

The Sahûl Chronicle

Published by the Printers Guild of Zadres

Turn 22

1556–1560 SA

Battles are won by slaughter and maneuver. The greater the general, the more he contributes in maneuver, the less he demands in slaughter.

– General Sir Anabrin Taidarian,
Electoral Republic of Cappargarnia



EVER UNDERESTIMATE THE time required to disentangle two major wars. I think we've set word-count records for both the Oratoan and Sahûl newsletters this Turn, and it's all thanks to these all-consuming wars. I wouldn't have it any other way, though I continue to be concerned about the turn-around time. Automation is coming, or so they tell me, and that will help.

Enjoy this Turn, and take a good long time chewing it over. There's a lot here, and the one thing I can guarantee you is that whatever nefarious plan you set into motion, it didn't turn out exactly as you hoped.

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

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS:

Atlas of the World – With maps of Sahûl, Oratoa, and the rest of the Known World updated to Turn 20. Includes other supplementary material, including an index of all regions.

Cruenti Dei Oratoa Campaign Guide – This campaign guide provides a look at the warm and sunny continent of Oratoa, a land steeped in mystery and deep in the embrace of an Heroic Age.

Cruenti Dei Rules Supplement 1: Errata and Additions – This supplement contains the corrected Movement system, plus many new options for your Realm. Free download or in paperback.

Cruenti Dei Rules Supplement 2: Underlands – This supplement details the Underlands, a series of vast caverns underneath eastern Sahûl. Free download or in paperback.

Cruenti Dei Rules Supplement 3: Age of Discovery – Expands the rules for NSR 10 and beyond. Paperback.

The Chronicle, Volume I – The compiled Sahûl Chronicle from Turns 0 through 10 inclusive, plus some other nifty bits. Available in both paperback and hardcover.

The Chronicle, Volume II – The compiled Sahûl Chronicle from Turns 11 through 20 inclusive, plus some other nifty bits. Available in both paperback and hardcover.

The Annals, Volume I – The compiled Oratoan Annals up to Turn 20, plus some other bits. Available in both paperback and hardcover.



SIGNS AND PORTENTS



GREAT COMET APPEARED in the winter months of 1556. As it grew smaller in the very early spring of 1557, as all comets eventually do, it suddenly, spectacularly, silently exploded into fragments in the night sky. The Astrologers of Thace and Zarkhandu were puzzled by this behaviour, unparalleled in the historic or scientific record.

While the Midsummer meteor shower continued each year, several “shooting stars” even larger than the one of 1548 lit up the skies. The first was in 1557, just months after the death of the comet. It is said that a great fireball tore through Oratoa’s northern skies with a sound like a series of long thunderclaps before vanishing over the eastern horizon.

In the spring of 1559, a similar, though perhaps smaller, fireball tore eastward in a line from Chi’tixi, over Atuburrk, and out to the Azure Ocean, frightening cattle and causing wonderment in those who saw it. Several hours later, the great wave came ashore in Kumara and Aradéc, causing small amounts of damage but little loss of life. Reports from Oratoa indicate a much larger wave and



much wider damage in New Ingazi, New Araxes, and Pakoa.

The third meteor smashed straight down into the earth in the icy wastes of Mondaháhn, south of Yax’té.

Western Sahûl

THE KIT’IXI COAST

COUNTY OF TOKATL (141/TA)

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

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

DP: None.



HE DEEPLY WEIRD and deeply religious Countess Tinikatua VIII reacted to the events in Cappargarnia with the proclamation of a “Holy Dance Party”. Missionaries and leaders, both at home and abroad, held enormous dances, which in Tokatl’s local dialect were often called “raves”. These degenerate debauches often lasted several days, and they proved enormously popular in Tokatl and (oddly) Murali. Good, decadent fun was had by all. In Golmath and the Byrrin Valley, however, results were decidedly mixed.

Meanwhile, Tokatl’s forces continued to fight in the Great War in Oratoa.

ELECTORAL DUCHY OF TANEKI (59 I/YG)

Her Victorious Majesty, Toktoka VI, the Steady, Lady Talkeltik of Akeltl, Baroness Ketatl, Electoral Duchess of Taneki.

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

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Averon, Itaxik, Kachar, Kitchat, Sakkar, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za

DP: Tlicata (A), Ximi (F), Uitzetla (A)



SERIES OF STRANGE events were reported in the eerie half-built Grand Palace in Akeltl¹. Duchess Toktoka had been acting strangely. While it was true that she was getting on in years, few ascribed her behaviour to dotage – indeed she seemed remarkable preserved, given her advancing age.

She wandered the halls of the palace, often deep in the night, leaning heavily on an ancient staff. She often consulted with visitors from Tokatl, mostly merchants or sea captains whose ships were docked at harbour.

The definitive break came, however, when the court learned of the Tarotist declaration of holy war against Chi'tixi. The Duchess seemed to go mad. She ordered all Chi'tixi merchant vessels seized and ordered that all trade would cease. She appointed one of the visiting Tokatl merchants her “spiritual advisor”, and reportedly conducted strange ceremonies deep in the recesses of the Grand Palace.

Rumours began to spread through the city that the Duchess had herself become a Tarotist.

There are those that say what happened next was orchestrated by the Duchy's own spymaster, the Saurian Baron of Kuxa'ar, who reportedly met with the Captain of the Ducal Equerries late one night. The fact is, however, that the half-built palace can be a dangerous place, particularly in the evening when the light of dusk throws strange shadows through the dusty scaffolding and randomly piled lumber and stones.

One such evening, the Ducal Equerries heard a muffled screech, followed by a loud thump. They investigated and found the broken body of the Duchess Toktoka at the foot of a half-built stairway, where she had failed to notice the warning signs, somehow gotten past the rope barricade, and tragically and accidentally fell to her death.

She was immediately succeeded by the hive princess Chitera, who took the name Toktoka. She set

¹ Designed by the brothers of the Church Universal and Triumphant's Cathedral of Yankuik, construction of the Grand Palace began in 1531 but soon ground to a halt. The current palace is functional enough, but it only realizes a fraction of the ambitious plan of the Urdan monks.

about making some changes. For one thing, she reverted to the traditional numbering scheme for the Duchesses, announcing that her predecessor was, in fact, Toktoka the *fifth* and not the *first*. She, therefore, took the name Toktoka VI.

The new Duchess set about strengthening her fragile Duchy, sending diplomats throughout her realm, particularly in the rebel bits of Pexiki. Even the wealthy, well-armed, and proud Baroness of Uitzetla accepted an alliance, though she insisted that the Duchess intercede with the Empress to elevate her to a Landgrave, “as befits my station”.

New public works were built throughout Pexiki², and a road constructed from Tlachco in Ihiya to Ajchac in Exiya. Another new road, from Pexiki's capital of Amoxcali to Montola in Kisar, joined Pexiki's and Taneki's road systems together.

The new Duchess personally asked Countess Xitar of Pexiki to take a seat in the House of Magnates. The two are said to be discussing adding other Pexiki nobles to the House of Magnates and the House of Equerries.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF AVERON (51 SI/II)

Her Gracious Majesty, Jushana I, the Cold, Lady Drax, Baroness of Goorin, Countess of Darida, Electoral Grand Duchess of Averon, Overlord of Sakkar, Protector of the Faith, bearer of the Topaz Crown.

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, Taneki, Thaced, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: None.



GRAND DUCHESS JUSHANA reigned in majesty, the Topaz Crown serenely upon her head. Her subjects, if they do not exactly love her, certainly fear her, and for Jushana that is for now enough. Prince Gondulan completed his

² Specifically targeting the restive prefectures of Ocut and Apana.

studies in 1558, earning a degree in history from the prestigious University of Kongros. He has grown into a quiet, studious young Saurian who takes no notice of the AGDIS agents who follow him everywhere.

After being hunted by invisible AGDIS agents for several weeks, the rooms of a very confused chambermaid were raided, and she was made to give up the signet ring given her by the Grand Duchess.

With the death of the handsome young Lord Larrimar of Episma at the Battle of Ebonhill in 1557, the title fell vacant and the region escheated to the crown of Averon.

In 1560, the Baroness of Sakkar became a vassal of the Grand Duchess of Averon. The agreement is said to run for fifty years. Those shouts of “Queen of the West” don’t sound so hollow, now.

Pantun

ELDERLY LORD PAXTIL was sent on a diplomatic mission to Pantun. His honour guard included 10,000 cataphraḫti, 6,000 medium horse, and 17,000 mixed infantry, the first major Averese military in the region since Air Marshal Gnurd’s disastrous undertaking in 1478.

Lord Paxtil’s attempts to find some sort of nomad leader in the trackless and hostile deserts proved fruitless. Wherever he and his army went, they found no life. Scouts reported occasionally seeing robed Saurians on the horizon, or behind a dune or rocky outcropping, but they vanished into the desert as soon as they were spotted.

The army, meanwhile, took considerable casualties from the severe climate and terrain of the inhospitable high desert. Finally, Lord Paxtil could take no more. Just after his 72nd birthday, he ordered the army to withdraw to the Owdobáhn Road. There, he died in 1559.

His successor, no diplomat, withdrew the remains of the army back into Kib. During the entire expedition, they never managed to communicate with a native.

Yax'te



VERON CONSTRUCTED A new road in Yax'te from the town of Anatet in Ab'te to the town of Dortet in Ozto. The road construction crew continued eastward and into Alonwë, where the forest terrain impeded their progress towards Beech.

Margrave Cleon attempted to deal with the refugees that crowded the camps in Zanthia, Ozto, and Yax'te. Unfortunately, it was a bit of a logistical nightmare, and he was only one Saurian.

Some were settled into Yax'te itself³, while others were settled along the road into Ozto⁴, Ab'te⁵, and Soren⁶. Another group settled into the town of Anatet in Ab'te, expanding it into a city.

In far-off Zanthia, the situation was considerably more chaotic, but some settled into the countryside⁷, and some into the town – now city – of Tilleinet. These efforts were much less organized, and in the confusion there was quite a bit of damage to the region’s overburdened public works.

The heir of the Icemark, Lord Cleon, reentered public life, much to the relief of his father and the court. He is a grim, humourless Saurian, and wears only black. His young son, Tillein, on the other hand, is a joyful and precocious youngster.

ILUVARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH MILITANT (II IL)
Her Holiness Sardula v, Iluvarian Matriarch of the West, Archemandrite of Tikata.

Trade: Averon

DP: None.



RCHEMANDRITE SARDULA REMAINED in obedience to the Orthodox Pontiff. The new liturgical books were at last published in 1560. They are beautiful, theologically dense works that will no doubt enhance the worship of all Iluvarians in the West. Several services were held in Kongros immediately upon the prom-

3 Yax'te (5542)s

4 Ozto (5431)s

5 Ab'te (3321)s

6 Soren (3241)s

7 Zanthia (3231)s

ulgation of the new books – the choirs had been practicing for months with early copies. They were simply enchanting, drawing as they did on the deep spiritual traditions of the West combined with the subtle theological precision found in the East.

Predictably, there are those who refuse to use the new books, and are clamouring to retain the more “happy and clappy” forms that evolved in the vacuum of the past decades. They are in the distinct minority, and they are being urged to give the new books a try.

Sakkar’s Lady Trallah attended the prestigious Iluvarian University at Tikata and stayed on after graduation as a research fellow.

COUNTY OF KACHAR (18 I/UR)

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

Trade: Averon, Itaxik, Pehuatoka, Taneki, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: None.

OUNTRESS KASSA SENT colonists to Cauatl, including many retired mariners. They integrated the prefecture into the County and expanded the little port town of Kuxetl into a burgeoning port city with a firm westward destiny.

The elderly Countess Kassa VIII died in 1559. The unusually somber Myrmidons spent nearly a week mourning her before returning to their boisterous selves and hitting the taverns of Tchantli to “celebrate the Contessa’s glorious life”. Somewhere amidst the revelry, Kassa IX ascended the throne. The Myrmidons immediately mustered at the palace to pledge their undying fealty to their new Contessa, huzzah!

The youthful enthusiasm of the Myrmidons has proven contagious, garnering them many new potential recruits. The change went far beyond one little regiment of arquebusiers, however. Much of the County’s elderly leadership made way for a new generation.

Reports of pirates or privateers in the western seas were probably exaggerated.

Much to their amazement, Kachar’s Naval quality improved, and the prestigious Naval Academy expanded.

QUEENDOM OF ITAXIK (30 I/UR)

Baroness Chatoaya III of Ueka, Regent of Itaxik.

Trade: Averon, Carcë, Kachar, Pehuatoka, Sakkar, Taneki, Urdraháhn

DP: Jarrok (A)



HE REGENT WAS saddened to hear of the sudden, but not entirely inexplicable, vanishing of Lady Iteamik.

The Farmer’s Almanac went through several revised printings, with local editions published throughout the West. Starting with the 1558 edition, information began to be provided for central and eastern Sahûl. In 1560, region-specific editions were published in Pareis, Sardarthion, Urdraháhn, and Intixi.

Sakkar’s Lady Ataral attended the Itaxik Military Academy. After graduation, she went on to be a research fellow at the venerable University of Akassa for a year or so before returning home.

Astonishingly, the Queendom’s cavalry improved.

COUNTY OF PEHUATOKA (6 I/UR)

Her Excellency, Cipačtonatha VI, Baroness Aueuetl, Countess of Pehuatoka, Guardian of Mičtia.

Trade: Averon, Carcë, Itaxik, Kachar, Urdraháhn

DP: Iutl (F), Tekkulti (A)



FIRST MATRIARCH JERRÖE X lived out the remainder of her days in Pehuatoka’s capital of Aueuetl. She held daily services in Bakrata Cathedral, and she supervised the countless Urdan clergy that seemed to be everywhere in the County. Needless to say, the Church’s influence in the tiny realm greatly increased, and the First Matriarch was pleased to observe a fantastic increase in vocations throughout Pehuatoka.

Jerröe, the Leaping Horse, died in 1557 just a day after her 75th birthday. She was given the biggest and most splendid funeral that the Cathedral could muster, though her body was not interred in

Pehuatoaka. Instead, the Order of the Owl bore her embalmed body away to the west.

Countess Cipačtonatha, meanwhile, set about busily improving her little realm. New public works projects went in everywhere, and two new towns were raised: Tutl in Iutl, and Baldaun in Narmona.

Itaxik's ally, the Baroness of Pekka, arrived leading a diplomatic mission to establish friendly relations. The Countess, initially hoping that Itaxik had come around and was now prepared to swear fealty to her, was disappointed. Even so, there were some lovely diplomatic events – teas, dances, that sort of thing – and the Countess has consented to allow Itaxik to set up a proper consulate in the city.

Countess Cipačtonatha v died in 1560 and was succeeded by Countess Cipačtonatha vi, a chip off the old block.

Pehuatoaka's infantry improved.

LANDGRAVATE OF SAKKAR (18 IS/IL)

Landgrave Neallatalah of Sakkar, the Eye of the Storm, Mistress of Nelhuayotl, Heir of the Prophet, Beloved of the Light of Iluvar.

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

Trade: Averon, Carcē, Duedhyn, Finnedor, Itaxik, Taneki, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: None.

BARONESS NEALLATALAH WAS created a Landgrave by the Empress and then pledged fealty to the Electoral Grand Duchess of Averon as her sworn vassal. She also embarked on an ambitious building programme in furtherance of Sakkar's *Hundred Year Plan*.

Sakkar sent former army conscripts to Petlakkalko and Tonnak as colonists. The remaining Tiryowglas lancers were also allowed to retire into handsome tract housing in Petlakkalko. Both colonies are very much a work in progress right now.

More conscripts retired to the town of Akki in Kwesta, which is now a city.

Sakkar built new roads: from Totoch Prefecture to the Itaxik city of Ixkana on the Xos in Kimia

Prefecture, and from the fortress of Tchorri in Rosilion Prefecture, through Ersma Prefecture and into Duedhyn's Prefecture of Sarthes.

Several religious sites were given over to the direct governance of the Iluvarian Orthodox Church: Light of Iluvar Abbey in Nelhua, Tanarat Priory in Tlapan, and Saint Jos Priory in Kwesta.

A special effort was made by the government throughout the Landgravate to print and distribute the *Farmers Almanac* and to make new innovations in farming and herding techniques and plough technology widely available.

Naval and airship quality both improved, and the Naval Academy in Yeyečtin was enlarged. Averon established for Sakkar a Sorcery Academy in Yeyečtin.

THE METEOR OF 1560



THE SOUND OF thunder exploded across southwestern Sahúl on a bright autumn afternoon. In Sakkar and Yax'te, they could see the fireball descending, a fiery sphere throwing off flames and sparks of green and red.

It fell to earth somewhere in the icy wastes of Mondaháhn, south of Yax'te. An earthquake was felt throughout the Choloa River valley, which fortunately didn't cause too much damage but certainly spooked the wildlife and the livestock. The sky over the next months was hazy, and for much of the winter the sunsets were particularly vivid and beautiful.

Strange reports have filtered out from those trading with the southern ice-nomads. They claim that the fireball came to earth in the glacial region known as Erglim. It carved out an enormous crater, through the half-mile-thick ice and perhaps even into the stone below.

The nomads claim that within a month, the Mana in the adjoining regions had been disrupted, and soon failed entirely. While information about the glacial regions is hard to come by, in the tundra of Kassarai, Smerlenth, Ougros, and Markalenth, there is reportedly no Mana whatsoever.



Thacia and Aret

THE HIGH PLAINS & NORTHERN COAST

ELECTORAL QUEENDOM OF THE GREAT HIVE OF CHI'TIXI TIRRIX KI (43 I/YG)

Her Most Puissant Maješty, Taxitiki II, the Illuſtrious, Mištreſs of Tirrix & the Great Hive, Black Claw Baroness of Tichiir, Duchess of Chax and Tix'itikata, Countess Itax, Elečtor & Lich-Queen of Chi'tixi, Imperial Warden of the North, &c., &c.

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

Lady Gattax Ti'ir, Grandmištreſs of the Military Order of Gidaxa.

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Averno, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Lynnarvor, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdráhahn, Yarni-Za

DP: Failed.

CHI'TIXI PROSECUTED WAR on two continents. In both cases, results could perhaps best be categorized as “mixed”. In Oratoa, Chi'tixi's Vice-Warden of the North was involved in some of the bloodiest butchery seen on

that continent. In Sahûl, the Tarotists of the Byrrin declared holy war upon the Queendom.

With the loss of the entire Order of Gidaxa at the Battle of Golluz (1557), yet another new Grandmistress was chosen and recruitment was stepped up.

Chi'tixi sent thousands of Yagnarist missionaries into various Dread Forge regions in Zarkhandu, capping it off by cutting trade. It scarcely mattered, as by that point Zarkhandu no longer bordered Lake Sardath, but Queen Taxitiki signed the decree anyway, just to make a point.

Amazingly, Chi'tixi improved their cavalry, siege, *and* naval quality.

The treasury continued to expand to the point where new bins had to be constructed to keep all the gold.

DUCHY OF THACE (39 S/UR)

His Grace, Willor VI, the Unwell, Lord Goshtikka-Ourane, Baron of Brennadein, Duke of Thace.

Trade: Araxes, Averno, Carcë, Chi'tixi, Ingazi, Hyrágec, ID, Kicitchat, Taneki, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdráhahn

DP: None.



DUKE WILLOR VI INVESTED in his realm and built many new public works. The land grew fat and rich.

Airship technology leapt forward, as did the sorcerous arts. Thace expanded their primary school system, extending its benefits to more and more of the Duchy's people.

ELECTORAL COUNTY-PALATINE OF THACE (39 S/UR)

His Most Excellent Maješty, Merryn the Wise, Lord Goshtikka-Snamarthis, Burgrave of Wagga-Wagga, Overlord of Carcë, Elečtoral Count Palatine in Thace.

