⁷.

Princess Sardira, meanwhile, graduated from the Royal Conservatory on the strength of the delightful “Twenty-four Pieces for Children”. She is designing a musical curriculum for the Kingdom’s primary schools.

The greying Mæstro Johannes produced a grand new opera in 1544, called *Brave New World*. Based on Sendare’s *An Explorer’s Tale*, it highlights the honour, courage, and wonder of exploring Oratoa. This opera shows the Mæstro returning to his old genius, and it has proved very popular indeed. Touring companies have brought *Brave New World* to cities throughout Hyrágec, Ingazi, Elphárec, and even Cappargarnia. A Sardarthion première is scheduled for 1546.

The hard winters, particularly in the southern highlands, brought hardship and economic mis-

¹⁷ For the record, Prince Andjes and his Princess, now living in Pareis, had a boy later in that same year. They named him Andjes Jr.

ery, though it was nowhere near as bad as in the more southern realms. The revolutions of Aradéc and Elphárec certainly found their admirers within Hyrágec, but the enduring popularity of the Royal House has kept the more radical elements in check.

The Kingdom’s infantry and siege technology continued to improve.

The Gawan Peninsula

THE FEUDAL NORTHEAST

COUNTY PALATINE OF INGAZI (37 W/UR)
His Most Urdan Excellency, Gwariva Razhim X, Overlord of Gawan, Captain of the East Riding, Burgrave of Deriháhn, Count Palatine of Ingazi.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Golmath, Hyrágec, Iäthedain, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, Kumara, Murali, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

DP: None.

Mhile his forward-thinking son Razhim impotently fumed, the curmudgeonly Count Palatine Trememeris IV reasserted his command of his realm. Vast military investments were made, and a new war fleet built to replace the one his son had “wasted” as Prince-Regent, sending them on a fool’s quest to circumnavigate the world. Piles of treasure arrived from Cappargarnia, and just as quickly they were sent to Oratoa, while raw materials continued to flow from the north to build Ingazi’s fleets.

Revolutionary fervour buffeted Ingazi from the Elphárec west¹⁸ and the Aradéc east, and it appeared as though the realm might succumb. Certainly, the weather-induced misery was not helping. Instead, the Count Palatine died in the hard winter of 1543, leaving the very popular Razhim the throne.

A long-running personal research project of the new Count Palatine came to a head with Razhim himself confronting the captain of his own Sapphire Guard. He admitted to his sovereign that he himself, as his predecessors before him, had

¹⁸ The so-called “Revolution that Wasn’t”.

guarded the crown belonging to the “Anti-Kings of Ingazi”, a series of Imperial pretenders supported by the Church Universal & Triumphant during the 11th and 12th centuries.

The following year, the Count Palatine summoned his various nobles and headed off the growing discontent before it could become dangerous. He issued a new document reforming the government. The *Charter of Ilkumbi* created (among other things) a permanent, elected parliament subject to the Count Palatine. Only after issuing the Charter did the Count Palatine permit himself a formal coronation.

The Captain of the Sapphire Guard handed the rather dingy crown to the Prioress of Ilkumbi, who placed it upon Razhim’s brow, and Count Razhim, tenth of that name, finally wore the crown that had been set aside by Razhim the Indifferent, first Count Palatine of Ingazi. In an instant, the cheap, tarnished silver that clad the crown boiled off, revealing a shining diadem seemingly cut from a single, enormous sapphire.

The winters, while not as bad as those of lands to the south, were plenty bad enough, especially in the mountainous east.

In the waning days of 1545, Admiral Harran’s fleet returned home to Ingazi. Of the 75 sloops of war he set out with to circumnavigate the globe, only 25 remained, and these looked very much the worse for wear. Although the officers and crews were immediately whisked off to the Palace for debriefing by the Count Palatine himself, of course word leaked out of the expedition’s findings the minute the men hit the local taverns.

They told of vast, desert continents, lands blasted to bare rock and dust by eldritch magics, and a strange forest continent whose Human kings claimed a civilization half as old as time. They spoke of unknown Kindreds, of dancing cat-like desert nomads and of an ancient, fading race of immortal sorcerers. How many of these tales are true and how much is sheer fantasy remains to be seen.

Thanks to towering investments, naval and airship technology continued to improve, and the Diplomatic and Naval Academies expanded, as did the Palatine University of Ingazi.

CHURCH UNIVERSAL & TRIUMPHANT (52.6 UR)

Her All-Holiness Jerröe X, the Leaping Horse, First Matriarch of Urda, Protector of Sahûl.

Trade: Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Averno, Carcë, Chi’tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Golmath, Hyrägec, Iäthedain, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Itaxik, Kachar, Kitchat, Murali, Pehuatoka, Sakkar, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas

DP: None.

Tithes came in; grants went out to Duedhyn, Iäthedain, and Kachar. The Cathedral of Harlech in Shuden was transferred to Iäthedain’s jurisdiction.

Pakoan Princess Iritána graduated from the Urdraháhn Diplomatic Academy with top honours. The young Princess spent much time over her holidays discussing strategy, politics, and the faith with the aging First Matriarch. While the Princess is pursuing a vocation and a career in the Church, the icy wind howling off the mountains into the streets of Urdraháhn has proven difficult for her. She longs to return to warm, sunny Oratoa.

Thanks to gobs of money invested, siege, naval, and sorcery quality all improved.

Lord Besar Gorres, son of the Viceroy of New Ingazi, made a pilgrimage to Urdraháhn in 1545.

PRINCIPALITY OF GOLMATH (50 W/TA)

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

His Great Holiness, Mordican III, 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, Yani

DP: None.

After making some very peculiar pronouncements regarding Golmath's and Aradéc's territorial claims and spheres of influence, Prince Zhogian died of a brain fever. He was smoothly succeeded by another kilted maniac, his hard-drinking brother Sardirian. Prince Sardirian wasted no time in gathering the Clan Mothers to confirm his five-year old son Kaidarian as heir.

The Puritans remain aloof from the state church, and the new Prince has indicated that he thinks both groups are fairly contemptible. The ruins of Serri Cathedral in Pirayi were, however, rebuilt as a priory.

Massive infrastructure investments saw an increase in cavalry and siege quality.

When pressed about the situation in Aradéc, Prince Sardirian reportedly replied that Golmath has its own problems. For one thing, it was cold. In particular, it was so cold in Runazar that the sheep were now wearing kilts.

THE KUMARA CRISIS

1541: Invasion!

Long absent from his Kingdom of Aradéc, King Deric II had spent a virtual career of saving his Golmathi allies, and the price for that rescue had come due: Kumara. The publication of the *Great Charter* back in 1534 had put a rather large dent in his plans, as the Republic of Kumara was definitely listed as among the Imperial Realms in Article 7. The repeal of the *Non-Continuity Ordinance* in 1541, however, seemed to give him some cover for a military operation to acquire what he long considered his territory. And really, who cared three farthings for Kumara?

Nevertheless, the King found it prudent to insist that Golmath officially give over their rights to Kumara, and then to announce that Aradéc meant to exercise those rights. The only problem was that Baron Kasten of Dambiyi, the First Speaker of the Kumara Republic, disagreed that either Golmath or Aradéc had any rights at all in Kumara. He immediately protested to the House of Peers, and to the Electors. Perhaps more importantly, he also sent entreaties to Aradéc's own parliament, the Clanmoot and the Commons both.

Before the message had been considered by the parliament, or even received in Sardarthion, the armies of Aradéc had already crossed the frontier. Led by the King himself and his son, Crown Prince Paharnes, more than 150,000 Aradéc men invaded Ardanyi. Months later, a much smaller force of perhaps 14,000 commanded by Baron Marradra invaded Dalawathi. Everywhere, Aradéc's armies and fleets were on the move, and all three major mercenaries companies were likewise converging on Kumara.

