

GM NOTES TURN 11 - Next Turn Due July 1st.

If something happens you do not understand email me I keep very good turn-by-turn notes and I can probably tell you why something happened.

Turns Sheets: Please work diligently to make these clean. Clean orders get processed faster and more efficiently. If you can use the Turn sheet with the embedded excel please do so. I really like the movement section on those a lot.

Turn Sheets to you: Please check your stat sheets when you get them rather than at the last minute. Yes I realize they should be perfect but sometimes it doesn't happen that way. If you check ahead of time it give time for things to get fixed rather than being in a rush.

SE's and Hordes: Be warned They can start popping now. I will say this about both, I do not expect that I will have an overly active Horde world, things seem to be active without there being one Horde active at all times. I am not inclined to have freaky SE's but historical ones yes. I will set SE goals be warned.

Don't Forget (I know this is hard to get used to) You can contact NPN's and they just might be helpful. NPN's like making deals especially when it nets them money.

Islands & Colonization and Building Cities: You must colonize an island to zero before building a city on it. This represents the very basic regional infrastructure necessary to assist the city in functioning.

1045 - 1049: Death of the Great Empires

Mercenary Pool:

If a leader is listed you must hire the leader and his troops, leaders minimum is 5GP plus the minimum of .5gp for regular and 1gp for elite troops unit.

Northern Europe:	Jan Olavsen	855	1HI, 10I 10W, 10XW
	Independent		
Mediterranean (Catholic)	Zulicini	649	2HC, 5C
(Catholic)	Buliceli	969	5EW
Non-Islamic	Karakus	822	1EI, 10I 5HW, 15W
	Independent		
France, No. Spain & Germany	Lord Argon	858	5HEI, 10HI, 10S
France, Spain, Italy, Germany & England, Scotland, Eire	Independents		15I, 20XI
	Independent		3C, 5XC
Any Nation on the Red Sea Or East Africa	Horgan's Free Co.	882	5HEI, 10EI, 5S
Egypt, Morocco & Cordoba:	Taureg Clan	833	3XEC, 20XC
	Independents		10XC, 10XI
Hungary, Serbia, Russia, Poland REE	G. D'Kolner	769	6HEC, 10EC
Hungary, Serbia, Russia, Poland	Independents		3HI, 7I, 15XI
	Independents		5C, 10XC

Buhwayids, Egyptians, Yemen & Shiraz	Independents	(Moslem)	5C, 10XC
Central Asia	20XC		
Buddhist & Lamanist Nations	Monk Jaing	816	5HEI, 10EI
India Proper	Deccan Raiders	824	15XEC
	Independents		5I, 15XI
	Independents		8XC
Asia (naval)	Independents		10XW
SE Asia & China	Chou Yun	888	6EC
	Independent		10I, 20XI
	Independent		6C, 12XC
N China, Korea	Clan Wolf	777	40XC
	Clan Jaguar	852	40XC
	Clan Bear	966	30XC
N.China, Korea, Japan	Independents		20XC
	Ju Jin	A55	6EC, 6XEC

Africa:

Shia:

In sticking with Shia church policies once again the size of Jerusalem was increased and it also continued to be beautified. Lots of facilities were upgraded as well in an effort to become stronger and more stable. This effort was well received in the Shia community. The Fatimid King rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem after the latest round of construction.

Egypt: Alexandria +1 CL

The Kings mother died this cycle and the nation mourned the passing, she was a strong woman who helped instill the good values in her son. The Emperor's brother in-law and commander of the vast Egyptian host also perished in a training exercise fighting four men at once with unshielded weapons at the age of 54. Apparently this was not such a wise move on his part. The death was obviously an accident though as there were many witnesses and this kind of display by the head of the army was not uncommon.

In other news from around the empire things were going along well. The Emperor's Coptic sister was the proud mother of three boys and she started complaining that if the city size were not increased she would have to send some of her children to live with her brother. Emperor Fasil was not sure if she was serious and began to seriously contemplate the alternatives.

The Kingdom also began to bustle with a great deal of activity as many fleets were allocated to internal trade, the movement of goods within the kingdom was very important and this was not missed by the King. Many new trade routes were initiated now that the REE had been broken up somewhat there were many new trading partners to be had.