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

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Averno, Carcë, Chi'tixi, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Sakkar, Taneki, ThaceD, Thûnd(2), Urdráhahn

DP: None.



THE ELDERLY COUNT Brannis VI grew increasingly ill. He let it be known that he expected his granddaughter, Lady Mirra, to succeed him. This irritated his eldest son, Count Biard, who had been preparing for the throne for most of his life.

Instead, Biard found himself sent to the Imperial Free City of Wagga-Wagga, where he was given command of the garrison. His wife accompanied their eldest son, the young Lord Brannis, to Thûnd. He had been commissioned as Vice-Marshal of Thacia following his grandfather the Count Palatine's own appointment as Marshal.

Following her graduation from the Eiden Air Academy in 1556, Lady Lorreia⁸ journeyed to the Imperial capital of Sardarthion, where she fell in love with Count Merryn of Pareis, eldest son of the reigning Prince Merryn of Duedhyn.

Meanwhile, as the Count Palatine entered into his long decline, it was increasingly his youngest son Prince Merryn⁹ who was forced to handle the day-to-day administrative tasks.

Having reigned nearly sixty years, Count Palatine Brannis VI died on the 17th of October, 1557. The people of Thace fell to mourning their beloved Count, who had ruled for as long as most people could remember. He was laid out in state in the Palace in Snamarthis, and thousands filed by to pay their last respects.

Meanwhile, the question of who would reign in Electoral Thace was at the back of everyone's mind. Prince Biard, still in Wagga-Wagga, made it perfectly clear that he no longer wished to succeed his father. As disappointed as he had been with the old Saurian's decision to cut him out, he was far too respectful of his father to defy him, even in death.

Prince Merryn, the old Count's second son, acted as Regent and dispatched heralds to the four corners of Sahûl to inform Mirra of her accession to the throne. In the summer of 1558 the reply

came¹⁰, written on cream-coloured paper in Mirra's firm, looping hand:

Prince Merryn nevertheless sought the consent of the House Goshtikka-Snamarthis Clan Mothers for his accession, summoning them to Snamarthis in the autumn of 1558. Of the five¹¹ eligible Clan

My Dearest Uncle Merryn

*Blessings to you and to your family,
Thank you so much for the gift, I fear,
however, that simply I must decline your kind
invitation. Of what possible use can a throne
be to me? Take to yourself the crown of
Thace and keep it in peace for you and
for your house until the ending of the age,*

All my love

Mirra

Mothers, only Princess Tranierre, wife of the disinherited Prince Biard, raised any objection to Prince Merryn. Tranierre argued that in the absence of a properly chosen heir, the Clan Mothers must revert to the tradition of matrilineal descent, only abandoned in the extreme circumstances by which the old Count Brannis had ascended the throne. As none of the old Count's daughters, or his sister, or his niece had borne children, the Clan Mothers returned again to Prince Merryn.

He was finally crowned Count Palatine of Thace on a snowy mid-winter's day in 1558. To forestall any future shenanigans, the new Count and the Clan Mothers together named his eldest son Lord Brannis as heir.

The new Count Palatine oversaw the rebuilding of the Tower of Thought¹², and he put Thace's resources into various research projects. He also

8 Daughter of Captain Lord Tahnis, eldest son of Prince Basodir of Thace. You practically need a scorecard.

9 One too many Merryns, perhaps?

10 Mirra was herself at Tikopai at the time.

11 Five assuming you count Mirra, who though not actually a mother in the traditional sense, was certainly counted as one by most everyone. Of course, she didn't show up either.

12 Not only rebuilt, but expanded.

gladly accepted the renewed fealty of Sar Tremek of Carcë as his loyal vassal.

In northern Thace¹³, the usual hazy glow flashed briefly in the skies one afternoon in the autumn of 1560. In subsequent years the area produced a bounty of natural resources, including lumber, linen, grain, hemp, wool, and fish. Truly, this is the land of Urda's bounty!

Mount Belorn erupted a number of times.

The Eiden Air Academy expanded.

LORDSHIP OF CARCË (9 S/UR)

Sar Grotan Tremek II, Fourth Lord Carcë, Master of the Horseclans, Scourge of Urda the Fierce, Defender of the Steppe.

Trade: Araxes, Averon, Itaxik, Pehuatoka, Sakkar, ThaceD, ThaceE, Urdraháhn

DP: None.

AR TREMEK RENEWED his vassalage to the Elector of Thace, while assorted squadrons of steppe cavalry continued to serve in Thace's wars. Sar Tremek's young son and heir, Lord Dardûr, conquered Habaniah.

Princess Mirra of Thace visited the forboding ruin of Tikopai in the hot summer of 1558. She and Sar Ortak explored the area, and they spent some days in the tower before they vanished as mysteriously as they had arrived.

Cavalry and siege quality improved.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ARAXES (28 W/UR)

His Gallant Majesty, Kapalless IV, Baron Pinyerrel, Elector and Grand Duke of All Araxes.

Grand Duchess Sardierre the Fair, Lady Protector of Araxes.

Trade: Atuburrk, Averon, Carcë, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Kicitchat, Taneki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: None.

ITH THE DEATH of Lord Protector Kuakomanh Sardes in 1557, his daughter Regent Sardierre took the office, finally gathering

¹³ Specifically in the prefectures of Daradu, Galeo, Galluch, Jannas, Mennendar, Ortuch, and Spenna.

all of the reins of power into her own hands. This was just as well, for her son the Grand Duke assumed power upon his graduation from University the following year. The popular new Grand Duke is widely hailed as a genius of the first order and graduated at the top of his class at University. He is considerably more popular than his mother, and many hope he can reunite the country.

Araxes' fortune in its various wars was mixed; they ended up with regions they hadn't sought, and they failed to take regions they'd intended to.

Infantry and airship tactics, training, and technology advanced. Araxes built new diplomatic and airship schools in Pinyerrel. Their military and naval academies expanded, as did their primary school system.

COUNTY OF KICITCHAT (34 I/YG)

The Sorceress Atter'chi, Regent of the Kicitchat Hive and Associated Dominions.

T'ivik the Lich, Grandmistress of the Nameless.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Ebmadh, Einandhu, Golmath, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Lynnarvor, Puritans, Taneki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Treskaw, Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za

DP: None.

ICITCHAT POUNDED CAPPARGARNIA and set about reforming the Republic in their own image. Many thousands of Yagnarist missionaries into the Tarotist lands were largely rebuffed through a combination of fervour, zeal, and holy war. Even so, some progress was made, particularly in Tanji.

Kicitchat's large southern Tarotist minority¹⁴ was restive with news of the holy war. While there were no rebellions – the loyalty of these Tarotists to Kicitchat is unquestioned – there were protests in the urban areas of Taxitki, Inyib, and Xant'ki against the continued Kicitchat alliance with Chi'tixi. Indeed, the Tarotists were joined in many

¹⁴ Concentrated in the regions of Dahu, Karadeg, Kentel, Krittix, Nolvenn, Ollon, Tanji, and Thichat and especially near the County-chartered Tarotist monastery of Arcëme in Kentel.

cases by moderate Yagnarists in their marches and luncheons.

Naval and airship technology both advanced.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ATUBURRK (42 W/YG)
His Gracious Majesty, Adhanggar Rahnes II, the One-Armed, Count of Erran and Odol, Imperial Governor of Ardebon, Elector & Grand Duke of Atuburrk, Lord Admiral of the Blue, Provisionary Administrator of the Imperial Free City of Punchega.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Ebmadh, Einandhu, Golmath, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Kumara, Puritans, Taneki, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za

DP: None.

RAND DUKE RAHNES did his very best to rescue his captured vice-admiral at Zadres without success. His broken body was returned after the fall of Zadres to Ebmadh.

Despite the looming threat of migraines, the Grand Duke had another meeting with Mirra. Together, the two of them toured the damaged clock tower in Punchega. There was a joke going around that she was “measuring it for curtains, ain't she?” After a very pleasant afternoon together, Mirra and her hulking keeper vanished. The Grand Duke presumably sighed with relief.

The port town of Prutt in Egurundharr grew into a city, now named Sto Mal.

The obnoxious Count Caranthes apparently fell in love with a Kommoleki girl in Wrexym¹⁵, much to his father's stern disapproval. When he returned to Atuburrk in 1557, he had a wife and a newborn cub in tow. The couple's second child was born in 1559. The adorable grandcubs seem to have warmed the old Grand Duke's heart to his son's decision.

A group of Atuburrk's eminent scholars and historians have begun work on a compilation of the island's history. The projected multi-volume work is expected to contain historical accounts, a chronology, myths, legends, oral histories, and extracts

¹⁵ A rumour, unsubstantiated as of yet, claims that the lady in question was in fact a barmaid.

from military records. The committee hopes to have a draft available for first review in 1575 or so.

Perhaps to help the project along, Atuburrk endowed a new library in the city of Apong in Atchit'erix.

Central Sahûl

THE HEART OF EMPIRE

THE SECOND CAPPARGARNIAN DOOM (1551 – 1560)

Cappargarnia vs. Adndar, Araxes, Carcë, Chi'tixi, Ebmadh, Hyrágec, Ingazi, Thace (Electoral), Zadres

1556: Cappargarnia Strikes Back

S THE ARMIES of all of their neighbours closed in upon the Republic, Prince Deirn Carberic resolved to counter-strike. His most immediate resolution was that Chi'tixi could not go unpunished for the desecration of Tarotist holy sites. Together with His Great Holiness Pontiff Fenric VI, he issued a very carefully worded call to HOLY WAR¹⁶.

Throughout the Empire, only the most fanatical of the Tarotists heeded the call. Indeed, in the west the call barely received notice. In the Byrrin Valley, the voices of reason were few and far between. In the south, Burgrave Tiribissi Lanharnes III of Adndar counselled caution and moderation, but given the religious fervour of his people, he was whistling into the wind. In contrast, in the north Baron Sandrim Haryt II of Ebmadh likewise urged calm, but his voice *was* heard by the large number of moderates of the Lower Byrrin.

The result was somewhat mixed, with many Tarotist holy troops arising in the south, while there were somewhat fewer in the north. The exception to the general rule was in the occupied lands of the Tarotist primacy itself, where it seemed as though nearly every Wenemet capable of bearing arms took them up to fight Chi'tixi. That both of the regions in question were occupied (Arétar by

¹⁶ See “Golluz Declaration (1556)” on page 95.

Chi'tixi itself and Djarden by Hyrágec) certainly complicated matters.

And then there was Golmath, where the Puritans rose up and seized what gold and supplies they could before marching westward to their destiny.

In every place where the holy troops arose in the Byrrin Valley, they rose up against their occupiers in support of the Holy war.

The Illimitable Insurrections in the North (1556)

IN ARÉTAR, THE Chi'tixi and Hyrágec occupying armies were suddenly faced with Tarotist rebels in the form of 10,000 knights¹⁷ and a like number of extremely disciplined and trained peasants. Despite clear instructions to the contrary, the rebels engaged the occupying armies. The rebels had no help from the Primate or his army besieged in the city of Golluz.

The Chi'tixi outnumbered the rebel scum. They fielded some 30,000 troops commanded by the malevolent and able Grandmistress Axixt C'ithiir of the Order of Gidaxa, with 4,000 Hyrágecan cavaliers and knights led by the legendary Marshal Spekthes the Gladiator.

Needless to say, the rebels were crushed, though the allied forces did suffer some 3,000 casualties.

In a strange turn of events, later in the year there was a break-in of Pontifical Palace in Golluz. Invisible agents tore through the palace, with the guard and army in hot pursuit. Whatever the mysterious visitors had hoped to accomplish was thwarted by the luck and skill of the Pontifical Guard, and the number of soldiers watching over the Pontiff himself was doubled.

In both regions occupied by Hyrágec, many hundreds of Urdan missionaries distributed hot meals and pamphlets to the locals. These quickly became prey for roving bands of self-appointed Tarotist religious police. Eventually, the military garrisons had to step in to protect the Urdans. The Tarotist holy warriors, meanwhile, organized themselves in secret for war against Chi'tixi. In Djarden, an esti-

¹⁷ Consisting primarily of second sons, wealthy merchants with a modicum of training, and assorted retired military personnel.

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!



Make merry and jollify with your brothers and sisters in URDA.

URDA is the only Card that is important now. She is all of the cards in one. There is no need for the many with the One who gave us all.

Join with your brothers, Éiwi! Join with your brothers in celebrating URDA. She is Fool, Magician, Matriarch & Patriarch, Empress & Emperor, Love, Prudence, Justice, Hermit, Chance, Death, Strength, Hanged Man, Temperance, Devil, Tower, Star, Moon, Sun, Judgement, and THE WORLD. She is all, and all is in URDA.

The pack tarot is nothing but shards of broken glass, each reflecting URDA.

Your Primacy is the puppet of the ORATOAN MADMAN. Before all is lost, come to URDA!



URDA IS THE ANSWER.

mated 12,000 archers and levies took to the forests in an effort to evade the army of Hyrágec trees. This was only somewhat successful, and many of the levies were easily hunted down and killed. In Gurvan, the few holy troops likewise avoided the Hyrágec garrison and appeared to be heading north. They did, however, by and large frustrate the efforts of the Urdan missionaries sent there.

Religious rebel movements in Tanji and Bufalein were easily crushed by the large occupying armies there with minimal casualties. However, this was not the case in other regions. In Adément, rebels overthrew the small number of Carcë hussars occupying the region.

Meanwhile, in the Cappargarnian home region of Erediar, a major uprising was underway. The trouble began in late spring, when the Demon Charph was magically assaulted. Although his master's wards held firm, the Kitchat were there by instantly alerted to the presence of an enemy

leader in the region. In the summer, the Countess herself arrived to take command of the situation.

As thousands of Yagnarist missionaries flooded the region, Countess Sith'tat the Black entered the ancient Senate chamber in Cappargarnia City. She announced that she was changing the name of the city back to its original name, Erphan. She then issued the *Consul Edict of the Kicitchat Dominion of Erediar*.

Some of the more, shall we say, *practical* Senators immediately submitted to Yagnar and swore fealty to the Countess. The Kicitchat thought the number submitting was surprisingly low, while many of those belonging to the most ancient aristocratic Houses of Cappargarnia thought the number shockingly high¹⁸.

As she finished her formal audience, her generals informed her that the entire countryside had risen in rebellion. Led by some sort of religious fanatic named Grindel, 18,000 knights and peasants had risen against Kicitchat rule.

Fortunately for Kicitchat, the Countess had assumed command of the rather imposing garrison of Erediar¹⁹, not to mention a hundred brand-new airships on their maiden voyage.

Zombies and Yagnarist missionaries died by the score, but the rebels could not otherwise make a dent in the occupying forces. They were finally pinned down by artillery and airship fire and annihilated. Grindel's body was hanged from the walls of Erphan.

Shortly thereafter, Kicitchat reinforcements arrived from Tanji in the person of Regent Atter'chi and her 25,000 knights and dragoons.

The Illimitable Insurrections in the South (1556)



DNDAR WAS HAVING its own problems with unwanted religious fervour. The government itself was not in favour of holy war at all, but the realm was still studded with priories of the Church of the Illimitable. Even in places with independent Tarotist religious sites²⁰ or no site at all, the zeal and indignation of the people provided all the incentive to holy war that were required.

In several prefectures, the rising tide of religious fervour proved too much for the government to contain. In Dramûl and Jarvaël, the fanatics seized the government and rebelled from Adndar. Burgrave Lanharnes III was in Triffin, where religious revolution was also in the air. He attempted to put down the uprising with the small number of troops there at his disposal. His forces were overwhelmed, and he himself was captured by the rebels.

They put him on trial for blasphemy, found him guilty, and burned him at the stake in the central plaza of Joarbal.

In Envel itself, 14,000 men took arms – knights and peasants alike – with the idea of going to holy war against the Chi'tixi. Count Palatine Razhim x of Ingazi, who led the allied force in the area, had no idea how to handle them, though he was disposed to just send them on their way.

He never really got the chance to decide, however. While an attempt by Cappargarnian agents to unbind the Dragon Erancia failed, their attempt to assassinate the Count Palatine himself was another matter entirely. A small explosion in the Ingazi camp provided a distraction, and Count Razhim took a crossbow bolt to the forehead.

As he slumped forward, the Sapphire Crown tumbled from his head. His aides rushed to help their Count, but he was dead by the time he hit the ground. In all the confusion, the Crown itself had vanished, and many feared that the assassins themselves had spirited it away.

18 Of the 91 Senate seats, some 18 were vacant and just over half of the remaining Senators had fled, leaving 35 Senators in the City. Of these, fully 24 submitted. Of the remaining eleven, two joined the rebellion, seven vanished, and the other two took pensions as "Senators Emeritus". The total number of "missing" Senators stands at 45.

19 26,000 soldiers, 17,000 undead, five artillery battalions.

20 Typically, these were associated with the clergy of Odnhndor Cathedral in Triffin.

Confusion reigned in Envel. The Prince of Cappargarnia and his army held the city of Adndar, while the countryside was suddenly contested between 30,000 leaderless Ingazi cavaliers and knights, and 14,000 Tarotist crusaders. And then there was the matter of the rogue dragon.

Fortunately for all involved, the dragon didn't stay long. She sought out a high place to build her lair. Perhaps with the altitude of her flight, she could see the far-off range of the Ened Mountains in the east of Endani Prefecture. Certainly, that's where she flew, taking up residence in the southern part of the mountains, near to the Shrine of Moroko, in the following year.

Zadres and the Rise of Ebmadh (1556)



BARON HARYT OF Ebmadh observed the Cappargarnian army depart Zadres in the summer, marching south towards Arétar. He counted 38,500 infantry and archers, led by the Banner of Malygris, and he let them pass.

When they were well and truly out of sight, the Baron changed tactics from evasion to assault. He marched his 20,000 men to the gates of Zadres, and he demanded the city's surrender "to Ebmadh and to the Empire".

Inside the city, the Cappargarnian Prefect Sevas Pirein had ordered that the remaining vessels of the Imperial Blue Fleet be scuttled at the mouth of the harbour, to prevent any "unauthorized access" into the city. His garrison, which consisted of fifty stone warriors, was set to defending the still dominating city walls. He refused to surrender.

The people of the city rose up in rebellion, some for Empire, some for the restoration of their liberties, and even some for the King in Yellow.

As if the rebellion of the living weren't enough, the butchered dead of Zadres began to arise. The bodies still nailed to walls began to groan and writhe. They removed the spikes and weapons that had killed them and held them fast, now to be used as weapons against those who occupied their city. Children by the thousands, whose bodies had been

piled in alleys until the flesh had rotted off of their skeletons, now rose up and cried out for vengeance. The charnel city of Zadres came alive, and victims of Cappargarnian butchery walked its streets, hungry for blood.

Outside the walls, Baron Haryt ordered his men to assault the city.

While the defending stone warriors spent much of their time stomping the rising dead of Zadres, the Ebmadh siege engines and infantry were doing their best to take apart the daunting walls of the city. Soon, the streets of the city were covered in the rotting jelly of smashed bodies, and the winds from the sea stirred billowing clouds of pulverized bone.

With the dead now again safely dead, the Cappargarnian golems took up defensive positions on the damaged walls, in some cases planting themselves in the gaps. The Baron of Ebmadh led his forces again to assault the walls, an assault that quickly became a bloodbath. The Baron's engineers were stomped, and their catapults and trebuchets smashed to flinders.

But the walls had been breached. Ebmadh infantry established a foothold, and suddenly thousands of cavalry poured through the gap. Cappargarnian Prefect Sevas Pirein and his remaining men made a valiant last stand in Cartographer's Square, but the furious Ebmadhi horsemen ran them down.

And then, quite suddenly, the remaining golems ground to a halt, freezing in mid-movement.

Baron Haryt and his men had won the day, liberating Zadres from the brutal Cappargarnian occupation. There were celebrations in the streets as Haryt's men distributed badly needed food and supplies. The Baron immediately invited the city's exiled elites to return.