Meanwhile, in the far east, the Tower of the Ending of Days briefly flashed with an intense white light, far greater than it normally generates. Some of the local shepherds in Drityi Prefecture and the Isle of Kumilan claim it shot a beam of light directly upward.

1542: Curses!

Aradéc's 150,000 man Royal Army found only a handful of Kumara's Ardanyi allies defending their region. Nevertheless, Crown Prince Paharnes unleashed the full might of Aradéc's war machine, which included a pair of Devas, plus assorted cavaliers, hussars, dragoons, pikemen, archers, shadow knights, miscellaneous cavalry and infantry, two artillery batteries, 2,500 Wenemet armed only with arquebuses, and 75 airships topped up with airbourne rangers. Against this onslaught, the Lord of Ardanyi brought his 4,000 brave men.

Not a one of them survived. On the Aradéc side, there were three stubbed toes, four small cuts (mostly self-inflicted), and five hundred dead infantry, killed by their own artillery.

In Dalawathi, the Aradéc army found no resistance whatsoever, and they forced the locals to pay them tribute.

From his palace in Kumara, Baron Kasten solemnly pronounced that the King of Aradéc had violated both the *Great Charter* and the recently promulgated *Edict of the Sheathed Sword*. He demanded the withdrawal of Aradéc's army, and he called on the Empress to enforce the law against the invader. He also publicly placed a curse on the invader, pronouncing against King Deric that he "be struck with palsy, and all his members blasted. Let him languish in pain crying out for mercy, and let there be no surcease to his agony till he sing in dissolution."

In point of fact, the King was already ill. Though the curse had no effect against the mighty defensive magics employed by Aradéc, King Deric did in fact die in the cold autumn of 1542, complaining of his old war wounds and asking for Queen Glóamora, who he had not seen for decades.

His son immediately took up the crown, as the army proclaimed him King Paharnes v of Aradéc.

1543: Election!

s the new King finished his mopping-up in Ardanyi, in Aradéc proper, a long-held dam burst. The personal popularity of King Deric had prevented much in the way of dissatisfaction of the Golmath Intervention and now the Kumaran Invasion from becoming very public. There were always some malcontents, of course; the events of 1494, the Duedhyn entanglements, the Darnuldeis Massacre of 1524, the Glorious Revolution of 1524, and the Golmath Intervention had all conspired to keep Aradéc's political classes divided into increasingly smaller and more vociferous factions. But to a large extent, the ongoing development of Parliament, their elections and their

endless bickering, had created a safe place for these rivals to expend their energies without resorting to violence.

The accession of the less popular Prince Paharnes, coupled with the Kumaran invasion, which many even in Parliament saw as a gross violation of Imperial law, brought many old animosities out into the open. In the Commons, the Whags and the mercantile Prosperity Party brought complaints against "the Crown's unlawful wars" to the Speaker, who tabled several anti-war and even anti-monarchist resolutions with the help of the Royalist MPs. In the Clanmoot, the Royalist Party proper split in two, and its former members formed parties based on geography: the Islands' King-Paharnes-or-die "Sansollen Party" and the more milquetoast mainland "Loyalist Party".

In the lead-up to the Parliamentary elections for the House of Commons of that year, Royalist support collapsed. Instead, several new parties made a bid for power. The Radical Commonwealth Party supported the removal of the King from any decision-making power, where the Regency Party took a position between the Radicals and the Whags.

The Radicals were led by a firebrand ex-army officer named Pundraki Didrel, and their central call to the electors was Aradéc was a great Realm, worthy of its place as an Elector in the Empire, but that the Kings of the past century had proven themselves unworthy of rule¹⁹. Then the votes of the guildsmen, cavaliers, landowners, and burghers were counted, the returns were sharply divided.

The new Parliament proved even more hostile to Paharnes than its predecessor. It immediately began to discuss grievances against Paharnes and his Government. The Chamber was in chaos, as Speaker Ullarra Perrim, the leader of the Royalists, had lost his seat²⁰.

¹⁹ There was also a strong reaction against the increasing influence of the Orthodox Pontiff in Aradéc's religious matters, and many Radicals were among those calling for the Church to be subject to the State.

²⁰ Indeed, he had not even campaigned, being himself out of the country. His seat fell to a Regency candidate.

Election Returns for the Parliament of 1543

<i>Party</i>	<i>Seats</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Platform</i>
Royalist	15	14%	Support King's absolute rule.
Whag	19	18%	Support Constitutionalism (limited monarchy)
Regency	11	10%	Support a Commonwealth with the King as figurehead
Radical	22	20%	Abolition of the Monarchy
Prosperity	12	11%	Merchants supporting commerce and the towns above all
Silly	2	2%	Support wearing red rubber noses and yellow galoshes
	27	25%	Independent MPs

With no Speaker to manage the debate and the House descending into anarchy, the Commons resolved to elect their own Speaker. Both the Whags and the Radicals attempted to garner enough votes to have their own leader elected. The Whags easily pulled in the Royalists, while the Radicals sought out various independent MPs. Both attempted to win favour with the Regency and Prosperity MPs.

In the final vote, most of the Regency MPs sided with the Whags, and most of the independents with the Radicals. At the last moment the Prosperity Party put up their own candidate, while the Silly MPs voted for a jar of beezeberry jam.

The Whag leader Pularu Karnadi was elected Speaker with 55 votes. He immediately called for the losing candidates to take an oath of loyalty to King Paharnes. The Radical leader, Pundraki Dirdrel, refused, saying he would instead take an oath to Aradéc. The Speaker arrested him on a charge of *lèse majesté*. Pundraki was taken into custody quietly, and the Speaker then ordered the arrest of all Radical MPs to take the loyalty oath to the King.

This aroused the enmity of both the Radicals and the Regency Party, who shouted down the Speaker until the Commons finally had to adjourn for a few months to calm everybody down.

Meanwhile, the mercenary Grey Dragoons company crossed the River Kalurrir from Golmathi territory into Kumaran Windra. They marched under

the flag of Aradéc, and attempted to secure tribute from the region for their employers. The outnumbered Baron of Windra wisely conceded the Prefecture to the Grey Dragoons and withdrew into the city of Wendaháhn, which had some nice new walls to keep the invaders out.

1544: Rise of the Radicals

When the Commons reconvened, there was an aura of determination about the Radicals. Even though several of their MPs had been arrested on various charges, they had spent the long cold winter recess making friends with members of the Prosperity and Regency parties.

As Speaker Pularu called the House to order, he was confident that the King's military victories in the field would calm nerves about the legality of the campaign. The Speaker called for the loyalty oaths to be administered. At that moment, a senior Prosperity MP, the honourable Urryim Endrahan, rose and asked to be recognized. Guildmaster Urryim had sat in Parliament for almost as long as there had been a Parliament, and as far as anyone knew, he'd never addressed the House.

The puzzled Speaker recognized him.

The fat old Wenemet rose unsteadily to his feet and said, "point of order, Mister Speaker. At no time has this House voted to demand these oaths. At no time has this House authorized the arrest of any of its members. I call upon the Speaker to resign forthwith and, failing that, call for a vote of confidence in his administration. I further move that all arrested members of this House be set free and recalled to this House immediately."

As pandemonium broke out in the House, the Speaker wordlessly sat back down on his chair. If the Prosperity Party had thrown in with the Radicals, he was in deep trouble.

Nevertheless, the Speaker rose after a moment and banged his gavel for order. "I will not resign."

"Then my motion is made. No-confidence. Release and recall the arrested Members."