Ghana:

Internal development in the home province was the primary focus of the Ghanan king this cycle. Also a decent sized contingent of light cavalry was gathered in order to support anti-desert raider efforts.

Morocco:

Rested

Sunni Church:

Lots of building up

Algeria: +1CL Algiers

Economic development in the capital

Tunisia: +1CL Mahida

Economic Development in the capital and some more military forces were raised.

Hausa:

The continued development of the infrastructure bore fruit again and the government stabilized. Massive investments in education will aid the kingdom for many years into the future as well, assuming they Hausa do not become a target of the Tomba foot tribe.

Kanem: Wadai (T)

The King died leaving Hendar in charge. He was patrolling the borders with the army when he got the news and he returned to the capital to take his rightful place on the throne. Some diplomacy was carried out on Berber tribesmen in Wadai. They were very receptive to the gold and agro tribute made by Jumatasa lead diplomat for the new Kanem king.

Zagwe: +1 CL Omdurman, Kassala (NE), Nubia (C)

Very quiet in the Zagwe kingdom. There was some shuffling of leaders and rural improvements in Axum along with the growth of the city of Omdurman. Solomon suffered from a rare bout of foot in mouth disease while carrying out diplomatic activities in the Coptic lands to the north of the capital. This paved the way for no real beneficial results out of the diplomatic activities. Solomon's arrogance got the best of him most likely as not only did he not take any gifts along with him on the tour he also spent little time in the provinces parleying.

Ethiopia: Port City of Gonder

The Ethiopians minded their own business.

Coptics: +1CL New Alexandria

All actions the Church took were successful and the people of the Coptic lands were happy. The growth of New Alexandria is being very well received among the people of the Coptic faith and there is thought that soon the city will be named the new Holy city of the Coptic faith. A diplomatic entourage from the Highlands arrived to bring gifts to the city and pay homage to the Patriarch. They were treated nicely and left in good order.

Kilwa: Port City of Sima in the Comoros

The young King Ajuma died at the age of 42. The Heir Nikkawndo was out of the country in the Comoros overseeing the construction of the port city of Sima. His brother, Hakkawendo, took control of the army and declared himself ruler. This cause quiet concern but no rebellions took place. When Nikkawendo returned from the founding of the city everyone held their breath hoping that the country would not exploded into civil war and chaos.....Nikkawendo met with his brother and the military and at the prompting of the sub-commanders the reins of the government were fully handed over to Nikkawendo. Everyone breathed a big sigh of relief.

Zanzibar:

Saved up and sent diplomats to Bettismarka

Zimbabwe : Matopos (FA)

The homelands of the Zimbabwe people were completely developed now and the King was very happy. The Roswi Kingdom really had become quite productive since the cultivation of the province and being somewhat sheltered from the rest of the world. The Royal family grew as both Kimjala and Kimbuson wives had children this cycle. On the diplomatic front things did not go nearly as well as they could have. Lobo a typically effective diplomat ran into some problems with the local customs when trying to secure improved relations with Matopos. Fortunately he had some cash on hand so the end result was a nominal gain.

Zulu Nation:

Economic development

Europe: Royal Wedding Seals Empires of Italy and Germany. Otto III of Germany and Athena of Tuscany was an absolutely spectacular event held in Rome in October of 1050. To Pope actually presided over this Holy Union of the Northern and Southern Empires. Thousands of attendees from throughout both empires attended. Everyone of importance or who wanted to be of importance either attended or sent gifts and well wishes for this spectacular event the lasted almost the entire second week of October. There were parades seemingly on a daily basis; every street entertainer in both empires also seemed to be attendance as the event was virtually a non-stop festival. By the end of an exhausting week Rome settled in for the Saturday ceremony. It was a quiet day after a week of frivolity. The Ceremony closed right as the clock struck 5 sharp the church bells exploded in a crescendo of ringing and noise and the streets erupted in celebration that lasted till the holy day. The couple left for Germany the next morning.

Bolgars: +1 CL Bolgar

Economic Development.....hooray the Horde has headed East!