During their search of the keep dungeons, the Ebmadhi found the broken, mutilated body of Atuburrk's Vice-Admiral of the Blue, Baron Pagong Gwythr of Egurundharr. His fingers had all been removed, his legs broken, and his mouth sewn shut with rough twine. The Baron returned his body to the new Atuburrk ambassador in closed casket during a sober military ceremony.

The rumour soon circulated that he had been alive when he was discovered – barely – and had presumably been kept that way by his sadistic Cappargarnian jailors.

Baron Haryt had no comment.



The Urdan allied army in Bufalein had intended to march east through Adndari territory to Sardarthion before striking north against Cappargarnia. They ran into trouble right away in Dramûl, now ruled by a fundamentalist revolutionary regime bent on holy war against the Chi'tixi. They refused them passage.

Thacian Lady Gollandir convened a war council with her Araxean allies²¹. They resolved to sweep aside the Tarotist resistance, and the battle was on! The 68,000 Thacian cataphraçti and hussars, combined with the 33,000 Araxean infantry and 4,000 Decaspëan steppe cavalry, made short work of the 7,000 Tarotist fanatics.

They evicted the Church of the Illimitable clergy of Dornal Priory but bypassed the port city of Kattras. Araxean Captain Lord Mardant volunteered to leave an infantry garrison, and the allied army continued marching east.



Hyrágéc reinforcements arrived in Aréтар, presumably to aid in the continuing siege of Golluz. They also sent a fleet to blockade Cappargarnian traffic on the Upper Byrrin.

1557: Slaughter and Maneuver

THROUGHOUT THE BYRRIN Valley, armies and fleets were on the move, from Aréтар in the north to Jarvaël in the south, as the Allies sought to partition Cappargarnia. Ebmadh was keen to get their share, while Adndar continued to collapse. And everywhere, Tarotist

²¹ Captain Lord Mardant and the portly and elderly Sar of Decaspë.

holy troops gathered under new crusader leaders, determined to strike at Chi'tixi.

In Morwenna, the son of Tiribissi Lanharnes III declared himself Burgrave Tiribissi Lanharnes IV of Adndar in exile. He made Pakhandar his capital and declared the Church Inimitable to be outlaw in his lands. Aret Priory in Carlon and Thanatos Priory in Ilani were seized and independent Priors appointed.

This was the final straw for the fanatical revolutionary government in Trifin, and they joined Cappargarnia as the “best guarantor of Tarotist liberties”.

The Battle of Golluz (1577)

CHITIXI AND HYRÁGEC began their assault of the Tarotist Holy City of Golluz on the fifth of Tertilis, in fine warm weather, and with plenty of reinforcements. An older and wiser²² Lady Tirchix turned command of the Chi'tixi army – 28,000 altogether – over to Lady Axixt C'ithiir, Grandmistress of the Military Order of Gidaxa. Marshal Spekthes the Gladiator, meanwhile, now commanded over 53,000 cavaliers, knights, and hussars, which most observers agreed would be fairly useless in a city assault²³. He also commanded fifteen airships and something like 170 walking trees, which were considerably more useful.

Against this was arrayed 24,000 pikemen and 10,000 levies under the command of the wily (and lucky) Pontiff Fenric. The walls of Golluz remained formidable and Cappargarnian siegecraft is world renowned, but the undaunted Allies nevertheless confidently attacked.

Indeed, the Allies did very well on the first assault. Their animated trees pulled down some of the walls as their battle-magic enhanced infantry and airships caused tremendous casualties in the defending force. While the Allies did lose 6,000 men and five airships, the defenders found themselves staring at 19,000 dead.

²² And irritatingly invisible.

²³ In fact, the cavaliers and knights were held in reserve.

As the Allies were organizing themselves for a second go at the walls, Hyrágecan outriders breathlessly galloped into the camp with news that a Cappargarnian army was coming from the north. It was Steene Artari, the Butcher of Zadres himself, with 38,500 infantry and archers – and an Efreet.

Another army, this time Cappargarnian crusaders, simultaneously marched towards Golluz along the Plormel Road. The pickets made their number at nearly 40,000, and they marched under the banner of the dashing Wenemet General Sir Anabrin Taidarian²⁴.

The Allied forces rapidly drew themselves up into something resembling a defensive formation as the two armies converged on them. Behind them, the gates of Golluz opened, and Pontiff Fenric led his forces in a sally. Battle was joined.²⁵

Allied battlemagic proved ineffective against Cappargarnian wards. Cappargarnian luck added to the mystic powers of the *Banner of Malygris* did much to advance their cause. Certainly the fact that their troop training and equipment is second to none was decisive.

Cappargarnian General Sir Anabrin Taidarian led the Republic's armies to a glorious victory. Hyrágec's cavaliers alone prevented the battle from becoming a rout, but at a horrible cost. Chi'tixi's army all lay dead on the field, including the Grandmistress of the Order of Gidaxa. While Hyrágec's cavaliers held the line nearly to the last man, their knights survived to retreat eastward. The trees, alas, could not keep up with the retreating army, and they were quickly chopped into firewood by the Cappargarnians.

All told, the Allies took 56,000 casualties out of an initial force of 75,000. The Cappargarnians, by way of contrast, lost half that number. The Cappargarnians also seized more than two hundred Chi'tixi transports.

²⁴ Taidarian is a professional soldier and a patriot – a very serious young Wenemet who reportedly had his sense of humour surgically removed at the age of 16.

²⁵ For those keeping track, the Cappargarnian force totalled 19,500 cavalry, 73,500 infantry, and an Efreet, while the Allied force had 52,500 cavalry, 22,500 infantry, 170 trees and ten airships.



Meanwhile, in the Cappargarnian homeland, the mighty Kitchat army surrounded the Tarotist Cathedral of Arag. To guard against any mistakes, the army was led by Countess Sith'tat the Black herself, and her soldiers had strict orders to cause no damage to the Cathedral and to avoid bloodshed as much as possible.

It proved a bit anti-climactic. With the religious rebels already crushed, the Cathedral quietly surrendered.

The Countess wasted no time in dissolving the Tarotist establishment entirely. The administrators, clerics, and monastics were removed from their rooms and turned out into the street. New Yagnarist clerics and religious took their place, and Arag became a Yagnarist Abbey.

From the religious, the Countess turned to the political realm. The vacant Senatorial spots were all filled with Yagnarist converts and the army was set to guard the Senate building. There was plenty of money spread around to help ease the transition, though there were actually few converts after the events of the previous year. Still, Erediar is almost half Yagnarist now.



Kitchat's Cul'tha the Conqueror led 32,500 pike, 12,000 zombies, five artillery battalions, and a hundred airships into Cappargarnian Mælor with a keen view to occupying the region.



In Envel, a pair of Sakkari military advisors had arrived at the invitation of the Ingazi government. This turned out to be timely, as the Ingazi army there had no leadership, no dragon, and Prince Deirn Carberic of Cappargarnia had finally decided to sally out of Adndar.



PRINCE CARBERIC AND Grandmaster Steene Caranthes of the Blood Swords were confident in victory over the leaderless and dragonless Ingazi. The Cappargarnians mustered 50,000 infantry, 1,500 knights, 100 stone warriors, and perhaps 5,000 engineers²⁶.

Prince Carberic appeared in full battle array, wielding the Sword of Saint Jarrad and wearing the Sapphire Crown. His trumpeters sounded the charge, and battle was joined.

The Ingazi had but 31,000 Wenemet cavaliers and knights²⁷ led by a Malebolge and a Saurian from Sakkar – Marshal Chan Koxol (accompanied by the Deva Sirrix) and Sir Cipaçtli.

Despite the best efforts of the Deva and the courage of the Ingazi chivalry, the Cappargarnians clearly had the upper hand. Their stone warriors stomped men and horses, while their infantry and siege tried to hold off the Deva.

The remains of the shattered Ingazi line was in full retreat by nightfall, and they didn't stop until they had crossed the river into Imperial Torsi. Sir Cipaçtli and the flower of Ingazi chivalry lay dead on the field²⁸.

Prince Carberic, not one to rest on his laurels, put the fortress of Nalhul to siege.



In Arzhador, Thacian Lady Gollandir and 70,000 or so of her close personal friends obliterated the small number of fanatical armed peasants in the region and forced the locals to pay tribute. Neither the Cathedral of Ardarhun nor the Blood Swords fortress of Swordwatch complied, but the city and region surrendered. An attempt to assassinate Lady Gollandir failed.

²⁶ It should be noted that they were *not* joined by the 14,000 holy troops in the region.

²⁷ The Sakkari leadership had clearly hoped to cast *Shadow Knights*, but there simply wasn't time.

²⁸ Casualties were estimated at an astonishing 28,000.

Araxean Lord Protector Kuakomanh Sardes and his army of 10,000 cavaliers (and their 12,500 infantry auxiliaries) crossed the Byrrin from Erediar into Dunvaël with the object of conquest.

Things started going wrong very quickly. The Lord Protector was killed during the crossing when he suddenly fell from his horse into the river. Though the river wasn't very deep where he fell, the weight of his impressive armour prevented him from rising from the water, and by the time his men had fished him out, he had drowned.

The leaderless Araxean army, in more or less constant conflict with the Cappargarnian garrison and the local castles, gradually filtered back to Erediar.



The Urdan allied army left Dramûl and found that Jarvaël was also ruled by a fundamentalist revolutionary regime bent on holy war against the Chi'tixi. Once again, this forced the Urdans to spend time pacifying the region. This time, their leadership corps was joined by the young son of the Prince of Duedhyn, Count Merryn of Pareis.

They swept aside the Tarotist resistance, though they did suffer some casualties. They evicted the Church of the Illimitable clergy from Garhdor Priory and bypassed the port city of Ogiryi.

Araxean Captain Lord Mardant was again only too happy to leave an infantry garrison. The allied army continued marching east. Count Merryn, who by all accounts had ably acquitted himself on the field of battle, went ahead of the slower-moving army.



Burqan Qaldûn's army of 32,000 Carcë steppe cavalry rode into Dusios and occupied the region.

A combined arms Chi'tixi fleet of perhaps 125 airships and 45 river transports slowly made its way north over the Lower Byrrin River.

CAPPARGARNIA'S MIGHTY ARMY in Arétar Prefecture split up and plunged into the Hyrágec-occupied regions of Gurvan and Djarden with the clear idea of recapturing them.

In Gurvan, General Anabrin Taidarian (with Pontiff Fenric vi) led 28,000 men against the 6,000 hussar garrison. The Hyrágecan hussars never stood a chance, and the remainder of the Urdan missionaries soon met a similar fate.

In Djarden, the situation was a little different. There, Steene Artarik led 35,000 mixed infantry and an Efreet against a forest of walking trees. Even though the local zealots joined them, the Cappargarnians took considerable casualties before they finally emerged victorious.



The Mælor Campaign (1558)

KICITCHAT'S CUL'THA THE Conqueror attacked Cappargarnian Mælor with 32,500 pike, 12,000 zombies, five artillery battalions, and a hundred airships. They had to contend with fifteen castles in the region, not to mention 11,000 Tarotist crusaders and a detachment of Blood Swords.

They soon discovered that there was more where that came from, for the main Blood Swords army soon arrived from the south. They numbered 24,000 cavalry, 46,000 infantry, and perhaps 3,000 engineers, and they thought themselves more than a match for the invaders.

The Kicitchat were joined by Wenemet Lord Sidhassar and the demon Charph, which only added to their strength of arms. While the Demon was all for just charging into the fray willy-nilly, they instead wisely placed themselves under Cul'tha's command.

Cul'tha was clearly a superior tactician, and her airships and artillery pounded the defenders, but

the region's castles proved tough nuts to crack. The invaders lost their zombies and about 5,000 pike, but the defenders numbered their casualties at more than 30,000. Even a clever attempt by the Cappargarnians to murder Lord Sidhassar was offhandedly defeated. By any measure, the Kicitchat achieved a victory in the field, but they had only taken down one of the castles and could not take the region.

Cul'tha regrouped her forces and launched a fire-bolt at the Cappargarnians in anticipation of a final push to victory. The fire-bolt fizzled, but the Kicitchat charged anyway, with the Demon in the fore.

The resulting slaughter was terrible to behold. Cappargarnian casualties were upwards of 23,000, while the Kicitchat lost another 12,500 pike and all of their remaining artillery. There were even reports of several airships being brought down. And still, thirteen Cappargarnian castles remained.

Or did, until it became apparent that the Demon Charph had somehow slipped his hold. The panicked Kicitchat leadership searched for Lord Sidhassar, only to find that, despite surviving two assassination attempts and thwarting an Unbind spell, he had caught an unlucky sword-thrust in the battle and had been slain.

Cul'tha was infuriated. She won every engagement, but she could not knock down those castles, and now an unbound Demon was slaughtering friend and foe alike. When the firestorm of fury was finally finished, Cul'tha retreated back to Erediar. She had but 2,500 pike and 90 airships remaining, and still, ten Cappargarnian castles stood.



Undeterred, Kicitchat armies entered Dwelnaz with a view to cutting the Cappargarnian government in exile (located in Adndar) off from the rest of Cappargarnia's lands to the north.



The Chi'tixi air- and river-fleet arrived in Ebmadh under a flag of truce and began unloading zombies and heavy infantry to provide defense for the region. The military commander, Dame Tixit, asked to speak with Baron Haryt, and both she and Chi'tixi diplomat Lady Chattori were received in audience.

The Tarotists of the region have no love for the Chi'tixi, but the northern reaches of the Byrrin are not nearly so zealous as other areas. There was little trouble. In fact, there weren't any public expressions of hatred at all; the attitude of the Ebmadhi towards the Chi'tixi might best be described as "wary".

The Chi'tixi offered to work with the Baron in the liberation of Zadres, but the Baron pointed out that he and his army had already liberated the city at considerable cost²⁹. He suggested that it might be more useful if the Allied governments continued to support the moderate Tarotists in the region, meaning himself and Adndar, with gold and arms.



The fortress of Nalhul in Envel surrendered to Prince Carberic of Cappargarnia, and the Prince withdrew his army behind the walls of Adndar.



Once the immense Thacian army was well and truly gone and on their way to Bæmûl, Arzhadior rebelled and asserted its independence from both Adndar *and* Cappargarnia. The Blood Swords fortress of Swordwatch was overthrown by the locals under a certain Char Badar, who is a descendant of the ancient Landgraves of Arzhadior. It was renamed Castle Char.

²⁹ What the Baron was too polite to mention was that the Chi'tixi were particularly loathed in Zadres, given that a substantial portion of the population was of Taporî descent, their families having fled to the city during the Taporî Deportations of 1536–1539. Had a Chi'tixi army entered the city, there would have been street battles and probably a revolution.

A similar rebellion in nearby Bufalein went very differently, however. A force of organized rebels overthrew the Carcë hussars and reclaimed the region for Cappargarnia.

1559: Meet the New Boss



KICITCHAT REGENT ATTER'CHI and Grandmistress T'ivik of the Nameless led a combined force of 57,000 cavalry, infantry, artillery, engineers, and zombies with intent to conquer Dwelnaz³⁰. Their mascot, the Demon Norek, made great sport of frightening livestock and causing them to flee in terror, and having the occasional tree spontaneously combust.

There was no appreciable defense in the region, much to the annoyance of those who owned livestock or wooded lands.

After raising some dead from the local ancient battlefield and knocking down Desario Priory, the Kicitchat settled down to lay siege to the city of Hunnychar. The Order left for another mission.



A Hyrágec fleet, commanded by Lord Injiro and Lord Whirripi Porthes of Endani, led a fleet of 230 ships up the Byrrin to Plormel. The Hyrágecans demanded the surrender of the fortress of Dawnwatch while 20,000 troops stormed ashore. The Blood Sword commander in the fortress declined to surrender. The civilian government of the region, meanwhile, played host to Lord Hesiod, the eldest son of Baron Haryt II of Ebmadh.

While the Hyrágecans were busily causing some serious subsidence in the fortress walls, the wealthy Lord Hesiod wine and dined the good and the great in Olba. Soon the fortress was in ruins and the remaining Blood Sword defenders burnt to a crisp thanks to a well-placed fire-bolt.

³⁰ The Dwelnaz are, as the popular saying has it, "not a sturdy people". It's surely not coincidence that throughout their history they tend to surrender at the first sign of an army. Fortunately, the stout burghers of Hunnychar are made of stronger stuff.

The Plormel aristocracy, who never had much truck with this holy war business, and fearing that they were next for the chop, instead joined with a moderate Tarotist power they hoped would protect them and their religion and way of life... Ebmadh.



Thacian Lady Gollandir led 50,000 cataphraçi and 16,000 hussars to force tribute from Bæmûl. Four thousand fanatical armed peasants and a thousand Blood Swords Lancers attempted to repulse the invaders, but they just ended up looking silly as they died. Yet another attempt to assassinate Lady Gollandir failed, though she was wounded.



The Thacian-Araxean allied army finally made it to Envel. The Ingazi army they were sent to aid was long since defeated, and its leader killed. The region, now firmly in Cappargarnian hands, determined to resist.

Fourth Battle of Adndar (1560)

Led by Captain Lord Mardant and the portly and elderly Sar of Decaspë, the Araxean army was down to 23,000 mixed infantry and 1,000 steppe cavalry. Thacian Lord Korrok, a hero of the Duedhyn wars, commanded 5,000 engineers who clearly had not intended to face a field battle. Against them stood the Prince of Cappargarnia³¹, his attaché Cassias Dronex, 8,000 pike, and 200 stone golems.

The short, sharp battle began well for the allies, as the majority of the Cappargarnian stone warriors shattered into rubble. The Cappargarnian pike remained in good order, though, and their superior training and equipment proved decisive. After taking 17,000 casualties, the Urdans retreated to Carlon.

³¹ Magic sword in hand!

Among the casualties were the Sar of Decaspë and his men. The Sar's home region has reasserted its independence from Araxes.



In Dusios, Burqan Qaldûn's army of 32,000 Carcë steppe cavalry destroyed Gleck Priory and launched an assault on the town of Talheim. They succeeded in both taking and sacking the town. Much merriment ensued.

1560: Punch Drunk



THREE CAPPARGARNIAN ARMIES converged in Taporî. The region was a long-standing focus of Tarotist hatred for the Chi'tixi³², even before the Chi'tixi sacking of Aphum Cathedral. Although the military mastermind behind the campaign was the Butcher of Zadres, Steene Artarik, the Tarotist force was ceremonially led by Pontiff Fenric VI, riding a pale horse and clasping the *Banner of Malygris*.

The Cappargarnians mustered a few thousand random crusaders, 55,000 infantry, and an Efreet while the Chi'tixi defenders had but 3,500 heavy foot and 200 stone warriors. It was the leadership of the Cappargarnian force that proved the victory, and the region quickly fell. The crusaders quickly took apart the Scythe of Yagnar Priory, brick by brick. The remainder of the army put the port town of Tirritix to an ineffectual siege.

The Cappargarnians were appalled by the abject poverty in the region, and the squalor in which the inhabitants live.



Cappargarnia began their campaign to liberate their homeland of Erediar.

³² See previous reports on the Chi'tixi occupation of the region in 1525, the Taporî Uprising (1534), and the Taporî Deportations (1536–1539).

The Battle of Arag (1560)

HE BLOOD SWORDS led the invasion, though they were down to but 15,000 men. They were joined by the dashing young General Sir Anabrin Taidarian and his 12,500 crusading knights. The Kicitchat defenders included not only the small army and airfleet of Cul'tha the Conqueror, but also a much larger force commanded by the Witch Xi'ita. All told, the Kicitchat army numbered 15,000 pike, 4,000 horse, 10,000 zombies, and 90 airships.