"Is there a second?"

Fully half the house stood up.

The Speaker sat back down and called the vote.

Speaker Pularu not only failed the vote, he didn't even carry all the members of his and his allied parties. He adjourned the House for the rest of the day so that the prisoners might be released.

The next morning, the leader of the Radical Commonwealth Party, Pundraki Didrel, was elected Speaker of the House of Commons of Aradéc. In his inaugural speech, he lambasted the monarchy and called it "the source of all our troubles". He concluded by saying, "the time has come for all the citizens of this Commonwealth to declare whether they serve Aradéc, or whether they serve the scofflaw Sansollen. I move that this House demand the surrender of Sansollen Paharnes to the lawful authority of this Parliament for trial on the charges of violating the *Great Charter*, the *Edict of the Sheathed Sword*, the ruling of the Imperial Chamber Court, and the laws of Aradéc."

In a desperate effort to deprive the House of a quorum, the Royalists, Whags, and a handful of other MPs staged a walkout. Unfortunately, there were still 62 MPs left in the House, far more than a quorum. The door was locked behind them, and the vote taken.

When news reached King Paharnes on the Kumaran front that Parliament had demanded his arrest, he dashed off a note dissolving Parliament before he led his Royal Army into Dambiyi.

An Aradéc armada of 750 ships was sighted off the coast of Kurldayi. They flew their flags at half-staff, for their leader the great Admiral Henri, had died at the rather advanced age of 74. After a few days, they sailed northeast to Dambiyi. A young marine was put ashore, and he asked to see the King.

After being admitted into King Paharnes' tent, the young marine handed a paper to the King. All assumed it was a dispatch, but it turned out to be a warrant for the King's arrest. It was signed by the armada's new commander, a Commodore Cassil. In a fit of anger, the King drew his sword and cut down the young marine officer. The officer's body

was strung up in full view of the fleet. Signal flags from the King's encampment demanded that Commodore Cassil present himself ashore immediately.

Instead, the flagship signalled that the King must return to Darnuldeis to face Parliament. Since the loyalty of the Royal Army was never in question, the King simply reiterated his demand for the Commodore to come ashore. Instead, the fleet weighed anchor and headed out to sea.

1545: *Revolution!*

hen the King's response was reported to Parliament, the House erupted in anger. The Radicals rammed through a bill naming Speaker Pundraki Didrel "Lord Protector of Aradéc" and thereby giving him supreme command over the armed forces. Taking command of the Pranyi garrison, Pundraki stationed them around the Parliament buildings. When the Clanmoot finally found their collective spine and complained, the military forced them to leave the building.

Though the Radical forces appeared to be everywhere in command, the Lord Protector was under no illusions about how fragile his hold on power really was. Although he had his rump Parliament, the home armies, and (apparently) the navy as well, he knew that the King's army was much larger than anything he could put together, and that there was still a strong loyalty to the House Sansollen. So he decided that his best option was to radicalize the factions, to make it impossible for anybody to hold the middle ground.

On the 19th of Tertilis 1545, the Radicals presented a bill to Parliament titled *An Act Declaring Aradéc to be a Commonwealth*. It essentially declared that the people, acting through Parliament, were the source of all authority in Aradéc. It abolished the monarchy and the Clanmoot. The vote on the bill was recorded as 35 aye, 16 nay, 9 abstain, 2 cheese sandwiches.

As fast as the news traveled through the country, those in the middle were forced to declare for King or Parliament. By and large, the King has the loy-

ality of the known Royalist hot spots of the Isles and the east, plus much of the western reaches.

Much of the rest of the country, however, found it easier to support the Parliamentary forces over their “absent and lawless” King.

The arrest order for the King was extended to the rest of the Royal House of Sansollen. Most of the House was in or around Darnuldeis. Many escaped, aided by royalists or even the Whag members of the Clanmoot. The Dowager Queen Glóamora reportedly made it to the Isles, which are steadfastly Royalist.²¹

On the Kumaran front, meanwhile, the King called a halt to the invasion of Dambiyi and withdrew his army back into Ardanyi. The Kumarans are convinced that this is a miracle, for they certainly could not have withstood the invasion had it continued.

Meanwhile, Thirri was occupied by the Hawkwood Company in the name of Aradéc’s King. The 5,000-man Kumaran garrison didn’t stand a chance.

REPUBLIC OF KUMARA (6W/KY/TA)

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

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Hyrágec, Ingazi, Murali

DP: Nunharri (A)

The Republic defended itself. Long had they been preparing for this moment, though truth be told, they had expected it from Golmath and not Aradéc. The Puritan Lady Nunharra joined their cause, her region converting to the rigorous and unforgiving Yellow King Tarotism.

ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ARADÉC (19 W/IL)

His Royal Maješty, Sansollen Paharnes v, Baron of Wanumarra, Count of Abijar, Electoral King of Aradéc.

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Golmath, Hyrágec, Iäthedain,

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

DP: None.

The reign of King Paharnes v has started out poorly, but he is confident in his divine right and the will of Iluvar. The so-called Lord Protector may have the government and most of the cities, but the King has the army, and the new road and bridge from Pagirri to Karuni can only help his cause. He is confident that he will prevail.

ELECTORAL COMMONWEALTH OF ARADÉC (32 W/IL)
Pundraki Didrel, Speaker of the House of Commons, Elector and Lord Protector of Aradéc.

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Golmath, Hyrágec, Iäthedain, IOC, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Murali, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

DP: None.

Parliament (meaning of course, the House of Commons) rules supreme. The so-called King may have the army, but the Lord Protector has the government and the navy. Not to mention many of the cities. He is confident that he will prevail.

COUNTY OF MURALI (21 W/TA)

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

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

DP: Caros (T)

Murali’s urban centres expanded; the cities of Intix and Thangír both grew, and the quaint little town of Tarthis became a city. In the midst of some of the worst winters on record, many new public works projects were built. Cavalry and siege quality improved, and the government expanded. Karrka’s Sorcery Academy was endowed as the University of Karrka.

Count Torthes traveled to frigid Thika in 1543 to see the effects of the mountain snows himself. Reports had reached him that many of the upland

²¹ Aradéc is under Civil War rules (§ 10.4.4).

villages had been abandoned to the rapidly expanding glaciers. He decided that the best solution was to simply abandon the region and move his people to someplace slightly warmer. Grudgingly, the people followed his lead and became refugees.

DRACONIC BARONY OF IÄTHEDAIN (9 SW/UR)

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

Sir Darabur Sardein, Grandmaster of the Military Order of the Red Dragon.

Trade: Aradéc, Golmath, Ingazi, Urdrahán, Yarni-Za, Zarkhandu

DP: Nope. But we're real friendly!

Baron Zharharn ordered the construction of five new priories, and he gratefully accepted the administration of Harlech Cathedral. His pious little realm is now even more pious than before. The cautious Baron also spent considerable sums from his treasury to support new families and provide for their needs. As it turns out, this was an excellent idea, for the winters grew ever more harsh. The people were grateful for the help.

The elderly Baron's oldest son and heir, Lord Zharharn, was finally married in 1542. Thus far the happy couple has two children, both boys. Amazingly enough, the eldest was named Zharharn.

IATHEDEK: THE PROTECTORATE OF FRIEBÆLD

The great Wyrms Friebæld was busily doing whatever it is that she does. Alone. And out of sight. Very quietly.

Some trees were seen growing in the now-grassy Scagadon Prefecture.

VEILED MASTERS OF YARNI-ZA (34 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, Kicitchat, Taneki, Zarkhandu

DP: Nope.