Kiev: Sudzal & Belarus (NT), Cherigov Cultivated, Mordva (FA)

The Czar decided that the Scottish experiment was a success. The creation of the Scottish city of Glencoe in the Russian lands had been a success, the Scotsmen had mixed well with their Russian counterparts and there had been little to no trouble at all. With that in mind the Czar granted the Scottish king full rights and control to Glencoe. Some money was exchanged on this transaction and it was immediately directed to the cultivation project in Cherigov. Food continued to flow to the Galican's and the guardians of the western frontier continued to urbanize. The folly in Sudzal continues as the Kievian envoys continue to bungle the most basic of diplomatic maneuvers. This time there was some off the cuff remark about the Sudzal Boyars daughter and his dog and how it was difficult to tell them apart, relations degraded, Katrina died on the return from Sudzal of the cough. Vlachko nearly slew a minor noble in a fistfight in Belarus this cycle and the diplomatic status cooled because of it. Vlachko is a wanted man in this province. On the brighter side Yaroslav had both a son and a daughter this cycle and relations with Mordva were enhanced greatly by the efforts of Princess Serena. She spoke brilliantly unlike her sister in Sudzal and the nobility of this region embraced her as often as they could.

Yaroslav in an interesting move broke off the lands of some of the Steppe nomads and barbarians and created the Principality of Murom. There was news on the marriage front; well it would have been news had Ivan III not died prior to his marriage to one of Yaroslav's sisters. The Province of Taman loosely held by the Czar for years was sold to Trebizond.

Novgorod: Port city of Volkov

Another quiet turn in the wastelands, yet another city was built by the Valo the Builder. Though the lands were rough the Kingdom of Novgorod had constructed many cities in their lands to protect their citizens from the harsh winters and bandits.

Galica: CL Odessa, Odessa Fortified

The City of Odessa was of serious strategic importance to the Lord of Galica so the city was increased in size and fortified. Odessa was truly as large as a steppe city could get now and was one of the twin gems of the small nation.

England: New City of Birmingham

The war had been a bitter one for Athelstan. He had been deprived of spending any time at all with his Irish wife because he was on campaign for nearly 15 years. Athelstan tried to make up for that by taking Molly on the road with him for his diplomatic endeavors. There was some effort made to have children but Molly was past her prime and so this effort was not fruitful. Alfred also married this cycle but his attempts to have children went poorly and in 1055 cost his wife her life, Alfred was pretty upset about this development. There was growing concern in the kingdom that an heir would be needed and that maybe Ethelfleda should marry.

Athelstan attempted to persuade Cornwall into becoming friendlier but these efforts fell on deaf ears primarily due to the fact that the lands had been so recently conquered.

Ireland: Limerick +1 CL, Trondhiem (T)

The Emerald Isle was very quiet. Some defenses were constructed, as everyone was a bit concerned as to what the English might do next. It was hoped that they would not pursue the Welsh into Ireland and thankfully that didn't happen. Trondhiem warmed a bit to the Irish as this time shiny gold coins were distributed to the children of the most prominent Jarl in the region.

Norway: City of Ingasborg in Skane; Adger (F)

It is good to be the king. King Elric in order to find the best bride decided to hold the Ms. Nordica Contest. All the beautiful women of influential families in Scandinavia were sent to Oslo for a beauty contest to see who would be the next Queen of Norway. Now this had the potential to be a disaster but things seem to have turned out alright as Elric and his new bride settled into the palace life style. Elric hit the jackpot as he married fertile Myrtel. The couple had a daughter in 1050, son in 1051, daughter in 1052, son in 1053 and a pair of twin sons in 1054! Yikes poor woman is probably not a beauty queen any more. In the strategic province of Skane the Norse constructed the port city of Ingasborg, named for the former queen a very honorable thing for her son Elric to do. From its position it is now the critical link between east and west by sea for the Kingdom of Norway.

Orkney/Scotland: Glencoe (F)

Walter felt it was necessary to bring Glencoe fully into the fold and after some cordial diplomacy with Yaroslav of Kiev terms were negotiated and the deed was done. Glencoe was completely settled by Scotsmen and they were all making a killing on Byzantine trade, well during those times when the "Romans" weren't killing each other at least. Being fully integrated back into the Scottish sphere was a welcome event. On the home front Walter worked hard at making the nation run smoothly and he was successful. Walter and his wife succeeded on three separate occasions to have children, all were sons.

Poland:

Three of the five leaders of this nation died this cycle and it is amazing anything got done. Lord Marek while attempting to conduct diplomacy in Obodria got caught up in some sordid affair with a noble's wife and ended up being killed in a sword fight. Prince Ryszard was sent off to the far away steppe to secure some horses for breeding purposes he never returned. The one man who did accomplish something prior to departing the land of the living was Jaunuz who while converting Polmerania had a good deal of success. The King's wife had three children.