The armies met each other near Arag, once a Tarotist Cathedral, now a Yagnarist Abbey. The forces were evenly matched in terms of raw numbers, with leadership and mix of arms providing the key difference. On the Cappargarnian side were two generals with deep tactical ability, on the Kicitchat side was the diabolically clever Cul'tha³³.

In the end, it was the classic battle of a largely cavalry force charging into a formation of pike and zombies. The end was not difficult to foresee. Wave after wave of Cappargarnian knights ran down the zombies, but then impaled themselves on the endless rows of pike.

A handful of the Cappargarnian knights survived the massacre, and they limped back to Mælør with their tails between their legs. The Blood Swords were broken as fighting force, and their Grandmaster bore full blame for the loss.

The victorious Kicitchat lost more than 8,000 zombies but otherwise suffered little in the way of substantial losses.



The Assault of Hunnychar (1560)

ICITCHAT REGENT ATTER'CHI launched the assault of the city of Hunnychar in Dwelnaz with a well-placed firebolt to the walls. Although the magic did considerable

damage, it was clear that the walls were still stout enough to hold off a large army.

The Regent offered the city the chance to surrender. The captain of the city guard politely declined, and the Regent authorized the assault.

The Kicitchat artillery roared with fire, and endless hordes of zombies rushed the walls. After the first assault, fully half the zombies had been reduced to dust and bone fragments by the defenders, but again they charged the walls.

This time, the artillery and engineers carried the day, and with his men dead or dying, the captain of the city guard offered his sword to Atter'chi.

Of the great walls of the city, nothing was left. Scarcely one stone remained upon another.



An Averese fleet landed in Ebmadh and unloaded 14,000 infantry and marines with intent to capture Zadres from the Cappargarnians. Instead, Averese Lady Pinkerton found herself the guest of the gracious Baron of Ebmadh. The two of them, together with the Chi'tixi's fierce Dame Tixit³⁴, attended many dinners and other meetings, presumably to hammer out their future strategy against Cappargarnia.

Shortly thereafter several Free Companies arrived in the city, looking for work.

BARONY OF EBMADH (7 M/TA)

Baron Sandrim Haryt II of Ebmadh, Iron Hand of the North, Liberator of Zadres.

Trade: Atuburrk, Einandhu, Elphárec, Hyrágec, ID, IOC, Kicitchat

DP: Plormel (F)

ARON HARYT BEGAN gathering to himself the “reasonable” Tarotists – those who wished nothing to do with the madness of Cappargarnia's holy war or Doom. He liberated Zadres and took full advantage of the chaos in the

³³ The Witch Xi'ita was employed chiefly in fetching tea.

³⁴ The elderly Lady Chattori had died the previous year.

Byrrin Valley to carve himself out a little realm, loyal to the Empire.

ELECTORAL REPUBLIC OF CAPPARGARNIA (33M/TA)
His Sublime Majesty, Deirn Carberic, Burgrave of Punchega, Electoral Prince of Cappargarnia.

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

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

Trade: None.

DP: Mostly failed.

 THE REPUBLIC WAS beset by both luck and curses. Their sacrifices to the Lords of the Tarot were favourably received. Subsequently, they declared holy war on Chi'tixi and did their utmost to survive the Imperial Doom. They were doing pretty well right up until the disasters of 1560.

IMPERIAL FREE CITY OF ADNDAR (13 M/TA)
His Excellency Tiribissi Lanharnes IV, Guildmaster of the Innkeepers, Hereditary Burgrave of Adndar, Chancellor of the Guilds Council of the Imperial Free City of Adndar.

Trade: Atuburrk, Einandhu, Elphárec, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, Lynnarvor, Tiryowglas

DP: None.

 DNDAR STRUGGLED AGAINST both Cappargarnia and its own fanatics. They lost quite a bit of land and their beloved Burgrave. The new Burgrave remains firm in his desire to retake his homeland and forge a new destiny for his people.

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

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Atuburrk, Duedhyn, Ebmadh, Elphárec, Golmath, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, Lynnarvor, Tiryowglas, Treskaw, Urdraháhn

DP: It's a living.

 HE HERALDS TRIED desperately to keep up with the arms and heraldry of all of these minor lordlings in south and central Sahûl suddenly becoming Realms.

THE IMPERIAL DEMENSE (14 M/UR)
Her August & Imperial Majesty, Chass'ika, 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.

Her Mandibleness, Sith'tat IV, the Black, Lady Tchac'at, Countess of the Kicitchat Hive and Associated Dominions, Chancellor of the Empire.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, Ebmadh, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrárec, Ingazi, IOC, Kicitchat, Lynnarvor, Puritans, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Treskaw, Urdraháhn

DP: None.

IIP: 22

For appointments, please see Gazette.

 MPRESS CHASS'IKA CREATED the Baroness of Sakkar a Landgrave and appointed and re-appointed any number of judges. She also admitted the Oratoan Kingdom of Kéatoa into the Empire.

The Imperial Diet, meanwhile, continued bickering. The House of Peers proposed any number of new laws and the Electors quietly sent them to committee to die. The one thing they all managed to agree on, however, was the admission of the Kingdom of Kéatoa into the Empire. So that's something.

The Empress also proposed a trade "quarantine" on all ships coming from Oratoa into Sahûl, though the Imperial Diet did not act on the suggestion.

The Saurian prisoner (spy) in Iurdana was interrogated. After being searched, a selection of his fingers were removed, and he was blinded, all in an attempt to prevent any kind of magical escape or rescue. The interrogators were unprepared, how-

ever, for what happened next. Before their eyes, his *Disguise* spell lapsed, and he quickly transformed into a tattooed Human. The Inquisitors, being largely unfamiliar with the psychology and physiology of Humans, were unable to get much out of him before he unexpectedly expired. Nevertheless, the full transcriptions were dutifully forwarded to the Imperial police. The report indicated, among other things, that the prisoner probably took his own life by means of concealed poison.

Elaborate precautions were taken in case Sardarthion itself came under attack, but other than an Urdan force that passed through in 1559 on its way to Envel, all was quiet.



Count Merryn of Pareis, son of the reigning Prince of Duedhyn, arrived in the City in 1557 as his father's envoy. He told a harrowing tale of travel through Dramûl and Jarvaël. The former was already under Araxean rule when he arrived, but in Jarvaël, the young Count couldn't resist the temptation to aid the joint Araxes-Thace army in thrashing some Tarotist extremists. After the battle, he ran ahead of the victorious army, arriving in Sardarthion well ahead of the infantry.

Once he arrived, he sought out the city's venerable university and spent some time at the House of Peers. His nights were spent in study in his rooms at the Regency Hotel. He reportedly had dinner with Sir Dewethva of Pesk, Grandmaster of the Order of the Sacred Raven. The occasion was described as "tense" until the young Count proposed a toast to Princess Mirra of Thace. Sir Dewethva leapt to his feet to drink the toast. Toast followed toast, and pretty soon the old knight and the young Count were telling war stories and comparing battle-scars.



Lady Lorreia of Thace arrived in the capital in 1559 to visit her kinswoman, Lady Tilda of Snamarthis. At one of Lady Tilda's innumerable balls,

she met Count Merryn of Pareis. The two quickly fell in love. With the blessings of their families, the two youngsters passed through the Urdráhán Gate, resolved that they should be married at the great temple there.



Lord Mortain's eldest son Challik began attending the Diplomatic Academy in Einandhu in 1559. His younger brother Rahnes seems sure to follow in 1561.



In 1560, the people of Sardarthion were astonished by the arrival of a delegation from the hairy southern ice-yak people, the Gornya Rogami. After repeatedly professing their loyalty to the Empress, the envoy finally delivered the message that they apparently have a realm now, and they'd like to have their "Grand Boyar" ennobled.

PRINCIPALITY OF DUEDHYN (9 S/UR)

His Highness, Prince Merryn IV, the Good, of Duedhyn, Lord Goslowes, Baron Dhanos, Defender of the Faith.

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Einandhu, Elphárec, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, Lynnarvor, Sakkar, ThaceE, Urdráhán

DP: Teylek (F), Kothonan (F), Kyndyr (F), Finnedor (see below)



PRINCE MERRYN THE GOOD concentrated on religious unity (or at least amity) between the Ravenists and the Orthodox Urdans in his realm. He personally laid the cornerstone of a Theological College at the University of Pareis³⁵. The ancient priory of Gwithi was rebuilt in Glasdor, the original having burned down during the Battle of Pareis in 1528. The new priory was specifically consecrated as bi-ritual, and it was here that the Prince issued the *Gwithi Proclamation*.

³⁵ The College was specifically founded with the idea of bringing together the Raven and Orthodox communities and fostering ecumenism to unite the Realm.

It all seemed to have some effect, as the Raven Lords of Kothonan and Kyndyr pledged fealty to their Prince. Lord Gwydhen's army marched to Koes and found only a few scattered inhabitants living a nomadic life in the snowy forest wastes. He nevertheless claimed the land for Duedhyn.

The Prince sent his son, Count Merryn of Pareis, to Sardarthion to further his education, hang out at the Imperial court, check in on the House of Peers, that sort of thing. Instead, he ran off with some Thacian girl.

Researchers from all over the Empire continued cataloging the Library of Pareis. The government expanded the library facilities with several new buildings, making it more of a library campus.

The nomadic caribou herders of the Sarthes taiga were quite surprised to see a hardy group of colonists arrive. The colony is struggling in the harsh conditions, and the colonists are hoping for more of their fellow countrymen to join them.

RAVEN FINNEDOR (1 S/RA)

Jabin Lord Nenepillax, Protector of Finnedor.

His Holiness Artyrus III, Prelate of the Raven Church.

Trade: Duedhyn, Sakkar

DP: None.

HIS HOLINESS ARTYRS II, Prelate of the Raven Orthodox Church, brought his 29,000 surviving refugees and lancers into Finnedor, their promised land. They were cautiously greeted by the fanatics of the town of Samia and the fortress of Tewedh. The two sites were the only permanently inhabited places in the whole region. While they embraced the coming of the Prelate and his army, they were less sure of the ragged and starving people he brought with him. The refugees had long since become disenchanted with their leadership and longed to return to a normal, settled life.

As the Ravenist refugees settled into the forests of Finnedor³⁶, they came into contact with the hardy foresters of the region, as strong an Orthodox Urdan people as you are likely to meet. Initial ten-

sions gave way to solidarity against the harsh conditions in the snowy forests.

Artyrus, whose religious influence among his own people was now on the wane, repaired to the town of Samia, where the Ravenist population welcomed him with joy.

Into this situation came two Duedhyn nobles, Baron Glannyn of Avalow and Baron Tyssan of Sansoeth, with honeyed words, whopping huge piles of cash, and a personal letter for the Prelate from Prince Merryn. Surely the time of war was over? Surely a just and lasting peace could be achieved – Orthodox and Raven together? Surely the time has come to rebuild the might of a united Duedhyn?

Prelate Artyrus flat out refused to see the envoys, but his time was passing. Weakened by many years of hardship and war, Prelate Artyrus II died in 1558. He had come to power following the death of Artyrus the Zealot at the Battle of the Grievous Field in 1534. In the years since, and particularly during the Final Exodus, the Church had become something of a cult of personality, and Artyrus had made no effort to find a successor.

The senior Raven clerics tried, and failed, to find a consensus candidate for Prelate. At this point, the Lord of Castle Nenepillax reached an accommodation with Colonel Draves of the Raven Lancers and seized power throughout the region. Lord Jabin immediately took a middle path between the hard-line Ravenist position of the Samians and the reconciliation with Urdan Orthodoxy espoused by the foresters and herdsmen of Finnedor.

He himself arranged for his second son to be acclaimed Prelate Artyrus III, while his eldest son and heir took command of the Samia town watch.

Lord Jabin received the Duedhyn ambassadors and took their money. He allowed as how he would be willing to ally himself with Duedhyn, but that it would take time to reconcile his people with the idea. Trade, at least, was opened for now.

³⁶ Finnedor (4233)s.

LANDGRAVATE OF LYNNARVOR (11 MS/YG)

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

Trade: Adndar, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, ID, Kicitchat, Tiryowglas, Treskaw

DP: Nope... but it's starting to look mighty tempting now.

LANDGRAVE DOLMATHES THE Prudent was quite shocked to discover that his large eastern neighbour had become several smaller eastern neighbours. Economic recovery from the previous long winter continued.

LORDSHIP OF TRESKAW (10 WS/YG)

Andelvas, Second Lord Treskaw, Patrician of House Goesek-Marhogyon.

Trade: Einandhu, Gornya, ID, Kicitchat, Lynnarvor, Tiryowglas

DP: None.

LORD ANDELVAS HAS sworn his loyalty to the Empress and Empire, and he and his family have reaffirmed their Yagnarism by oath. While Treskaw has a great deal of land, most of it is marginal, and all of it is poor.

GORNYA KNJAŽESTVO (2 G/YG)

Boyar Bakenbar Volov of Oömigmak, Grand Boyar of the Gornya Rogami Knjažestvo.

Trade: Treskaw

DP: None.

BOYAR BAKENBAR DISPATCHED a herald to the Imperial court in Sardarhion to ask the Empress to ennoble him “so that our people may have proper government”.

The Gornya Rogami of the new principality are quite sure that no good will come of having their own realm, but what choice have they? As the old Gornya Rogami proverb goes, “we are made to suffer”.

The Saurian Princess Mirra of Thace visited the Tower of Delin in the summer of 1557. She bought some postcards and took the tour. She was polite and got on well with the locals.

COUNTY OF TIRYOWGLAS (42 SW/IL)

His Excellency, Count Sarrik III, Baron Kwilkyn, Count of Tiryowglas, Defender of the Faith.

Trade: Adndar, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrárec, Iäthedain, Ingazi, ID, IOC, Irusa, Lynnarvor, Murali, Treskaw, Urdraháhn, Yaminon, Zarkhandu

DP: None.

TIRYOWGLAS TRUNDLED ALONG, content in their relative isolation and their burgeoning wealth. The great baby boom came of age, and the County appears to be on the cusp of a great economic and social awakening. Old Count Truedhek died in 1559 at an advanced age, and a new generation swept into power.

ILUVARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (29.5 IL)

His All Holiness, Pope Sanguine XV, Pontiff of Sištrameides, Archemandrite of Ilúhir.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Duedhyn, Ebnadh, Einandhu, Elphárec, Hyrárec, ID, Ingazi, Murali, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

DP: None.

POPE SANGUINE XV invested heavily in new public works projects throughout Church lands, raising the standard of living in the Iluvian See. Iluvian engineers built a stout stone bridge over the River Ogobir between Nasvaël and Raënor.

News from Elphárec caused great excitement at the Pontifical Court.

Naval and airship quality improved, and the Church expanded their Diplomatic Academy at Sištrameides.

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: Adndar, Einandhu, Hyrárec, Ebnadh, Ingazi, ID, IOC, Tiryowglas

DP: None.



THE POPULAR DUKE Morcrades continued ruling his Duchy, putting it back on a firm financial footing and ensuring a smoothly running government.

One day in the spring of 1557, former Regent Air Marshal Count Gorran came back from his customary morning ride slumped over. His doctors could do little for him, and by late afternoon he was dead. Duke Morcrades ordered a week of official mourning throughout Elphárec. Count Gorran was laid out in state at the Palace, where thousands of tearful Wenemet filed past to pay him honour.

In 1559, Duke Morcrades' twin brother Caranthes stepped aside as heir in favour of his nephew Morcrades Junior, even though the cub was only five years old at the time.

In the late autumn of 1560, several strange events were reported from Bracûr Prefecture. Peculiar lights shone from the sky, and the local shepherds claimed they were repeatedly accosted by Devas singing "Huzzah!" Some even said an Angel walked the earth. After a couple of days, everything calmed down and the people of Bracûr stopped drinking the local liquor for a number of years, causing much hardship to the Bracûr Brandyworks Company.

Naval quality improved, and several academies expanded: Air, Military, and Primary.

KINGDOM OF HYRÁGEC (33 W/UR)

His Valiant Majesty Irrjir Rahnes VII, King of Hyrágec, Beloved of Urda.

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

DP: None.



GOOD KING FRENTHES and Crown Prince Rahnes returned to the capital of Pahasar, leaving the war to various subordinates. Hyrágec's efforts in Cappargarnia, while valourous, were perhaps not as successful as in years passed.

Hyrágec sent many, many missionaries and aid workers to the occupied regions of Djarden and Gurvan. Given the climate of holy war, they weren't

entirely successful. After the two regions fell to the Cappargarnian counter-attack, the last of the missionaries died or fled.

Good King Frenthes died in 1557 at the age of 76. He was much mourned by his people. At his funeral, a strange figure in a black feathered cloak appeared, lauding the King and encouraging his successor to make peace with the Raven refugees in Endani Prefecture and integrate them into the life of the Kingdom. "Only then," he proclaimed, "would the royal greatness of Hyrágec return!"

The King's own 10th Wolf Guards attempted to detain the strange little Weneman, but he had vanished as mysteriously as he had appeared.

Crown Prince Rahnes ascended the ancient throne as King Rahnes VII. There is some concern throughout the kingdom as to who should be designated as the King's heir, as his only child is the Princess Finora, who is currently off studying in Urdraháhn. The House Irrjir Clan Mothers are known to be divided on the issue, but they have not yet formally met on the subject.

The new King embraced the Raven refugees just as strongly as they themselves had embraced Urdan Orthodoxy. Many settled in Endani Prefecture, and the town of Perendar there expanded into a city. A number of the refugees settled in Elbun Forest, but most continued onward to Kerneveg, where they settled into farms and villages that in some cases had stood empty for five hundred years³⁷.

The Royal Conservatory benefitted from an enormous infusion of funds that allowed them to rapidly expand their campus, talent, and course offerings. Meanwhile, their most famous alumnus, the frail and elderly Mæstro Johannes, had taken to teaching young cubs in the primary schools to inspire them in the arts.

MIRRA AT MOROKO (1560)



THE CONFIDENT YOUNG Saurian woman appeared before the gates of the Shrine of Moroko wearing a modest, sunshine-yellow dress and a long yellow hat that ended in a red

³⁷ Endani (5541)_M; Elbun (3352)_W; Kerneveg (6642)_M

tassel. Somehow the eye was drawn to her immediately, even though a tall, broad Saurian warrior, armed and armoured in steppe fashion, appeared beside her at the same instant.

The Wenemet Master of the Shrine was waiting for her. He was dressed in the customary brown robes of the Shrine's guardians. Two of the elder monks stood beside him, a Wenemet and a Saurian. The Master was, by a small margin, the eldest of the three at not quite eighty summers. During his tenure, he had seen countless pilgrims, including three emperors, pass through.

His immediate predecessor had traded riddles with Emperor Onin Zho and had raised glasses with Emperor Sardhan. The Master had envied him in his younger days. No more.

It was a beautiful summer day. The sun beat down with a fierce light, but a cool breeze floated in off the river. Flocks of singing birds wheeled overhead seeking the refuse of the fishermen at the riverbank, and flocks of pilgrims dressed in dusty travelling cloaks filled the town and the nearby hostels and fields. Somewhere to the east, a dragon lay sleeping in the mountains.

And Urda Herself stood in front of him, the fulfillment of all secret lore and prophecy.

She smiled widely and said, "hello".



She spent about an hour at the Tomb of Master Moroko in silent contemplation before signalling Her readiness to proceed. She remarked that *On Chivalry* was the second most important work of literature not directly inspired by a deity in the history of the world so far. A dozen scribes lurking in the shadows furiously scribbled Her words, but none dared ask Her what She meant.

Together, the Master, two brothers, Sar Ortak, and Lady Mirra of Thace descended into the vast chamber *under* Master Moroko's crypt. Without transition, the tightly winding stone stair became a steel spiral staircase, descending into the midst of the great carved chamber, hundreds of feet across,

with its circular gates set into the smooth walls at the four cardinal points.

The staircase continued down beyond them, into a broad pit set into the floor. Here were the controls of the four gates, dark and inert.