Ystar, the lichiest lich of them all, cackled mightily as his plans came to fruition. For from the foetid pools of Yarni-Za, a new undead creation arose, like zombies with rending claws and fangs. They blinked stupidly for a moment in the harsh sunlight. And then, as one, they smiled, a voracious, cunning, wolf-like smile. Ystar dubbed them "ghouls".

It was mighty cold throughout Ystar's realm. He didn't much notice, as he didn't particularly have working nerve endings. It did make him a bit less limber though.

Cavalry quality increased.

APOTHEOTIC KINGDOM OF FELL ZARKHANDU (61 S/DF)

His Dread Majesty, Tirach Bæn, Lord Sakkath, Count of Vúhlath & Mlideen, Duke of Hyáglion, King of Zarkhandu.

Sir Dukath Bir, Grandmaster of the Order of the Second Sons.

Trade: Araxes, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Hyrágec, Iäthedain, ID, Kicitchat, Lynnarvor, Tiryowglas, Yarni-Za

DP: Onath (A)

King Tirach Bæn became acutely aware of an ache in his knees that could only mean one thing: the Ice was coming back. So he created a nation-wide Agriculture Programme, which he placed under a new Ministry, and he founded an Agricultural College at the University of Zonu-Yahn. It was just as well he did, because the winter that hit Zarkhandu in 1541 was unlike anything in recent memory. Temperatures plunged so low that even rivers froze solid. Except for a few months of warmth in the middle of the summers, the next five years dragged on pretty much the same way. Although there is not yet starvation, hunger is prevalent in the deep south and in the mountains. Except of course among the Gornya Rogami, who seem to enjoy this sort of climate.

The infamous Tirach Zhur died in the icy spring of 1544, aged 71. The King and much of the Kingdom, mourned the death of the old Prince Imperial.

The next year, a large chunk of bedrock ripped itself out of the Vúhlath countryside and hurled itself upwards into the sky. A fortress was soon constructed on it, and while it does not yet have an official name, those involved in its construction and operation refer to it as *The Rock of Tirach*.

A visiting historian from Kicitchat helped begin the long and arduous project of organizing the enormous pile of manuscripts known as the library of the Wizard's Guild in Garghas. The project looks as though it may take generations, rather than years.

The Gornya Rogami, led by the agents of the King and by the priests of Yagnar, settled in Brigabekos, Brukos, Eksos, Elobros, Naddith, Syrháhn, Taclamos, Tragtigern, and Uernos²². Their settlements, mostly in lands best classified as tundra, are built primarily of stone, sod, and ice.

Their developing culture – song and music mostly – is based on their shared misery on Delin and on their hardscrabble Yagnarism. They are primarily herders of the furry musk-ox and reindeer that survive in the tundra, though some are looking to branch out into mamont herding. Only a small number of refugees remain.

In the little village of Artet in Chorcken, the Dread Forge built a Priory upon the very spot where Khurdán was born. They hope that Khurdún Priory will become a holy site of pilgrimage in the years to come.

Infantry, siege, and naval quality all improved.

The Underlands

DOWN UNDER

LORDSHIP OF YANI (21 Y/-)

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

Trade: Golmath, Murali

DP: Lungtala (T)

²² Brigabekos (2111)G, Brukos (2122)G, Eksos (3122)G, Elobros (3112)G, Naddith (3112)G, Syrháhn (2111)G, Taclamos (1111)G, Tragtigern (2133)G, Uernos (1111)G.

The Yani finished a road between Putini and Yani, via the Caverns of Song and hundreds of miles of twisty tunnels and caverns. They also constructed “massive farms” in Nala Luyni and Temma.

A great amount of infantry – perhaps as much as 90,000 – and 20,000 refugees commanded by the indomitable Lord Temma began climbing the Patrule Stair towards Thika.

Despite their isolation, Wuka Luyni and Larapuna did not rebel.

Fabulous Efan

THE EASTERN CONTINENT

THE ARADÉC EXPEDITION

In 1542, an Aradéc flotilla of fifty ships landed at the barbarian town designated “Khafakh” on their maps. They made port and greeted the locals in peace, trading dyed cloth, fragrant cedar wood, and the usual sorts of trinkets for the local wares (mostly ceramics and strange musical instruments) and fresh food and water.

They met with the local Human chieftain and invited him to send an embassy back with them to the Empress of Sahúl, an invitation that they gratefully accepted. Sadly, when the expedition returned to Aradéc in late 1545, the country was in a bit of a mess.

NEW ZARKHANDU (3 S/DF)

Her Majesty Queen Tannika, Governor of the Havens.

Trade: None

DP: None

Zarkhandu built fortifications on their conquered territories. They were mostly effective at keeping most of the dinosaurs out, though the leaping ones are undeterred. Fortunately, they are pretty easy to keep out of the enclosed keeps. They also built the double-port town of Hadria in Danileen, amid the ruins of the City of the Crystal Citadel. The nearby priory was

cleansed of its Urdan elements and rededicated to the Dread Forge.

An experiment to animate the corpses of the dead dinosaurs in Danileen met with limited success, as most did not seem to take to the zombification process. The Zarkhandine sorcerers are undeterred, however, and they think they can work out the kinks.

A motley army in Danileen led by Lord Mahbo, Zarkhandu's most notable Human, crossed the River Dan and struck inland. In the region known as Sarthas, they ran into the one thing they absolutely never expected: an attacking army.

The Battle of the Dan (1542)

They met near the banks of the river, on marshy ground that did not favour cavalry. The enemy marched under a flag the colour of fresh blood, some 15,000 Saurian infantry. Against this, Lord Mahbo had but 2,500 cavalry, 3,000 infantry, and perhaps twice that many badly listing zombie dinosaurs. The zombies were a bother, and they tended to wander off or walk into trees. Mahbo counted them as *slightly* less reliable than ordinary zombies.

The enemy drew up in lines of battle, and with one mighty blast from the leader's crest, they charged. The battle was fierce; though the enemy was ill-equipped and badly trained, they fought like tigers. Despite the odds, Lord Mahbo prevailed, having lost all of his zombies.

He lost a few more men to dinosaur predation.

A few days later, the gates of the nearby town were mysteriously opened, and Zarkhandu's armies took possession and safely hid within its walls.



Queen Tannika, meanwhile, took the fleet out to sea for a rendezvous with a small Hyrágecan fleet, and some of the ships accompanied her to Norlein. The Queen unloaded 5,000 knights and twice that many infantry into the region and easily conquered its peaceful inhabitants. Interestingly, this area has

vastly fewer dinosaurs than any of the other places they've visited in Efan.

It also holds a ruined temple and palace complex of unsurpassed beauty and delicacy. The place is constantly surrounded by a dense silvery fog, making exploration problematic at best.



Imperial Gazette

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



Her August & Imperial Majesty
Empress Chath'ecutla

Mistress of the Tis'chak, Countess of Takkikik, Queen of Itaxik, Golden Beetle of the West, Sovereign of Sahul, Lady of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion, Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Empress of All the World.

APPOINTMENTS

To Governor of Iasedior, Kembul, Mondahan, Muralis, Narchoal, Yann: *by examination.*

To Governor of Kumarand: King Sansollen Deric of Aradéc.

To Marshal of the North: Queen Tirrix Taxitiki of Chi'tixi (creation).

IMPERIAL OFFICES

Chancellor of the Empire:..... *vacancy*
Speaker of the House of Peers:*Hyrágec*
Justices of the Imperial Chamber Court:
..... *Chancellor of the Empire (vacancy)*
.....*Speaker of the House of Peers*
..... *Chi'tixi* (through 1574)
..... *Averon* (through 1569)
..... *vacancy*
Lord Admiral of the Blue:*Cappargarnia*
Lord Admiral of the Green: *Pexiki*
Lord Admiral of the Red:.....*Murali*
Marshal of Thacia: *Thace (Duchy)*
Warden of the North: *Chi'tixi*

FREE COMPANIES & ERRANTRY &C.