Baltic Trade Coalition: Copenhagen +1CL

Secure in the knowledge that they have the largest fleet on the Baltic the BTC continued to develop economically. The capital of Copenhagen grew and the BTC built facilities to support the growth.

HRE: Royal Road from Franconia to Swabia, Frankfurt +1CL, Fortress Swabia
Royal Marriage see "Europe News"

Otto IV and his wife Athena settled in nicely to their newly constructed castle in Swabia. Elizabeth had thought things out very well in regard to her son and his new family. Speaking of the new family, Athena bore a daughter and two sons in the first three years of the marriage.

Elizabeth was always working. She and her staff headed off to Bavaria. The goal was to secure the Bavarian realm and make it fully part of the empire before they successfully pulled the Bohemians into their kingdom. This was no easy task for many reasons. The Bavarians had three very strong leaders, the Duke of Bavaria and both of his sons were all renowned in Germany for their skills in diplomacy, strategy and influence. Elizabeth was undaunted however; she was the master of her domain and very skilled in diplomacy. Elizabeth offered both a son and a daughter in marriage, Albert and Agnes in hopes that she could close the times with the Bavarian royals. While Prince Augustin accepted the hand of Agnes, this marriage did not carry a great deal of weight with the Bavarians. There was a fairly large outlay of gold by Elizabeth and her assistants that also assisted this endeavor. In the end however the Bavarians remained at the status of nominal independence and Elizabeth returned home with only vague assurances to consider her generous offers and a new son in law. Least she had off loaded one of her daughters and that definitely had value.

Witch Hunter Von Ryan and his entourage arrived on the outskirts of Salzburg it was raining and that always made things a little worse than they had to be as everyones clothes were soaked from a long day of riding. William had been informed by the Duke of Bavaria that there had been some odd occurrences at the Cathedral of St. Virgil. The Witch Hunters occupied a inn for the night.

Ah, the homeland. My father loved Bavaria and it has much to enjoy. I am concerned about the potential of religious disturbances at St. Virgil on of the oldest Cathedrals in Germany. The whole Branist incident was quite troubling and I am fearful that more religious strife among Catholics could be arise if caution is not a priority. Tomorrow I will visit with the Duke I am sure the Queen will not have a problem with me interupting her visit for a day while I am doing business of this nature.

After some discussions with the Duke I have decided it is absolutely necessary to investigate the Cathedral of St. Virgil.

The Cathedral is very beautiful, it is difficult to believe it is 300 years old. The Bavarian clergy have done a fine job on the upkeep. On the first day of investigations nothing was discovered apparently the information the local Bavarian soldiers had turned up was a but lacking in the right details so I decided that maybe a little more work was needed and a little different approach.

The next investigation was a surveillance operation we rotated shifts and watched the building for the possibility of non-clergy visitations or unusual comings and goings. This went on for about a month and it seems that once a fortnight there is some kind of odd gathering that takes place inside the Cathedral.

We watched another month and this behavior continued. Some passive questioning was done and nothing really turned so I decided a stealth action was necessary. On the following fortnight I sent in the lightfooted Henrietta. Her investigation bore some fruit. Apparently the alter could be removed and below it were stairs. Now it is uncertain where this might lead and what might be going on so sending in the military would be a problem most likely.

With the approval of the Queen and the agreement to be as subtle as possible we moved in on the Cathedral. It was pitch black out on that night and all our visions were impaired. We were careful to avoid lighting torches until we were actually underground though so as not to warn sentries. Below the alter we lit up the torches and we were shocked to see a wealth of cryptic paganistic "artwork" on the walls. We drew weapons immediately. Everyone said their quick prayers and the Crossbow were cocked and ready to fire. Down the corridor we could hear chanting so we tread as softly as one could the floors were not stone so silence was not difficult to maintain. We stopped just short of a well lit room, the chanting was loud and not worth repeating as the dark pagan Gods should always remain nameless to protect the innocent and ignorant. I made the decision that killing all the followers would be most appropriate since all of these men were probably insane and any information they would give would probably be lies anyway. We attacked swiftly catching them completely unawares, we slew all of them. We remove their bodies quietly to a safe place and called the local magistrate as well as some other officials to identify the men.

