

# Lords of the Earth Campaign One

AN AGE OF AIR AND STEAM

## Turn 216

Anno Domini 1761 – 1762

TURN 217 ORDERS DUE BY June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Candide, amazed, terrified, confounded, astonished, all bloody, and trembling from head to foot, said to himself, “If this is the best of all possible worlds, what are the others?”

*Candide* by Voltaire, 1759

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A new Modern Era supplement has been released. The Notes have been adjusted to reflect changes to Lords One as a result.

**You must read them both! Do so now!**

[http://www.throneworld.com/lords/lot01/11\\_notes.html](http://www.throneworld.com/lords/lot01/11_notes.html)  
[http://www.throneworld.com/lords/players/loterule/lot01\\_mod\\_3\\_3\\_1.pdf](http://www.throneworld.com/lords/players/loterule/lot01_mod_3_3_1.pdf)

### NORTH ASIA

Mercenaries	Minimum bid listed in [x].
Condotieri	5i, 2a [1gp each]
Captains	Saigo Tsugumichi (M968) [5gp] Bantag Yen (MB77) [10gp]
To hire, please contact...	(No one)
Quality Ratings	i15 w15 s18 c12 a12 z3

**TOKUGAWA JAPAN** (Shinto, Tokushima on Shikoku)  
*Kii Yoshimune, Shogun of A ll Nippon, Daimyo of Manila, King of the Philippines, The Sea-Spear, Monster-Slayer.*

**DIPLOMACY** None

The mighty industrial machine which was modern Japan continued to forge ahead – the huge airship yards at Tokushima and Edo expanded at an almost Javan rate. The cities of Edo, Kumamoto and Chi’lung expanded as ever more peasants flocked in from the countryside (or on boats from Qing lands, in the case of Chi’lung) seeking jobs. The agricultural revolution brought on by steam-powered mills, pumps and even crude tractors affected essentially every region in the kingdom.

In the south, the devastated province of Kagoshima was resettled (1c6) by Shinto families imported from the north and particularly chosen for their loyalty to the Tokugawa. A substantial Shogunal army under General Ichigawa was on hand to make sure there wasn’t any trouble... Colonial efforts also continued in the Siberian provinces, where the foundations of a powerful fortress (“Yoake Kin’iro”) were laid on Dzungur Coast, overlooking the ruins of the Gate of Winds.

Missionary work also proceeded apace in Dzungur, where the Shinto *barzes* now spent their time repudiating the claims of the Blue Jade Buddhists and smacking their priests around (and burning their temples, etc.). In an odd turn of events, both of the generals charged with suppressing possible revolts in Kagoshima and Dzungur Coast died by the end of 1762, and their commands devolved upon the unexpected Governor Takachi and Prince Shinturo respectively.



The Emperor of All Japan made a quiet visit to the Home Islands, praying at ancient shrines, speaking to the temple clergy about upkeep and maintenance and generally going about his traditional business.

**PACIFIC MANUFACTURING & TRANSPORT** (Shinto, Kryztn on Luzon)  
*Juchen A goi, President and Executive officer*

**DIPLOMACY** Iruka in Aanx (^ci), Azaton in Kayak (^bo)

The Company coffers continued to spill endless streams of golden coin into Qing, Aztec and Thai hands. The Company had so many debts to pay! On the other hand, business was thriving, which led to Kryztn on Luzon and Iruka in Aanx both expanding a level. Shipping concerns picked up a bit, with the Thai government granting Agoi the right to handle their trade with the Nisei in Amerika and the Borang Bakufu in Austral. After some hemming and hawing, PM&T ships also began calling at Islamic Union ports.

**THE PURE REALM** (Buddhist, Fusan in Silla)

*Great Master Wan Ho, A bbot of the Wing Kung Temple of the Greater V dhide of the Message of the Bodhisattva*

**DIPLOMACY** Assam (^ch), Gaur (^ch), Gouangxi (^ab), Palas (^ch)



The open break with the Manchus over religious policy inspired the monks of the Realm to bend their backs to throw up more fortifications on the road from Kai’ching. The Grand Master also hired several troops of Turkish lancers and dragoons to protect the holy precincts of Fusan. Some of the public latrines were also given a new coat of paint.

At the same time, Wan Ho bent every power at his command to regaining control over the Buddhist temple clergy in Manchu lands – and his efforts (persecuted with commendable zeal) found some success in the rural areas, away from the cities where the Blue Jade priests held sway.

Wild rumors, meantime, continued to run rampant in Fusan about the unexpected discovery of a ‘holy book’ which had been found in one of the stupas. The boy who had found the book was gone, as were many of the janitors and attendants. The cold-faced monk Shao Chi (who normally wielded a rattan cane upon the backsides of the novices) was placed in charge of ‘security’ in the holy city. His men were soon everywhere, questioning merchants, pilgrims and uncouth fellows of all types.

Efforts to expand the influence of the Realm in the south continued, particularly by the priest Cho Sung “the sailor” who took two swift, Japanese-built frigates, down into south Indian waters and visited the islands of Palawan and the Andamans before reaching Awaz in Palas. But while that got a lot of press in the Qing papers, the unfortunate and embarrassing incident of Ah Mon and the Seven Virgins of Kweichou was hushed up and everyone hoped it would be soon forgotten – particularly the monk Ah Mon, who was languishing in a Qing provincial jail.

**THE MANCHU MONGOL EMPIRE** (Buddhist, Harbin in Shangtu)

*Jian Zhan, regent for...*

*The Dread Lord Manchu Tun Wei, King of Kings, the God-Personified, The Eternally Victorious and Divine Emperor of the Middle Kingdom, the Celestial Emperor, Smiter of the Barbarians, The Bulwark of Civilization, The Son of Heaven, Most Favored of Bodhisattva, The Supreme Master of the Universe Before Whose Feet the Craven Qing Grovel, The Son of Heaven, the Divine Light of Wisdom, Gurkhan of Khitai, Lord of the Tribes, Beloved of his People, The Mandhu, Merciless Destroyer of all those who talk Too*

*Much, The Big One, With the Skillz to Pay the Billz,  
Mackinest Pimp Daddy*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Despite the foolery of the Imperial family, the Manchu economy continued to surge. The cities of Kai'ching (in Koguryo), Adak (in Anshan) and Shenyang (in Liao-Tung) all expanded. Fresh regiments of riflemen were also raised in Harbin at the direct command of the regent Jian Zhan. Soon after, the Regent arrived in Harbin and secured the palace and all public buildings with his veterans from the fighting in the Ice. A swift, merciless purge followed – rumors were rampant of cultic infiltration, Byarnist agitators and other foreign elements in the capital.

At the same time, the Regent promulgated an edict making prostitution legal, taxed and under the administration of an Imperial bureau. Those 'flower girl' purveyors who did not fall into line were dragged out of their loudly-colored carriages and beheaded. (Jian Zhan was fond of beheadings). A similar fate awaited anyone foolish enough to possess an Orange Catholic bible or to discuss the contents thereof.

In the far north, Field Marshal Wai Zhing-Lu continued his campaigns against the Ice tribes by launching a foray into Mongol (the sacred, ancient home of the Manchu!). After skirmishing with the locals, however, his forces reached the hoary ruins of Khanbalik without actually encountering anyone. This was because the chieftain of the Mongols, Babur, had cleverly decamped with his tribesmen and warriors into Buryat and the newly-Ice-free lands beyond the Black Lake. Zhing-Lu, therefore, established himself in **Khanbalik** and his troops began rebuilding among the ruins.

In 1762, however, Babur returned from the west with the massed armies of the Tatars, Angarans and so forth. The Ice Tribes had had enough of being pushed around! The 14,000 Manchurians, busy in the city, were taken by surprise when thirty thousand angry nomads stormed out of the mist of a late spring rain and into the revetments and lines of the Manchu camp. A ferocious melee followed as the southerners scrambled to their guns amid a rain of black-fletched arrows, the screams of the dying and the wailing war-cries of the tattooed Icemen.

Babur's attack out of the rain was a masterstroke. The Manchu gunners had wet powder and there was no time to savage the attacking nomads with artillery – and at close quarters, the swords, axes and lances of the Icemen were a match or more for the dirks and bayonets of the Manchu riflemen. Worse for the southerners, the initial Icemen charge clove directly through their lines, overran the artillery battery and forced Zhing-Lu to fight with his army in two embattled sections.

Babur's forces then proceeded to annihilated the Manchurian army in detail, killing Zhing-Lu and taking thousands of demoralized southerners as captives (whose gruesome fate is best left to the imagination, but let's say the cook-pots of the Icemen were filled with simmering, hearty stew for months afterwards...)

Bickering with the Pure Realm continued. Zhan solidified his control of the local clergy, mostly fended off efforts by the Realm to restore their influence in his domain and called a massive conclave of the Blue Jade priests and monks, which agreed upon a new emphasis for the faith and new liturgy, prayers and practice in the temples. On the other hand, Pure Realm priests *were* once more allowed to pass unmolested through Manchu lands, as long as they did not act like 'stoopid monkeys' (Zhan made a funny 'ook ook ook!' sound while relating this to the Realm ambassador.)

**KHANATE OF GURVAN**

*Baylak, noyan-khan of the Jihadi*

**DIPLOMACY** None

With absolutely no assistance coming from their Moslem neighbors, the Gurvan found themselves in a sticky situation. The might of Judea would only grow unchecked while the limited numbers of the tribesmen would shrink. Still, the Hsia-Hsia had plunged into the heart of the enemy, giving Baylak time to retire to the secret oases of Gurvan and Gaxun Nur to rebuild his army.

The noyan-khan was outraged to learn that Catholic missionaries (adapting to circumstance and martyrdom, as they always do) were infiltrating Gaxun Nur and slowly, steadily converting the tribesmen there to the infidel religion. He retaliated by ravaging the Judean province of Ordos while the Chin were off chasing the Hsia-Hsia.

In the south, the Hsia-Hsia separated into two smaller forces and scattered from Shan'si with all the speed their steppe-ponies could muster, hoping to avoid the avalanche of Judean troops sure to converge on the captured province.

**THE KINGDOM OF PRESTER JOHN**

(Maclan in Tuhnwhang)

*Megan Corrigan, Khagan of Karakocha, The White Goddess, Wolf-Sister of the A Itai*

**DIPLOMACY** Datong Shan (^t)

Keeping a wary eye on the fighting in the east, the Queen shooed away a clutch of Gurvanite emissaries, sending them home

empty-handed. She then turned her attentions to the construction of a postal road south-east from Anxi in Yumen into Suzhou, as well as improvements to the public facilities in Maclan itself.

Herdsmen in the high meadows of Tien Shan reported seeing queer darting lights around the mountaintops. Some of the Queen's men rode up from Karakocha to investigate, but found no signs of airship landings or Ice activity.

**THE DIVINE KINGDOM OF JUDAH** (Pienching in Honan)

*Wahu Chahi, The Hand of God, Champion of the Hosts of Christ, Celestial Emperor, hwey tlaetani*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Threatened by the incursion of the Hsia-Hsia, the Judeans rushed to fortify the cities of Beijing and Wen, as well as rallying a new army at Pienching to protect the capital. Enormous investments were made in cleaning up the cities of Angkang and Pienching. The Imperial capital, in fact, became the most modern, cleanest city on the planet and was filled with wonders like steam-powered elevators, hot water in every building, flush toilets and gas-lamp lighting on the streets. The cost was borne, in the main, by a truly staggering series of loans the Hand of God exacted from the banks.

The Emperor, meantime, marched his army south from Kin with all speed. Several 'paper' divisions were sent fluttering into Yun, but Wahu Chahi himself raced to reach Yan'an before the Hsia-Hsia could burst out of the Shansi highlands. At the same time, his son Jui-Yen marched hard from the west, through Kansu and Shensi to meet up with his father. In the east, General Aimi in Bao-Ding moved cautiously south, hoping to meet up with General Seei's fresh corps moving up from Pienching. Admiral Lee, for his part, clogged the Huang Ho with his light river boats, hoping to prevent the nomads from crossing the river into the south.

In the east, the Hsia-Hsia struck into Bao Ding and headed towards Lu'an. General Aimi, having met up with Seei's forces in Hopei, now marched back north in pursuit. By great good luck, the nomads had halted in the hinterlands of Lu'an to reshoe their horses and gather forage. This allowed the hard-marching Judeans to engage the Hsia in battle near **Pangshan**. Against 23,000 Judean



regulars with air support, the seven-thousand-odd nomads had little chance save flight... but Aimi's swift deployment robbed them of escape. The Hsia force was annihilated and the fields strewn with their bones.

To the west, things weren't quite going so well for the Emperor (who was not nearly as decisive or skilled on the field of battle as Aimi). He had reached Huang and joined his son in time to learn of the second Hsia force entering Houma. They marched east, but failed to trap Khan Jargay against the river (the Hsia *had* tried to cross over, but Lee's ships stopped them), and the nomads dashed east into Hopei instead.

There they found the citizens fleeing into Kaifeng in a great panic, as Seei and Aimi were off to the north. Taking advantage of the general confusion, Jargay captured the great Bridge of Heaven over the river and was in Imperial Honan before anyone could stop him. The Emperor was furious, finding the bridge burning down to the pilings as his tired, footsore army arrived under the walls of Kaifeng. Luckily, the mayor of Pienching itself had the wit to order the gates closed, and Jargay's raiders rode past – staring in wonder at the enormous walls, vast towers and redoubts, as well as the obvious opulence of the city behind the fortifications.

They did loot and burn what they could, but Lee's river-boats were already ferrying Prince Jui-yen's cavalry army across the Huang Ho at a frenzied rate. The Hsia now tried to double-back along the southern bank of the Ho and make a dash for the Imperial Highway in Shantung, but Jui-yen's zeppelins were dogging their steps day and night. The Hsia rear-guard clashed with the advance elements of Jui-yen's force at **Mian'chi**.

The Judean force was strung out along the roads, however, and Jargay was able to swing his horsemen, concentrate on the lead Judean regiments and give them a thrashing before breaking contact. Jui-yen's vanguard reeled back, but regrouped with gratifying speed. Jargay did not let up, continuing to flee west and pulled away from the slow-footed Chin.

The Emperor, for his part, had turned his massive army back around and headed back west as well. Unfortunately for him, there was no Imperial Highway through Houma, so Jargay managed to reach Kansu (ducking around the Qing garrison of Xian, which happened to be stuffing their faces with barbecued pork by the pound at Honorable Hon's when his horsemen thundered past<sup>1</sup>) before the Hand's forces could catch up. Prince Jui-yen, however, *did* catch them in the western foothills. This time a ferocious, toe-to-toe fight exploded at **Longxi**. Trapped and unable to run, the Hsia were obliterated, but not before they bled the Judean army white as a bone. The Prince's cavalry army lost nearly half its strength in the long chase and the two battles.

But the Moslem raiders had been driven from the confines of the Empire.

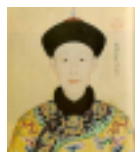
## GREAT QING CHINESE EMPIRE

(Wuhan in Hupei)

*Qianglong Yu-shen, Emperor of China, Hammer of the Barbarians, the Redeemer, Divine Son of Heaven*

**DIPLOMACY** Annam (locals angered)

The Emperor amused himself with handing out dribs and drabs of favor (and money) to dozens of projects underway in the capital and surrounding cities, but never quite enough to see any of them reach completion with speed. Work continued on the rail line up from the south, and now (with the Imperial government quashing the speculators and corrupt officials) the first section



from Kwangchou in Kwangsi to Wuzhou in Lingtung was complete. The white-eye gwailo project to make all the milk cans in the country the same size and shape was also finished, though everyone was very suspicious about the putative results.

Spontaneous demonstrations flowered across the northern cities of Qing in support of the Pure Realm, filling the streets with thousands of marching supporters waving banners, chanting, banging drums and throwing flowers in the air. The Realm priests, who had been feeling a little embattled of late, took heart from the effusion of love and support and bent their backs to the great task with renewed vigor.