GREY DRAGOONS—48dr, 17mc
Captain: Colonel Wilgi (LA84W) TR age 38
Spells: Gills, Lightning Bolt, Luck, Wards Grtr
Location: *Windra Prefecture, Kaparis Province*
Min. Bid: 75GP / TURN

HAWKWOOD COMPANY—28mc 18pk 10mi
Captain: Lord Dwinbi Sardes (L974W) TR age 56
Location: *Thirri Prefecture, Kumarand Province*
Min. Bid: 60GP / TURN

WILLEFORN'S SPEARS—14mi 4li
Captain: "Spears" Willeforn (LA53W) TR age 44
Location: *Thurru Prefecture, Kaparis Province*
Min. Bid: 20GP / TURN

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS OF THE EMPIRE

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

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, 1541-1545

INCOME		Public Works	700.0
Regional and Provincial Income.....	491.2	Ice Relief Grant, Yani	200.0
Public Works Income.....	1070.0	Ice Relief Grant, Zarkhandu.....	200.0
City Income.....	13.0	Ice Relief Grant, Kommolek.....	500.0
International Trade (Tariffs)	1788.6	Ice Survivability research	100.0
From Exchequer.....	1211.1	Counter-Intelligence.....	500.0
TOTAL	4573.9	TOTAL	3473.0
EXPENDITURES		To EXCHEQUER.....	1100.9
Army Support	73.0		
Military, sorcery, spycraft investment .	1200.0		
Government investment	150.0		

RUGBY

All-Sahûl League play:

All Realms may enter up to two teams in the League, subject to the approval of the League Trustees.

Current ASL teams are:

Aradéc, Chi'tixi, Golmath, Ingazi, Murali, Runazar, and the Zarkhandu All-Blacks.

Tournament results!

Round 1 (1541)

Golmath 8 at Aradéc 5

Murali 6 at Chi'tixi 5

All-Blacks 8 at Runazar 4

Ingazi (bye)

Round 2 (1543)

Golmath 10 at Murali 4

All-Blacks 12 at Ingazi 9

The All-Blacks/Ingazi game was tied at the end of regulation time, so they went into the first-ever Tournament sudden-death. Quite the exciting game, and afterwards to show there were no hard feelings, the All-Blacks bought the first round.

Championship (1545)

All-Blacks 5 at Golmath 12.

Next cycle's matchings are:

Round 1 (1547)

Aradéc at Murali [yellow]

Chi'tixi at All-Blacks [blue]

Runazar at Ingazi [red]

Golmath (bye)

Round 2 (1549)

Yellow at Blue

Red at Golmath

Championship match to be played in Ingazi City in 1550.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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.

IMPERIAL BANK OF SAHÛL

Locations: Einandhu, Sardarthion

Available to borrow: 4,460 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	9*
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: Yani / 840 GP / due Turn 21

BANK OF ITAXIK

Location: Itaxik

Available to borrow: 3694.3 GP

Ice Relief Fund..... 195 GP

Loans: None outstanding

FIRST YAGNARIST BANK OF THE EYE

Location: Yarni-Za

Available to borrow: 0 GP

Loans: Kicitchat / 1200 GP / due Turn 21

Loans entirely at the discretion of the Veiled Masters.

NOTICES

Imperial Declaration of War (1541)

IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART that we must declare the Empire is at War with the realms of Ancalimë, Tongi, Whutoa, Pouákaitoa, and Orofer.

This is not a war brought on by the Empire but by the offending realms themselves. Realms of the Empire sought to claim unclaimed lands in Oratóa and were unjustly attacked. Ingazi, Cappargarnia, Atuburrk and Eleçtoral Thace had war brought to them by these realms of Oratóa, now it is time for the Empire to bring War to those same Realms.

If they are wise they will bend their knees to the will of the Empire and join our ranks. If not, they will be crushed under the will of the Empire.

Diplomats of the Imperium will be dispatched to the remaining realms of Oratóa and given a chance to peacefully join the Empire. A span of ten years will be granted so peaceful negotiations can be completed. If at the end of the ten years the remaining realms of Oratóa choose to remain apart from the Empire we will have little choice but to also consider them enemies of the Empire as well. For the good of the Empire it must be so as they are outsiders and much discord has already been sowed by them.

Furthermore all trade must cease with the Oratóan realms that trade with the realms of Ancalimë, Tongi, Whutoa, Pouákaitoa, and Orofer. Feeding the coffers of their allies feeds the coffers of our enemies. We are sensitive to the fact that this will especially effect the County Palatine of Kommolek, so the Imperium pledges to aid Kommolek wherever we can and asks that those realms who can assist lend aid also.

A new position will be created in Oratóa: *the Warden of the North*. This position will assist in the oversight of the war in the north and act as the eyes and ears of the Empire. Nominations for this position will be accepted immediately.

There are many details that need to be worked out and little time to do so. Imperial Fleets and Troops will sail north – who among the Empire will join them?

Empress Chath'eçtula I.

Sardarthion.

Yaminon Anti-Immortal Act (1541)

THE YAMINON HEREBY STATE that no Immortals are allowed inside the realm of the Yaminon people without prior consent written consent from the Guildmaster of the Yaminon People. If in fact, a leader requires an audience with the Guildmaster, then the Immortal must remain above ground, and outside the Yaminon borders unless decided otherwise.

If in fact that a kindred breaks this rule, a fine of 100,000 Crowns shall be made, and the leader expelled from the realm. If said Immortal becomes unbound, and then causes damage to the Yaminon realm, We shall impose a fee of ten times the original fine for re-buildment.

Lord Mani Tunapri,

Lordship of Yani.

Yani Town, Caverns of Uka.

Zarkhandu Declaration of War on Kuroa (1541)

IN THE INTEREST OF CONTINUED PEACE within the Empire we, the Apotheotic Kingdom of Fell Zarkhandu, declare total war against the Kingdom of Kuroa, its nobility, peoples, lands, and all of its line and kind. They will be blood chattel from this day forth until they are extinguished.

King Tirach Ben,
King of the Apotheotic Kingdom of Fell Zarkhandu.
Zarkhandu, Vúhlath Prefecture.

Repeal of the Non-Continuity Ordinance (1541)

PURSUANT TO THE VOTES in the College of Electors (1537) and of the House of Peers (1538), let it be known that the Non-Continuity Ordinance is hereby repealed and removed from the *Great Charter*.

Empress Chath'ečtula I.
Sardarthion.

House of Peers: Non-Proliferation Act (1541)

WITH A VOTE of 8 to 2, the Peers have approved passage of the *Non-Proliferation Act*. As per the *Great Charter*, this piece of legislation, detailed below, is now sent to the College of Electors for their approval before being signed into law by the Empress. Long Live the Empress!

*Non-Proliferation Act**Preamble*

This is the Foundation of the Empire: it is strong because of its all-encompassing nature. There will always be natural divisions, but these rifts must be overcome if the Empire is to remain strong. For the Empire to remain strong, all must give themselves fully to it. We must be united. Only then will peace prevail.

Imperial entities who provide tangibles to those outside the Empire threaten the Empire. Such actions are treason.

Article 1.

No member of the Empire as described in Chapter 4 Article 13 of the *Great Charter* may, directly or indirectly, transfer weapons, spells or technology, or control over such weapons, spells or technology, to any recipient not so described (henceforth "non-Imperial realm"). Neither may they in any way assist, encourage, or induce any non-Imperial realm or independent prefecture that is without

certain weapons, spells or technology to manufacture or otherwise acquire or to obtain control over same.