Mirra said to no one in particular, "the æther between these gates and the legs of the Great Turtle are the sinews that bind Sahûl together. Let us see how badly they have deteriorated in these past millennia."

The Gawan Peninsula

THE FEUDAL NORTHEAST

COUNTY PALATINE OF INGAZI (40 W/UR)

Countess Tremira, Regent for ...

His Most Urdan Excellency, Gwariva Razhim XI, Overlord of Gawan, Captain of the East Riding, Burgrave of Derihahn, Count Palatine of Ingazi, Marshal of the Peer Banners.

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, Golmath, Hyrágec, Iäthedain, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, Murali, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdrahahn

DP: None.

INGAZI COMMITTED HEAVILY to both of the Empire's wars, with decidedly mixed results. The Viceroy of New Ingazi was murdered in his bed, and Count Razhim was assassinated in the Byrrin Valley. Over the years, the Byrrin has proved deadly for the Counts Palatine, and Parliament has taken up a bill to prevent future Counts from visiting the area.

Razhim's young son became Count Palatine at the age of ten, with his mother as Regent. On the day of his official coronation, the Sapphire Crown suddenly appeared on his head, to the surprise and delight of all present.

The gift of several barrels of the finest Atuburrki blackberry brandy, courtesy of the Grand Duke of Atuburrk himself, arrived to celebrate the accession of the new Count Palatine.

Of course, Countess Tremira herself was busy leading a fleet and army into the long independent prefecture of Walu. Ingazi galleons landed 12,000 pike and lancers, which swiftly secured the region. The Countess returned to the capital to take up her duties as Regent full time in 1559.

In 1560, the Abbey of Our Lady of Righteous Indignation on the isle of Wanangi was dedicated as a Cathedral.

Reacting to the worrisome situation developing in what used to be Golmath, Ingazi's northern armies are on high alert.

Ingazi continued its heavy infrastructure investments, improving infantry and siege capabilities.

CHURCH UNIVERSAL & TRIUMPHANT (61.8 UR)
Her All-Holiness Dromóa XII, the Circling Raven, First Matriarch of Urda, Protector of Sahûl.

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

DP: Yes?

IRST Matriarch Jerröe, the Leaping Horse, died in far-off Pehuatoka in 1557 just a day after her 75th birthday. She was given the biggest and most splendid funeral that the clergy of Bakrata Cathedral could muster, though her body was not interred in Pehuatoka. Instead, the Order of the Owl bore her embalmed body away to the west.

She was finally laid to rest in the great necropolis of Djil in the Ormic Hills, attended by the Opal Brotherhood.

In Urdráhahn, the Mothers fetched the Sybil, who remained in a ritual trance. Suddenly, she opened wide her eyes and muttered the name of the Saurian Matriarch of Hräfén through her bloody and foamflecked lips. Then she hesitated, briefly frowning her brow, before mumbling the motto "circling raven".

Before he left Urdráhahn for the Cappargarnian Doom, Hyrágecan Lord Whirripi Dranthes was honoured by the Church in a public ceremony. He was awarded the captured *Spear of Might*, and a statue was raised in his honour.

The Church government initiated a new way of fighting its endemic corruption by developing new bookkeeping procedures and oversight. A system of standardizing accounting was developed, though at the moment it's been slow to catch on.

The Bank of Itaxik dutifully rebuilt their branch in Urdráhahn, but not before Church officials had conducted careful excavation of the site. They were able to return to the bank some of the monies melted and buried in the *Night of Fire* of 1553. The Church, as part of its ongoing financial reform, is now using the bank as an exchequer.

The Church built an Arcane forge near the fires of Mount Pupini.

There were many noble visitors to Urdráhahn. Princess Finora of Hyrágec and Lord Zharharn of Iäthedain arrived in 1556 to advance their schooling. Lord Zharharn will graduate from University in 1561, while Princess Finora currently attends Saint Irmengarde's Elementary School.

Count Merryn of Pareis and Lady Lorreia of Thace³⁸ arrived in 1559 and together threw a lavish wedding, followed by a reception that lasted nearly a week. The First Matriarch herself presided at the ceremony³⁹, and the streets flowed with fondue.

The great University at Urdráhahn expanded.

THE PURITAN REBELLIONS (1556 TO 1559)

RINCE SARDIRIAN OF GOLMATH drank, nursed his liver, and generally did not do a whole lot in terms of administration or investment. The treasury grew so fat that new storehouses had to be constructed to hold the tax revenues. The fantastic wealth hoarded by the Prince has become the stuff of legend. Gangs of

³⁸ She was, technically, Air Marshal Lady Goshtikka-Snamarthis Lorreia of Thace.

³⁹ Princess Finora of Hyrágec served as flower-girl, while Lord Zharharn of Iäthedain bore the rings.

disaffected and unemployed youths prowled the cities and emulated their Prince in drink and exceeded him in debauchery. As a reaction against “this restorationist tomfoolery”, the Puritans had a bit of a resurgence in the countryside, particularly in the west.

With the declaration of holy war in Cappargarnia in 1556, angry rumblings were noted among the Puritan youth. In an effort to co-opt them into the more mainstream Tarotism of the rest of Golmath, “Holy Dance Parties” were held throughout the country. While they did draw the Puritan youth, they were not there to dance. In fact, on one memorable occasion in the city of Susa in Dalkurnu (a Puritan stronghold) they assaulted the staff and killed the Tokatl envoy in the ensuing fight. They seized the grounds and proclaimed it a place of reflection and prayer.

For the Puritans of Golmath⁴⁰ were not about to be subverted in this way. They never forgot Cappargarnia’s support for them during the Golmath Civil War⁴¹. Firebrands fanned the embers of smouldering resentment into the open flame of rebellion. In memory of their vanquished (but not forgotten) Prince Parndarra the Gaunt, the people of Makuwali rose up against Golmath!

This time, they had no desire to take the throne. They wished instead to embark on a noble mission: vengeance. The Puritan leaders dedicated themselves to holy war against Chi’tixi. They seized the Runazar navy in port at Pagumath and called upon all able-bodied Wenemet to take arms.

This small flame could have been easily put out, had the Prince taken swift and decisive action. Instead, he waved off the minister who reported the incident to him.

“Guid riddance. Thay won’t dram oor whiskey, ‘n’ thay won’t worship in oor churches. Far as I’m concerned, th’ bastards kin git th’ bugger oot o’ mah land.”

40 Puritanism: The haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy. (H.L. Mencken)

41 See the *Statement of Support for Prince Endarra* (1528).

While this certainly defused some of the more violent Puritan tendencies that were quickly coming to the fore, it did little to stop the more radicalized of those caught up in religious fervour. The endemic unemployment played into this as well, and soon angry mobs pillaged the vast, overbursting storehouses found throughout the realm.

Tens of thousands joined the crusade: knights, armed peasants, and even soldiers. Colonel Adama and his dragoons (who had apparently “gone native”) joined and led the rising Puritan force in Karirpulyi. In the most heavily Puritan prefectures, the ordinary people took the Prince at his word. They gathered up their belongings and their livestock and headed west. In all, nine prefectures rebelled: Dalgányi, Dalkurnu, Karirpulyi, Khurnurrir, Kirtirryi, Makuwali, Marniyi, and Wirni.

Despite the Prince’s lax attitude⁴², the army attempted to restore order in the south and east. In each case, by the time they’d arrived, the Puritans had left, both crusader troops and refugees, on their way to the west.

Throughout 1557 and 1558, the prefectures of Khurnurrir, Kirtirryi, Makuwali, Marniyi, and Wirni were brought back under Golmathi control. In each of them, they found the population much reduced⁴³. Those left behind were typically those more loyal to Golmath, her prince and her faith. In the case of Makuwali, the formerly pacified region is now friendly. Marniyi and Wirni were depopulated, except for some herders.

By 1559, large bodies of refugees (reportedly 80,000 or more, and as many troops or more besides) had arrived at the gates of Nydoon, seeking passage to the west. Baroness Dara of Nydoon, seeing her forces outnumbered by almost four to one (not even counting the hungry refugees), let them pass. The Puritans moved north to Kalikadra. Some settled there⁴⁴, bringing that region into the Puritan orbit. Others crowded into Dalkurnu, where the city of Susa expanded and became their

42 He is widely quoted as saying, “Golmath is better aff wi’oot thaim. Let th’ bastards gang.”

43 Khurnurrir (3122), Kirtirryi (2112), Makuwali (3121),

44 Kalikadra (3321). Additionally, Yalish is now a port city.

capital. The FOCT priory of Adit was taken over and became a Puritan abbey.

Already the docks in Susa and Yalish are gearing up to build the mighty navy required to bring a hundred thousand troops to fight Chi'tixi. The Puritan commanders seem confident in their ability to safely traverse the seas and bring the fight to the anti-Tarotist criminals.

Ingazi reacted to the situation by moving armies up to their northern regions to prevent any "accidental" border crossings. They needn't have bothered, as the Puritan Crusaders are wholly fixated on one goal: the destruction of Chi'tixi.

PURITAN CRUSADER COMMONWEALTH (7W/TA)

General Wilgi Parndarra, Protector of the Righteous and Smiter of the Infidel, Governor of the Commonwealth.

Trade: Atuburrk, ID, Kicitchat, Kumara

DP: None, and therefore Chi'tixi must be destroyed.

 HE PURITANS ELEVATED one of the sons of the great Colonel Wilgi to lead their Commonwealth and the righteous war against Chi'tixi. He promised to lead them to victory against those who had committed genocide against Tarotists and desecrated a Cathedral.

PRINCIPALITY OF GOLMATH (40W/TA)

His Gracious Majesty, Volpel-Walarri Sardirian, the Grumpy, 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: Atuburrk, Hyrágec, Iáthedain, Ingazi, ID, Kicitchat, Kumara, Murali, Tiryowglas, Udraháhn, Yaminon

DP: None.

 IN AN EFFORT to co-opt the Puritan youth into the more mainstream Tarotism of the rest of Golmath, Tokatl envoys held special "Holy Dance Parties" in Nydoon and Susa.

While the parties in Nydoon were a rollicking success, those held in Susa were another matter. The Tokatl envoy lost her life in the ensuing riot.

With the withdrawal of the Puritans, Golmath is the most united it has been in a century. They're also richer than several of the lesser gods. While many in the army are questioning the Prince's wisdom, it's clear to most that the Principality dodged the bullet of another religious civil war.

In the Golmath Underlands Territory, however, things were not quite so rosy. Faced with an infusion of cash, Golmath's territories rebelled. Tawatja even paid tribute to the Yaminon Alliance.

REPUBLIC OF KUMARA (8W/KY)

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

Trade: Atuburrk, Golmath, Murali, Puritans

DP: Ardanyi (F), Yukarra (A, but see below), Windra (F), Wandirri (A)

 HE REPUBLIC CONSOLIDATED their religious authority by building Minggamin Priory in Kurldayi and Dirdawung Priory in Minyappa. Missionaries flooded the countryside, converting most ordinary Tarotists to the cult of the King in Yellow⁴⁵. The level of religious fervour in Kumara is as high as any realm of the Empire, and those calling for the Republic to cease trade with Urdans clearly made their voices heard in the halls of government. Even so, the King in Yellow cultists has so far shown absolutely no interest in the holy war fever gripping their Puritan neighbours. The Republic's merchants, however, did cease trading with Chi'tixi.

Kumara founded the port town of Bamdakgan in Thirri, and the lovely forest hamlet of Gorlondin in Wandirri.

Diplomatic efforts in Walu faltered when the Ingazi army arrived. A similar effort in Yukarra was successful, but the effort was then undone by a Puritan rebellion the region.

Kumara's government doubled in size.

⁴⁵ Windra remains a bastion of traditional Tarotism, though even there progress was made.

ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ARADÉC (53 w/IL)
His Royal Maješty, Sansollen Manandir II, Baron of Wanumarra, Count of Abijar, Electoral King of Aradéc.

Trade: None – under Bann until at least 1566.

DP: Madrawan (A)

ING MANANDIR ENDOWED numerous improvements in his Kingdom, including a new Medical College at Kityara and the nearby Aradéc Center for Disease Control (ACDC), a Heraldic Guild, and a Ministry of Communications. Aradéc's sorcerers continue to make strides in the magical arts. Siege engineering improved. Even the *Arcadium Bibliothecæ* in Darnuldeis was finally completed.

Aradéc built two new port towns on the east coast: Mahrtahn in Tayari and Teague in Drityi.

The King dispatched the renowned historian (and former Royalist Speaker of the Commons) Ullarra Perrim to Madrawan, the lone holdout amongst the former Commonwealth prefectures. He had there great success, with the young, recently crowned Baron Mawdryn pledging his alliance to King Manandir. With some time to spare, the diplomat visited the spooky Pathilu Priory but left without spending the night.

The royal family grew with the birth of Prince Endrahan in 1557 and Princess Trumiri in 1560. Following the birth of Prince Endrahan, the King appointed him as his heir. The House Sansollen Clan Mothers were summoned to approve the appointment, which they did gladly. The infant Crown Prince was soon after invested as Count of Abijar⁴⁶ by his father.

The elderly Dowager Queen Glóamora died in 1558 and was accorded a state funeral by a grateful nation.

Princess Dagamiri returned from her overseas adventures. The King received her in a private audience and the two spoke together for hours about the wonders of the east.

⁴⁶ One of the traditional titles of the Crown Prince.

The King ordered that the Tower of the Ending of Days was off-limits to everyone except a delegation from the Iluvarian Orthodox Church, led by a Brother Brewster. The King dispatched a small army under General Sir arCullin Dirharn to enforce the edict and arrest any trespassers.

Brother Brewster soon discovered that he was not alone...

THE DISCOURSE ON THE FIVE-COLOURED STONE

ROTHER BREWSTER WEARILY climbed the long stone stair that wound around the crystalline core of the Tower of the Ending of Days. It hummed softly, and he could feel the vibrations of the tower through his sandals. Throughout the spring and early summer of 1556, he had been surveying the building, using protractors, string, and a team of architects and historians. His charts of the building's interior were impressively complete, down to the chips in the walls and the worn spots in the long stair.

Even now, he still had very little idea what any of it was for, or how it worked.

With the arrival of an Aradéc army commanded by the humourless General Sir arCullin Dirharn, Brewster felt like he was being watched with a disapproving eye. The General reminded him very strongly of an exam proctor from seminary that the seminarians had nicknamed "Sneer".

The pressure on Brother Brewster was intense, both from the Pontiff and from the General, who clearly thought that he was an idiot. Brewster had not been sleeping well of late, and the long climb to the top of the tower had him gasping for breath. This is undoubtably why, when he saw the young Saurian with a basket sitting cross-legged in the top chamber of the tower, he assumed that he was hallucinating.

She smiled and waved.

Brother Brewster's first clue that perhaps she was actually there came when his Aradéc aide climbed the last step behind him and gasped. In two heartbeats, the aide was scrambling back down the stairs.

Brewster assumed it was to get reinforcements to arrest the girl. It was only then that Brewster noticed the other Saurian in the room, a great hulking soldier nonchalantly leaning on the wall and eating a hand-pie.

The cross-legged Saurian said, “would you care for a meat pie? We have plenty.” She opened the basket next to her and pulled out a hand-pie, still steaming. “We’ve only just arrived, and teleportation makes me ever so hungry. Join us.”

When General Sir arCullin Dirharn and four arquebusiers arrived panting at the top of the tower about ten minutes later, they found Brother Brewster, Princess Mirra of Thace, and Sar Ortak of Fior sitting in the middle of the chamber wolfing down a picnic lunch of meat pies, apples, and Atuburrk blackberry tea.

The General may have scowled, though frankly Brother Brewster suspected that this was his normal facial expression.

Mirra waved at the General and said, “would you like a hand-pie? They’re quite good and we have plenty.”

The General’s left eyebrow twitched, but he maintained his bearing and composure and replied, “this tower is a secure facility, and you are trespassing. I’m placing the two of you under arrest.”

“No pie, then?”

“No, Miss. No pie.”

Mirra brightened. “Tea? We also have apples.”

“Now look here, I’ve no time for your nonsense. Are you going to come quietly, or will my men have to use force?”

Sar Ortak guffawed.

Brother Brewster stood. “General arCullin, I think perhaps you’ve come at just the right time. The Lady Mirra here was about to give a teaching.”

For the first time, the General’s face betrayed an emotion other than annoyance. He was shocked.

“Mirra? Here? You?”

Mirra smiled sweetly. “Who else? Tell you what, General Fuzzy-Face, you come and sit down and listen to what I have to say to Brewster here, and if

you still want to arrest me when I’m done, we’ll all come quietly. Won’t we, Ortak?”

Sar Ortak nodded. After a moment, General arCullin nodded as well, and he motioned his men back to the staircase.

Mirra closed her eyes and recited, “Here are the words written by the Scribe Vatar of Sardarthion in speaking of Iurdana, the Mother of Emperors.”

“Under the sign of the Dragon, Urda was born into the world in a village on the banks of the river known in ancient times as Kunlen-nu, meaning “serpent’s coils”, and now as Byrra, meaning “middle”. When She was young, the four corners of the sky collapsed, the world with its nine regions split open, and the land descended into chaos: the tent of the sky was no longer able to cover everything, and the earth was no longer able to grow food, fire burned wild, and waters flooded the land. Fierce beasts ate common people, and ferocious birds attacked the old and the weak.

“So Iurdana mended the tent of the heavens with the five-colored Stone, cut off the feet of the great turtle to support the four poles, killed the black dragon to fertilize the earth, and gathered ashes of the river reeds to stop the flood. When She was finished, and the world was restored to balance, Iurdana set the five-colored Stone on a natural rock table at the place called Shinshöe.

“The people erected a tent over the five-colored Stone, and Iurdana appointed nine daughters as priestesses and nine sons as guardians over the place, which she named “great pavilion of the Stone” or Sardarthion. Iurdana ruled over the people for a century after She restored the balance of the world, dying in her hundred and twentieth year.

Mirra fell silent. After a few moments, Brother Brewster said, “But madam, where did the stone come from? And how was it broken?”

“As to how it was broken, the chronicles say that upon the death of Emperor Mikosos of Nikka there was a great earthquake at Sardarthion, and the Five-Coloured Stone toppled, breaking into five smaller stones: sapphire, ruby, opal, topaz, and emerald. From these five stones, Yvain the Artificer fashioned the Five Holy Crowns. Only these sover-

eign Crowns may erect the Tent of the Sky. There are those, however, who wish to return the world to what it was before the time of Iurdana, those who wish for the Empire to fall. They work, even now, to disrupt the work, to steal or hide the Holy Crowns. But the time is coming, and the Holy Crowns no longer wish to hide. It was for this moment that they were forged. It was for this moment that they live.”

General arCullin interjected, “*this* moment?”

Mirra smiled. “Oh yes, General. *This* moment.” And with that, both she and Sar Ortak suddenly vanished from the Tower of the Ending of Days and were seen there no more.

COUNTY OF MURALI (21 W/TA)

His Excellency, Kilyara Drathnes II, Baron of Karrka, Count of Murali.

Trade: Golmath, Iäthedain, Ingazi, IOC, Irusa, Kumara, Sarsis (3), Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Yaminon, Zarkhandu

DP: Caros (F)

 HE PHILOSOPHICALLY SOPHISTICATED Murali by and large thought that the holy war thing was a bit over the top. They equally looked down on the “dance craze” that consumed some of the other Tarotist realms. No, Murali was a land of learning and enlightenment, where “a thousand schools of thought” existed comfortably side by side. The dances were, however, popular amongst the young, much to the consternation of their elders.

Being no fools, Murali did expand their army, just in case, and continued their naval patrols of the Antean River.

Cavalry improved, the government expanded, and Murali joined the renaissance.

DRACONIC BARONY OF IÄTHEDAIN (10 SW/UR)

Baron Darandein Zharharn III of Iäthedain, the Just, Lord Dragonwood.