Paltry efforts began in the Barren Lands to reclaim the provinces of Taiping, Chekiang, Fukien and Kiangsi. Vast quantities of rice, millet, wheat and preserved yams were dispatched to the Persians, Hosogawans and Australs. General Heshan returned from the ferocious western mountains and made a desultory foray up along the Judean border to watch for the Gurbanites. They didn't see any, which was lucky for the Qing.

The Qing squadrons based at Palankawi sortied north into the Andaman Sea and attempted to move a large army up the Brahmaputra River towards Gtsang. Unfortunately their heavy transports almost immediately ran around on the river's shoals and sandbars. As a result, General Dihn Duy was forced to detach Joo Siah, his second in command, with crews to drag the trapped ships free and return them to Awaz. Luckily, an alliance had recently been brokered between the Thai and the Qing, so the crews and ships were not impounded.

Now afoot (save for a few smaller transports capable of navigating the shallow river), Duy and his men pressed north, slogging through Palas and Assam and – finally! – into Gtsang. Duy was a little concerned when he failed to encounter a second Qing army (that of the Duke of Lingsi) which had been planning to cross the mountains from Tz'uk'an. However, the Lingsi-men did not show up.

Still puzzled, the Qing engineers immediately set about building a settlement (to be called **Nimhan**) in freshly cleared jungle at the highest point on the Brahmaputra their river-boats could reach. Several months after arriving, while in the middle of construction, the emir of Gtsang and all his feudal levies launched a surprise assault on the camp during a torrential nighttime downpour. The kukri-knife wielding Gurkhas were across the perimeter fences and into the gun-pits and barracks before the Qing soldiers even knew they were under attack.

A terrible melee followed, with the Gtsangi slaughtering the sleepy Qing workers, burning every building they could set alight with oil and pitch, spiking the Chinese guns and generally running rampant. Panicked, the Qing fled south, into the jungle and forest, hunted like Hindoomen by the vicious Gurkhas. By stupendous luck, Dhin Duy managed to reach the Thai garrison at Leakai safely, followed by scattered bands of his infantry and cavalry, but all the workers had been slaughtered and he'd lost his entire artillery battery.

The Duke of Lingsi, meantime, had failed to find a pass through the stupendous mountains between Tz'uk'an and Gtsang, and lacking the engineers to ford the four mighty gorges blocking his path, returned home to see his wife.

## SOUTH ASIA

Mercenaries	Minimum bid listed in [x].
Condotieri	30c 30i 10a 5s [1gp each]
Captains	Gemish Huorn (M956) [5gp]
To hire, please contact...	None

<sup>1</sup> This indicates the Qing army of all Heavy troops failed to react fast enough to the light cavalry passing through the province at a gallop.

**THE THAI EMPIRE** (Angkor Wat in Khemer)

*A yuthaya Blajak ay "Red Hand", Emperor of the Thai, Lord of Khemer*

**DIPLOMACY** No apparent effect

The Red Hand continued to accumulate an ever-larger personal guard in Angkor. Saigon in Phan Rang expanded a level. Not content with three or four heirs, the Emperor took *another* wife – Indradevi – and set about getting her pregnant. In this he was successful, which was a surprise to everyone but the beatific Indradevi, who (while only eighteen) was no fool.

An enormous complex of steel-rolling mills, workshops and foundries were built in Angkor Wat by the Pacific Manufacturing and Transport company for a rumored railroad project spanning the Thai domains. Realm priests also continued to labor in the newly conquered provinces of Bengal – the city of Leakai in Assam was converted to Buddhism, and (despite fierce resistance) Samatata was sliding the same way.

Despite ferocious resistance on the part of the citizenry, a diplomatic mission under the leadership of Lord Ong-yai was successful in easing tensions there a little bit. The Thai Foreign Ministry hailed this as a great success, which it was.

**HOSOGAWA BORNEO** (Kozoronden in Sabah)

*Hosogawa Suenaga, Daimyo of Kozoronden*

**DIPLOMACY** None

The Hosogawa fleet toiled around between the islands, visiting the various port towns and trying the fried duck. The number of Oroist priests on the streets of the bustling towns of the kingdom increased by a marked amount.

**VERY PLEASANT JAVA** (Sunda in Pajajaran)

*Wili III, Great Kahuna of Java, Emperor of the Maori, the Sea Spear*

**DIPLOMACY** Mendung in Jambi (^f)

The Kahuna was pleased to attend his son Dale's coming of age ceremony, which lasted four days and nights of revelry and serious contemplation of the waves off Ueno Point. Too, the steel guitar was in evidence, and drumming. The Kahuna and Dale also discussed, at length, a religious tome which had lately come into the hands of the prince. It spoke truly of the wave, the ocean and the shark which glides below. As yet, however, these new words from the maw of Oro had not reached the populace.

Elsewhere, the island seas were quiet save for the main fleet relocating forward to the island city of Singapore hard upon the Malacca Strait.

**THE SUPREME PRIMACY OF ORO** (Fukuzawa in Irith)

*Horoku ne Muuta, High Priest of the Shark*

**DIPLOMACY** Palembang (^ch), Cooma (^ch)

Desperate to break the 'siege' of the Pyramid of Oro by the student rebels in the city of Fukuzawa, Horoku (in Singhasari at the time) hired every mercenary he could lay hands on and summoned them to the defense of the holy precincts. The tension in the city was only exacerbated, however, by the imminent arrival of the prophet Tengu from the west. The High Priest also rushed back to the Holy City (and he was not alone in this, as the Borang army was busily marching north to suppress the revolt as well...)

Food was smuggled into the Pyramid, allowing the priests there to continue to hold out.

For his part, Tengu continued to walk eastward, passing through lightly-settled Okora and into Yampi. As before, huge crowds gathered to hear him speak, but while many hearts were uplifted by his message, and some even took the time to consider

their faith in a new light, there were no mass conversions of the populace. Some of the faithful following along after Tengu began to think his message was too personal. If the corruption and moral laxity of the Oro priests was to be overcome, a stricter hierarchy and theological framework needed to be added to simple revelation.

The Yamapan lords (reinforced by many Oroist zealots from the south), however, were in no mood to brook the passage of such an obvious heretic, troublemaker and (doubtless) ally of the *Zengakuren* students making so much trouble in Fukuzawa. Tengu's party was ambushed in western Yampi, the 'faithful' scattered with a rattle of muskets and the prophet clubbed on the head and dragged off to prison.

Unfortunately for the pious landowners, Tengu took sick from the blow and perished only days later in a grimy, lightless hole of a cell. When news of this terrible turn of events escaped into the countryside, Tengu's followers scattered to the four winds. There was also rioting in the nearest town, which was brutally suppressed. Then everything quieted down... for the last few months of '61.

In 1762, however, the Tengu-faction suddenly burst into activity again – particularly in Okora and Oanx, where most of his 'followers' had fled. This time the message of the prophet was carried by a hundred mouths, not just one, and they were filled with a burning zeal. By the end of the year, Oanx and Okora both had accepted *Tengu's Word* and religious violence was widespread. The pro-Borang rulers of both provinces were overthrown and they became independent.

**THE BORANG BAKUFU** (Sakuma in Borang)

*Izuryama Jemmu, Daimyo of Borang Lord of the North, Emperor of Austral*

**DIPLOMACY** Arukun (^ea), Aanx (^fa)

Despite the religious distractions in the north, Jemmu continued to expand the domains of his people. Countless settlers were dispatched to Yampi and Tarcoola, raising the GPv of both provinces to 2. The muddy streets of Sakuma (the daimyo's hometown, which was largely ignored by the government), grew even worse as the city grew a level. Arukun province became cultivated with the mass slash-and-burn of much of the coastal jungle.

Having been plagued *quite enough* by the Oro priests to do something about the Zengakuren rebels, Jemmu mustered his entire main army, gathered up two of his younger sons (Chuhen and Masataka) and marched north with grim intent. Arriving at Fukuzawa, he found the city held against him by rebellious students, the Oro priests compounds around the Pyramid defended by a rascally lot of Japanese and Javan mercenaries, and the westlands in religious ferment.

"Knock it down." Jemmu ordered his engineers, indicating the massive gates of **Fukuzawa**, as a squadron of airships buzzed over the town. "Then see order is restored in the city."

Sixty-thousand Bakufu troops deployed, swarming over the surrounding farms and fields, confiscating everything in sight, digging trenches across everyone's garden plots and throwing up a massive, encircling siege-line to contain the city. At the same time, lord Kahwazi's small fleet blockaded the port, allowing nothing in or out... the first Bakufu artillery barrage was not long in the offing, sending a rain of shells crashing down into the town.

The Zengakuren, meantime, had been digging their own bunkers, reinforcing the walls, casting every bell and bit of scrap iron in town into cannon and drilling their corps of volunteers like mad. "Liberty!" They cried, rushing to the ramparts. "An end to tyranny and slavery!"

Though their hearts were true, the Zengakuren defenders were literally swamped by the massive numbers of the Bakufu troops and

guns. Less than five months of siegework were necessary to breach the walls, storm inside and mop up the resistance. Mass arrests and deportations followed, to ensure the rebellious elements did not rejoin. Jemmu was quite pleased, though his two sons were a little put out at his demands they lead their men from the front ranks.

**NANHAI WANG'GUO** (Rabaul on Bismarck)  
*Sugawara Te Anu, Daimyo of the Southern Seas*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Having secured the southern islands stolen from them by Ming connivance a decade ago, the Nanhai fleet returned to Rabaul victorious.



Te Anu was quite pleased, for the capture of the rich southern islands gave the economy a needed boost. The death of his feckless son Nu Henho on the return voyage, while lamentable, was no cause for grief in the Imperial household.

**TE NIHO O ORO** (Kenehold on Dajarra)

*Hatipi, Spear of the Order of the Teeth*

*Tak atokino, Lord of the Fleet, Emperor of the Maori, Blessed of Oro, The Big Kahuna, Grand Captain of the Teeth of Oro*

**DIPLOMACY** Dajarra (^oh), Sabah (^oh), Camoweal (^oh)

While the Borang shogun was off slaughtering townsmen and radical student activists in Fukuzawa, the Te Niho settled in at Kenehold and various personages were dispatched to secure the few remaining direct possessions of the Order.

## CENTRAL ASIA AND INDIA

Mercenaries	Minimum bid listed in [x].
<b>Condotieri</b>	5c, 5i [1gp each]
<b>Captains</b>	Rajah of Vijashuram (M836) [5gp] Eon of Axum (MB45) [10gp]
<b>To hire, please contact...</b>	None
<b>Quality Ratings</b>	i16 w20 s17 c11 a13

Hussite Mercenaries	Minimum bid listed in [x].
<b>The Hussite Legion</b>	Shea, 6i [2.0 gp each], based at Bhuj on Kutch Island.
<b>Captains</b>	Robert Clive (M757) [5gp]
<b>To hire, please contact...</b>	Albanian East India Company
<b>Quality Ratings</b>	c12 i15 a14 w17 s20

“O drunken friends of mine, bring the wine of the Dawn and let’s drink!”  
Surrounded by roses, the nightingale sang this song each night.  
This bitter wine that the Sufi calls the mother of all grief and pain  
Is a far sweeter wine than even a virgin’s kiss.  
If your life has hit hard times, go to the Winehouse and enjoy some wine.  
This elixir can turn even a beggar’s meager fortune into gold.  
If it’s fame and fortune you desire thath seems always just out of reach,  
Try and change that if you can, but remember destiny.  
If the Musician threw a party for all those who loved this ghazal,  
Everyone who was pure of heart would dance as He played this song.  
The gentle ones who speak only in sweet Persian are the true life-givers.  
Wineseller, tell this to all the old teachers and saints, and tell the press;  
This is something that should be written up as news!

~ Hafiz

**EMIRATE OF THE CHANDELLAS** (Bundelkand in Chandela)

*Kuhman Singh, prince of Bundelkhand, Lion of the North*

**DIPLOMACY** Pundra (^a)

Things were quiet and peaceful in Chandellan lands.

**SHI'A IMAMAT** (Yathrib in Kosala)

*Rhemini, A yatollah of the Shi'a, Voice of Allah*

**Lords of the Earth, Campaign One, Turn 216**

**DIPLOMACY** Seylan (^ab)

The Imam continued to struggle even to pay for mosque upkeep and candles. Things were not going well for the Moslems in east India...

**THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE** (Amon Hen in Karnata)

*Robert of Kakatiya, King of the South*

**DIPLOMACY** Nasik (~fa)

The economic domination of India by the Albanian East India Company continued to gather steam – the lords of the League shipped off every spare grain of wheat and bolt of cloth they could squeeze from their estates to the Kashmir House. In return, King Robert (his councils now dominated by the wily Joseph of Satava) struggled to centralize the League’s administration. Efforts by Joseph to have King Robert name him as heir, however, failed due to the interference of Baron Thoros of Gangas. It was becoming very clear, that with the threat of war lifted from the land, the great potentates of the south were girding themselves for an internal scuffle...

**THE REALM OF ARNOR** (Schwarzkastel in Edrosia)

*Peregrin von Hessen, Rajah of India, Duke of Delhi,*

*Grand-Duke of A ballach, Prince of the Black Tower*

**DIPLOMACY** Chitor (^f), Tarain (^f)

After being plagued by dreams of financial collapse of an almost hallucinatory power, the Duke of Arnor continued to indulge his aristocratic lifestyle, leaving the day to day affairs of state to the Clive government. “I dreamed I didn’t have a pot to piss in and had to eat gruel! It was a damned nightmare! But when I woke up in my silk sheets, I blessed the good Lord for his favor.”



The Clive government received huge sums from Thessalonica despite some financial confusion concerning the Qing Imperial bank, and massive agricultural developments led to an increase in not only such staples as grain, but also opium, always a popular item with Albanian clients. Peregrin himself spent much of his time crossbreeding various strains of opium, eventually perfecting the “Peregrin’s Own Medicinal Black Tower Tar”, which bore the Duke’s grim visage stamped the tin, and declared itself a cureall for insomnia, aches and pains, nervous tension, and dementia! It soon became a staple for every traveling medicine show from the Japans to Mexico, and the Arnori could not manage to keep the stuff in stock, and while popular every where, demand proved especially high in the Spanish territories. Indeed, all of Europe, having quite a case of “continental psychosis”, proved Arnor’s best market, and the Von Hessen fortunes were somewhat restored.

Needless to say, given all the product testing and scientific “inquiry” that the Duke and his court undertook, it was something of a small wonder that Peregrin managed to find the energy to not only visit Tarain after sending some small funds to the Baluchistani rebels, but also found a wife for his younger son, Saul. The Tarainian Duke, so impressed with the potency of “Peregrin’s Own”, found it very easy to sign over the feudal rights to his territory lock stock and barrel to the Duke, as did Baron Amesson of Chitor, who took up painting after investing heavily in a very successful absinthe distillery business. Some of his paintings were bought by the Clive government, being termed by the Governor general, who fancied himself something of an aesthete, as “splendidly hallucinatory and definitely in keeping with the Indian spirit of today”. Several were packed off to Europe as gifts to various European and Asian personalities, Nicholas Argir, Eleuthios Venizelos, and Emperor Qianglong among them. The Qing Emperor was said to be extremely impressed with “Deadman

in Schwarzcstel", but most agreed that nothing could top "Hanuman's Army", which depicted monstrous bayonet wielding apes, multicolored and darkly gigantic, savaging Iranian soldiers in the Indian jungles, but Clive kept that in his own office in Kanauj right above his desk. Indeed, the works of Amesson and his protégés would become known as the "Arnori school", and prove quite desirable among the wealthier art connoisseurs of the world.