Failure to comply shall, on a first offense, incur the Imperial Bann for no less than ten and no more than twenty years. A second offense will incur Imperial Doom.

Article 2.

Non-Imperial realms and independent prefectures who may have acquired weapons, spells or technology from any member of the Empire as described in Chapter 4 Article 13 of the *Great Charter* are prohibited from manufacturing same upon risk of immediate war with the Empire.

Article 3.

The penalties associated with this Act shall not be imposed for actions concluded before the adoption of the Act subject to the restrictions that upon passage of the Act, all Imperial entities must declare publicly any past action that would otherwise be in violation of Articles 1 and 2 above

Failure to comply shall, on a first offense, incur the Imperial Bann for no less than ten and no more than twenty years. A second offense will incur Imperial Doom.

Irrjir Lucian,
Speaker for the House of Peers.
Sardarthion.

As of this publication, the College of Electors has failed to bring the Non-Proliferation Act to a vote.

House of Peers: Amendment to the *Great Charter* Article 11 §1 (1541)

To the College of Electors,

LET IT BE KNOWN that upon this day, the House of Peers With a vote of 7 aye and 2 nay, the Peers have voted for passage of the following Amendment to the *Great Charter*, to replace the current statements in the *Great Charter*, Article 11, Section 1:

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.

With the following language:

The Emperor/Empress may not appoint a member of the court if that appointment would grant a given religious group more than two representatives on the bench.

Irrjir Lucian,
Speaker for the House of Peers.
Sardarthion.

As of this publication, the College of Electors has failed to bring this amendment to a vote.

Declaration (1541)

GOLMATH APPOINTS ARADÉC as its legal proxy in all matters for it as an independent Electoral imperial realm when Golmath for whatever circumstance is unable to do so or does not do so. Aradéc has given its word as an Iluvarian to defend Golmath, and we trust in the binding nature of such a promise.

Gomath is still at war with the so-called realm of Kumara. We claim all rebelling regions we have not given away in our peace treaties with other parties and not yet re-integrated back into Golmath.

In thanks for its help as an ally in resolving Golmath's internal war and rebellions, we give all the rebelling regions comprising the so-called realm of Kumara to Aradéc and relinquish our legal claims, *casus belli* and all resulting affairs, issues and matters related to Aradéc in all perpetuity.

Electoral Principality of Golmath.

Proclamation of Restoration (1541)

ARADÉC, SPEAKING AS PROXY FOR GOLMATH, and as liege lord, does proclaim that we will reclaim our rebelling regions, and we do so issue a proclamation through out all those lands for them to lay down their arms and surrender to the will of their rightful sovereign liege lord.

We will be sending our agents to re-integrate these lands and regions into our realms, and they will be coming with armed escort to protect them. Let it be clear that these escorts will only act if attacked or met with resistance and opposition to this our legal action as their sovereign liege lord. No punitive actions will be taken against those that accept this Our command, and we will freely give pardon to all in these regions once peace is restored. We only seek to restore them to their proper place. Some regions will be placed under military control for a short period of time until we are assured the process has been completed peacefully, at which point we will work to more peacefully return them to civilian government control.

King Deric II,
Electoral Kingdom of Aradéc.
at camp, Karruni Prefecture.

Edict of the Sheathed Sword (1542)

THE EMPIRE OF SAHÛL has reached a critical juncture, and we face unparalleled threats. The next decades will prove decisive in the fate of the Empire.

The internecine warfare among the various realms of the Empire must cease. Tarotist must embrace Urdan, and Iluvarian stand united with Yagnarist. All idiosyncrasies of race and creed, all rivalries parochial and universal, must be set aside in order to move forward under the single banner of the Empire of Sahûl.

From the time of this Edict forward, until it shall be rescinded by the Crown, any Imperial realm found guilty in Imperial Court of attacks covert or overt against a fellow Imperial realm, shall face the pronouncement of an Imperial Bann and Imperial Doom.

From the time of this Edict forward, until it shall be rescinded by the Crown, any Imperial realm found guilty in Imperial Court of treason or consorting with enemies of the Empire, shall face the pronouncement of an Imperial Bann and Imperial Doom.

Treason against the Empire shall consist only in levying War against it, or in adhering to its Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or upon Confession in open Court.

From the time of this Edict forward, until it shall be rescinded by the Crown, any Imperial realm found guilty in Imperial Court of the charges enumerated above, shall face not only secular penalties, but shall also be immediately excommunicated by the appropriate Primacy, and be outcast from the solace of their Church.

So say We all,

Empress Chath'ečtula I.
Sardarthion.

Pope Harmony VIII,
Pontiff of Sistrameides, Archemandrite of Ilûhir.
Sistrameides.

Firš Matriarch Jerröe X,
First Matriarch of Urda, Protector of Sahûl.
Urdráhahn.

Patriarch Yšzar,
Thirteenth Patriarch of the Priests of Ozahn.
Temple of the Eye.

War Relief Fund (1542)

THE WAR WITH ORATÓA is of an unprecedented nature; the Empire asks much of not only of her Realms but of her People. Lives will be lost and families will be torn apart those families will have needs long after the loss of their fathers, mothers, husbands, and wives.

We ask much of the Empire and its people so it only fair and just that the Empire do so in return. We ask the Imperial Bank to establish a separate account into which the Imperium will deposit funds that Realms can draw from to assist in rebuilding families who suffer due to the War. If the War comes to our shores either here or in Oratóa, those funds will be available to assist in rebuilding those realms.

The fund will be available to all either deposit into to increase these funds or to submit a request for withdrawal, realms who withdraw will be expected to use the funds for the purpose they were intended to and to provide documentation that the funds were spent as such.

The Empire has always expected much from her Realms and People. It is time that the Realms and People expected much from their Empire.

Empress Chath'ečtula I.
Sardarthion.

Ruling of the Imperial Chamber Court:

Case 1540-01 the County Palatine of Kommolek v. the Electoral Kingdom of Aradéc

WHILE THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE to believe that the Electoral Kingdom of Aradéc has violated the *Edičt of the Sheathed Sword* in Oratoa, his speech definitely raises concern, therefore, for the protection of Aradéc and the satisfaction of Imperial law, Aradéc is hereby ordered to publicly, through the Heralds, make the following declaration proscribed by the courts of their agreement to obey by the *Edičt of the Sheathed Sword* in submission to Imperial authority.

"I _____ rightful Electoral King of Aradéc, do solemnly swear before Iluvar and in submission to Imperial authority, that the nation of Aradéc shall, in concordance with the *Sheathed Sword Edičt*, never bear arms against members of the Empire recognized by the *Charter* or Imperial Decree from now into perpetuity unless released from this oath by the declaration of an Imperial Doom. In the spirit of fealty to the Empire and solidarity in the Empire, we further repudiate any notion that Aradéc is disloyal, as this oath proves."

His Honor, Justice Irrjir Lucian of Hyrágec
Her Honor, Justice Lik'Spit'l of Tokatl
His Honor, Justice Drak Grou of Averno
Her Honor Chief Justice Ixik of Chi'tixi
Imperial Chamber Court,
Sardarthion.

Imperial Grants (1543)

TO FOSTER COOPERATION AND GROWTH throughout the Empire. Grants are available for the betterment of the Empire, funds are available for research, infrastructure improvement and the betterment of all. Grant funds will be given based on the following priority.

1. Ice Research
2. General Research
 - a. Multiple Realms more than one Religion
 - b. Multiple Realms same Religion
 - c. Individual Research
3. Infrastructure Improvement involving more than one realm
 - a. More than one Religion
 - b. Single Religion
4. Colleges and University of non-military designation
5. All other

Research Advancements that are discovered with the assistance of Imperial funds must be shared with the entire Empire. Please take advantage of these funds so the Empire of tomorrow can become the reality of today.