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

Trade: Golmath, Ingazi, Murali, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Yaminon

DP: None.

 HE DRACONIC BARONY continued to leverage the talents (and labour) of the many clerics within their realm. More foresters and herdsman were homesteaded in Naipa Prefecture⁴⁷, and the town of Shannet grew into a city, nestled in the deep woods of Darathal.

The young Prince Zharharn travelled to far-off Urdraháhn to further his education. He was accompanied by Sir Ernesten, an elderly Saurian who soon after died. Quite a few of the Barony’s aging leadership followed his example.

IATHEDEK: THE PROTECTORATE OF FRIEBÆLD

 HE GREAT WYRM Friebæld was little seen, though she could occasionally be heard. She appears to have abandoned Scagadon Prefecture, and she is now concentrating her efforts in the Wyrmwaste.

VEILED MASTERS OF YARNI-ZA (29 YG)

His Unholy Magnificence, the Lich Yštar, 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, Irusa, Kicitchat, Taneki

DP: Nope.

 STAR THE UNHOLY spent most of his time in Oratoa, overseeing the holy war, building for the future of Yagnarism in the north, hob-nobbing with Khurdán, and excommunicating the King of Zarkhandu.

⁴⁷ Naipa (4241)s.

ZARKHANDU'S TIME OF TROUBLES (1557 TO 1560)



ING TIRACH BÆN dismissed the animosity his fellow Yagnarist princes felt for the Dread Forge. He was utterly unprepared when Khurdán himself pronounced that the Countenance of Coals was a schismatic sect and therefore a weakness in Iägnar's church. The Avatar excommunicated both King Tirach Bæn and the "High Priest of the priory of Khurdûn who calls himself Primate of the Dread Forge".

Suddenly the stability of crown was in doubt, as Zarkhandu's Yagnarists – and quite a few luke-warm members of the Dread Forge – suddenly began to rethink their allegiance to an excommunicated King.

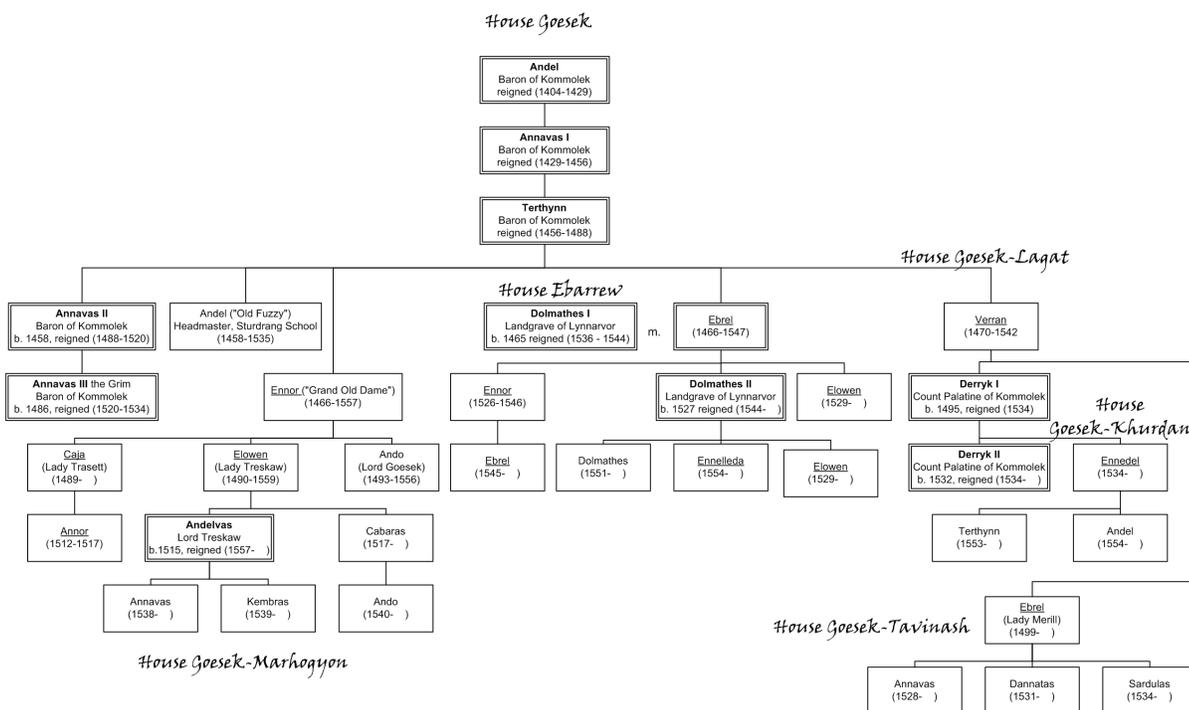
If that wasn't enough, the Count Palatine of Kommolek issued the *Abrogation of the Nowydh mora Tir Decree*, which declared that Zarkhandu was in violation of treaty and that any former Kommoleki nobles in Zarkhandu were no longer under obligations of fealty to the Zarkhandine King. Sin-

gled out in the decree were the various cadet houses of House Goesek who stayed behind in Sahûl.

To say that the leaders of those cadet houses were emboldened would be an understatement. While the elderly Caja Lady Trasett in Vúhlath would have nothing to do with rebellion, she was fairly well the only one.

In Old Kommolek, the two sons of Elowen Lady Treskaw raised the flag of righteous rebellion. The elder took his mother's title and called for "all true Yagnarists" to join him. Quite a few did, though exclusively from the old Kommolek dominions. Bylen, Dannek, Gothfylek, Kreadyr, Morladron, Resek, Tenuos, and Yseldur all joined the Lordship of Treskaw, while Hûdûl and Uthek simply rebelled.

King Tirach Bæn was infuriated. His entire western reach was in rebellion, and most of his leadership corps, including the Crown Prince and the Queen, were overseas in Efan. Even closer to the core of his kingdom, the Yagnarist prefectures of the northeast looked likely to rise up next. And



as for the Gornya Rogami... who knew what they would do? A notably gloomy and fatalistic people, would their loyalty to their religion trump their loyalty to their King?

As if there wasn't enough trouble, Zarkhandu's Dread Forge regions were beset by thousands of Chi'tixi missionaries, determined to convert the population back to mainstream Yagnarism. Bearing firmly in mind the Dread Forge principle of *Hammerfall*, King Tirach Bæn resolved that he would meet this test head on. This would not stand. He gathered to himself a formidable force of 16,000 Zarkhandine knights and resolved to crush the missionaries as if they were an invasion, which is pretty much what they were.

All throughout 1557 and 1558, the King and his knights crossed and recrossed Zarkhandu's core, slaying Chi'tixi and strengthening the resolve of Dread Forge worshippers everywhere. He became something of a legend in his own time among the peasants and herders of his far-flung Kingdom.

In the face of religious discord, rebellion, and foreign infiltrators, the King and his knights (including the legendary Black Blood Battalion) would swoop into communities and impose the royal order. All enemies of Zarkhandu and her King, both foreign and domestic, could expect to find themselves run down, speared, or (if they were extremely unlucky) captured, tortured, and disemboweled for the entertainment of the people.

When Haidek rebelled, the King and his men appeared almost instantly to slay the rebel force and eviscerate their chief. The King was wounded in the fight, but even bloodied and weakened he presented such a force of personality that the town of Arrendeis threw open its gates, lest its people suffer the King's wrath.

Alas, the King could not be everywhere at once. Following the defection of their Baron overseas in Oratoa, Onath rebelled. It was followed by a spate of other nearby Yagnarist prefectures: Timauth, Zhîn, and Bohên.

In Iruusa, the absentee Baron's extremely devout younger brother seized power, proclaiming him-

self Baron Torzyx III. The people of the region embraced him, and he found himself in command of the region's riches and large military force. Some of the nearby Yagnarist regions joined him: Zodan, Ganteth, and Aziret. The insurgent Barony found itself surrounded by pacified Tarotist regions, but the new Baron has resolved to "liberate" them all for Yagnar.

A small Iruusan force training in Vúhlath was destroyed by loyalist troops⁴⁸.

In Zadok, the Chi'tixi garrison attempted to "liberate" the region for themselves. They were stopped by loyalist members of the OSS who, even though they were outnumbered, made short work of the Chi'tixi. Unfortunately, in the confusion the locals staged a successful uprising against the now-depleted garrison. The surviving OSS infantry retreated to their fortress of Rhetan.

In 1558, having reigned fifty years, King Tirach Bæn died on campaign. Accounts of his death differ. Some say he perished of a lingering infection from the wound he suffered fighting rebels in Haidek. Some say he was shot from the saddle by foreign missionary bandits while bravely defending Andûn Priory⁴⁹. In any case, he was dead, and the nation went into a deep, abiding mourning from which it has yet to emerge.

Tirach Bæn became an almost mythical figure, a King in the mold of the ancient Kings. The Black Blood Battalion entombed him in a secret place far from prying eyes, somewhere in the steppe. Zarkhandine parents often tell their young children that Tirach Bæn is not dead, but only sleeping in his tomb, and he will return to his throne at the prepared hour.

Back in the capital meanwhile, the Kingdom's government was in a state of alarm. The King was dead, and his son and heir Prince Sharret Drehl was in Efan, and had been for almost twenty years. Given the domestic situation, a firm hand was

⁴⁸ Some reports indicate that they were used as practice balls by the new *Stone Cold Warriors* rugby club.

⁴⁹ The Commander of the Black Blood Battalion said that the King actually died of natural causes, but nobody wanted to hear that.

needed at the tiller. It quickly emerged in the person of Tirach Bæn's nephew, Prince Zeiros⁵⁰. He and his family arrived in Vúhlath in early 1559. He boldly claimed the throne and took the regnal name Toban Zho, the sublime hammer.

The city was rife with intrigue, as various noble Houses plotted to take power for themselves. Several offered marriage alliances to the new King's younger sisters or cousins. At least a few sought to impose an aristocratic regency to rule for the absent Prince Sharret Drehl. One poor fool sent a marriage proposal overseas to the old King's widow Queen Tannika in Efan. A barely secret conspiracy of several nobles with the new King's young cousin Prince Arnet met weekly in a coffee shop down the street from the palace.

The young King would have none of it. With the sure help of the OSS and ZEP⁵¹, he rounded up twenty of the worst of the conspirators to make an example of them, among them his own cousin Prince Arnet. With considerable pageantry, they were all hanged in front of the palace. Their bodies were allowed to hang from the gibbet until they rotted off.

Order was thereby restored.

Meanwhile, in the southern wastes, the Gornya Rogami were rousing themselves. When the question of loyalty was between the King who had created them and the religion that sustained them, the arguments were long and loud throughout the taverns and temples. When the question was between a usurper and the church, well that was something entirely different.

The Gornya Rogami Prefects and clan Boyars (often the same people) met in conference in the city of Oömigmak on the Isle of Delin – both their cultural homeland and their only city. Their raucous meeting lasted weeks, punctuated by long bouts of drinking and dancing deep into the night

⁵⁰ Prince Zeiros is the son of the (elder) Prince Zeiros the Historian, who sailed the flying fortress *Rock of Tirach* eastward to Efan in 1556.

⁵¹ Zarkhandu's Ministry of the Interior handles internal security. ZEP supposedly stands for "Zarkhandu Espionage and Policing", though nobody knows for sure. The real name is a state secret.

and by bloody brawls that were often dignified after the fact by calling them "duels".

Finally, they unanimously chose the Boyar Bak-enbar of Clan Volov (also the Prefect of Delin) to rule them, with the continuing advice of the other Boyars of course.

He immediately dispatched a herald to the Imperial court in Sardarthion to ask the Empress to ennoble him "so that our people may have proper government".

The Boyars of Syrháhn and Naddith would have nothing to do with this. They rebelled, determined to chart their own course.

Stability was restored to the remainder of Zarkhandu by 1560, but late in the year the King received the inevitable message from Efan: Prince Sharret Drehl had not relinquished his claim to the crown of Zarkhandu, as he was not yet prepared to accept the accession of his cousin as King Toban Zho.

Queen Tannika sent a separate message, which may have been slightly more conciliatory, but in any case the Efani territories were under their control for the moment.

BARONY OF IRUSA (3 S/YG)

Baron Torzyx III of Iruša, the Devout and Fierce and, and Fiercely Devout and Devoutly... Whatever. I am Full of Fierce. Fear the Fierce.

Trade: Murali, Tiryowglas, Yaminon

DP: None.



ARON TORZYX IS a little excitable, but his people adore him, and he's certainly both fierce *and* devout. Will his little realm survive? Time will tell.

APOTHEOTIC KINGDOM OF FELL ZARKHANDU (48 S/DF)

His Dread Maješty, Toban Zho, Lord Sakkath, Count of Vúhlath & Mlideen, Duke of Hyágliion, King of Zarkhandu.

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

Trade: Murali, Tiryowglas, Yaminon

DP: Yes?

BUILDING ON THE work of his noble predecessor, King Toban Zho brought order to chaos though the instruments of state as well as his own indomitable will.

To the south, a new Kindred began to explore the frozen tundra. These were the Timpril. They are clearly descended from the common steppe rabbit, though they stand at four and a half foot tall (almost six foot with ears fully extended). They settled the southern coast from Zyleen through Zindeera and into Murleena, and down the old Syrháhn Road to Sakkazar and Astarma. Whatever else may be said about them, the Timpril are definitely neither cute nor cuddly.

Mount Ob in Khamazan erupted on four separate occasions between 1558 and 1560, sending a long section of ash-black ice down the frozen Yann. Many in Zarkhandu felt that this was nothing less than the fires of the mountain grieving for King Tirach Bæn.

The Underlands

DOWN UNDER

YAMINON ALLIANCE (28 Y/-)

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

Trade: Golmath, Irusa, Murali, Tiryouglas, Zarkhandu

DP: Tawatja (T), Waranta (T)

MANI JARIPRI, ARMED with some dusty old treaties, a couple of bottle of gin, and a whopping pile of cash, visited Pama-Ati, capital of the Golmath Underlands Territories. In a completely unrelated event, both Tawatja and Milaythina rebelled from Golmath.

The industrious Yaminon built a new medical college and sent new settlers to Poatina⁵².

In Thika, the surface-dwelling Yaminon finally discovered the secret of boats! That actually float! On water! In 1560, a battered flotilla of fifty old

⁵² Poatina (4441)x

Averese transports reflagged with the Alliance banner arrived in Port Prupari.

Fabulous Efan

THE EASTERN CONTINENT

ARADÉC OVERSEAS TRADE COMPANY (53 W/IL)

Sir Jibiyu Golmar, Governor of the Toshi Station.

Trade: Aêtava, Hâkhamanish, Ôimatâ

DP: Yes.

ARADÉC'S TRADING OUTPOST of Toshi Station was completed in Âthdu, where the Ôimatari Channel meets the Gôsha Coast. Trade soon opened with several of the Chêshfa Kingdoms.

Princess Dagamiri was recalled to Aradéc, and in her place Sir Jibiyu Golmar, a bluff military Wenemet, took over as Governor of Aradéc Efan.

PRINCIPALITY OF NEW ZARKHANDU (4 S/DF)

His Dread Highness, Prince Sharret Drehl.

Trade: Aêtava, Ôimatâ

DP: Tremas (T), Tornéa (F!), Munâis (T), Nurnath (*at war*), Umbán (T), Blue Sargs (see below)

NEW ZARKHANDU SENT armies and diplomats forth into the lands of the Sargs. In the former lands of the Red Sargs, military conquest was the order of the day. Queen Tannika led 15,000 knights and auxiliaries into Mlúgec. Casualties were light, and the Zarkhandine knights rode into Aladír with pretty much the same results. Beefed-up infantry garrisons were installed in both regions to (hopefully) stave off the worst of the dinosaur attacks. A large force of pike made short work of Mlissan.

The isolated and poverty-stricken inhabitants of Tornéa were so impressed with a visiting Zarkhandu air-marshal that they not only joined right up, but the gave up their pagan ways and became followers of the Dread Forge.

The Blue Sargs accepted an offer they couldn't refuse. The daughter (and only child) of the Blue

Sarg Lord left her home, the mountain fast of Ridrar, and journeyed to Danileen to wed Prince Sharret Drehl of Zarkhandu. Four of the Sarg's regions converted to the Dread Forge and embraced the rule of Prince Sharret Drehl⁵³. The remainder of the regions largely rebelled, though Cànath, Norril, Sinnithâr, and Hathâr paid tribute.

The great flying fortress *Rock of Tirach* arrived over the Havens, bringing new resources and armies.

When the news arrived in Efan in 1560 that Prince Zeiros the Younger had seized the throne, Queen Tannika counseled caution. Her son, however, had just about enough of living in the shadows while his elders squandered his inheritance. He proclaimed himself Prince of New Zarkhandu – not really much of a stretch, since he was already a Prince *in* New Zarkhandu. His mother persuaded him not to do anything rash (like, for instance, calling himself *King of Zarkhandu*), at least until proper communications could be established betwixt pretender and prince.

While all the political machinations were playing themselves out, the Countenance of Coals took over Leniqua Priory in the Havens as their main religious site.

Fewer Zarkhandine troops were eaten by dinosaurs, though this might have something to do with them now travelling around in detachments of 5,000 or more.

Various Efani realms opened trade, and even the Yellow Sargs are considering it.

INGAZI EAST EFAN COMPANY (Ø WH/UR)

Admiral Lady Gwariva Sardira, Knight-Banneret of the East Riding, Chief Factor of the Ingazi East Efan Company.

Trade: None.

DP: See Below.



THE INGAZI FLEET first landed on the barely-inhabited jungle island, which the few inhabitants apparently called “Vuhja”. The Admiral came ashore and asked one of the Human

natives if they had a flag. Since he did not appear to have one, or much in the way of clothes for that matter, the Admiral planted one of Ingazi's flags on the beach and set some marines to guard it.

Continuing their attempt to circumnavigate Efan, the sixty Ingazi ships sailed east. They made landfall again in 1460 in the hilly peninsula of Khiburi.

These particular natives were much more advanced than the previous group, having both clothes and villages. When the Ingazi first contact group hit the beach, they were met by a bevy of local chieftains bearing gifts of food and fermented coconut milk.

Once again, the Admiral asked if they had a flag, but she was interrupted by the head chieftain, who pointed to the Urdan holy symbol hanging around the Admiral's neck. He then pulled out an almost identical symbol, stamped in tin, which he wore under his shirt.

Although they could not speak each other's language, the two groups were soon feasting and dancing and drinking deep into the night like large groups of long lost cousins, albeit cousins of differing Kindreds.

The local bigwig soon made it clear that the Humans were perfectly willing, eager even, to pay tribute to Ingazi to help preserve their religion and their culture. Acting on behalf of the Count Palatine, the Admiral accepted.

In addition to a number of extra flags, the Ingazi bear copies of the *Imperial Reply to Application of Ingazi (1556)*, which they apparently consider to be an Imperial Warrant to explore and trade in Efan. They were nevertheless extremely careful not to land on the mainland⁵⁴, which they understand to be forbidden by the Efani Emperor.



⁵³ Deiroth (A), Dornath (F), Garab (F), Sath (F).

⁵⁴ “Continent of Efan” per *Public Clarification to the Empress of Sahûl* (1556).

Imperial Gazette

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



Her August & Imperial Majesty
Empress Chass'ika

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.

ENNOBLEMENT

The Baroness Neallatalah of Sakkar, her Hive and her Realm, are elevated to the dignity of *Landgrave of Sakkar*.

His Majesty King Kíre II of Kéatoa is granted the title of *Lord Tirwhekwu*.

APPOINTMENTS

To Governor of Agador, Arador, Balashan, Drazhan, Kastier, Kembul, Kordier, Kumarand, Larloc, Orinos: *by examination*.

To Justice of the Imperial Chamber Court: Mani Jaripri, Lord Yani.