A less publicized, yet perhaps more important revolution, was heralded by the Duke's granting of religious rights for temple worship to the Hindu peasantry, so long as it did not prove "overly raucous or extravagant". This, the Duke claimed, was to recognize the solidarity of the Hindu peasants with their Hussite rulers in the face of the Iranian invasion. Quiet celebrations were held throughout the land in the verdant countryside and squalid cities, as no government had permitted the open practice of the Hindu faith in India for over two centuries. No Brahmin had dared imagine that such a day as this might arrive for many more lifetimes, nor dreamed that Peregrin Von Hessen should prove to be the benefactor of their people. The chattering masses speculated that Peregrin, worn down by the succession of disasters, had perhaps grown less intemperate in the years since his sudden downfall and gained some small measure of wisdom. Or perhaps, said the more cynical, he spent most of his time so deeply mired in his opium "experimentation" that he no longer cared.

Just when the religious situation in the Duke's lands seemed to be settling down, a number of troupes of Buddhist monks (not the Pure Realm glad-handers swarming into the Bengal, no, but a particularly smarmy brand of Qing toadies) began popping up in Somantha, New Delhi and Kalanjara. Once it became clear these monks were missionaries bent on subverting the purity of Hussite women and children, they were driven from those cities with fire, stones and the sword. Hundreds of Qing apologists died and the rest were scattered and hunted like dogs by the local gentry.

"Fine sport, wot?" The mutton-chopped Hussite landlords were heard to say, dragging the mutilated bodies of a few more 'yellow-backs' into their fortified compounds. Of course, the local Moslem and Hindu peasants had no time for these Chin troublemakers, either, which led to a very short and unpleasant life for the emissaries.

#### **KINGDOM OF BALUCHISTAN** (Multan in Sukkur)

*John A braham, Lord of the Indus, Protector of the Faith*

#### **DIPLOMACY** None

The precarious state of the Baluchi kingdom plunged directly off the side of a cliff when the Kashmir House failed to deliver a great deal of money John Abraham needed to keep his government afloat. The fiscal collapse afflicting the Arnori also kept them from closing a land-grant deal which would have shifted Tarain to Arnori hands. With no cash on hand at all, the Baluchi army in Afghanistan rioted, King John was wounded, and then abandoned when everyone went home in disgust. The King then had a very narrow scrape getting out of Afghan lands with his head on his shoulders. The Durrani adherents captured the previous year seized back their capital once the Hussite dogs had fled.

Prince Solomon, who had headed back to Schwarzcstel to try and right the foundering ship of state, likewise fell into a dispute with his guardsmen on the road to Edrosia. His cavalry departed in disgust, after stealing his pistols and anything else of value. After slogging down miles of dusty road, Solomon reached the putative capital to find Duke Brevet of Tarain busily looting the government offices and packing everything off for sale.

Fighting erupted between Solomon and the few loyalists remaining. Brevet was seized and executed, but not before much

damage had been done. Both Queen Inaya and princess Irina were found hiding in a sewage tunnel, having nearly been sold to Moslem slave traders. Intermittent rioting in Schwarz blackened the sky with smoke. Luckily, Baron Gabor of Multan and Paikal of Punjab remained loyal to the crown, rescuing John Abraham from the Khyber and sending troops to restore order in the south.

Later, Peregrin of Arnor did cough up some cash for the province of Tarain, which was duly transferred. (And good riddance too, as the thief Brevet had done so poorly by Abraham's trust in him.)

## **CAPTAIN BASTABLE AND THE SKY CAT**

PART TWO ~ AS PRINTED IN THE PUNJOOB TIMES

The interior of craft is like nothing the platoon has seen before. There are gagets and whatnots strewn everywhere, tables and chairs, counters, readouts, port holes. Readouts, but nothing is familiar and yet all is seemingly comprehensible, it's not even Greek. *Oh what a disaster waiting to happen* thinks Bastable as he to steps up into the compartment, curiosity getting the better of him.

"First off, nobody push any buttons, okay," firmly commands the good Captain.

"Sir, best take a lookie at this, I think we found the owner", cries Sor Teb. Before him, seated in a massive cushioned chair near the front of the craft are the skeletal remains of, "What in bloody hell is that, sir? It looks to have been bi-pedal, but what sort of cat walks on two legs, for the head is definitely cat-like, but criikee look at these teeth, what kind of cat was this?" And look at this clothes, what kind oh cat wears a that?"

The remains are clothed in a what appears to be a set of one-piece all covering material with a light yellow sheen, a dagger is sheathed on it's left and what at first glance a pistol of sorts is holstered on the right. The crossbow bolt sticking out of the chest area the most likely cause of untimely death for this.....person?

"Rakshasa sahib, rakshasa," repeats Coporal Chullander in superstitious dread, a native born Indian, he oftens relates tales to the lads to while away the time. Tales of this and that, tales of more terrible and scary India. India today is a violent crazed land, but well, fairy tales have a habit of being based in truth here.

"It's for sure dead, whatever it was", exclaims Father Lorne as he nudges it with the cross bow he stills carries.

"Rakshasa or not, I wonder how it all came to be here in this down below", speculates Lt. Gillon. "And what shall we do with all this? The Company will no doubt wish to learn all it can here, sir, bonus' all around I should think lads, I like me money that's for sure".

"Right, well let's be about it then," bestiring himself back to command, Captain Bastable begins a survey of the craft and it's contents while also directing a team to set up a perimeter guard outside the craft.

A quick trip through the vessel reveals that there about six chambers all in all: the main command area, two private cabins, a communal head, galley, and a large storage area. No other remains are discovered. That done, the team begins to do the tricky work of minutely examining the interior.

"What shall we do with the cat, sir" inquires Sgt. Ravston.

"I guess we can move it outside, sure why not", replies Bastable. "Move it with respect. Johnny".

"Got you there, sir" affirms the good Sgt. "Blake, Teb, go grap a crate lid and let's move this out of here." intones the non-com.

Turning to the remains Ravston begins to see how it can be moved while the others continue looking through the vessel. Thinking to himself, *I guess the bolt will have to come out then, otherwise it stays stuck to the chair.*

Soon the two soldiers return with some boarding for a temporary stretcher and the respectfully move the bones piece by piece to it, the bolt falls out during this transfer. Blake and Teb gingerly move down the length of the vessel and out, as the move through the hatch with their burden a soft chime sounds near the bow of the craft. Everyone ducks, as many lights come on throughout the craft and slight humming sound, which slowly increases in volume, is heard near the rear.

"Shit, I told you all not to touch nothing," yells an outraged Bastable.

"We didn't sir, it was when the boys carried out them bones that everything started up, maybe there was some start-up gizmo on the clothes the thing was wearing" answered Lt. Gillon.

"Maybe this ship has a get go kind of like those statues react to your starstone", opined the good friar.

"Well, no matter what we don't know nothing about this vessel, grap papers and or books anything that looks like it might be a logbook then everybody off!" firmly commands Bastable.

Dutifully the remaining team members disembark after a brief salvage operation. Meanwhile, "Cat" as Sgt Ravston has started calling the ship continues what can only be called a power up phase as the amazed team members stand gawkingly about. Lights have come on throughout the vessel's interior and various ones outside as well, dull rumbling is heard far above the group and a shaft of light suddenly descends into the gloomly cavern. This sends the team running for cover as stuff from high above falls towards them.

*Thank you Captain you have freed my spirit. I can now rest, in peace as some would say,* whispered an ethereal voice in Captain Bastable's mind.

"What who said that?" Demanded the startled officer.

"No one said anything sir", replied Chullander.

*I wish to reward you Captain Oswald Bastable of the Hussite Legion,* continued the whisperer. Suddenly where Lt. Gillon stands near the cat remains there is sudden glow then a small blast of heated air, and all that remains of the skelton is a skull, a gleaming metallic sheen to it.

Startled the crew gathers round, curiosity getting the upper hand over a soldier's caution.

*Pick it up, and return to the ship,* suggests the other worldly voice.

As in a dream Bastable reaches down to pick up the skull, but before he can retrieve the artifact Friar Loren bowls him over.

"My pardon Captain, but what the hell are you doing? This is a little to strange to be handling, least of all without gloves, I should say," declares the Cleric.

"Hey, why did you do that? What are we all doing here, what happened?" a sheepish Bastable replies.

"Come on Captain", replies Sor Teb, "You was taking about somebody saying something then this here thing shows up".

"Someone said we were to be rewarded for releasing a spirit, I was to return this to the ship" states Oswald in a meek response.

*Men of the Legion, I am Lior,* intoned the thought. And all could hear. *You have freed me, for this before I sleep I wish to reward you.*

"Rakshasa, rakshasa, rakshasa," repeats a very scared Chullander as he backs away from the skull, "Leave it, it is death", he hisses.

*He is wrong,* chimed Lior, *I mean you no harm, here is my reward, this place, these things, this ship, "Oba Rahl", I shall teach you how to fly it, with it you may journey home.*

"Home"? queried Lt. Gillon, "India is home, what home do you speak of?"

*Why Mars of course Sustus Gillon,* returned Lior.

"Mars?" a stunned group of soldiers stood dazed as they all shared an ancestral memory, or dream of a once lush verdant landscape that was slowly dying for no known reason. Ships, large and small, many ships ferrying a fleeing people, and what people, humans and cat like folk, giants, elf-like beings, and many others all boarding ships, or walking through gates, to carry many away from Mars.

*Yes Mars, our ancestral home, it still lives, not as it was, but still enough to support many.* Lior answered, *Return this object to the ship, I shall reveal all.*

"No trickster", growled Corporal Chullander, still remembering the tales of his youth, "you would enslave us, as you enslaved my people in earlier times, no Captain, have it tell all now".

Overcoming his awe at speaking with an animate skull, "Very well, tell us Lior, and tell us no lies, less we name you Liar instead," queried the good Captain.

**SHAHDOM OF AFGHANISTAN** (Kabul in Afghanistan)  
*A hmad Durani, Shah of the Afghans, Lord of Kabul*  
**DIPLOMACY** None



Unlike the benighted Baluchis, the Afghans were able to secure loans and grain from the

Persian state which let Ahmad pay his troops and keep things more-or-less together. The dissolution of the Hussite army at Kabul was surely the grace of Allah, allowing Durani to enter the city in the spring of '61, victorious and acclaimed by cheering crowds. Queen Zuhra was very happy to greet her husband and see peace restored to the land.

Late in '62, a pair of Union-built airships appeared in the dusty skies over Kabul and settled to a landing at the freshly built aerodrome near the farming village of Bagram, just outside the city. These two brand-new zeppelins had been acquired by the young captain Abdul Ahad Mohmed, who had made a dangerous journey east to secure them from Baghdad.

**KINGDOM OF THE KUSHANS** (Astakana in Kush)  
*Bujayapendra, Blessed of Vishnu, prince of Astakana*  
**DIPLOMACY** Ferghana (^nt)

As ever, the Kushans minded their own business. Efforts were made to purchase grain, dried fruit, cotton and silk from the Ferghanese, with only paltry effect.

**THE KNIGHTS OF TAMERLANE** (Bukara in Turkmen)  
*Bukharm A l'Qadir, Grand Master of the Tamerhadeen*  
**DIPLOMACY** Ahvaz (^oh), Kashgar (^oh), Khwarzim (~un)



Hat in hand, Bukharm abased himself before the Persian Finance Ministry, and was rewarded with enough coin to keep his pilgrim-knights in shoes, prayer mats and hummus for another year or two. The turn of circumstance was galling in the extreme, but there was Allah's will to be done and that made things a little more palatable. A little.

A haggard rider arrived from the east, bearing news from the deserts on the edge of ancient Chin. The Grand Master listened politely – his heart moved by the plight of the Gurvanites in their long struggle against the infidel Christians who dominated the Middle Kingdom – but knew the order was still too poor and weak to venture *jihad* against Judea. Not yet, at any rate.

Poor Mahmoud al'Basrah continued to languish in a Baluchi prison. Hahmad bin Subir (a recently elevated commander in the Order) was dispatched to Khwarzim to establish a greater presence there. Unfortunately for the Knights, no sooner than Hahmad had arrived than violence broke out in the city between certain Ismali'i adherents and the Knights. The Knights responded vigorously, knocking down many doors, arresting all the Ismali'i followers they could find and generally wrecking things. Though they were successful, they also cost themselves the good will of the citizens.

In the east, Giv Gudarz led most of the Knights themselves in a foray up the valleys of Ferghana, where they smacked around the local princes, shot up some houses, arrested random people and then released them and forced the local villages to pay them tribute.

### THE NOBLE HOUSE OF TEWFIK

(Al'Harkam in Carmania)

*Tewfik Saul, Purveyor of Hand-lettered Korans in velvet*

**DIPLOMACY** Amon Sul in Chola (^ma), Antioch in Aleppo (^mf), Recife in Palicur (^mf), New Marseilles in New France (^ma), St. Laurent in Camopi (^ma)



The noble house delivered a pair of brand-spanking new zeppelins (fresh from the factories at Al-Harkam) to the Qing governor of Mei'guo, as well as a coterie of technicians, mechanics and navigators. Large sums were received in exchange, which (given recent events in India) made certain Albanians hopping mad. The Qing port also soon entertained a small Carthaginian aerosquadron which had (furtively) made the passage across the Red Sea to ferry Emiress Ye Geema to visit her kinsmen at the Chinese outpost.

A dispute arose in Antioch over attempts by the Noble House to seize control of the civil administration, resulting in attacks on warehouses, agents and the general destruction of Company property there. The Company then protested to the Union government, but received no satisfactory reply.

### THE SAFAVID PERSIAN EMPIRE

(Semnan in Khurasan)

*Safi Bahram "the bold", Khan of Khans, Shahanshah of Persia, Prince of Bukhara, Caliph of the East*

**DIPLOMACY**

The business of Persia being business, the Shah made sure the towns of Shankar, Dzambul and Nasiriyah were fortified. He also raised several thousand new troops to patrol the capital streets. There was trouble afoot...



Some façade of normality began to reassert itself at the court of the Shah Bahram (though everyone was atwitter by his decision to employ a company of Sikhs as bodyguards), what with the campaign to suppress banditry in Persia itself and the settlement of the latest brushfire in India. Bahram seemed very pleased with the near-disintegration of the Baluchi state, the restoration of the Durrani dynasty in Kabul, the poverty of the Arnori and the general pallor of exhaustion which had fallen over India.

"Now commerce can resume," he declared with a broad smile. And indeed, countless ships thronged to Persian ports from the

fabled east, filled with grain, silk, gold, silver and all manner of spices, condiments and luxury goods.

Numerous mullahs were dispatched to far Arabia to remonstrate with those in the Holy Places who might have fallen under the ungodly sway of the Book. Unfortunately, they all fell ill, got lost or otherwise perished on their way to Tihamat and Safajah.

And in Mecca, where daily prayers at the Kaba continued, but now with certain added liturgy and prayers, many men were seen riding out of the dusty city, heading in all directions. They spoke fervently on the road to Damascus, and found eager ears in Safajah, Dahy and Asir.

The Bold Shah marched an army of 60,000 men south and into Persia itself, where he intended to *restore order* in that troubled province. Against such overwhelming odds, the local *diquans* had no choice but to bow their heads to the Shah and pony up some tribute. Thus, peace was restored.

Well, save for in the port of Ufra, where a band of Danish brigands were still knocking about the town, breaking into shops and disturbing the locals. Indeed, things became so violent a mob of local citizens attacked the commander of the 'farangi' invaders, knocked down his guardsmen and then threw Captain Pannekoek down a well, where he proceeded to drown. Bereft of their leader and outraged, the Danish marines wrecked the town, set random buildings on fire, looted everything they could lay hands on and then sailed away.

### THE KARIDJITE IMAMAT (Baghdad in Mesopotamia)

*A li bin A bi Talib, kalifa of the Pure and the Faithful*

**DIPLOMACY** Carhae (^un), Mesopotamia (^mn), Ar-Raqqah in Mosul (^ab)

Much like their Shi'a cousins, the Karidjites continued to struggle just to make ends meet and establish a presence throughout the Union.

In the south, where the learned men of Mecca were spreading a new Word among the tribes, the shepherds in Asir stared at the sky in awe and then fear as dozens of airships swept over their barren and desolate land, heading east. Indeed, a large force of ARF and Swedish zeppelins seized a isolated valley in the mountains on the eastern side of the province and began sending patrols out into the vast wasteland beyond.