I must say it was a blessing that the head of the church does not seem to have been involved in this "cultic" activity. I recommended he send a letter to Rome requesting an Arch Bishop to pay a visit to the Cathedral and resanctify it. The Duke assigned some men to take care of filling in the area below the alter so that unholy area might not be used again. Some documentation was recovered indicating this was an isolated activity rather than being part of a bigger problem which was a great relief.

Carinthia: Trieste +1 CL
Trieste grew and was enhanced.

Bohemia: City of Brno in Moravia

Bavaria: +1 CL Munich

Lots of defensive positions were erected in the country. The King had been negligent in this regard and so it was high time something was done. Both Norgau and Bavaria benefited from this construction. Leopold II marries Bohemian Dukes daughter, Anne, in a nice wedding in the shadow of the Alps. Augustin was named Baron of Nordgau and he and his wife Agnes settled in to the region and began to manage it.

Pope: Venice & Lombardy (CA)

A good deal of monetary assistance was granted to the peoples of Lombardy. The people of the lands rejoiced and Pietro probably did as well.

A huge number of missionaries were sent into this region in an attempt to bring them back to the right and proper religious persuasion. Joining the missionaries was Emmanuel LaCoursiere and Polish prince turned clergyman Karl, misspelled in the last Newsfax. On the Orthodox side of the fence there was great concern over the resurgence of the Catholic faith in the city of Naples and missionaries had been dispatched to take care of the problem. The event drove the problem home very soundly. Everyone was on edge as the largely Orthodox population was being hit by swarms of Catholic Missionaries primarily being guided by Karl of Poland who was working diligently to persuade the local leaders who remained from the Kingdom of Naples era to convert. The pot was heating up pretty good over this when LaCoursiere made another play for the center of religious authority in the city. Unlike 5 years earlier LaCouriere was well prepared he had cash at his disposal and a well-prepared plan of attack. There are times however when actions regardless of how well thought out just don't work.

June 13, 1052: Via di Capodimonte 11:00 PM

Emmanuel	Greetings gentlemen
Religious Figure	Greetings
Emmanuel	I have the gifts from the Pope as promised
Religious Figure	It will be put to very good use
Emmanuel	I hope it is you must sway your brothers to rejoin with the true church
Religious Figure	I will do my best it is a very difficult task
Emmanuel	It is my sworn duty to bring the Cathedral under the control of Rome
Religious Figure	I know all to well and I support and applaud your efforts but the tensions are very high
Emmanuel	The Pope has devoted a great effort to all of Naples this cycle and he does not take failure well
Religious Figure	ACK!

KILL THEM! KILL THE TRAITOR AND DEATH TO THE CATHOLICS!!

Emmanuel unarmed tried to flee and was unsuccessful, he was found in the street very dead, bludgeoned to death.

Violence broke out in a VERY bad way in the following months. The Catholics and the Orthodox missionaries clashed as impassioned speeches incited riots around town. So surprisingly brutal were the engagements that Karl of Poland was killed in one of the riots, which he himself incited. Pietro on hearing of this disaster occurring in the wealthy city of Naples, which his 600 man militia was incapable of handling, immediately dispatched d'Arezzo with a small detachment of troops. D'Arezzo arrived and immediately cracked down on all violence in a very harsh way. Not only were Orthodox oppressed but also Catholics. D'Arezzo was a no nonsense individual and while Catholic at heart he was not about to allow the pacified Napoli get any ideas full fledged rebellion and possible independence. In the end the violence benefited no one but it certainly helped widen the gap between Eastern and Western Christians.

Branist: Marseiles +1 CL

Upgrading of facilities in Gascony. Holy city was enlarged and many improvements were added.

France: +1 CL Paris & Rouen

The lands of France prosper under Robert II as they did under Robert the Fair. The cities continue to grow and develop and the lands continue to improve. Prince Michael and his wife Anne of Aquitaine had a daughter and two sons this cycle. This bodes well for the merging of Aquitaine and France in the near future. Defenses were improved along the border with the Holy Roman Empire just as the HRE had done.

Gascony: Road Barcelona to Toulouse

The Gascon's continue the drive toward economic betterment. King Philip announced that a great road would be built to connect the Bay of Biscay with the Gulf of Lyons in an effort to further the goals of the Gascon state. This was met with a great deal of support across the nation as all the peoples of Gascony could take pride in such a project.