Other Justices confirmed in their terms.

IMPERIAL OFFICES

Chancellor of the Empire:.....*Kicitchat*

Speaker of the House of Peers:*Hyrágec*

Justices of the Imperial Chamber Court:

..... *Chancellor of the Empire*

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

..... *Chi'tixi* (through 1584)

..... *Yaminon* (through 1581)

..... *Averon* (through 1579)

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

Lord Admiral of the Green: *Pexiki*

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

Marshal of Thacia:..... *vacancy*

Warden of the North: *Chi'tixi*

FREE COMPANIES & ERRANTRY &C.

HAWKWOOD COMPANY—35mc 20pk 10mi

Captain: The Venerable Lord Dwinbi Sardes
(1974w) TR age 76

Location: *Imperial Free City of Zadres*

Min. Bid: 150GP / TURN

GREAT BYRRIN COMPANY (GBC)—25pk 15hu 2ar

Captain: Captain Drake (LAA7s) TR age 28

Location: *Imperial Free City of Zadres*

Min. Bid: 125GP / TURN

WILLEFORN'S SPEARS—10pk 20mi 5li

Captain: "Spears" Willeforn (LA53w) TR age 64

Location: *Imperial Free City of Zadres*

Min. Bid: 70GP / TURN

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS OF THE EMPIRE

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

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

REPORT OF IMPERIAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES, 1556–1560

INCOME		Public Works	500.0
Regional and Provincial Income.....	264.9	Ice Relief Grants	900.0
Public Works Income.....	798.0	Ice Survivability research.....	100.0
City Income.....	9.1	Medical College.....	25.0
International Trade (Tariffs).....	1660.2	Counter-Intelligence.....	500.0
From Exchequer.....	1100.9	TOTAL	3498.0
TOTAL	4433.1	To EXCHEQUER.....	935.1
EXPENDITURES		<i>Imperial Budget exclusive of returned Elphárec Ice funds disbursed to Zarkhandu.</i>	
Army Support.....	73.0		
Military, sorcery, spycraft investment ...	700.0		
Government investment	100.0		

RUGBY

All-Sahúl 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 (suspended), Chi'tixi, Golmath, Ingazi, Murali, New Ingazi (St. Ilana), Runazar, and the Zarkhandu All-Blacks. Treskaw is reportedly putting a team together as well.

Tournament results!

Round 1 (1557)

Murali 8 at Golmath 13
St. Ilana 5 at All-Blacks 11
Runazar 6 at Ingazi 9
Chi'tixi (bye)

Round 2 (1559)

All-Blacks 11 at Golmath 13
Ingazi 9 at Chi'tixi 8

The championship, coming on the heels of the Ingazi occupation of Walu, had a record number of injuries. It was a hard-fought contest, with Golmath outlasting Ingazi rather than beating them.

Championship (1550)

Ingazi 6 at Golmath 7.

Next cycle's matchings are:

Round 1 (1562)

Chi'tixi at Murali [yellow]
St. Ilana at Runazar [blue]
All-Blacks at Ingazi [red]

Round 2 (1564)

Yellow at Blue
Red at Golmath

Championship match to be played in Golmath in 1565.

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 for loan approval.

IMPERIAL BANK OF SAHÛL

Locations: Einandhu, Sardarthion

Available to borrow: 3,900.0 GP
(No single borrower may borrow more than 1,000 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 of the Imperial Bank:

- Guilds Council of Adndar 9*
- Imperial Exchequer 7*
- House Gwariva of Ingazi 5*
- House Pangku of Araxes 4*
- Ancient & Undaunted Order of Heralds 3*
- Printers Guild of Zadres 1

Loans: Kicitchat (1200/t24).

BANK OF ITAXIK

Location: Itaxik

Available to borrow: 2,706.9 GP

Loans: None outstanding.

Location: Urdraháhn

Available to borrow: 570.0 GP

Loans: Yani / 1200 GP / due Turn 24

FIRST YAGNARIST BANK OF THE EYE

Location: Yarni-Za

Available to borrow: 0.0 GP

Loans: Veiled masters / 1,440 GP / due Turn 24

Loans entirely at the discretion of the Veiled Masters.

NOTICES

Kumaran Defense Initiative (1556)

WE THE UNDERSIGNED do hereby decree the Republic of Kumara to be under the military protection of the Yaminon Alliance and the Kingdom of Aradéc until the year 1570.

The Republic of Kumara authorizes the Yaminon Alliance to have a military base inside the military district of Wendaháhn to host its troops and ships. This authorization can be suspended at any time by the Republic of Kumara if it is considered not necessary any more.

The Kingdom of Aradéc and the Yaminon Alliance will send all forces possible to defend the Republic of Kumara from internal and external enemies if so required by the Government of the Republic. The Kingdom of Aradéc and the Yaminon Alliance will have no requirement to send forces to each other, but may do so if each their rulers so decides. The Republic of Kumara will have no obligation to support in any way either the Yaminon Alliance or the Kingdom of Aradéc in any way, but may do so if the Government of the Republic so decides.

Neither the Yaminon Alliance, nor the Kingdom of Aradéc will have the option to remove themselves from this treaty before the allotted date, without the written permission of the Republic of Kumara. The Republic of Kumara will be allowed to disband this treaty or remove a particular member of this treaty at anytime, but must allow troops to peacefully withdraw.

Lord Mani Jaripri,
Second Lord Yani and Master of the Yaminon.
Yani.

King Manandir II,
Electoral King of Aradéc.
Darnuldeis, Pranyi Prefecture.

Baron Kašten II,
First Speaker of the Republic.
Yani.

Efan Expedition Grants (1556)

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that the Empire of Sahûl and the Efan Empire have began negotiation on trade agreements between our two Empires.

Even now the excitement builds here in Sardarthion with Shipbuilders' Guild, Merchant Guild, Longshoreman's Guild, and numerous other guilds murmur with excitement at this new opportunity to grow their guilds.

We would be remiss in our duties as a trade partner if all we had to offer the Empire of Efan was pickled herring, walrus blubber, and other goods of the frigid lands of Zarkhandu. We had assumed that our Ambassador

Representative from Zarkhandu would be so kind as to provide detail maps and etc. so the rest of Sahûl could fulfill our potential obligations as a trade partner.

However, alas this information has not materialized despite our asking the Ambassador from Zarkhandu numerous times for this information. We can only assume just as everyone else assumes is the information was lost in the mail. We all know what kind of dreadful mess the Zarkhandu Courier system is. The poor fellow who presented Zarkhandu Shard to our hive mother the Late Empress, took five years even after an Imperial Order. When asked what took him so long the poor fellow said it is custom in Zarkhandu to blindfold and spin couriers around and send them off in any directions without a map or aid. He got to the ice sheets before he realized he was going in the wrong direction.

We are told that the courier system greatly improves if you pay an exorbitant fee ahead of time. However, who wants to put the trust in a spotty delivery system? The Zarkhandu Courier may reach Efan before they realize they have gone the wrong direction.

So to save time, money, headaches, and Zarkhandu the embarrassment of their mail system, the crown is awarding grants to fund expedition fleets to Efan to establish trade routes and exchange cultures and ideas. Realms who are successful in their endeavors will receive an additional bonuses to reward their success.

In addition, this is an excellent opportunity to expand the borders of your realm, as we are sure there are many unclaimed regions in the lands of Efan. Of course out of courtesy to our friends from the Efan Empire, regions that a part of the formal boundaries of the Efan Empire are off limits. In addition, if you choose you could probably even move in and conquer those lands as the Efan Empire seems quite unconcerned with the utter destruction that Zarkhandu has inflicted on regions not with in the boundaries of the Efan Empire.



Request for these explorations funds will be accepted immediately; my home Itaxik may even sign up for an expedition grant.

By my hand and under seal:

Empress Chass'ika,
Sardarthion.

Kicitchat Succession Edict (1556)

ANY WHO WOULD ASCEND to be ruler of the Kicitchat Hive must be, by tradition, be a fertile, alive and mortal Kit'ixi and must be a worthy sophont of majority age that adheres to Kicitchat traditions and ascends from the Testing Creche.

All who have taken the Gift of Unlife given by Yagnar, including the present Regent, are excluded from being the Queen of the Kicitchat Hive. Those who have taken the Gift stand as honored servants of Kicitchat. They have made Kicitchat stronger and closer to Yagnar, but they may not rule.

Countess Sith'tat IV,
Countess of Kicitchat.
Sardarthion.

Public Clarification to the Empress of Sahûl (1556)

THE THRONE OF KHORUS HOLDS DOMINION over the continent of Efan. We reject your premise that there is uncontrolled territory in Efan.

The grant to the Kingdom of Zarkhandu to conquer the Sargs in the Parata, the barbarian remnants of the first failed invasion from Sahûl, was done because it honors the Son of the Sun, as is his right as the sovereign ruler of Efan. Think of it as a hunting preserve.

The Kingdom of Aradéc was given permission to approach the Kingdom of Hutoasa to build a trading outpost. The tributary Kingdom of Hutoasa was allowed to accept the offer if it was beneficial.

None others have permission to approach Efan and the tributary states have been instructed to rebuff contact. Expeditionary forces, whose handiwork can be observed to the north, would be considered a second invasion from Sahûl.

Abdas,
Ambassador for the Empire of Efan & Mouthpiece for the Throne of Khorus.
Sardarthion.

Golluz Declaration (1556)

WE ARE MINDFUL of the Imperial Doom that the Empress has pronounced against Cappargarnia. While we continue to disagree with the judgement against the Republic, we begrudge no Imperial Realm their lawful attacks upon us. As is our right by long Imperial custom, and our duty to our people of the Republic, we shall continue to defend against these attacks to the moment that the Doom ends, at which time we hope to once again join in the civilized discourse of the College of Electors and of the other realms of the Empire.

However, the depredations of Chi'tixi against the Tarotist faith are a different matter altogether.

The perfidious Chi'tixi butchered Tarotists in their own land, and the Republic said nothing, for the internal affairs of a fellow elector are not our concern.

They exported their butchery to the Byrrin valley in Taporí, and our protests against them were ignored by our fellow electors and the Empire, leaving the Republic to deal with the poor refugees that Chi'tixi chased from their homes.

Now, however, Chi'tixi maggots have destroyed a Tarotist Cathedral – and not just any Cathedral! No, they systematically and with malice despoiled Aphum, the jewel in the crown of the Tarotist faith in the Byrrin and the home of the Tarotist Pontiff of the Church of the Illimitable.

It is a violation of Article 19 of the *Great Charter*, which prohibits “all unjust burnings, spoliations and rapines”, it is a violation of the very spirit of the *Edict of the Sheathed Sword*, and it is an affront to the decency that dwells in the hearts of all Sahúlian Kindred.

This Empire was founded on the idea that we could put our religious differences aside in the name of Sahúlian Unity. This principle was renewed in the *Golden Edict*, in the *Great Charter*, and most especially in the *Edict of the Sheathed Sword*, which famously pleads that “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 Sahúl.”

We have not seen this level of wanton cultural destruction and religious hatred in Sahúl since the days of the Hyrágecan Crusade. Such an atrocity cannot be allowed to go unpunished or unavenged, for not only does it strike at the very heart of the Tarotist faith, it strikes at the very foundation of our Empire.

We are without recourse to the Courts, since we are under sentence of Doom, and Chi'tixi herself sits as the

Empire's supreme judge. This same Doom, however, guarantees our right to make war against those who attack us. Let the lich of Chi'tixi be subject to trial by combat, to trial by the very struggle of the Gods against each other. The Gods themselves shall judge Chi'tixi.

Therefore, His Sublime Majesty Deirn Carberic, Electoral Prince of Cappargarnia, together and in one accord with His Great Holiness Fenric VI, Pontiff of the Hidden Lords at Golluz, by their authority, both civil and religious, do hereby declare **HOLY WAR** against the Electoral Queen of Chi'tixi and all those who serve her, defend her, or accompany her armies into battle against us.

Unless they choose to actually march with Chi'tixi armies, no other Realm of the Empire is the object of this declaration. Furthermore, all Chi'tixi arms and leadership in Oratoa are specifically exempted from our retribution and vengeance.

We call upon all faithful Tarotists, and all right-thinking kindred of the Empire, to stand against the Chi'tixi. Let the great mass of the Tarotist people arise! Take up arms, and drive this Tarotist-hating Chi'tixi filth from our land!

His Great Holiness Fenric VI,
Pontiff of the Hidden Lords.
Golluz, Arétar Prefecture.

Deirn Carberic,
Prince of the Republic.
Adndar, Envel Prefecture.

Consul Edict of the Kicitchat Dominion of Erediar (1556)

WE, SITH'TAT IV, THE BLACK, Lady Tchac'at, Countess of the Kicitchat Hive and Associated Dominions, Chancellor of the Empire, do hereby pronounce under my powers as supreme ruler of Kicitchat and all Associated Dominions the following:

The Electoral Principality of Cappargarnia is to be utterly destroyed. The region of Erediar and Cappargarnia City has been conquered. The city shall be renamed *Erphan*, in honor of the noble people who reside in Erediar and the city. The people of Erphan maintain the Erphani rights guaranteed by *The Golden Edict*, by tradition and law, and this guarantee was reaffirmed by the *Great Charter of the Empire of Sahúl*, Article 8.2. But they now are of Kicitchat, and Kicitchat is now the ruler, as guaranteed by *The Great Charter of the Empire of Sahúl*, Article 7 .

As ruler, we therefore decree the following to be a law, as is our privilege guaranteed by *The Great Charter of the Empire of Sahùl*, Article 7.2 :

Article 1: Religious Uniformity

From the time of this Ediçt forward, until it shall be rescinded by the ruler of Kicitchat, all members of the Senate of Erphan must be followers of Yagnar and belong to no Sect.

Article 2: Political Fealty

From the time of this Ediçt forward, until it shall be rescinded by the ruler of Kicitchat, all members of the Senate of Erphan must swear fealty to the ruler of Kicitchat and the Empire of Sahùl.

Article 3: Consul Powers

From the time of this Ediçt forward, until it shall be rescinded by the ruler of Kicitchat, all members of the Senate of Erphan shall be appointed by the ruler of Kicitchat.

Article 4: Fealty of the Prince of Erphan

From the time of this Ediçt forward, until it shall be rescinded by the ruler of Kicitchat, any Prince of Erphan elected in accordance with Article 8.2 of the *Great Charter* who is not the ruler of Kicitchat herself, must swear fealty to Kicitchat and its ruler, lest he or she forfeit his or her life and property. Any such leader shall be granted allied status and given a position as such in the Kicitchat leadership.

When and if Erediàr fully integrates into Kicitchat as a friendly region, the Prince of Erphan, if not the ruler of Kicitchat herself, shall be given a position in the Kicitchat leadership. If no position is available, the Prince of Erphan will take the first available spot.

The Enabling Articles

The Following Enabling Articles, being necessary for the proper promulgation of the forgoing *Consul Ediçt* and the general peace of Kicitchat, are issued simultaneously with and under the same authority as the *Consul Ediçt* itself.

Enabling Article 1: Religious Liberty

From the time of this Ediçt forward, until it shall be rescinded by the ruler of Kicitchat, all Tarotist subjects of Kicitchat, loyal to both Kicitchat and the Empire of Sahùl, are guaranteed their religious liberty. This article in no way inhibits the right of peaceful missionary conversion to Yagnar by the ruler of Kicitchat nor the proprietary rights over religious sites held by the ruler of Kicitchat within the recently conquered regions of Erphan now owned by Kicitchat.

Enabling Article 2: Transition Fund

In recognition of the hardships the Senators from the City and Hinterlands have suffered, for the next five years a *Transition Fund* is authorized to be dispersed as detailed within this Ediçt and its Enabling Ordinances.

Enabling Article 3: Continuity Fund

In recognition of the service the Senators from the City and Hinterlands perform for Kicitchat a permanent Continuity Fund is established. This fund shall be refreshed every five years as needed. It shall be dispersed as detailed in within this Ediçt and the Enabling Ordinances.

Enabling Article 4: Senate Transition

All members of the Senate of Erphan who are not followers of Yagnar are immediately discharged. Senators retired thus are endowed with the title of *Senator Emeritus* and are entitled to equal recompense from the Transition Fund. Senators who are followers of Yagnar and who are in accordance with the provisions of this Ediçt and its Enabling Articles retain their positions as Senators and are entitled to equal recompense from the Transition Fund.

Enabling Article 5: Conversion

Any Emeritus Senator who converts to Yagnar and who is in accordance with the provisions of this Ediçt and its Enabling Articles qualifies for appointment as Senator.

Enabling Article 6: Senatorial Appointment

Any person appointed Senator as dictated by this Ediçt is entitled to equal recompense from the Transition Fund.

Enabling Article 7: Fealty

Any Senator who is found to be deceptive concerning matters of faith forfeits his life and property. Any Senator found to conspire against the ruler of Kicitchat forfeits his life and property.

Enabling Article 8: Adherence of Article 8.2 of the Great Charter

This article hereby affirms Kicitchat adherence to Article 8.2 of the Great Charter.

Enabling Article 9: Stabilization Ordinance

In the event that the Collegium elects the ruler of Kicitchat to be their Princess, all members of the Senate, as defined in this Ediçt, shall be entitled to equal recompense from the Continuity Fund.

Enabling Article 10: Election Security

From the time of this Ediçt forward, until it shall be rescinded by the ruler of Kicitchat, Kicitchat will

provide security for Erphan City, the Senators and Collegium at all times, including elections. Any person, foreign or local, attempting to commit treason, subversion or participating in disorderly conduct that endangers the subjects of Kicitchat shall forfeit his life and property.

In addition, only subjects of Kicitchat may conduct a political campaign in Kicitchat. Any person found in violation of this declaration forfeits his life.

So declared,

Countess Sith'rat IV,
Countess of Kicitchat.
Sardarthion.

Application for Efan Grant – Aradéc (1556)

ARADÉC REQUESTS 5,000 gold under this grant and promises to share any maps attained with those funds with the ruling Empress (or Emperor).

Per our duty to the Empire, we would caution any imperial realms thinking of sending expeditions to the east that the waters around Aradéc are not recommended for transiting at this time due to the imperial bann, and we would recommend finding some other bodies of water to begin exploring from. Also, the natives of northwestern Efan appear to be well armed, and while we have yet to encounter forces of the emperor of Efan, the stories the natives we have met have told us in hushed whispers are a strong caution.

King Manandir II,
Electoral King of Aradéc.
Darnuldeis, Pranyi Prefecture.

Imperial Reply to Application of Aradéc (1556)

WE THANK THE KING OF ARADÉC for his gracious offers we see you have been speaking with the Zarkhandu Courier Systems on reasonable transfer fees. However we will have to respectfully decline it wouldn't much of an Imperial Bann if we violated it ourselves.

Is the Imperial Bann making your waters a little more choppy? Efan is a large place so there are numerous places one could set sail from so have no fear for your fellow citizens, but we thank you for your concern.

We are glad to hear that natives are well armed perhaps they will be more open to an exchange of knowledge, comparison of military skills and etc then the Efan ambassador has been. Personally we have no

interest in conquering any portion of Efan affiliated or unaffiliated with the Efan Empire. We only seek knowledge and if knowledge isn't readily available a good scholar goes and finds it.

We are also certain that native population will be relieved to see that we are not a pack of murdering barbarians that probably has been portrayed to them by the Efan Ambassador and the slaughter presented on display by Zarkhandu in the Emperor's so-called game preserve.

Yes, we have heard how impressive the Emperor of Efan's Military is, numerous times.

Once again we thank you for your offer and your concern, perhaps we can revisit your offer after your Bann is up in ten years.

By my hand and under seal:

Empress Chass'ika,
Sardarthion.