### THE ISLAMIC UNION (Ar-Raqqah in Mosul)

*A li A din, Sultan of A r-Raqqah, Prince of Mosul*

**DIPLOMACY**

In Akko, the Sultan appeared at the prison camp where the Danish soldiers were being held and opened the gates with his own hands. Wagons waited, filled with rifles, uniforms, ammunition... everything which had been stripped from the grizzled Hussite troopers. Ali Adin spoke to the soldiers, saying:

"Sons of Oniko.....You Matriarch and her dedicated resting place are still intact. You have not done a disservice to her memory or your country by surrendering to the vastly superior forces of the Islamic Union. I have discussed your fate with Eleutherios Venizelas Minister of the Senate and he and I have come to a resolution. As part of that resolution all of you will be assigned to the Tomb of Oniko to protect it. Do not fail in your responsibility to defend this facility from those who tread in the shadow. My people will not hinder your efforts and you should not obstruct the actions of the Islamic Union."



The city of Akko and the Tomb were once more under Danish guard, which was just in time as certain nefarious parties attempted to break into the tomb itself and steal away with the body of the Saint. Fortunately, the newly-reassigned Danish guards were particularly jumpy and intercepted the attackers. A lively gun-battle followed and the intruders were driven off.

The Sultan then traveled south to the ruins of Al'Quds (Jerusalem), where an enormous project was underway, the dusty old hill swarming with engineers and craftsmen like a termite hill. There, standing amid the ruins of the Dome of the Rock, he said:

"I have come to the lands of Levant and paid homage to my father and grandfather in the Al-Asqa temple. I have visited the Dome of the Rock, Dome of the Chain and the Dome of the Prophet, I have passed through the city and visited the Kharijite faithful. I am pleased that the land flows with the faith of Allah and thank you for your warm embrace. I must leave your lands and return to Ar-Raqqah because a great evil is rising again out of the desert. So great is the concern over the return of the Demon Sultans minions that I, Ali Adin, have agreed to peace with the Danish Republic. The Danish stewardship of Levant has not been overbearing on the Kharijite faithful and I am therefore returning the City of Akko to the Danish Republic. The Republic of Denmark in return for the removal of Union forces from the region grants the Union the rights to build in Al-Quds (Jerusalem). As the second holiest location in all of Islam and the home of some many of the faithful the Union has allocated a vast amount of resources to construction of the Dome of Wahb and the expansion and improvement of the Kharijite portion of the Holy City. The Republic of Denmark has also agreed that the Islamic Union should bear the responsibility for the defense of Al-Quds. So the Emir with his troop contingent bolstered by Union forces, which include a Regiment of Royal Guardsmen, will occupy the Holy City year round and protect the Dome of the Rock and the citizens of Al-Quds from this day forward. Do not look on this day and despair, the Islamic Union and the Kharijite faith will from this day forward stand out as a one of the preeminent religions in the Holy Land and from this day forward "we" will be responsible for the protection of our shrines rather than being at the mercy of "Christians". May Allah be praised and the light of the Kharijite faith burn brightly.

This done, Ali returned to Mosul, having brokered a peace with the Danes and secured access to the holy precincts of Jerusalem for all Moslems. He was also blessed with the birth of a son in late '62, which made him praise Allah with great praise. Unfortunately the hard-won peace would not last, for the long-simmering dispute with the Ethiops was burning hotter again.

I, Ali Adin, do formally denounce the tyrannical king of Ethiopia for his total disregard for the peace efforts put forth by the Islamic Union. In an effort to maintain peaceful relations with the "Free" Republic of Ethiopia the Islamic Union agreed to buy the province of Lebanon from Ethiopia for a substantial amount of money and agro-cultural output. Sadly the Ethiopian "President" Josiah Druame could not even let the ink dry before he ordered his agents to attempt to infiltrate the government of the Islamic Union. This action is a great insult and therefore I have decided to rescind the agreed upon settlement. If at some time in the future the Ethiopian Dictator wishes to publically apologize for his actions then I may reconsider paying the agreed on price for Lebanon.

An Afghan airship captain, accompanied by a coterie of guardsmen, arrived in '61 to retrieve two zeppelins completed several years previously at the Baghdad Airship Works. After fueling, some training and praying very religiously, they departed for the east. This was only part of the thriving zeppelin export business the Union was operating out of the enormous airship yards at Baghdad. The Honorable Afrika Company also picked up six top-of-the-line zeps from Aqaba.



Figure 1. The Dome of Wahb

With Jerusalem (Al'Quds, 'the Holy') firmly in Moslem hands once more, the Sultan bestowed enormous sums of money and vast numbers of laborers to rebuild the old city as a shining, modern metropolis and to refurbish the Dome of the Father (Wahb) and the entire temple mount precinct. The result was a glory to behold and as fine an example of modernist Arabic architecture as you are likely to find. The result in the modern world was to burnish the reputation of the Karidjites as protectors of the holy places and to elevate Ali Adin to almost that of a living saint.

And just out of common knowledge, emissaries arrived in Sinai to ensure the Word transmitted to the tribesmen of the Sinai was in accordance to that practiced in west Africa. There was some dispute, but the Al'Haggar men were convincing in their arguments.

**THE EXARCHATE OF TREBIZOND** (Cerkas in Abasigia)  
*Lars Vilhuna, Governor of Georgia, Prince of Cerkas, Exarch of the South*  
**DIPLOMACY** None

Peace, it seemed, was breaking out all over... while the middle east had sadly failed to burst into flames, things in Russia were also quieting down. The Vilhunas, finding themselves with little to hand but the old Exarchate in Anatolia, agreed to a reasonable peace with the Swedish Militarist government. Various treaties, of course, followed.

WHEREFORE the Empire of Swedish Russia has stood as a shining monument to the best natures of Man since time immemorial and,

WHEREFORE a division of opinion has arisen amongst the opinions of the Peoples of the Empire of Swedish Russia and, WHEREFORE those Peoples desire greatly that this division shall not shed the blood of their brothers of ancient and noble alliance,

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED that:

1. The Empire of Swedish-Russia and the Kalmar Parliamentarian Faction of the Empire agree to an immediate cessation of hostilities and the continuation of the Empire as before, but with certain southern territories to be given regional autonomy under the name of "The Exarchate of Trebizond."

2. In keeping with the ancient and beloved traditions of the Empire, the Kalmar Parliament shall be reconstituted as a bicameral legislature, the upper house (the Regency Council) of which shall have the power to elect the Exarch and to vote upon the election of the Swedish-Russian Emperor, and the lower house of which shall have the power to elect the Altkansler, or Prime Minister of the Exarchate.
3. Both the Empire and the Exarchate agree to cooperate on all matters of mutual concern, and to regard each other as two halves of one unalterable whole. This shall include the mutual sharing of information and giving the other the right of first refusal when selling agriculture.
4. Both the Empire and the Exarchate agree to a Mutual Defense Treaty, whereby the troops and peoples of the two shall travel freely across the lands of either and an attack on one shall be considered an attack upon the whole.
5. The Exarchate agrees to the peaceful and immediate turnover to the Empire of all territories now in its control which lie north of the Black Sea and/or the Baltic Sea. This includes all the cities in those territories except St. Sigurd.
6. The Exarchate will retain the city of St. Sigurd in Halland.
7. The Empire shall build a level 1 port city in a place of the Exarchate's choosing and then transfer control of that city to the Exarchate no later than turn 219. This is explicitly intended to be a distant location useful for trading, such as on the African or American coast.

TO THIS THEIR MOST CATHOLIC MAJESTIES attest and pledge their sacred honor:

Kjell Torsson, King of Sweden, Tsar of all the Russias  
Lars Vilhuna, Exarch of Trebizond, Prince of Cerkes

More to the point, the Vilhunas raised a new army in the south, almost entirely composed of Anatolians and settlers. Mindful of the woeful lack of bureaucracy in his new domain, Exarch Lars bent his full attention to establishing ministries, seeing a census was conducted and the organs of the state were set in motion. The five principal cities of the state were also fortified.

Vilhuna's efforts to restore civil order in the south were immeasurably aided by the provision of a veritable corps of administrators, clerks, messengers and copyists provided by the Roman Church. Indeed, pope Benedict himself visited Cerkes in '62, holding mass for thousands of the faithful, blessing the newly established state and assuring the Exarch of his full and enduring support. While in the city, the Pontiff addressed a number of critical religious questions:

Many of you are curious about the new faith quickly spreading in Africa. There is much that seems good and wholesome on the surface. But do not be deceived. Look closely at their beliefs, and pray for guidance in understanding what lies beneath. In truth, this is more evidence of Satan exercising his influence in our world. Their belief system holds that Satan is co-equal to the Lord God. Where is the presence of the Saving Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ? It does not exist. I warn all Catholics – indeed all Christians – do not let your guard down. Hold fast to the apostolic faith, and ensure your ultimate salvation. The Orange Catholics represent grave errors of faith – they are a serious heresy.

We also urge the Hussites – yes, they are also Christian – to resist the temptations offered by this charismatic leader of the

desert. It is time for Catholics and Hussites to find common ground – we should not continue to be enemies. The strife in Northern Europe must come to an end.

And a final message to our brethren of the Lencolar creed. I urge you to open your hearts, and question your spiritual leadership. When the Sisters find common cause and shared beliefs with the pagans of Japan, and quickly embrace the heresy of the Orange, have they in fact lost their way? Remember that the road to perdition is wide and broad. They may be innocent of any intentional wrongdoing, but Rome cannot stand silent when the Sisters lead their flock astray. If you find yourselves in doubt, approach the Priests, Brothers, and Sisters of the Roman Catholic faith – discuss your fears, rejoin the True Church.

The Mixtec 'outpost' in Lydia saw a massive degree of investment in rural grain combines, mills, irrigation canals and reforestation. The House of Mary was also very busy, as the Mixtecs implemented a 'free passage' program to allow throngs of pilgrims from sub-Saharan Afrika to visit Ephesus and the cathedral there, as well as the stone house on Mount Prion which had been the last dwelling of the Holy Mother. A very substantial number of Vastmarki matrons took advantage of this generous offer.

## EUROPE

Catholic Mercenaries	Minimum bid listed in [x].
Condotierr	10xea, 1 lhea, 20i, 20t [2gp each]
Captains	General Xho (M936) [5gp]
To hire, please contact	Norsktrud
Quality Ratings	c12 i16 a13 w18 s18 z6

Hussite Mercenaries	Minimum bid listed in [x].
The Hussite Legion	5ec, 5i, 5c, 5hea, 1z [1.5 gp each], based at Constantinople.
Captains	Sit Thomas Musgrave (M977)
To hire, please contact...	Albanian East India Company
Quality Ratings	c12 i15 a14 w17 s20 z8

## AERONAUTICAL RESEARCH & FABRICATION

(Rostov in Levedia)

*Soyom Pasternak, Captain of the East*

**DIPLOMACY** Debrecen in Moldavia (^mf),  
Cahokia in Michigamea (^bo)



Grain haulers left Rostov in a steady stream, heading north along the great rivers of Russia, carrying thousands of tons of wheat, corn and potatoes to the chill cities of Sweden and England. The busy streets of the industrial city became even more crowded with the arrival of a huge number of Papal workers, craftsmen and engineers – enough to swell the city a level.

Pasternak himself returned from the Americas by making a daring passage over the polar regions in his airship fleet. Before returning to Rostov he visited Debrecen in Moldavia, where the Company had recently acquired some interests, and found himself a wife. With Lady Valentina Prokofief in tow, he made his way, at last, back to the Company headquarters. Unfortunately the smoky, polluted air of the industrial sprawl soon afflicted her with a constant, debilitating cough.

Papal missionaries were busy in the south, where the souls of the benighted citizens of Astrakhan were saved, accepting Christ as the Risen Lord.

## **PRINCIPATE OF KIEV** (Debreceen in Moldavia)

*Ivan Kaumas, Prince of Kiev, Master of the Holy Rivers*

### **DIPLOMACY** None

Under a new forward-looking regime, the southern Russian principality continued to thrive. Babadag in Dobruja and Debreceen in Moldavia expanded. Nikolayev was fortified against further trouble in Sweden. The bright future did not, however, include Queen Anna who suffered a stroke and died in the fall of '61. Her dutiful son Ivan at last became Prince in fact as well as name.

Under Ivan's rule, an immediate program was started to modernize the army, restore discipline, and regional autonomy was granted to the Galich, Volhynians and Gorynites. By these means the Prince hoped to focus his efforts. Of course, this didn't mean the Principate wasn't going to keep a close eye on the Polish border – oh no, Marshall Belanus was soon in evidence with 9,000 cossacks to patrol the frontier.

## **PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BAKLOVAKIA**

(Komarno in Slovakia)

*Wysowski, First Citizen, Protector of the Workers and Peasants*

### **DIPLOMACY** None

Gripped by the paralysis endemic to drink far, far too much *vladka* and eating so many pastries that he became so fat he simply could not move, First Citizen Wysowski failed to implement the will of the people and snored away the days, sodden as a potato. It was, therefore, rather unexpected that the Vienna Chamber of Commerce sent a large force of workers (several thousand strong) to clear the roads from Vienna (in Danishland to the east) all the way to the gates of Komarno. An unexpected flood of trade arrived thereby, though mostly consisting of underage University of Vienna students drawn by the lure of nearly-free beer, vodka and Mrs. Toporosky's pastries.



## **ALBANIAN EAST INDIA COMPANY**

(Thessaloniki in Macedon)

*Nikolas Argir, Senior Partner in the AEIC*

### **DIPLOMACY** Lahore in Sahis (^ma), Tijuana in Baja (^ma)

Leaving the day to day business of the Company in the hands of Korsas Kuklone (as was his standard practice, Argir took most of the Aegean fleet down to Naxos in the Kyklades where he packed up the books, students and faculty of the Company trade school and then sailed them up to New Troy in Bithnia. With the university settling into new digs, Argir then began traveling around the countryside, trying to convince the Moslem leaders in village and farm to accept the Company's leadership. This did not go well. He angered everyone he spoke to and was then ambushed near Nicopolis and badly wounded in the following affray. His guardsmen managed to get him back to New Troy, but the Senior Partner was not well.

The religious trouble then spilled over into open revolt in the countryside, which then precipitated the Hussite Legion (stationed at the city) to march out to crush the 'bully wogs'. Musgrave treated the angry farmers and shepherds to a quenching draught of musket, grapeshot and fire-bombing from his zeppelins. The insurrection was bloodily suppressed.

A dispute with the Ming trade delegation in Alexandria over the transfer of enormous sums of Chin gold was only the least of the troubles besetting the Honorable Company, but despite all the chaos and confusion in Thessalonika, Governor Clive did get his gold and was able to make excellent use thereof.



And what, pray tell, was transpiring at the Home Office? Few details leaked to the press... the sudden and shocking arrest of Korsas Kuklone, the heir-apparent to old Argir, his subsequent and unexpected suicide. Wild rumors of embezzlement on a global scale, of Swedish meddling and Catholic plots reaching into the highest levels of the Company and (dare anyone say) the Imperial government. Hundreds of arrests were made, whole families ruined, fortunes lost... the Thessalonika stock market plunged, inspiring panic and hoarding in gold.

## **THE SWEDISH EMPIRE OF RUSSIA** (Riga in Latvia)

*Kjell Torsson, King of Sweden, Tsar of the All the Russias*

### **DIPLOMACY** None

With peace forced upon the weakling Senate by circumstance and the might of Swedish arms,



Kjell turned his attention to 'mopping up the blood', as he liked to say, and to securing the reclaimed provinces. A suitably humiliating peace treaty was imposed on the Duchy of Warsaw as well, which brought a pleased smile to the Tsar's face. "Do you see the success of my foreign policy? The Danes out, Sweden in. Capital!"