Aquitaine: +1CL Nantes

Now that the lands were assured of peace again John IV increased the size of Nantes and ordered some public works constructed.

Leon:

Rested

Cordoba: The Cities of Palina, Al-Mireya, Valencia, Toledo and Zargosa all were fortified

Cordoba worked hard to making the lands a bastion of strength from now into the far future as nearly every city within the country was fortified. Economic development also occurred.

Hungary:

Baby boom in the royal family. In record setting style Stephen II heir to the throne and his wife had SEVEN children this cycle. First was the son in 1050, then the twin sons in 1051, then the triplets in 1052 and then one final daughter in 1054. Really aside from that everything was quiet in Hungary. The troops patrolled the lands the military was drilled by the exceptional Janos and everyone around Hungary left them alone.

Serbia: Bosnia Colonized 2/4

Death was a frequent visitor to the Serbian house. The Heir to the throne died in 1051 followed two years latter by the king. Mikhail II took the throne very peacefully in 1054. Two of the countries commanders also passed on to a better place during the cycle. The only good thing to arise out of all of this is that none of the mayhem seemed to be suspicious; all deaths seemed to be in one way or another due to natural causes.

Montenegro:

Sitting and accumulating manpower.

Greece: New Capital – Athens, Idalion (F), Sparti Rebuilt for the second time

The Greeks were definitely not messing around so they decided to colonize Idalion in order to make it friendly. The locals were not terribly excited about this but when it was backed up by troops they realized that they had little choice. The Greek King decided his capital needed to be moved to Athens now that things seem to have calmed down so move it he did. This actually went smoothly and the kingdom breathed a sigh of relief.

Bulgaria: Port City of Pliska, fortified city, Drobruja Colonized.

With a huge amount of thanks to the forward thinking Orthodox Church the former capital of the Bulgarians was rebuilt and the home province was greatly improved as well. It was a very joyous event. All this good will made it so the Bulgars didn't hate the Byzantines quite so much even.

Byzantines: Royal Road connect the Provinces of Cilicia and Isuaria

The Byzantine Empire continues to rebuild and secure allies in the lands it once formerly owned. Marriages to Montenegro and Bulgaria might have worked to warm relations a bit both nations have been standoffish of late, they are Slavs and that explains a lot about the relations with the Greek dominated Byzantines. Trebizond could not be more content there was a glorious wedding provided for by the Emperor though he did not attend. Everywhere else in the Kingdom plans were made for the defense of the Empire. Both the northern and southern frontiers were scrutinized. Everything ran rather smoothly.

"SEE Middle East Section as Well"

Patriarch: The Heresy Ends!

Patriarch Michael with a small entourage traveled to the Crimea to put an end to the Heresy in a peaceful way. Things had gotten way out of hand and Simeon the religious leader of the Crimea had been killed. Patriarch Michael "the Serene" and his loyal assistant Barnabus made a visit to the Crimea in an all out attempt to settle the religious problems plaguing the Orthodox Church. When they arrived in Kherson the crowd was angry. They had seen the workings of the Orthodox Church recently and they were none to pleased. Paul of Kherson knew that unlike many of the recent leaders of the Orthodox Church Michael had been a calming influence. Michael refused to aid his brothers in the recent civil war against the wishes to the Patriarch at the time and it was hoped Michael could put an end to the strife. After a great deal of time conversing with Paul and other local theologians and making certain concessions as to the direction the church should go the "heretical" Orthodox church merged back into the faith. Among other things Simeon was named a Saint because of his vision that the path of peace was the proper path.

In other news churches were established in a variety of places and a great deal of missionary work was done. The religious battle in southern Italy rages on as the patriarch continues to attempt to persuade the citizens of the former Kingdom of Naples that they should remain true to the Orthodox faith, "see Pope".

Michael was none to pleased about the events occurring in southern Italy. He met with his inner circle on conferred on what actions would be best to take in this situation.

Tuscany:

It was a glorious time to be in Italy. All of the lands were now under the righteous rule of Pietro II. Pietro III was sired and heir and a daughter and this was a very good thing. Pietro II's daughter, Athena, was married by the Pope in Rome to Prince Otto. It was a glorious wedding with all sorts of festivities and parades the crowning moment was the performance of the ceremony by the Pope which sealed the two halves of the Holy Roman Empire together for the next several generations. Athena was shuffled off to Germany and the cold. She was a trooper though and she realized the importance of the marriage and how it affected all of Christendom.