Empress Chath'ečtula I.
Sardarthion.

Ingazi: Charter of Ilkumbi (1544)

RAZHIM, BY THE GRACE OF URDA, Count Palatine of Ingazi, at the parliament holden at Ilkumbi Priory on the seventh day of Paharnes, in the first year of his reign. To the pleasure of Urda, to the wealth, prosperity, and surety of this realm of Ingazi, to the singular comfort of all the Count Palatine's subjects of the same and in avoiding of all ambiguities and questions: be it ordained, established, and decreed:

I. *The Count Palatine*

So long as he maintains true worship of Urda and fidelity to the Empire of Sahûl, the Count Palatine is the supreme head of the realm of Ingazi. He commands the land, sea, and air forces, declares war, makes treaties of

peace, alliance, and commerce, appoints to all places of public administration, and makes the necessary regulations and ordinances for the execution of the laws and the security of the realm.

The person of the Count Palatine is inviolable and sacred. The inheritances of the crowns of the realm of Ingazi and all other lands of the Count Palatine beyond the sea, will forever rest, remain, and abide in the most royal person of our now sovereign lord, Count Palatine Razhim X, and in the heirs of his body lawfully coming, perpetually with the grace of Urda so to endure, and in none other.

II. Parliament

The legislative power is exercised collectively by the Count Palatine, together with the Parliament consisting of the two Houses of the Lords and of the Commons.

The proposition for a law is sent, at the pleasure of the Count Palatine, to the House of Lords or to that of the Commons, except a law for the imposition of taxes, which must be sent first to the House of the Commons.

Every law shall be freely discussed and voted by the majority of each of the two Houses.

The Houses have the power to petition the Count Palatine to propose a law upon any subject whatsoever and to indicate what seems suitable for the law to contain. This request can be made by either of the two Houses. If the proposal is adopted by the other House, it shall be laid before the Count Palatine; if it is rejected, it cannot be presented again in the same session.

The Count Palatine alone sanctions and promulgates the laws. No amendment can be made in a law unless it has been proposed or consented to by the Count Palatine.

The Count Palatine convokes the two Houses; he prorogues them, and may dissolve that of the Commons at his pleasure. He shall hold a parliament once a year, or twice if need be, and in a convenient place.

No petition can be made or presented to either of the Houses except in writing.

1. *The House of Lords*

The House of Lords consists of all Counts, Barons, and Lords of the County Palatine, as well as the Abbesses, Abbots, and Matriarchs of the Church Universal and Triumphant in Ingazi. Should he be present, the Viceroy of New Ingazi is entitled to sit in the House of Lords. Male and female members of House Gwariva are Lords by right of their birth, but they have no deliberative voice until having attained twenty years of age.

The House of Lords is convoked by the Count Palatine at the same time as the House of the Commons. The session of the one begins and ends at the same time as that of the other. Any meeting of the House of Lords

held outside of the time of the session of the House of the Commons, or which may not be ordered by the Count Palatine, is unlawful.

Lords have entrance to the House at the age of twenty years.

The House of Lords is presided over by the Lord Chancellor of Ingazi, and in his absence, by a Lord appointed by the Count Palatine for this purpose.

The House of Lords has immediate jurisdiction over the crimes of high treason.

2. *The House of the Commons*

The House of the Commons shall be composed of four knights from each prefecture of Ingazi, five citizens each from the cities of Ingazi, Dynath, Madramityi, and Deriháhn, and two burgesses from each borough, elected by the communities of the same prefectures, cities, and boroughs in the place of the same communities.

The Speaker of the House of the Commons shall be appointed by the Count Palatine from a list of five members presented by the House.

The House of the Commons shall receive all proposals in regard to taxes; only after these proposals have been accepted can they be carried to the House of Lords. No tax can be imposed or collected, unless it has been consented to by the two Houses and sanctioned by the Count Palatine.

No member of the Commons, during the course of the session, can be prosecuted or arrested upon a criminal charge, unless he should be taken in the act, except after the House has permitted his prosecution.

3. *Ministers*

The ministers of government may be members of the House of Lords or of the House of the Commons. They are appointed by the Count Palatine and serve at his pleasure.

They may at their pleasure enter into either House, and they must be heard when they demand it.

The House of the Commons has the right to accuse the ministers and to arraign them before the House of Lords, which alone has the right of trying them. They can be accused only for acts of treason and theft of public funds.

III. *The Judiciary*

All justice emanates from the Count Palatine. It is administered in his name by judges whom he appoints and whom he invests. The judges appointed by the Count Palatine are irremovable.

The courts and regular tribunals now existing are continued. They shall not be in any wise changed except by virtue of a law.

The justices of the peace, likewise, are retained. Justices of the peace, although appointed by the Count Palatine, are not irremovable.

No one can be deprived of the jurisdiction of his natural judges. Therefore, extraordinary commissions and tribunals cannot be created.

Criminal trials shall be public, unless such publicity should be dangerous to order and morality; and in that case, the tribunal shall declare so by a judicial order.

The right to trial by jury is guaranteed. The noble privilege to trial by combat is hereby suspended and may only be reinstated in specific cases by the judgement of the Count Palatine.

The Count Palatine has the right of pardon, and that of commuting penalties.

IV. Administration

The Civil Code, and the laws currently existing which are not in conflict with this present charter, remain in force.

Henceforth, no one shall be appointed to any position of authority or justice who has not passed the appropriate Imperial Examinations.

The chief justice of a prefecture has power to redress the misdeeds of all other justices, of bailiffs, of counts, of barons, and of all other people, according to the rightful law of the land. Writs are to be pleaded according to the law of the land in the proper places. No bailiff, by virtue of his office or of some plea, shall take any fee, either by his own hand or in any manner through another person, except from the government of the Count Palatine.

Sheriffs shall henceforth be appointed by the Lord Chancellor of Ingazi, and if the chancellor is not present, let them be appointed by the barons of the exchequer and the justices of the bench. Such persons are to be named and installed as are fit and worthy, and as have sufficient lands through which they may be held responsible for their actions to the Count Palatine or to the people.

Each Sheriff shall be sheriff for no more than five years in all. He shall render his accounts at the exchequer and be responsible for his term of office, and the Count Palatine shall make allowance to him in proportion to his receipts, so that he may rightly keep the prefecture. He shall take no fees, neither he nor his bailiffs.

The Count Palatine may from time to time, as occasion shall require, issue commissions of lieutenancy to such persons as he shall think fit to be his Lords Lieutenant for the several and respective regions or cities of Ingazi, and for and within the Viceroyalty of New Ingazi and such other lands as he may come to rule.

V. New Ingazi

The Viceroyalty of New Ingazi in Oratóa shall be governed by special laws and regulations as follows:

New Ingazi shall be governed in the name of the Count Palatine by his appointed Viceroy.

A council shall be established to consist of fifteen members, appointed by the Count Palatine, and to be styled the Council of New Ingazi.

Every vacancy happening from time to time among the members of the Council shall be filled up by the Count Palatine, by warrant under his Great Seal.

Every member of the Council appointed under this Act shall hold his office during good behavior. It shall be lawful for the Count Palatine to remove any member from his office upon an address of both Houses of Parliament.

No member of the Council appointed or elected under this Act shall be capable of sitting or voting in Parliament while he sits on the Council.

The Council shall, under the direction of the Viceroy, and subject to the provisions of this Act, conduct the business of the Government of New Ingazi.

The Viceroy shall be the President of the Council, with power to vote.