The fortified garrisons throughout Poland, therefore, were disbanded and withdrawn. The province of Danzig (and the town of Sopot) were acquired. The settlers and garrisons in Anatolia were granted 'autonomy' as the reconstituted Exarchate of Trebizond. Ground was broken at Riga (once more thriving as thousands more sun-bronzed clerks returned from St. Georges) for the Royal Aeroworks with the Tsar and his new, Polish, wife (Princess Mary Dobrogniewa) looking on with beaming pride.

The dowager Empress Tristan, much bereaved by the cruel death of her husband, died in her sleep in '61. The new Imperial Mother-in-Law immediately moved in to the Empress's estate outside of Riga. As lesser Polish nobility invaded Riga in search of bargains and cheap vodka by the crate, the Swedish corps under Maksutov withdrew from Berlin and Warsaw and points inbetween. A strong force of Cossacks occupied Danzig to make sure there was no 'trouble' with the new administration.

Down on the Crimean coast, the reconstituted Kalmarite fleet came under new command – Karl Yellowhawk had been appointed Admiral of the Black Sea Fleet so he could recover from being wounded during the Polish Incident. His first task was to put everything shipshape, so he took the fleet (including the troublesome and slow steam transport *Alexander Fleming*) on a tour of the Exarchate ports, including Cerkes, where he was entertained by Exarch Vilhuna himself. Then it was back home and a fresh coat of paint for every ship in the fleet.

A very large number of Spanish priests took holiday in Morocco, but while everyone presumed they were going to rail and rant and proselytize against the pernicious influence of the Orangists, instead they took holiday, drank too much, got sunburned, bought lots of knickknacks and chased the local girls.

## **THE GRAND DUCHY OF POLAND** (Krakow in Bochnia)

*Ivan Dovietski, Duke of Poland*

### **DIPLOMACY** None

Much to the surprise of the remaining Polish nobility not in a Swedish prison camp, the Tsar offered a suitable peace to the Duchess Leczinski, which she accepted (having few other options which would save her country from conquest, religious conversion and tyranny), though this meant she herself would go into exile. The East India Company stepped in to provide her with a suitable pension and new employment in trouble Bithnia.

Ivan Dovietski, the sole remaining Polish general at large, was installed as the new Duke in Warsaw, and moved quickly to secure his position, helped by the newly-released organs of government. A breath of fresh air, he proclaimed, would set Poland on a new course to a new future. Indeed an entirely new slate of leadership came into power as the last of the Leczinski apparatchiks were swept away.

In the northern half of the nation, the Shawnee expeditionary force withdrew from Pomerania and Danzig with ill-humor, but they did indeed leave.

### THE KNIGHTS OF TABOR

(Mount Tabor in Bohemia)

*Jucarl Kassowitz, Vice of Huss, Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of Mount Tabor*



**DIPLOMACY** Ponthieu (^ch), Flanders (^ab), Brabant (^ch), Denmark/ Copenhagen (^un), Macedonia (^un), Thessaloniki (^ab), Provence/Marseilles (^ch), Anjou/ Bourges (^ch), Tours in Maine (^ch), Brest in Brittany (^ab)

Despite rumors of a peace in offing to keep Swedish armies from smashing directly into Germany, the Knights reinforced their garrison at Mount Tabor and expanded the city defenses. Too, the monks and lay brothers toiled to clear woodlands for a series of enormous hangars and the other appurtenances of a modern airship factory. With the governmental situation in Denmark solidifying, the thousands of Taborite clerks, managers and counting-men sent to bolster the Imperial government were recalled, though many in turn were devoted to helping the East India Company recover from its grievous scandal.

Elsewhere, the Knights continued their campaign to establish direct parish control over the Hussite lands of northern and western Europe. The threat of the Catholic powers was too great to ignore and all of those united by the vision of Huss would have to stand shoulder to shoulder... except for the Danishmen, who were notoriously fractious and difficult. Oh, and the Macedonians, who were disgusted by the swaggering way the Taborite priests lorded over the Greeks working in the government offices. Indeed, with the growing power of the Senate in the Imperial heartland, the common people were turning their faces from the Church.

At in some areas, such as southern France, the Taborites had brigands and ruffians of all kinds to deal with as well ... Sideke of Arnor was waylaid in Lyonnais and murdered by men supposed to be lawless Occitanian bandits out of the central massif in Auvergne.

### UNITED KINGDOMS OF GREAT BRITAIN (Kingston in Northumbria)

*Oliver V Cromwell, King of England, Scotland and Wales*

**DIPLOMACY** Isle of Man (^f)

With the slowly warming temperatures (as well as the constant infusion of Russian and Amerikan grain necessary to keep the teeming hordes of London, Kingston and Birmingham fed), the southern port of Penzance expanded a level, and the town of Aberdeen (on the particularly chilly coast of Strathclyde) became a proper city. There was some dispute between the Royal Geographical Society and the local denizens, but the irascible Skawts won out, ignoring the 'Royal' sobriquet of Saint Michael.

Religious tensions continued to simmer vigorously in the south, though the Taborites seemed to have lost interest in their widespread conversion campaign. In any case, even though the dour and bluntly spoken Prince John Edward Stuart was keeping an eye on things in London, the incidence of rioting and general mayhem dropped markedly. Indeed, as the government had launched a very quiet and very polite campaign of counter-

missionary work (aided by the Iroquois Soup Kitchen brigade), the Hussites were reduced to a tiny minority in London, Wessex and Portsmouth by the end of '62.

Shipping plying the waters north of Skawtland were a little frightened (at first) to observe Nisei airships operating out of the Shetlands overflying their passage, but eventually word was passed around that the foreigners had established an Air/ Sea Search and Rescue unit at Ukiyo-ye, and the brightly-colored zeppelins were patrolling to watch for ships in trouble.

### THE SOCIETY OF JESUS (London in Sussex)

*Gustavus Grayhame, Vicar-General of the Society of Jesus*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Still lacking their esteemed leader, the Society continued to languish.

### THE FRANKISH COMMONWEALTH

(Paris in Ilé De France)

*Louis A lphonse du Maine, Archon of the Commonwealth*

**DIPLOMACY** Holland (^fa)



Gravely concerned by the rising tensions in western Europe, the Archon set himself to building an even more powerful, modern army. Paris, Brest, Calais and Cherbourg were fortified, dozens of regiments raised, a draft instituted to provide necessary manpower... the Commonwealth would soon be at war! To this end the Archon declared his infant son Roland as the heir, bypassing his younger brother Jadot (who already held the rank and title). This did not some do discomfit Jadot, however, as Roland was only two years old.

Much to the consternation of the elite in the Paris cafes, the flood of Taborite monks and priests in government circles continued to increase, making some wonder (quietly) if the Commonwealth were truly ruled from Paris or from Mount Tabor. What was clear to all was the enormous influence and prestige the monks enjoyed at the court of the Archon.

Trade relations were severed with the Duchy of the Three Isles. As might be expected, this was only a polite precursor to open war between the Commonwealth (and their Hussite allies) and the Catholic islanders. Coaling rights were granted to the Danish navy at Calais and Brest. Every naval patrol was on high alert, for rumors abounded of Catholic invasions... a Shawnee fleet did pass through the English Channel, but it was bound for Spain and had no interest in France.

Fighting broke out in the barony of Provence in the summer of '61 when a Commonwealth cavalry force under the command of Jadot du Maine attempted to sneak down the old Imperial Highway and into Italy. The Provencal militia responded to this incursion violently, attacking the northerners at **Aries**. Prince Jadot was caught entirely by surprise and his forces butchered. He fled north with barely six hundred men, and then hid out in Lyonnais afraid to tell his brother of the disaster.

### THE POLYTECHNIC LEAGUE (Athens in Attica)

*Harold Hasselhoff, Chief Technologist*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Lazed away the days in the hot Grecian sun.

### THE DANISH REPUBLIC (Thessalonika in Macedon)

*Elatherios V enizdos, First Minister of the Senate*

*Judit Dushan, Princess of Serbia, Queen of the Greeks, Empress of the Danes, Protector of Italy, Mjohmir-na-Midgard, Regina Germanica, Pendragoness of the Isles*

**DIPLOMACY** Franconia (^ea), Thuringia (~ea), Westphalia (hostile)

The rather young Empress Sofia Magdalene (the wife of the late, martyred Dushan) took ill amid all the trouble in Thessalonika and died of tuberculosis. Her doctors shook their heads sadly – since the outbreak of the Corruption all such diseases of the lung and throat were depressingly prevalent in the city.

Despite the terrible conditions in the Wasteland, Danish settlement in Slovenia managed to raise that province to (0d6), Carinthia to a (0d7) and make good progress in Bakony, Illyria and Verona. The First Minister (for a change) remained at Thessalonika, seeing to ushering thousands of Taborite monks, clerks and filing assistants out the door and on their way back to Bohemia with a smile, a wave and a one-way ticket. He did, however, take a personal hand in cleaning up the messy little scandal the Albanians (as usual...) had generated for themselves...

The city fathers of Munich were grateful for the assistance of the Taborites in cleaning up ice-wrecked slums in their city and clearing the roads. The development of Vienna into a town of repute also heartened them, showing some stirring of civilization in the cold German wasteland. Grain was shipped off to the Ethiops.

After a closely contested vote (pressed by Venizelos and his party whips) the Senate announced the state would not impose any restrictions upon those professing the Orange Catholic faith within the Republic. This drew vigorous protest from the Taborites still in the city, and open alarm from the Catholic embassies. Venizelos, however, pointed out that the Danish state (whatever it's constitution) had always maintained a tradition of religious tolerance. "This matter is no different," he said firmly.

These events were followed by the Foreign Office announcing a resumption of peace with the Islamic Union and the reclamation of the port of Akko in the Levant. Some rumors indicated the entire *province* was also part and parcel of the treaty, but as the emir of Jerusalem refused to give up his lands, this had not yet occurred. Admiral Bogoljubow and Air Admiral Zimmerman were dispatched to the eastern Mediterranean to visit Akko, check on the condition of the recently released prisoners and generally show the flag.

They did not expect to sail directly into war...

**THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN** (Lisbon in Portugal)

*Charles Bourbon, King of Spain, Duke of Parma*

**DIPLOMACY** No effect

With blueprints and plans provided by Norsktek, the Spanish constructed their first native steamship yard in Lisbon, and in record time too, though somewhat over-budget. Largo had no intention of falling behind in the pan-European arms race, particularly with general war in the offing...



The airship yards in Madrid expanded again and enormous investments in regional agriculture were made in Portugal, Galacia and Estremadura. Galacia improved to 2 GPv. Gangs of Franciscan laborers cleaned up the streets of Lisbon and built several new parish churches. A lucrative arrangement in transshipping grain, fresh fruit, salted meat and other comestibles continued with the Islamic Union; the IU exported to Spain and Spain, in turn, exported to the Norsk, to Sweden and other parties.

The last of the Hussites in Seville were driven out by the vigorous preaching of Benedictine friars working in the city.

Tipped off by certain interested parties, the Republican government mounted a series of massive raids the length and breadth of the realm to find and destroy the organization known as the 'Golden Dawn', which had caused so much strife and discontent in Spain all these years... Il Commandant and a sizable

force of elite troops swept down on Barcelona and blocked over several neighborhoods before charging in to go house to house, seeking the notorious Alexander Cane and his supporters.

Fighting broke out immediately, both between the Republican guardsmen and the cultists – and between Largo and his own troops, some of whom were apparently in the pay of the Dawn. Largo, trapped in crossfire in the atrium of the Cane estate, was shot down by his own men. Bishop Mendoza, leading the secondary assault team, was similarly ambushed. Fires were started, burning down the whole neighborhood. The Cane family escaped, though not without loss.

At much the same time, Prince Juan launched his own purge in Lisbon, ordering arrests in the city and among the clergy. He too was the subject of an assassination attempt, but escaped (though wounded). The circumstances of the attack on the prince convinced Juan that not only were most of his officers Dawnists, but so too were many of the government clerks and ministers. Excessive measures, therefore, were demanded – as soon as he survived the gunshot wounds and worse...

The merchants handling the lucrative grain trade through the Spanish ports had decided to fulfill the orders for England, Sweden and Morocco by shipping out Spanish surpluses to the foreigners and then selling the imported Syrian grain to the local bakeries. In more peaceful times, a thriving business would have made everyone wealthy. But these are not peaceful times.

The grain imported from the Middle East came tainted, though no one realized what had happened until well after Barcelona, Lisbon, Cortez and Tortosa were burning, maddened crowds running wild in the streets, shrieking and stabbing one another, beholding terrible, awesome visions; overcome by religious fervor and dying by the drove, clogging the Churches and markets with heaps of the dead, their bodies sprouting loathsome black fruiting bodies, gaping mouths spewing spores and festering death...

Prince Juan did not escape the deadly breath of the Corruption, nor did Queen Anna Marie, the princesses Maria Elena and Cassandra and little Julia. Lord Mendoza, busy executing all the Dawnists he could find in Barcelona also succumbed (and the Corruption did not spare the cultists, either, who found their hidden cells and safe-houses no barrier to the airborne spores.

Luckily for the common Spaniard, the tainted grain had been distributed solely in the larger cities, and the fierce blaze of the Corruption (though greatly attenuated by dilution) guttered out in the ruins. The psychological effects of the ergot-like infectant were more spectacular than devastating.

The northern port of Bilbao became tremendously busy as two Shawnee fleets arrived and unloaded a large and battle-tested army (so recently come from Poland) to taste the local wine, women, song and olives. They avoided the bread, though Lord Chesmu had fallen ill on the passage from the Baltic and died soon after they reached the sunny Spanish port.

Back in Lisbon, with the death of nearly half the citizenry (and all of the of-age members of the Cabellero family) things devolved into chaos. The parliament fled the city, the regimental commanders waged open war upon one another (a Dawnist coalition attempted to seize the citadel and the port), and everything seemed quite bleak. Into this moment stepped a minor colonel of the horse-guards who, by chance, was a relative of the dead Cabellero dynasty. His name was Charles Bourbon, a Spaniard *hidalgo* of half-Italian descent through the Farnese dukes of Parma. By daring and a complete lack of fear, he grasped control of the loyal regiments still in Lisbon, crushed the Dawnist cabal, reclaimed their troops, quarantined infected districts and stopped all ships

from fleeing the city by means of a boom of barges across the harbor-mouth manned by his gunners.

His cavalry fanned out into the countryside, dragging the parliamentarians back into the capital and forcing them (at bayonet point, no less) to acclaim him as King of Spain. This turn of events was not met with universal acclaim... Zufar, Aquitaine, Auvergne (and Limoges), Estremadura, Languedoc (and Narbonne), and Salamanca all rose up in revolt or simply refused to acknowledge Charles' regime in Lisbon.

In the capital, Charles cleaned house viciously, having hundreds of Dawnist supporters and sympathizers executed, their lands and properties seized for the crown, their children driven out as exiles. Civil liberties were suppressed for the duration of the crisis.

#### **THE BLACK HAND** (Gibraltar)

*Anthony Corsp, Master of the Order*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Wary of the increasingly tense situation in the Mediterranean, the Order mustered as many soldiers as they could to defend Gibraltar, as well as fortifying the Rock. A minor trade in religious trinkets, books and hand-made candles was started with most of the neighboring nations. Within the Order there was additional trouble – the Deverill 'regime' suffered an eroding base of support among the younger knights. Anthony Corsp, a more energetic leader, won their affection instead. Accusations were made of fiscal impropriety by Deverill, and while never proven true, the ensuing 'investigation' ran most of his remaining supporters out of their offices. Younger men, who accounted Corsp as their patron, moved in and Deverill was forced to resign as Master of the Order.

#### **THE DUCHY OF THE ISLES** (Valetia on Malta)

*Neya al'Raschid, Empress of the Isles, Emir of Archimedeia, Duchess of Sicily and Sardinia*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Though the Duchess was distracted by the sudden onset of a pan-Mediterranean war, the student-led revolt in Archimedeia suffered an untimely end when Ducal agents infiltrated the rebellious city, arrested or executed the leaders of the revolutionary commune and restored order with a heavy hand. Most of the students were sent home to their parents, heads low in shame. Neya briefly visited the city in early '61, but the news of various attacks caused her to sail back to Valetia on Malta with all speed.