Open Letter: Increasing Imperial Trade: Proposed Southwestern Trade Road (1556)

THE ILUVARIAN LANDGRAVATE OF SAKKAR would like to present the proposal for the Southwestern Trade Road that would allow international trade between the Imperial Demense and numerous southwestern realms. As you will see that as many as five Realms or members of the Imperial Diet will need to approve this Trade Road as it would transpire through their lands. We request that the Imperial authority add your influence that these land regions be allowed to host this undertaking. With the removal of Sakkar representation from two regions in this proposed path, Sakkar no longer has direct responsibility of any of the decisions involved. After fifteen years of failed attempted negotiations by the representatives of Sakkar, we present this to the Empress as our desire to see a more prosperous future among the Empire of Sahûl.

The proposed regional path is Finnedor, Sarthes, Alod, Sansoleth, Avalow, Tythyen, Dramul, and Jarvael to Sardarthion. There is the need for initial trade roads connecting some regions while in others regions the existing roads can be improved into trade roads.

Our initial cost and timing is based upon Sakkar funding the entire expenses with only the permission to construct the trade road coming from the various other Realms. The cost is 13 megaliths without the assistance of engineers. Sakkar, within the last 10 years, has finally acquired the skilled services of such engineers, in

Finnedor, to start this project but has since been persuaded to transfer Finnedor to other Imperial representation. Sakkar had intended to complete this project in twenty-five years and no longer than thirty years. Sakkar had intended to change the route but would incur an additional 4 megalith cost and that is not acceptable. It is better to give the proposed project to better equipped sources.

This proposed trade road would allow trade between Sardarthion and Realms on the Choloa River which does not seem worth the expense or effort. Sakkar was also planning to give a region on the Choloa River to the Imperial Demense to further the international trade limits to include the realms of Kachar, Itaxik and Pehuatoka. If Averon could be persuaded to give the region of Ital'te and those with Ice-proof Kindred would settle such region, then the Imperial Demense could have trade with Taneki and the former Pexiki. Only Tokatl would be among the entire West that could not be within trade limits to the Imperial Demense.

Sakkar regrets that our recent actions have offended almost all our neighboring realms, Urdan, Yagnarist, and Iluvarian, such that this proposal could never be initiated. As Sakkar was strongly suggested not to get involved in the Oratoan War by the Marshal of the North and other offers of services were unanswered, Sakkar had been considering using our resources to entirely fund this project that could benefit many more than just Sakkar. With the continued trade embargo or lack of trade among Sakkar and her neighbors and the Empress not reinstating Sakkar with the Withidan Governorship, it does imply that Sakkar is not the Imperial authority to assist in this project.

The opinion of the Hive Mothers of Sakkar and the Baroness is that this project is very beneficial to the western Realms of Sahûl and is reasonable in cost.

Landgrave Neallatalah,
Landgravate of Sakkar.
Kuauinochitla, Itatlan Prefecture.

Application for Efan Grant – Ingazi (1556)

WHEREAS alone among the realms of Sahûl, Ingazi's navigators have sailed clear around the vast circumference of the globe, and

WHEREAS Ingazi has by proof of arms in both Adndar and Oratoa proved its loyalty and worth to the empire, and

WHEREAS Ingazi's merchants are known with favor the length and breadth of the inhabited world,

NOW, THEREFORE, do we, the Count Palatine of Ingazi request formally of the Empire of Sahûl:

- 1) For permission to contact the Empire of Efan to secure what trading rights we may;
- 2) Pursuant to the offer advanced by your August and Imperial personage of "Efan Expedition Grants", the sum of 1,500 talents of gold (1500GP);

All for the glory of the Empire of Sahûl!

Count Palatine Razhim X,
Count Palatine of Ingazi.
Adndar, Envel Prefecture.

Imperial Reply to Application of Ingazi (1556)

THE COUNTY PALATINE OF INGAZI has asked for "permission to contact the Empire of Efan to secure what trading rights we may". To this we say, you may.

They have further asked for the sum of 1,500 talents of gold (1500GP), and to this we say, we will see what we can do.

By my hand and under seal:

Empress Chass' ika,
Sardarthion.

Efani Trading Policy (1557)

AFTER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, the Empire of Efan has decided to allow trading with the proper certification. However there is currently a small delay in the certification process.

At this time there is an environmental impact study being conducted regarding Wenemet overfishing of shrimp in the Bay of Huotasa and an economic study of Civilized Sargs in the Parata. Once these studies and complete they can be reviewed by their respective subcommittees, *Shellfish and Intelligent Animals Impacts* and *Economic Development in Tributary Realms* respectively. Of course, most studies are sent back for more detail in one area or another. How else can one justify the existence of subcommittees?

After subcommittee approval the studies with be reviewed by the respective committees, *Environment* and *Economic Development*. Naturally the studies will be sent back for more current data since they will likely be a decade out of date.

Once they come back and are approved they will be reviewed by the respective ministries.

Once the ministers have signed off on the studies the entire cabinet will either approve or reject the findings and determine if the Minister of Trade and Intelligent Animals may approve new merchant licenses.

This process should only take 40 to 50 years.

Abdas,

Ambassador for the Empire of Efan & Mouthpiece for the Throne of Khorus.
Sardarthion.

An Open Letter to the Empress of Sahûl from the Son of the Sun (1557)

FROM THE SON OF THE SUN:

Putrid water and hot sand.

Intelligent Insect Empress,

Unfortunate Sahûl suffers from Elected Empress ignorance. Failure to use ambassador apparent with multiple mortal insults. Treaty impossible until Elected Intelligent Insect dead.

Of course this is just a rough translation but the result is the same. I have been instructed to discontinue all negotiations during the term of the current empress of Sahûl. Perhaps the next ruler of Sahûl will use the Ambassador to avoid mortal insults.

Have a nice day.

Abdas,

Ambassador for the Empire of Efan & Mouthpiece for the Throne of Khorus.
Sardarthion.

Safe Conduct of the Efani Ambassador (1557)

THE EFANI AMBASSADOR may peacefully return to Efan until there is another on the throne, but we are sure he or she will grow just as tired of him as we have. So let the bananas set sail.

By my hand and under seal:

Empress Chass' ika,
Sardarthion.

Quarantine Recommendation (1557)

THE EMPRESS EARNESTLY ENTREATS the Imperial Diet to take up a bill cutting trade from Sahûl to Oratoa until threat of Red Death has subsided.

In addition, ships returning from Oratoa to Sahûl should be subjected to a minimum two week quarantine period to verify there is no signs of plague. Ship captains and crew to be compensated for loss of time, and sailors attempting to break quarantine to be treated with extreme prejudice.

By my hand and under seal:

Empress Chass' ika,
Sardarthion.

Abrogation of the Nowydh mora Tir Decree (1557)

A GENERATION AGO, my kinsman and predecessor Baron Annavas II committed our people of Kommolek to abandon their ancestral lands and journey to Oratoa, where they have found a new home and their true destiny. Not everyone could make the journey: many died on the way, and many never left Old Kommolek.

For the orderly disposition of these prefectures of Old Kommolek, the Baron issued the *Nowydh mora Tir* decree in 1520. This provided for the Baronial lands to be divided between his sisters, the Ladies Ebrel and Ennor. Lady Ennor's lands were joined to the Kingdom of Fell Zarkhandu, as she swore fealty to their King. Through her children, she became the matriarch of a new House.

In his *Testament*, Baron Annavas declared explicitly, *As in the south spreads the stalwart ice, in the east we bequeath to my brother Andel and my sister Ennor as well as her children Caja, Elowen, and Ando, suzerainty over these lands of our realm to expand further east in the name of our lord and together with our allies of Zarkhandu. Under their guidance and strength shall that house spread.*

These dowry lands had a just price. According to clause six of the *Nowydh mora Tir* decree: *Kingdom of Zarkhandu permanently hastes and deeds over to Kommolek the flying fortress named Cleansing Storm and sends ten squadrons of Airships, ten Brigades of Saurian Cataphraçti, ten flights of rangers, (one levy only) and 400 talents of gold per five years for fifty years.*

Since 1530, the Kingdom of Zarkhandu has failed to send the 400 talents of gold, although they did send 200 in 1535. Since they are now in arrears by the sum of 1,400 talents of gold (not including interest on late

or missing payments), and since they have made no effort to communicate with us any particulars of these missing payments, we justly declare them to be in deliberate and persistent violation of the agreements of the *Nowydh mora Tir*.

Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that we, the lawful successor to the Barony of Kommolek, declare that this agreement is, in all particulars related to the Kingdom of Zarkhandu, in abeyance and its provisions void. No region of the former Barony of Kommolek, nor any member of the cadet Houses of Goesek, should feel compelled to hold to the rule of the *Nowydh mora Tir* in regards to the Kingdom of Zarkhandu.

Count Goesek Derryk II,
Count Palatine of Kommolek.
Denbigh.

The Gwithi Proclamation (1557)

HEAR US, O DUEDHYN! My father was a great man, but like all things, he has passed down the river of life as Urda demands. His was a life spent in war. He was hard as the bones of the mountain, relentless as ice. That was what was required of him. But we are now in a time of peace, and such times require a different Prince.

There is only one Prince in Duedhyn, and I am he. There is only one spiritual authority in Duedhyn and that is the Church Universal and Triumphant. But! There are two liturgies in Duedhyn. There are two paths to Urda and both will be honored here. Duedhyn is Orthodox and Duedhyn is Raven. As Prince, I am my people. As Prince, I am Orthodox. As Prince, I am Raven! From this day forth, in Duedhyn, both paths shall be honored. One Prince. One Church. Two Paths.

This is my edict and my will, and I will see it done. And my will I will back with my deeds. This day, I appoint a Raven priest as royal chaplain to myself and my household to join our Orthodox priest.

This day, I command that the Royal Priory of Gwithi in Pareis be served by both Raven and Orthodox clergy, where I and my family will attend both liturgies.

By word and by deed, I am both Raven and Orthodox. One Prince. One Church. Two Paths.

Prince Merryn IV,
Prince of Duedhyn.
Gwithi Priory, Glasdor Prefecture.

Statement of the Embassy of Efan (1557)

AT THIS TIME THE THRONE OF KHORUS has chosen to close the embassy in Sardarthion and I have been re-assigned due to the violation of the *Rights of Ambassadors* agreement by the Emperor of Sahûl.

Abdas,
Mouthpiece for the Throne of Khorus.
Sardarthion.

Kumara Seating Resolution (1557)

LET IT BE KNOWN that upon this day, the Peers unanimously resolved to invite the Republic of Kumara to join our ranks as the newest member of the House of Peers.

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

Public Statement of Apology and Reparation (1557)

IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION of the government of Ingazi that Countess Tremira of Ingazi, while on Imperial business, went on an extensive shopping trip in Aradéc from 1551 to 1553. During that time King Manandir of Aradéc played host to the Countess.

The government of Ingazi wishes to state for the record that this was an unintentional violation of the Imperial Bann against Aradéc, and that Aradéc did not initiate any part of this act.

The Countess has been duly reprimanded for her actions, which were taken in the spirit of being a good guest and not with any intention to violate the law or cause difficulties to our cousin of Aradéc who is entirely blameless in this matter.

The government of Ingazi deeply regrets the violation of the Bann, and we humbly submit to any appropriate penalty the Empress would wish to impose.

Baron Kevitim of Yundra,
Lord Chancellor of Ingazi.
Ingazi City, Warrayi Prefecture.

 Election of Steward of the House of Peers (1557)

LET IT BE KNOWN that upon this day, the House of Peers has elected the King of Zarkhandu as Steward of the House of Peers.

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

Pantun Declaration (1558)

THE ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF AVERON intends to engage in diplomacy (not Military Conversion) The prefecture of Pantun. Pantun has stood unclaimed for over a century, and we now find ourselves in a place where we feel ready to undertake this endeavor.

We say this not to seek permission, but to avoid any negative repercussions before we undertake this action. We don't want a misunderstanding, Doom, or any other unfortunate actions brought upon us for this action.

We welcome any and all comments and thoughts upon this act. It is our hope that our actions here are respected and not looked upon as a sign of weakness or opportunity to be exploited. We are trying to be respectful of our fellow Sahûlians and all the laws therein.

We do not see this as setting a precedent within our fair Empire, it is just that with all the controversies of the past generation, we do not wish to add to it.

Grand Duchess Jushana,
Electoral Grand Duchess of Averon.
Kongros, Averon Prefecture.

Imperial Policy on Efan (1558)

THE FOLLOWING IMPERIAL POSITION on Efan applies to all realms except the Kingdoms of Aradéc, Hyrágec, and Zarkhandu, as they all have some previous arrangements with the Empire of Efan.

The Empire of Sahûl will not be aggressive to the controlled regions of Efan, and it is expected that Efan will reciprocate to Sahûl. The Empire of Sahûl will stay out of the internal affairs of the Empire of Efan, and it is expected that Efan will reciprocate to Sahûl.

Any realm of the Empire that goes to the Lands of Efan with out prior consent from the Empire of Efan does so at their own risk.

It is the Empire of Sahûl's hope to someday establish normal diplomatic relations with the Empire of Efan,

but this is not possible at this time given their xenophobic stance to Sahûl. If the Empire of Efan changes their perspective, then perhaps talks can resume.

By my hand and under seal:

Empress Chass'ika,
Sardarthion.

Admission of the Kingdom of Kéatoa to the Empire, Second Vote (1558)

THE COLLEGE OF ELECTORS announces with great joy that upon this day, in accordance with the *Great Charter* § 7.1 "Admission of New Imperial Realms", the Electors have chosen to provide their consent on the admission of the Kingdom of Kéatoa to the Empire.

The final tally is six aye and one nay vote. Two electors failed to vote.

We commend to our gracious Empress that she must now, by exercise of her Imperial Authority, ennoble the Kingdom of Kéatoa and grant it recognition.

Countess Sith'tat IV of Kicitchat,
Chancellor of the Empire.
Sardarthion.

Woangnen Peace Accords (1558)

TO THE PEERS, ELECTORS AND PRIMACIES, let it be known that a treaty of peace has been agreed to between the empire and the Northern Kingdom of Woangnen.

The terms are simple: He must rid his realm of Church of the Red Death religious sites, leave the Dread Empire, and accept that any wild lands of Oratoa are as valid to be colonized by realms of Sahûl as they are by realms of Oratoa, which was the heart of the conflict.

We have agreed to remain neutral in his separate conflict with Kéatoa, considering it a preexisting condition between these realms and where it would have greatly complicated our negotiations with Kéatoa recently joining the empire.

He does say that he will attempt to end the conflict with Kéatoa and makes a plea which I quote for your discussion.

Nevertheless, we will attempt, with great earnest, to end this conflict between my nation and Kéatoa; a conflict with which seeds were sown by the vile Church of the Red Death and their many puppeteers.

If any and all diplomatic assistance could be offered in having Kéatoa stop their relentless campaign, we would be in your debt. For I see no reason why blood should be spilled over the lands of the north, mainly because we were indoctrinated with a sense of Xenophobia.

It is our opinion that legally we cannot force Kéatoa to peace, but we may be able to entice her to forgo her vengeance with offers of economic and industrial aid. If we do so, I doubt that Woangnen will ever enter the empire then, but as long as they have no problem with Imperial realms colonizing wild lands, that may be enough.

We personally have no vested interest in whatever direction the empire takes at this time and we merely report the facts for others to consider. We hope to engage in friendly relations with both of these realms as soon as we are able.

We will be clear that this separate peace was only possible because Woangnen was not a part of the attack on Electoral Thace in Whangwhúatéwua, nor a part of the many attacks against our realm by the Alliance of Valas. Realms like the Church of the Red Death and Pouákaitoa that have repeatedly, directly and unjustifiably attacked imperial realms shall not be allowed the same easy peace.

Count Derryk II,
Count Palatine of Kommolek.
In the field.

The Crowns of Power (1558)

LET IT BE KNOWN that the Crowns of Power, also known as *the Opal Crown, the Sapphire Crown, the Topaz Crown, and the Ruby Crown*, are the property of the Realms who have found them, or may find them in the case of the Ruby Crown.

The Five Kingdoms were torn asunder by the desire to possess all of the crowns ultimately leading to the crowns being lost. The loss of the crowns has led to recent fervent search for them over many years and at great expense under the threat of the approaching Demon Sun.

The only requirement of the Imperium is the Crowns be voluntarily and freely presented for use in activating the *Tent of the Sky* that protects Sahùl from the Demon Sun. Failure to do so will result in the violating realm to be labeled as an enemy of the Empire

and the crown will be forcibly taken if necessary and given to another realm.

All of the Crowns have been located except for the Ruby Crown; if a Realm secretly possesses this crown we command that it be made known. Failure to disclose this will result in a penalty of ten times the resources spent in searching for the Ruby Crown while a realm already possessed it.

This disclosure is not to wrest the Ruby Crown away from a Realm, the disclosure is so that resources spent on locating the Ruby Crown can be put to other uses, such as restoring the Emerald Crown, ensuring the firing mechanism of the Tent works properly, and the eventual turning back of the ice.

By my hand and under seal:

Empress Chass'ika,
Sardarthion.



Imperial Strength Index

#	Realm	Player	Forum Name	ISI
<i>The Great Powers</i>				
1	Aradéc	Charles Hurst	Xanthi	2,447.9
2	Thace, Elektor	Gareth Anderson	kolgrim	2,355.6
3	Averon	Kevin Lawrence	Averon Inc	2,125.3
4	Itaxik / Empress	Michael Warner	Galen	2,100.1
5	Church Universal & Triumphant	Anne Porter	Cupcake	2,063.6
<i>Major Powers</i>				
6	Araxes	Christopher Hord	chordam7	1,897.9
7	Chi'tixi	Steven Cagg	Priest King	1,864.7
8	Taneki	Don Wynne	meriden	1,848.7
9	Ingazi (incl. Viceroyalty)	Henry Jago	jago	1,843.4
10	Golmath	Junius Stone	stonester1	1,799.2
11	Atuburrk	Adam Sherman	Gonnagle	1,723.9
12	Tiryowglas	Michael Johnson	Minister of Defense	1,393.6
13	Zarkhandu	Theo Moriarty	Mandala of Blood	1,342.4
14	Elphárec	Anthony Dunn	Arandur	1,342.0
15	Thace, Duchy	Jenny Gibbons	Tenebra	1,251.5
16	Cappargarnia	<i>This Realm is open for a canny player!</i>		1,218.5
<i>Regional Powers</i>				
17	Veiled Masters of Yarni-Za	James Hazeltine	Von Malvalken	970.6
18	Kicitchat	David Harrington	Sarnath	958.1
19	Hyrágec	Paul Copenhagen	Wombatia	948.5
20	Murali	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>		904.4
21	Yaminon	Miles Luna	Ryushi	871.1
22	Iluvarian Orthodox Church	Tabitha Rosa	Tabitha Rosa	831.0
23	Puritan Crusaders	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>		635.8
24	Kachar	Daniel Jones	Drunken Monkey	561.1
25	Duedhyn	Ryerson Schwark	Crow	548.5
26	Sakkar	Nelson Merritt	hemmy	501.6
<i>Minor Powers</i>				
27	Adndar	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>		496.5
28	Carcë	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>		495.1
29	Tokatl	Shelley Woodberry	Skipperway	465.6
30	Lynnarvor	Joseph Heiselt ?	Cadeous	423.5
31	Kumara	Federico Giunchi	Waalar	301.9
32	Pehuatoka	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>		291.3
33	Iäthedain	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>		276.9
34	Treskaw	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>		272.9
35	Ebmadh	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>		207.8
35	Irusa	<i>This Realm open for a very clever or masochistic player!</i>		193.2
36	Gornya Knjažestvo	<i>This Realm is open for a player!</i>		160.1
37	Raven Finnedor	<i>For comparison only</i>		126.0

The *Sahûl Chronicle* copyright ©2013 Thom Ryng. All rights reserved.
 Cruenti Dei, Sahûl, Oratoa, and all related properties are trademarks of Sardarthion Press.