All powers exercised by the Viceroy shall be exercised at meetings of such Council, at which not less than five members shall be present, and at every meeting the Viceroy or his designated delegate shall preside.

If a majority of the Council record their opinions against any act proposed to be done, the Viceroy shall, if he do not defer to the opinions of the majority, record his reasons for acting in opposition thereto.

The appointments of the Viceroy of New Ingazi shall be made by the Count Palatine by warrant under his Great Seal. The appointments of the Lords Lieutenant in New Ingazi of the various provinces or territories, and all lesser officials and officers including sheriffs and justices of the peace, shall be made by the Viceroy, subject to the approval of the Count Palatine.

The expenditure of the revenues of New Ingazi shall be subject to the control of the Viceroy, and no grant or appropriation of any part of such revenues shall be made without the concurrence of a majority of votes at a meeting of the Council.

VI. Slavery

Chattel slavery shall not exist within the County Palatine of Ingazi, nor is it permitted within any territory under its control. Any slave lawfully entering these territories shall, by the very act, be free of his former condition of servitude.

VII. The Charter Oath

The Count Palatine and his successors shall swear at their coronation to faithfully observe this present charter.

The Lord Chancellor of Ingazi, the Viceroy of New Ingazi, the treasurer, the justices, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the steward of the Count Palatine's household, and all justices, sheriffs, constables, and all other bailiffs and ministers of the Count Palatine, whenever they receive their offices and bailiwicks, shall be sworn to keep and observe this present charter and all laws, statutes, and ordinances made by the Count Palatine's Excellency.

Count Gwariva Razhim X,
Count Palatine of Ingazi.
Ilkumbi Priory, Warrayi Prefecture.

Papal Bulla: "With Great Joy" (1544)

WITH GREAT JOY and exuberance the Iluvarian Orthodox Church is pleased to announce the transfer of the Holy Sites of the Church Militant from the secular control of Averon back to ecclesiastical control.

The Iluvarian Orthodox Church has, on behalf of the Church Militant, negotiated with Her Majesty Jera IV for the return of all cathedrals, abbeys and priories that were in the safe-keeping of Averon back to the control of Her Holiness Sardula V of the Church Militant.

We would like to thank the secular government of Averon for their excellent stewardship during this time of difficulty. Iluvar's blessing be on Grand Duchess Jera for her devotion to the preservation of Church property and her willingness to expend resources to restore and renovate Archemandrite Sardula's palace at K'ah over the past years.

We also would like to take this opportunity to commend Her Holiness Sardula V for her incredible efforts to reform the liturgy of the Church Militant. We also commend her willingness to work with Our representatives and look forward to a future of cooperation and harmony between the Orthodox and Militant Churches.

Pope Harmony VIII,
Pontiff of Sistrameides, Archemandrite of Ilúhir.
Sistrameides.

Treaty of the Troubled Seas (1544)

SIGNED AT SEA on this day in the year 1544 between the Kingdom of Hyrágec and the Kingdom of Zarkhandu. That these two realms shall, until otherwise

required, cooperate in the Dawnlands for mutual benefit in order to enrich both of our Realms subject to the following few stipulations and relying on good manners for the remainder;

1. That Zarkhandu furnish Maps of Dawnlands
2. That Zarkhandu furnish religious information regarding the Dawnlands faiths.
3. That Zarkhandu and Hyrágec determine a division of the lands between them such that there is no conflict between the realms.
4. That Hyrágec furnish gold and ships for the information provided or other trade in kind or service as negotiated upon.
5. That if there is to be combat between our realms that five years notice be given in either direction.
6. That any attack on one of us by native forces is an attack on both kingdoms.

Admiral Whirripi Dranthes,
Baron of Endani
for Hyrágec.

Queen Tannika,
for Zarkhandu.

An Act Declaring Aradéc to be a Commonwealth
19 Tertilis 1545

BE IT DECLARED AND ENACTED by this present Parliament and by the Authority of the same That the People of Aradéc and of all the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging are and shall be and are hereby constituted, made, established, and confirmed to be a Commonwealth and free State within the Empire And shall from henceforth be Governed as a Commonwealth and Free State by the supreme Authority of this Realm, the Representatives of the People in Parliament and by such as they shall appoint and constitute as Officers and Ministers under them for the good of the People and that without any King or Lords.

Pundraki Didrel,
Lord Protector.
Darnuldeis, Dranyi Prefecture.



Imperial Strength Index

#	Realm	Player	Forum Name	E-mail	ISI
<i>The Great Powers</i>					
1	Itaxik / Empress	Michael Warner	Galen	me1451@comcast.net	2,123.0
2	Thace, Elector	Gareth Anderson	kolgrim	kolgrim@gmail.com	1,962.1
3	Cappargarnia	Kyle Kinghorn	Doppelganger	kyle.kinghorn@gmail.com	1,937.0
4	Ingazi (all)	Harry Jago	jago	jagoh@yahoo.com	1,774.9
5	Averon	Kevin Lawrence	Averon Inc.	privatej67@yahoo.com	1,757.6
6	Chi'tixi	Steven Cagg	Priest King	ragnarstation@hotmail.com	1,757.1
<i>Major Powers</i>					
7	Araxes	Christopher Hord	chordam7	chordam7@yahoo.com	1,731.9
8	Aradéc (Comm)	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>			1,689.6
9	Zarkhandu	Theo Moriarty	Mandala of Blood	tmoriarty@gmail.com	1,662.9
10	Taneki	Don Wynne	meriden	dpatrickwynne@gmail.com	1,522.5
11	Church U&T	Anne Porter	Cupcake	crabbycupcakes@gmail.com	1,477.1
12	Golmath	Mike Green			1,437.7
13	Aradéc (King)	Charles Hurst	Xanthi	charles.hurst@gmail.com	1,428.7
14	Atuburrk	Adam Sherman	Gonnagle	mad.angus@yahoo.com	1,404.3
15	Elphárec	Lisa Kaattari	Garbush . Kaattari	kayleerobinson@gmail.com	1,305.3
16	Thace, Duchy	Ken Dito		quilldrake@gmail.com	1,152.6
<i>Regional Powers</i>					
17	Pexiki	Don Crysler	Plymouth Superbirds		939.4
18	Veiled Masters	James Hazeltine	Von Malvalken	jhazeltine@pleiadesmm.com	905.0
19	Tiryowglas	Michael Johnson	Minister of Defense	printermanmj@aol.com	898.9
20	Hyrágec	Paul Copenhagen	Wombatia	rossclannoble@yahoo.com	882.1
21	Murali	Sigvald Thorsen		sigvaldmartin@msn.com	819.0
22	Yani	Miles Luna	Ryushi	meryushi@yahoo.com	795.4
23	IOC	Jason Pearl	redoubtable1	redoubtable1@comcast.net	718.1
24	Sakkar	Nelson Merritt	hemmy	nelson.merritt@wachovia.com	588.7
25	Kicitchat	David Harrington	Sarnath		544.2
<i>Minor Powers</i>					
26	Carcë	Joe Cirillo	Conqueror Worm		494.6
27	Kachar	Daniel Jones	Drunken Monkey		492.0
28	Tokatl	Shelley Woodberry	Skipperway	desrik@comcast.net	455.3
29	Duedhyn	Rick Bishop	ouroboros		454.0
30	Lynnarvor	Joseph Heiselt	Cadeous	jrheiselt@yahoo.com	442.3
31	Pehuatoka	Attie Kremmling	Attie		239.0
32	Kumara	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>			225.3
33	Iäthedain	Jessica Hayamizu	Kisenya Amasani	Jhayamizu@ymail.com	201.4
34	Ravens				152.7



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