While the Islander fleet stood guard over Malta itself, the outlying territories of the Duchy came under vigorous attack by the Carthaginians and their allies. As a result, the warships interned at Valetia (and their crews) remained in Islander hands.

An attempt by ruffians to ambush and stab Princess Nemi (the newly appointed admiral of the Islander fleet) was foiled only by the quick reactions of her guardsmen. The attackers, seized, soon blubbered a tale of Carthaginian gold...

(See Carthage and Ethiopia)

#### **THE CHURCH OF ROME**

(Vatican City in Rome, Latium)

*Benedict XIV, Pater Patrias, Pope of the Roman Church, The Vicar of Christ, The Successor To Peter, The Keeper of the Keys, The Servant of the Servants of God, Patriarch of A ztata, Soldier of Light*

**DIPLOMACY** Caquetio (~ch), Caraca (~un), Merrakesh (~ch), Valdivia (~ab), Rostov in Levedia (^ca)



All the Vatican rejoiced to see the grand dome and façade of St. Peter's Cathedral at last complete – even despite the horror of the Corruption and the fighting between Hussite and Catholic in the southern Isles. The Pontiff, determined to show his support for the peace settlement in Swedish-Russia, made the (unexpectedly) dangerous voyage to Cerkes, in Abasigia, to bless the re-foundation of the Exarchate of Trebizond.

The Church, eager to improve its presence in eastern Russia, shipped thousands of the faithful to Rostov, in Levedia, where they industrial center of the ARF combine was thereby expanded and the Papal presence in south-eastern Russia greatly extended. At the same time, caravans departed Rostov for the uttermost east – the lands of Kama Bulgar, where the Templars stood watch against the Ice and the barbarian tribes on the Scythian plain – to expand the fortifications of St. Michael-in-the-Ice once more.

An encyclical was distributed, announcing that the proceedings to enshrine Empress Oniko of Denmark as a Catholic saint were underway.



#### **NÖRSKTRAD** (St. George-the-Defender in Morocco)

*Sir Charles Bond, Mäk larevælde of the Nordic Trading Company*

**DIPLOMACY** St. Pauls in Canary Islands (^mf)



Continuing to draw a raised eyebrow from the Catholic crowned heads of Europe (at least those not on the 'dole'), the banking arm of the Company disbursed substantial sums to the Jesuits, the Spanish, the Swedes, Vastmark, as well as Al'Haggar and Mauritania (as peace had been successfully concluded with the Orangist Berbers).

Substantial investments were also made in agricultural concerns (steam tractors, mills, new kinds of grain and so on) in Friesland, Old Castile, and Andalusia. Engineers from Norsktek also saw to the construction of a variety of fortified batteries ringing St. George the Defender in Morocco as well. The vast investment of capital and manpower there needed protecting in such troubled times.

Sir Charles paused in dictating his letters to his amanuensis, watching the silver torpedo-shaped airship *Johannes Teugen* make its turn over the shipyards, the aerodynamics of its elevators supplementing the aerostatic lift of the gas cells. The Nörsk Aer ship to Lisbon fell gently upwards into the sky, the propellers of the engine cars droning like distant bees as it melted into the dawning sky.

“To continue: Although the Company is tolerant of the faiths of its employees, all chaplains and padres are requested and required not to examine, read or in any other fashion adopt any of the teachings of the Orange Catholic Book. His Holiness the Pope has declared the text to be heretical. Then sign it, Sir Charles Bond, Mäklarevalde of the Nörsktrad.

“This new religion is all very well for the Benny tribesman in his orange robes, chanting and brandishing his grandfather’s musket about in the desert, but it will not do for *us*. Remind the Accounting Office that I want to be informed of any incidents in Morocco or St. Georges. All we need now are hordes of fanatics yelling about their ‘Mahdi’ and falling into the dry docks and under steam hammers...”

The Mäklarevalde read through and signed each of the letters. “That concludes the business for now. If anyone requires me, I’ll be driving my steamcar down to the airship yards.”

Sir Charles habitually wears the dark blue uniform with red and gold piping of an *Orlogskaptan*. He is a good shot, and if not an outstanding military commander, his native charisma had, in his younger days, granted him the reputation of a dashing officer. Now in middle age, his recklessness has been tempered with experience and shrewd judgment. Much of his work had been covert, in service with the Accounting Office. Even so, like any Nörsktrad officer, he is fully aware of the political and economic aspects of the Company. At the age of forty, he may not enjoy the physical prowess of his youth, and has become more deliberate in both his business and his pleasure. He enjoys fine wine, firearms manufactured by the best gunsmiths, and beautiful women. Whereas many sailors are said to have a wife in every port, Sir Charles keeps a household with three demimondaine, something of a minor scandal, but he rarely misses Mass or Confession. His three mistresses (all of whom have been members of his household for some years) are Lijsebeth, a Norman from Friesland, Isabella from Lisbon and Tziquetzalpoztecstin (usually named Quetzal) from Vastmark.

Fleets from Great France and the RSA are expected. Their officers will be entertained and given a tour of the shipyards, as well as an opportunity to ride in the airships (perhaps a few would care to visit Lisbon on the new route.) A number of steamships were built on commission, including a pair of ‘packet’-style cutters for the Honorable Africa Company (a rare gesture of goodwill).

A new aeropost route was established between St. Georges and Lisbon, with the *Johannes Teugen* and *Jorge Delgado* making regular trips back and forth between the two great cities. At the same time, the maritime passenger route between St. Georges and Lisbon route was newly served by four ‘fast’ steamships, the *Hornhori*, *Hannarr*, *Hár* and *Hlévarg*.

The daily ritual of the main Norsk Post offices in St. Georges were interrupted by the arrival of a rather battered-looking Swedish cavalry officer who wished to pick up a ‘largish crate, posted from Constantinople’. As soon as he identified himself as ‘Hallestrom’, there was great consternation and Norskwarden plainclothesmen leapt out of the surrounding crowd, seized the missing engineer and whisked him away, out of sight, still shouting questions about his missing package. Swedish governmental agents arrived immediately afterwards and put everyone in the post office in quarantine, all save one rascal of a newsboy, who slipped out to report this curious event to this esteemed journal.

Captain Kristján Thórdarson was dispatched to the south, both to represent the Company as host and facilitator of the peace

negotiations between Al’Hagggar, Mauritania and Carthage which were taking place at the Company offices in St. Pauls, Islas Canaris. His pair of clipperships were also escorting the steam-powered cutters intended for Afriqan hands, which proved quite amusing to the sailing crews.

## AFRIQA

Non-Catholic Mercenaries	Minimum bid listed in [x].
Condotieri	30i, 15a, 10c, 6hc, 3xc [1gp each]
Captains	Bey Senghor (MB96) [10gp]
To hire, please contact...	None
Quality Ratings	i16 w16 s18 c11 a12

Catholic Mercenaries	Minimum bid listed in [x].
Condotieri	23xea [1gp each]
Captains	None
To hire, please contact...	Norsktrad
Quality Ratings	I15 w18 s21 c11 a12



### THE INTERNATIONAL RED KROSS (Alexandria in Egypt)

*Taharqa the Elder, Dean the School of Alexandria, Governor-General of the Society*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Somewhat stunned by the seizure of a Red Kross relief fleet by the Islanders in '59, the Society retrenched to Alexandria and Naxos, trying to restore their fiscal situation.

### THE EMIRATE OF CARTHAGE

(Augustina in Tunisia)

*Hamilcar Barca, Emir of Augustina, Sultan of Tunisia*

**DIPLOMACY** No apparent effect



“War!” Screamed the newspapers.

Zeppelins, frigates, troops and guns poured out of the shipyards, factories and foundries of Carthage. War was well underway with the Duchy of the Isles (reflecting, indeed, on the ancient split which had founded both the Islander realm and Lybia...). Five or six hundred delinquent youths were packed off from the city jails of the Emirate to serve in the mercantile marine of the East India Company, an arrangement pleasing to everyone but the aforesaid youths! Bey Senghor and a very substantial number of mercenaries were taken under contract by the Emir in preparation for full-scale hostilities against the Despot of Malta.

Substantial agricultural reforms were undertaken in Egypt with an eye to finally resolving the shortages of food, cloth and other goods plaguing the great cities of North Africa.

Luckily for the movement of the various Emirate fleets, the Islanders had withdrawn their blockade of Augustina to defend

Malta, allowing a veritable cloud of Hussite squadrons to sally forth on all kinds of mischievous errands. One of those fleets – under the command of the daring Captain Gisco – sailed for Archimedeia on Sicily, seeking to deliver a cargo of cannon, rifles and ammunition to the rebellious students there. However, as Gisco did not get underway until early '62, he reached Archimedeia to find the city once more firmly in the hands of the Islanders, so he was forced to abandon the effort and return to Augustina. He did not happen to encounter any Islander ships during this foray.

Most of the Carthaginian effort was focused in the far west, where a small fleet had entered the **Balearic** archipelago in the summer of '62, supported by an airfleet of eighteen zeppelins under the command of General Eshmunazar. As it happened, the primary town of the islands – Valma – was both undefended and lacking even the rudiments of fortifications. Apparently looming walls, cannon and grim-faced troops were not in keeping with the thriving tourist industry there... in any case, the brave Carthaginians seized Valma without a shot being fired. There were garrisons on the islands, however, which were pummeled into ruin by the zeppelins and the fleet. The only notable casualty was Colonel al'Hus, who was clubbed by a stray yardarm and drowned as his troops were unloading in the harbor of Valma.

Prince Baalshamin (a notorious lax scion of the Barca clan, who had lately amused himself among the houris of south India) returned to 'civilization!' (as he loudly declared), taking up residence in Alexandria. He did, however, deliver a large fleet of transports, which were then taken up by Captain-General Ahqat, who loaded up a passel of Carthan regulars, as well as seven-thousand-odd mercenaries. Leaving under the cover of darkness and keeping far to the east, avoiding the Ethiopian attack on Lebanon, Ahqat managed to avoid the conflagration there, and landed his expedition in **Morea** all undetected. As had maintained in the Balearics, the un-walled town of Archolon easily seized. This time no one drowned.

The large force of mercenaries at Alexandria waited fruitlessly for an Ethiopian fleet to come pick them up...

## THE AL-HAGGAR CONFEDERATION

(Sayyida Ifni in Idjil)

*Ameur bin Skikda, shariifa of the Faithful*

**DIPLOMACY** Al'Hauts (^t)

While *shariifa* Ameur was away at sea, assuring peace with the co-religionist Carthan

Regime, prince Leto was in the highlands of Al'Hauts, bringing the Word to the heathens and accepting their fealty to the Confederation.

Though a treaty had been brokered with the Carthaginians, the Word could not be denied, and Orangist travelers, priests and preachers carried the faith into Al'Hauts, Ghadames and Gefara in the east. His finances assured by Sisterhood, Norsk and Carthan gold, Ameur set about putting things to order in his arid domain.

He returned to the forbidden fastness of Bir-el-Khazaim and immediately set about ordering a massive celebration of the victory over the Carthans, 'who are now our servants, our slaves, dogs to hunt at our command!' A week of open debauchery followed, much to the horror of Lady Chani and the puzzlement of the older chieftains. The troops, however, were more than willing to indulge, to quench every desire, and to acclaim Ameur as 'savior and prophet of the Living God.'

Ameur bragged, later, he had fathered a hundred children in this time, which did not endear him to Chani, who had a three-year-old to protect and promote as Ameur's heir.

## CATHOLIC SHARIFATE OF MAURITANIA (Sayyida Ifni in Idjil)

*Magda, Governor of the Azores, Shariifa of Mauritania*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Magda was happy to sign the treaty with the Carthaginians and see to getting the economy of the Sharifate back into some kind of healthy shape.

### The Treaty of St. Pauls

In the shadow of Mount Teide, delegates from Carthage, Al'Hagggar and Mauritania gathered at the Mali-Ax city of St. Pauls in the Canary Islands, off the West African coast.

Despite the accommodation and facilities provided by the Mixtec diplomatic service, the different parties kept their distance until the conference sessions were set to begin. Ambassador Stilicho conferred with his aide, Adnan Khalaf, Duke of Qasfah, and silently watched the arrival of Prince Ameur of Al'Hagggar, surrounded by his orange-garbed tribesmen. On the same ship Magda of Mauritania had arrived, and she briefly paused to greet a delegation from the Sisters of the Rose.

In the cool of the following morning, the conference began. Slowly over days of wrangling and private debate the Treaty of St. Paul, named for the host city, was hammered out.

All parties agreed that all hostilities, including military movements, and intelligence and religious operations of all types directed at any of the treaty nations would cease, until such a time as the agreements were broken. Prince Ameur insisted that Carthage, in regaining all territories owned by that state four years previously by diplomatic means, would not seek to convert or punish those citizens who had adopted the Orange Catholic faith. In return he vouched to relinquish all claim to the territories ceased by the Jihad, including the city of Nador, once the peace was secure. Magda requested, and received assurances that her cousin Jafar (commonly known as "the Goat"), languishing in prison would be released and returned to Sayyida Ifni.

In return for the security of the western Carthaginian provinces and borders, Ambassador Stilicho recognized the oases and grasslands bordering and within the Sahara as the domain of the Al'Hagggar. After further wrangling, the desert uplands of Al'Hauts were acknowledged as belonging to Al'Hagggar, but with the proviso of the construction of a fortress of the Carthaginian Desert Legion. Carthage would also withdraw from the Swedish-Russian Exarchy of Afrika.

All parties now studied the maps of North Africa, and the borders of Carthage, Al'Hagggar and Mauritania were carefully delineated after a number of modifications. All agreed to recognize these borders. The provision of a trade city caused some mild rancor, but at last Carthage was granted a lease on the city of Nuadhilbou lasting no less than twenty years. Al'Hagggar demanded a reciprocal city, but the arguments ended inconclusively, until in return it was agreed that Carthage would send moneys to Al'Hagggar and Mauritania for the same minimum of twenty years.

The Norsktrad representative Kristján Thórdarson offered a one-off payment to the two Saharan nations to sweeten the deal. A heavy iron-bound crate was provided to the Al'Hagggar and Mauritanian delegations.

Before the final signatures were put to the treaty, Mali-Ax and Norsktrad agreed, acting as monitors and arbiters, to investigate any future violations of the treaty.





**THE PRINCIPATE OF VASTMARK** (Chihuahua City in Takrur)

*Nkwame hluV ren, Stadholder of Takrur, Prince of Vastmark*

**DIPLOMACY** None



In a rare event (or it seemed so, anyway) the Vastmark actually *paid* the Norskrad money for several modern warships to be delivered later. At the same time, the Stadholder expanded the coastal merchant fleet, hoping to boost trade and commerce. A postal road was also cut through the brush between Eichstatt in Galam and Xuchitlan in Khalem.

Catholic counter-reformatory missionary activity began in Senegal, where the Holy See hoped to roll back the tide of Orangist sentiment threatening to spread into the south. Progress, however, was very slow. Only Dakar, controlled as it was by the Jesuits, seemed immune. Indeed, the Orangist faith began to pick up steam among the African peasantry, spilling south through Gambia and picking up a steadily-increasing number of adherents even in cosmopolitan Brehmen. The countryside of Khalem also became Orangist.

The Stadholder returned to Chihuahua City in company with his elite personal guard and promptly fell ill and died in the winter of '61. Before his death, however, old William had issued an edict disinheriting his son Jason (who had been so troublingly changed by his disastrous expedition to the wasteland of Sankarani) and making the 12-year-old Henry II Casimir (Jason's son) the next Stadholder. By these means, the old man managed to outrage prince Jason and put him at odds with the young Henry and his Saxe-Coburg uncles.

Jason immediately declared himself regent for young Henry and launched a vigorous purge of the Saxe-Coburgs. As blood ran in the streets and estates burned merrily, painting the sky black with smoke, prince Daniel returned in secret to the city and attempted a counter-coup to rescue Henry II from his maddened father...

The coup failed, there was a fierce battle in the palace and in the army camps outside the city between factions loyal to the two brothers – Jason was killed by a stray mortar round, Daniel declared himself regent for young Henry – the Saxe-Coburgs broke with Daniel, precipitating a third coup attempt – young Henry, while being whisked to safety, was badly wounded by rifle-fire, fell gangrenous and died. The old Stadholder's wife, Maria-Claire also suffered a seizure during this period and wasted away.

Prince Daniel was widely blamed for young Henry's death, causing him to attack the Coburgs openly, which in turn precipitated a counter-revolt by lord Nkwame and his pro-Mixtec faction in the army. Nkwame and the Eichstatt garrison marched on Chihuahua City and clashed with Daniel and the Stadholder's Guard at **Diouloulou**. Despite being outnumbered (Daniel commanded 10,000 men against Nkwame's 8,000), the general was a capable man and the prince was an idiot of the first water, particularly in military matters. Victory was fumbled and then lost, and the Prince's army smashed and sent fleeing for the walls of Chihuahua City. Daniel was right at the front of the pack, too.

**Chihuahua City** was then besieged by Nkwame's forces – which happened to include three thousand siege engineers. Of course, the capital was one of the most heavily fortified cities in the world – but then, Prince Daniel was once more in command! Emboldened by this, Nkwame launched into an aggressive siege of the city... and immediately got his tiny army badly chewed up. Even with the idiot Daniel in command, the defenders of Chihuahua City could savage any attacker. Fortunately for the Saxe-

Coburg faction, Prince Daniel also decided it was a good idea to parade about on the battlements "to inspire the troops" and got his fool head shot off by a sniper.

With Daniel dead, Lord Ixtoc (being a far worse military commander, yet also possessed of some native wit) bowed to the inevitable and surrendered the city to Nkwame and his faction. A marriage was then arranged between Nkwame's son, Kusar, and princess Raye Casimir of the Stadholder's line.

Nkwame then declared himself Stadholder, standing on the steps of the Royal Palace, flanked by the Mixtec ambassador on one side and the prelate of the Sisters of the Rose on the other.

**THE MALI AX EMPIRE** (Ax Mixtlan in Mixe)  
*Ten-Wind (Eyahue), ne-A xamaloc na-Tochul, King of the Mixtecs, Lord of the Niger, Captain of the Firestorm Banner, True Emperor of the Aztecs, Emperor of Mali, Dark Lord of Africa*

**DIPLOMACY** Kanuri (pissed)



Leaving aside his father's penchant for societal meddling, Eyahue (now calling himself Ten-Wind) concentrated on an enormous program of economic investment in the agricultural sector. An otherwise idyllic reign was spoiled, however, by the continuing antics of the notorious Blue Cloaked Lord, who now made a career of exposing corruption, bashing evil-doers in the nose and generally making a nuisance of himself in Ax Mixtlan and the other great cities of the realm. The Imperial government made countless attempts to apprehend the masked, cloaked fugitive, and failed miserably.

In the provinces, missionary work continued in Dogamba and Gurma, where the remotest villages were visited by the Sisterhood, just to make sure not one Catholic had been left unconverted. Diplomatic efforts in the grasslands of Kanuri met with the *usual* response to Mixtec embassies – hurled spears, threats, general violence... A new governor, Lady Two-Rain, was dispatched to guard the House of Mary and the outpost in Ephesus.

**THE REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA** (Soba in Funj)  
*Josiah Draume, President-For-Life of Ethiopia*

**DIPLOMACY** Kosti (^ea)

The new President launched an extensive investigation intended to find the villains who had planned and executed the murder of his father, though no apparent results were forthcoming. At the same time, secret orders were issued for the Republican fleet to sortie into the Mediterranean to deliver a fresh army to reinforce Lord Anthony in Cilicia.

Admiral George, therefore, took to sea, heading for Cyprus and thence to the Anatolian coast – but he sailed, apparently unknowing, into a larger war than the planners in Soba had intended. The Islamic Union air-fleet, under the command of Al-Zayani, was patrolling the Gulf of Cyprus, expecting an Ethiopian attack on the coast of Lebanon. Thus, when the Ethiopian convoy sailed past... Al-Zayani's airships pounced to the attack!

George's ships scattered immediately, but given there was not even one single armed escort among them, the merchantmen were hunted down and bombed into flaming ruin in detail by Al-Zayani's raptor-like airships. Eighty heavy transports were thus destroyed, sending 23,000 Ethiopian sailors and soldiers to a watery grave. Not one Union airship was destroyed, though two did have to return to base with fouled fuel systems on their new dual-cam engines. Admiral George and his second-in-command, Anthony, were both lost at sea and the entire intended campaign against Cyprus, Rhodes and Isauria was smashed to ruin.

A Danish steam cruiser squadron which passed through the Gulf a few months later searched for survivors – but found no one. The Union air-fleet continued to patrol, but ignored the Danish-flagged steamships, which continued onto their new base at Krakke-Chevailers in Mansura.

#### THE MAASAI KINGDOM (Mbeya in Kimbu)

*Sogbu the Cripple, King of the Maasai, Emperor of Ethiopia*

**DIPLOMACY** None apparent

Industrialization continued apace in the powerful east African kingdom, with the provinces of Danakil, Serengeti and Mombassa increasing to 2 GPv. Work on the royal road running north continued apace, with the highway reaching Nur Ahan in Scebeli and then the long run north to Eyl in Ras Hafun. Even further north, the railroad between Danakil and Zeila was also completed, allowing the citizenry of both towns to gad about on the weekends taking train excursions along the coast.

Massive government investment continued to revolutionize the agricultural market throughout the Kingdom as steam-powered well-pumps, tractors and threshing mills came into use. A new Frontier Guards regiment was raised in the north, as the whole Red Sea area seemed to becoming a hot-bed of intrigue and calamity. Who knew what the crazy Ethiopians would do next!?

Very delicate missionary work continued in Kongo. Prince Junuka continued to disappoint both his mother and father, to the point at which his younger (and much more outgoing, and nicer, and better-looking) brother Pheto was proclaimed Crown Prince in Junuka's stead! Prince Mongo also came of age, and my but he was uncle Junuka's twin in mood, appearance and surliness.

Both Mongo and Junuka began to loiter about together, drinking heavily and glaring silently at 'golden' Pheto.

#### REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (Great Zimbabwe in Rozwi)

*Izinduna, Protector of the Senate and the Republic*

**DIPLOMACY** None

It was hot in the south, and the Afriqans lazed about, drinking coconut drinks from glasses with little paper umbrellas and watching the surf crash on the white sandy beaches.

#### THE HONORABLE AFRICA COMPANY

(Iusalem in Karanga)

*Nunke Tikumbay, President, Master of the Great Southern House*

**DIPLOMACY** Mt'wara in Mombassa (^ci), Arungthane in Kedah (~mf), Rangoon in Pegu (~ma), Aqaba in Petra (~mf), Ahvaz in Palas (^ma), Guenakan (hostile!) Cuiaba in Paraiba (^bo), Thiat in Terembembe (^mf), Natchez in Caddo (^ma)



The Honorable Company continued to conduct a brisk trade in guns, grain and technical expertise throughout South America, Afrika and Asia. The settlements in the northern deserts continued, with Orange now targeted for model farms, ranches and villages. Efforts to secure the contracts of all of the regional mercenary companies, however, failed due to the prospect of a general war in the Mediterranean, which was distracting the condotierr.

Work began on a massive expansion to the harbors at Iesuwayo – a so-called 'Great Harbor' project – to handle the enormous volume of trade passing through that entrepot to the southern Republic. In a personal note, Mariane de Beers (the wife of the number two man in the Company, Joseph de Beers) took sick with penumonia and died in '62.

## NORTH AMERIKA

Non-Denominational Mercenaries	Minimum bid listed in [x].
Condotierr	30c, 29i, 57ht [1gp each]
Captains	Jomon Kei (M 944) [5gp] Axacayatl the Wolf (M934) [5gp]
To hire, please contact...	(No one)
Quality Ratings	i15 w17 s18 c12 a12

Catholic Mercenaries	Minimum bid listed in [x].
Condotierr	5hei [2gp each]
Captains	Baron Von Hausen (M783) [5gp]
To hire, please contact	Norsktrad
Quality Ratings	c12 i16 a13 w18 s18 z6

#### KINGDOM OF TZOMPANCTLI (Tzompantlan in Tutchone)

*Tizoc, Baron of Hûkar-on-the-Plain-of-Bones*

**DIPLOMACY**

The Tzompan settlements in Han began to clear forest and scrub, dig out old Tatar wells and irrigation channels, hoping to make the icy ground yield winter wheat again. The economic life of the kingdom of the Skulls got a boost when a fleet of PM&T merchantmen arrived at the hardscrabble port of Azaton, unloaded an enormous amount of materials, furniture, tools, tents and so on and proceeded to expand the city a level by building a 'merchant's quarter'. More help came from the Empire and the Sisters.

The Baron at last emerged from self-imposed seclusion, beaming and merry, and took heart from his gardener's who said the sun was growing stronger again. This glad news provoked even the dour prince Kehuehuel of Tamsag to marry, though the young wife had yet to bear a child. Still, randy old Tizoc's brood of six hellions continued to rampage around the palace compound, making mischief, letting bears loose in the orchards and generally being a pain and a half.

All of this trouble led to princess Chtuantla being shipped off to boarding school in the Empire, in the merciless hands of the Sisters of the Rose, in fact. An event which caused much crying, wailing and weeping on the part of the wee princesses' little brothers, who would miss her.

A Sun-Shield (Tlahulli) knight-commander leading an expedition into the ruins of old Hûkar was killed, along with most of his diggers, when a mosaic floor they were excavating collapsed into a hidden cistern and they all drowned before the mangled, mutilated bodies could be dragged out.

#### THE NISEI REPUBLIC (Usonomiya in Yokuts)

*Prime Minister Tomoyo Sagaya, Commander of the Armies of the Republic, Protector of the Emperor of All Japan, daitoryo of the Diet*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Aided by a substantial infusion of Aztec gold, the Nisei began rebuilding the northern provinces devastated during the Ice War. This provoked a vigorous political squabble in the Diet over which provinces would benefit first, which made Genjuku's head hurt. A minor scandal developed over a proposed postal road for Serrano province, which was originally planned to cross the mountains into Salinan – until it was discovered the Senator who proposed the project owned a villa at the terminus of the road. After intervention by the daitoryo, those resources were devoted to beginning a real highway from Melias south to the Aztec city of Popol Vuh.

A representative of the Albanian East India Company, G. Washington, arrived in Tijuana on Baja via Nisei postal packet ship from the outpost of Takari on Cuba. He then set up shop in the dusty, knockabout town, obviously in an attempt to match the

influence of the Norskrad in Pacific waters. Usonomiya and Anataya both expanded a level.

Another faction in the Diet (prodded by the Scholar's Union and the University, as well as certain members of the *Nihon Kaigun* general staff) managed to secure a budget for a country-wide SkyWatch project, much like that pioneered by the Swedes. The Air Force, in particular, felt the next attack would come from the sky.

All of this put Genjuku's back up, whereupon he tried to force his will (being of a rather military mien) upon the Diet. This provoked a vigorous response from the various parliamentary factions who had *no* desire to be a rubber-stamp for the military or even the Emperor. A rancorous vote was called, which resulted in Genjuku losing the confidence of the Diet and being turfed out. At this point, the opposition crystallized into something very much like a political party (the *A ikoku Koto*, Public Party of Patriots) devoted to restraining the power of the military and the old feudal nobility.

The *Koto* put their own man into office, Tomeyo Sagaya, with a mandate to rebuild the nation and to refrain from foreign adventures. The Emperor, who at that time was in old Nippon visiting various shrines, did not comment. The *genro* (the various retired generals and daimyo who still sought to influence the state) responded by forming their own well-financed and strictly organized *Sakigaki* (Harbringer) party in opposition.

Some trouble with an expatriate Aztec community in Serrano was resolved by Iechio's IVth Naval Marines marching down from Usonomiya, shooting or arresting all the Nahuatl-speakers they could find and ransacking a variety of shops, private homes and warehouses featuring odd-looking snake idols.

#### **THE HIGH KINGDOM OF COLORADO** (Three Crosses in Navajo)

*Fredrik Grosse, King of the Ute, High King of Colorado*

#### **DIPLOMACY** No effect

Suffering an unexpected weakness of the heart, King Fredrik pitched over at mass in the great cathedral of Three Crosses and was dead before a doctor could reach him. Wasting no time, prince Gunthar had himself crowned High King in the same cathedral on the very same day. His sister Yesobelle was outraged by this, as she had hoped to challenge him to single-combat for the kingship, a maneuver the wily Gunthar had neatly sidestepped. However, as the new king lacked an heir of suitable age, Gunthar declared Ysobelle to be his heir until such time as a boy-child of his loins came of age. This mollified her somewhat.

Efforts to bring the word of the Sisterhood to the Leoti clansmen failed miserably, leading to massacres, burning settlements and general religious ill-humor. Back in Coloradan lands, the newly crowned King immediately took his army into the field – to search out and destroy rumors of an infestation not of the Kror cult, but of their reptilian brethren, the Yigites. Raids were made by the King's Men in various rural townships in Apache, yielding an apparently huge haul of covered wagons which were sent to the University at Three Crosses.

A Sisterhood priestess, Frances, was wounded in the course of one of these raids in Navajo, where a Yigite fanatic tried to lop off her arm with a woodaxe. This unfortunate event prevented Frances from visiting the faithful in Three Crosses and Tiwa.

In return for the continuing good favor of the Aztec Empire, Gunthar saw fit to dispatch Ysobelle Iron-Skirt off to parts unknown, along with every other knight, captain or trooper who had earned the new King's enmity.

#### **THE GHOSTDANCERS** (Fushige in Missouri)

*Geshin Azurama, Prince of Fushige, War-Captain of the Ghost People*

#### **DIPLOMACY** None apparent

Letters of mysterious provenance began to circulate in Ghostdancer lands, spreading the word to all of the Lencolar faith that a safe refuge existed for them – one with plentiful land – in the far north, in the Land of Skulls, for those brave enough to make the journey. This, however, did not distract the Ghostdancers from continuing their non-violent campaign to convert the Shinto of Pawnee to the Lencolar church.

#### **ARAPAHO TEXAS** [Shawnee Protectorate](Ayoel in Atakapa)

*Kegemai Arroweye, Chieftain of the Arapaho, Liegman of the Stormdragon*

#### **DIPLOMACY** Caddo (~t)

Shaking off the dust and locust-parts, the Arapaho set about repairing the damage to Natchez and expanding farming settlements in Tonkawa. A black African (quite a rarity in these parts) arrived to take charge of a large number of engineers which the Arapaho had arranged to lend to the Honorable Company for some kind of building project in the partially ruined town.

A Shawnee Legion under the command of Nakos Ironhand arrived in Ayoel and delivered the following message to the Arapaho chieftains:

Greetings Noble Arroweye, most loyal vassal of the Stormdragon. Hear this from your Liege Valeria, Empress of Shawnee and Iriquios, Queen of Arapaho. Her Imperial Majesty has issued a decree that all followers of Christianity, whether of the Mother Church or of a heretical branch, shall be protected with-in our lands. No purges or forced conversions will be tolerated. As a good Catholic Lord you are expected to peacefully preach to and convert those heretics, but you are forbidden to harm them. Also, you are commanded to expel any heretical religious orders in Texas.

The Shawnee troops then launched into a wide-ranging 'bug hunt' for Krorists in Ayoel, Atakapa, Tonkawa and St. Michaels. The 'Damascene' troops were close-mouthed about this, and revealed nothing of their efforts, whether good or ill.

The plantation owners down New Orleans way were disturbed and outraged by the activities of the Norskrad-employed mercenary captain Von Hausen, who barged around from estate to estate in Chitimacha, attempting to roust out some 'heathen idolators' rumored to be practicing foul rites in the bayou. Apparently, he found nothing but engendered a great deal of ill-will among the gentry.

Lady Firehair, who had borne prince Speardancer yet another son, announced to her husband and the Court, she was 'through breeding, thank you!' and retired to a nunnery outside of St. Michaels to get some well-deserved rest.

#### **THE SHAWNEE EMPIRE** (Cahokia in Michigamea)

*Valeria Stormdragon, Queen of the Shawnee, Empress of the Iroquois*

#### **DIPLOMACY** Creek (~c), Malaga (hostile)

Papal emissaries continued to flock to the Court of the Stormdragon, but found little luck in convincing the local clergy to pay proper heed, and tithe, to Rome. Valeria found this somewhat amusing, though she was far more interested in thumping heretics and getting involved in Continental squabbles. Her ministers did report, however, that the primary tents of the Lisbon Accords had, indeed, been implemented throughout her realm.

Missionaries were dispatched to assist the English in their long struggle against the Hussite infection, and also to Arapaho, where the infestation of Lencolars in Caddo needed stamping out. Lord

Squanto was dispatched to the Iroquois seaboard to take command of the Eastern Fleet at Almiria in Powhattan.

A diplomatic embassy to Malaga, on the east coast, under the guidance of Lord Anoki, ended disastrously – Anoki fell into a furious argument with one of the local barons over the favors of the man's daughter, there were blows and the baron stabbed Anoki to death. The Shawnee delegation was expelled from the city and told never to return.

**KINGDOM OF THE IROQUOIS** [Shawnee Protectorate] (New Canarsie in Mohawk)

*Lucas II Stormdragon, Lord of the East*

**DIPLOMACY** Powhattan (^f)

Having managed to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, the Iroquois began fortifying their coastal cities as they fully expected hordes of Hussite to come storming ashore any time now. Inland, missionary work continued among the heathenish cannibal tribes with great success. Both Sesquehanna and Appalach became Catholic.

**THE ORDER OF THE FLOWERING SUN** (Tenochtitlán)

*Chukietl, Master of the Order, Shield of the Sun against the Ten Thousand Enemies*

**DIPLOMACY** New Hiquito in Caquetio (^op), Morgan in Apache (^op), Three Crosses in Navajo (^un)

Summoned by the new Emperor to defense of the realm, the Tlahulli marshaled their *cuachpantli* and *ometextl* and rode out to war. But not against the foreign enemies of the Empire, but the insidious presence of those who worshipped pre-human, implacable deities inimical to man... and indeed, this was the very reason for the Order and the Shield of the Sun. Master Cukietl and a thousand jaguar knights rode down into Zapotec to support the efforts of the Smoking Sun legion to crush a nest of Yigite *nagual* reputedly operating there.

Captain of Eagles Atonal also took to the field, leading an elite force through Culhua, Tepanec and Tlapocoya in search of 'snakeheads' in those lands as well.

**THE AZTEC EMPIRE OF MEXICO** (Sion in Huave)

*Mamexi the Fall, Emperor of Mexico, Warrior of Christ, Protector of the Faith, Smiter of the Infidel, Conqueror of the Incans, Rex Britannias*

**DIPLOMACY** No effect

Busy as ever, work continued on the Great Southern Road, which would run from Guyami, south through Cuna, Choco, Valdivia, Chimu, Moche, Maranga, Chavin and up into Inca when it was done. The Emperor also dispensed largesse to his allies and tributary states with a recklessly generous hand – Nisei, the Sisterhood, the Tlahulli, Tzompans and Colorado all benefited.

Amid all the rumors and confusion engendered by the news yet *another* cult was festering in the breast of the Empire, assassination attempts were made on both Emperor Mamexi and his son, Tochtl, as they attended church services in the capital. The madmen (who else would attempt to hew their way through sixty heavily-armored Sisterhood Confessors fairly bristling with weapons?) were easily dispatched. Hard on the heels of this stunning event came news that the assailants had been dispatched by none other than Princess Sháira Sú.

Within days, electrifying news raced the length and breadth of the Empire, shouted from every street corner by the newsboys, trumpeted on the front pages of the daily papers... Prince Zinicha, who had vanished during the chaos of Mamexi's ascension, was intriguing to reclaim the throne – and was in cahoots with not only his mother Thuia (also gone missing) but his aunt Sháira Sú and a

cult of snake-worshipping Yigites. The boy (now only 11 at the time of these terrible events) would be nothing but a puppet of the loathsome cultists if ever he came to the throne...

A purge, therefore, was called for.

Imperial troops swept down on suspected Yigite enclaves throughout the Empire. Certain information was passed to the allies and friends of the state, allowing attacks to be made on Yigite safe-houses and training facilities as far away as Arapaho. There was fighting in Tenochtitlán itself, near both the University and the massive airship yards in Moyotla district. Imperial Guardsmen intervened, suppressing what seemed to be an incipient revolt by the factory workers.

In the desert north, the Red God Legion attacked isolated ranches and warehouse districts in Pima, Nahuac and Tucson. Many arrests, and executions, were reported. The Eagle Legion, under lord-commander Atonal, made similar raids in Náhuatl, Oaxaca, Tepuztec and Chinikam. While these efforts unsettled the local populace, outraged the priests and caused panicky buying of maize, peppers and Chihuahua dogs by the common citizenry, there was worse to come.

In the south, the Singing Flame legion, accompanied by the Borucan levies, surrounded and besieged the city of Tuxtla in Kekchi. When faced with fierce, almost fanatical resistance by the citizenry, lord Tlaquiach ordered an assault – which swept aside the resistance – and then leveled the city, slaughtering thousands of the inhabitants by gun and bayonet before driving the rest into enormous pits where they were burned alive. Within three days, the entire city had been obliterated. When Mamexi learned of this, he was outraged and ordered Tlaquiach and his senior commanders arrested and executed in turn for disobeying his orders.

Even further south, on the Incan coast, the Jaguar fleet occupied itself with hauling contingents of smelly Coloradan mercenaries hither and yon. The Black Sky legion, usually stationed in Guyami moved south to Quito and conducted house-to-house searches, looking for Yigite cultists.

In an odd, non-cult related note, the Ministry of Trade rescinded their long-stated opposition to the activities of the Pacific Manufacturing and Transport company, as that worthy entity had repaid an enormous loan long owed by the criminals who had once controlled the concern.

**THE SISTERS OF THE ROSE** (New Jerusalem in Quiche)

*Kelly Davias, Holy Mother of the Lenolar Christian Order*

**DIPLOMACY** Tipai (^ch), Macahuil (^un), Gurma/Oztoma (^ch), Xiucaxl (^un)

While the Mother of God protected the Aztec Emperor with one hand armored in the Light of Righteousness, her servants were busy in Chima, Tres Lagoas and Akwaio, driving back the corrupt doctrines of the Catholics and leading the people to God's grace. Hospitals were founded in New Hiquito, Grassland, Sion; and schools in Achi, Ax Knot, Sayyida Ifni and Choco.

Among the new arrivals at the Sisterhood's great school in New Jerusalem was a mischievous, recklessly fearless young lady from the far, far north. The Holy Mother herself took a moment out of a very busy schedule to show princess Cthuantla to her dorm room in the first-year's wing. The girl didn't know who the elderly woman was, but was happy enough to see a smiling face and a firm hand to lead her up the twisty stairs. Of course, Cthuantla of Tzompan was in front of the School Prefect only a day later for beating a prissy girl from Tenochtitlán bloody after the Four-Hundred-Houses-born first year laughed at her for not knowing which of the four spoons to use first at dinner.

The Sisterhood also issued a writ condemning the rebel Aztec princesses Thuia and Shaira Su for their complicity in an evil cult. This missive also declared the Order's firm support for the new Emperor Mamexi and his son, Tochtli.

## SOUTH AMERIKA

<b>Mercenaries</b>	<b>Minimum bid listed in [x].</b>
<b>Condottieri</b>	25i, 16c, 11a, 1ea, 1hei [1gp each]
<b>Captains</b>	Joseph d'Sackville (M977) [5gp]
<b>To hire, please contact...</b>	None
<b>Quality Ratings</b>	i15 w17 s18 c12 a12

### THE KINGDOM OF CAQUETIO

(New Hiquito in Caquetio)

*Malinal, Queen of Caquetio, Captain of the Order of the Flowering Sun*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Malinal matched the South Afrikan

Ambassador drink for drink, and as a result, got just about as much done as his whole nation did.



### THE PRINCIPATE OF BOLIVIA (Trischka in Karanga)

*Ramon Mascate, Prince of Bolivia, Duke of Trishka*

**DIPLOMACY** None

Finally convinced the Great French were not going to break the peace and come charging north, Prince Ramon and his son returned to Trishka and settled in for some rest and recuperation with their families. Poor Captain Barroso, who had apparently insulted God, the Prince and the whole of humanity, was dispatched across the high Andes to find "the city of gold" which was supposedly at the headwaters of the Amazon.

Amusingly, a whole boatload of Coloradan knights were dumped on the coast of Aztec-controlled Inca, in Qito, where they immediately began getting into fights with the locals, drinking far too much potato-liquor and generally raising hell. Also, they were French, but of a far different stripe than the Bolivians or even the effete 'Great French'.

After two years of struggling through the jungled morass of the deep Amazonian basin, fighting off headhunters, poisonous moths, wolf-fish, plague, fever, spiders the size of ladies' hats, anacondas of unusual size and every other terror... Captain Barroso managed to reach the Amazon itself in Catawishi province. He had found no city of gold, and my Lord he was pissed.

### THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT JOHN (New Granada in Acroa)

*Humphrey of Toron, Regent for...*

*Eluterio Gafard de Masa, Grand-Master of the Knights of Saint John*

**DIPLOMACY** Arana (^nt), Tupi (^fa)

A raw, bustling, dirty life returned to the Knight's cities – Araguari, Cuiaba, and Quirigua all expanded a level. The grasslands of Piaul were opened to ranching and settlement, making that province a (0s6) Roman Catholic region. At the same time, a troubling rise in the number of Orangists in the province of Caete (and the port of Zaragoza) threatened the state with *another* religion struggle – worsened by the broad swathe of Lencolar regions in the north. Work began on rebuilding the old capital down at New Granada as well, with citizens slowly filtering back into the ruins.

Efforts began to clear farmland in Kayapo as well, as the Knights were making a tidy profit from shipping sugarcane, plaintains, bannas, wheat, rice and oats to South Afrika and Central Amerika. Unaware of the situation in Caete, the Franciscans and Dominicans in the country concentrated on trying to drive the

Lencolar sisters out of Terembembe in the north – an effort which met with great success.

Though Eluterio Gafard was now of age to rule the Knights himself, somehow Humphrey continued to act as his regent and the boy, apparently, did not mind.

### GREAT FRANCE (Versailles in Calchaqui)

*Francois de'Saone, Emperor of France, Prince of V arres, Lord of the South, Smiter of the Heretic*

**DIPLOMACY** None

The cities of Sevilla and New Marseilles expanded as the French turned their attention from beating the living daylight out of the New



Granadans and to more peaceful pursuits. Chechete and Incahuasi were settled (to 2 GPv and 0 Gpv, respectively) by waves of land-hungry Frenchmen. The last of the hated war reparations were paid to the Knights of Saint John (peh! The Spaniards lost!). In relative concert with the New Granadans, missionaries were sent into Kayapo to try and return the wayward natives to the proper faith.

The Arabic traders who had so recently arrived now set up shop in New Marseilles and began acquiring warehouse space, work contracts with the dockworkers and selling passenger tickets to the far Indies. Not so far away, in Chamonix, the Afrikan merchants began hiring thousands of laborers to begin clearing right-of-way for a railroad (using Afrikan steel rail, locomotives, wagons and conductors) which would run from the port of Chamonix up to Versailles. Leaflets were distributed widely throughout Great France, offering jobs for laborers, forge-men, accountants, clerks and cooks in job lots.

Further concessions were made to the Afrikans, including being given rights to the entire province of Guenakan! This outraged the local nobility, who promptly revolted, fired shots on the six Afrikan clipperships off-shore and chased off two Afrikan leaders who had arrived to parley with them.

Efforts by the Emperor to begat a male heir upon his wife Angelique led, at last, to pregnancy and then to her rather gruesome death in childbirth, along with a stillborn son. This was a heavy blow for Francois, but there was worse yet to come...

Some odd happenings in the desolate highlands of Millcayac had drawn the attention of the Imperial government and Lady Veronique, having lately risen to prominence at Versailles, was dispatched south to investigate with a troop of Jacamars (the elite cavalry attached to the Royal Family). She traveled south into Allentiac, finding the land empty and without even birds or wild game – only signs of wildfires and queer reddish weeds tangled among the dying stems of the usual pampas-grass.

Nearly a hundred miles from the nominal border, a rider pelted back along the line of march, reaching Veronique and the Duc Gauthier (commander of the Jacamars attached to the expedition) with a wild cry of alarm. "Something in the trees," the boy shouted, trembling from head to foot, "something *huge!*"

Gauthier wasted no time in snapping out brisk, assured orders. "Deploy the guns, lancers in skirmish formation, riflemen ahead and into cover!" He gestured to the lance-captain of the nearest company of hussars. "Captain Capar, secure the ridge above us and report what might lie beyond those..."

There was a crashing sound and every head swung around. A seventy-foot-high eucalyptus toppled over, smashing through lesser trees and raising a huge cloud of dust. Gauthier opened his mouth to issue fresh orders and then he fell silent.

Something enormous and black and shining – metallic, with green and red tinting flashing deep in the ebon surface – rose above

the trees with menacing grace, swinging from side to side like a snake surveying it's prey.

"Gu... gu... guns!" The Duc screamed, filled with all-encompassing fear. "Fire the guns!"

There was an intense flash of light, as though the sun had turned across a mirror of superlative quality. The nearest gun cussion – still being wrestled from the road by its crew – lit up, turned a brilliant cherry-red and then blew apart with incredible violence. Gauhier and his command staff were shredded by the blast, horses screaming, men crying out – for only a moment.

Then the terrible light washed over them as well, and their screams stopped abruptly as clothing, hair, flesh burst into flame. Buttons, belt-buckles, the actions on their pistols and carbines melted, running like wax.

Two of the other guns, a little further back, roared, belching flame and smoke. There was a high-pitched ringing sound as the solid shot struck the carapace of the huge *thing* striding out of the trees with a jerky, loose-limbed gait and spalled away. The light flared again and the second battery of Verdun 4-pounders blew apart in a rolling wave of explosions. Rifle fire from the skirmishers rattled from the *machine* like rain, and then the Jacamars were running like mad, scattering into the brush like frightened birds.

The *thing* moved through the ruin of the regiment, one enormous metallic leg smashing down through the smoldering ruins of Lady Veronique's carriage, grinding the enameled wood and brass into the ashy soil. A queer, echoing call rang out from the disk-shaped main body, ringing across the rocky ridge and the stream below. Once, then twice, the thing called out, and then, from a distance, there came an answering cry, filling the air over the grasslands like the sounding wail of a hideous carrion fowl.

*Ulla! Ulla! Ulla!*

## BANK LIST

Bank		GP	Rate
Aztec Empire of Mexico	Tenochtitlan Teocali	2159	40%
Chan Mongol Empire	Uncle Wu's	873	40%
Emirate of the Chandellas	Mutaib Mercantile Lending	237	40%
Republic of Ethiopia	Funj Gold Reserves	291	40%
Principate of Kiev	Royal Bank of Khitai	142	35%
Kingdom of Maasai	M'Beya House of Credit	1461	20%
Qing Empire of China	Luang Golden Venture	1258	40%
Mali Ax Empire	Mixtec International Fund	1404	34%
Great France	Banque du Varres	1133	40%
The Nisei Republic	New Yedo Matsuma Bank	767	40%
Empire of Swedish-Russia	BUX	824	40%
Duchy of the Three Isles	First Merchant of Valetia	568	40%
The Kingdom of Java	Sunny Sunda Savings	950	40%