On the home front all was quiet as the Pietro III got his feet wet ruling and sired two children one boy and one girl. Any guesses on his son's name?

Middle East: Tensions build!?

In Aleppo, Shia missionaries moved through the countryside attempting to convert some of the Orthodox faithful. This was a complete and utter disaster as some locals who are not particularly nice anyway took exception to this activity and killed the missionaries.

In Baghdad, A group of men broke into the warehouse of a well to do grain merchant for some reason. Before they could escape the local militia showed up and killed most of them. While no one is sure what was going on the men did have in their possession some gold coins stamped with the head of Basil III.

Buhwayids:

10,000 horsemen were added to the army as they prepared to deal a deathblow to the Horde should it attack the Buhwayids or any of their allies. A huge rural development project was undertaken in Hahmar this cycle in hopes of making the lands much more profitable. The king should be pleased with the results.

Persia: Istafan +1 CL and Fortified

The Persians prepared to march off to war with the Buhwayids if called. Persian Heavy horse was renown through out the region and the troops were spoiling for a good fight.

Armenia: Batum Fortified

Concern over the potential of conflict with the Kingdom of Trebizond caused the Azerbajaini's to fortify the Black Sea port of Batum. No one bothered the province this turn but you can never be too safe.

Yemen: Port City of Sa'na in Djibuti

Things in the kingdom went well for the most part as the nation of Yemen continues to develop and grow.

Ali and Hakim gathered some of the armies of Yemen and took them to teach the Zufar chieftain a lesson. Off the glorious army marched 5000 horsemen with gleaming swords and flowing robes. Into the wrecked lands of Hadramaut they went seeing the light destruction caused by the forces of Zufar. There was little of value here and so the peoples of this land will recover quickly. Into Zufar the army of Yemen went. The 5000 riders swept in along the coastal regions the Zufaran Army rallied to defend their homeland mustering 1900 almost exclusively light cavalry. The first engagement occurred at Thamarit a bit inland. The Zufar forces made a quick strike against one of the columns of Yemenese cavalry. The forces engaged for roughly thirty minutes and then the battle broke off as a stalemate. A month later Ali and Hakim got word that the Zufar tribesmen had withdrawn to the northeast. Ali made the decision to pursue the Zufari into Muscat. The folks in Muscat were a bit less tribal than the Zufari. The leaders of Muscat had close ties to the Oman Shah and there was some trade between the desert regions.

Ali force still numbered close to 5000 horsemen in Muscat he found a little more organized foe and who could field nearly 3000 horse once again these were almost exclusively short sword wielding horsemen and some 600 light lancers. Ali had to be a little more cautious and he knew it. Daqm was the location for the only decisive battle fought in this campaign. Yashim gathered his forces foolishly believing that he could best the powerful Yemenese in a straight up battle. No one would proclaim Yashim a tactical genius. The battle was fairly brief and the Muscat army was routed from the field. Ali forces did not pursue for long as it was difficult to keep up with light cavalry forces and Yemen had very few light cavalry of their own left. Muscat like Zufar the year before was occupied.

At the end of the cycle one of the leaders of the desert tribes paid a visit to Al-Mohka. Ahktal was tall in stature for an Arab and his skin was wind worn. It looked in many ways if he was really part of the desert its self. Ahktal was allowed to visit the King though he was kept at a somewhat safe distance, as the King was concerned about the possibility of trouble with the tribes and how it might cause his life to be in danger. Ahktal delivered a very pointed message to Sultan Ahmed then departed.

"Lord of the Ancient Kingdom of Sheba and Aden the desert tribes have long maintained peace with your nation because your kingdom unlike some others has followed a holy path and remained loyal to the Qur'an. We respect this above all other things as keepers of the Holy Mecca and Medina. Your recent foray into the lands of Zufar and Muscat are very distressing to the tribes. Had your foul diplomat not disrespected the house of the Zufar Emir he would have never taken such action. For you to ignore the facts of this matter and bring sword and fire not only to Zufar but also to Muscat is extreme in the view of the Council of the Sands. It is therefore my given task to issue a warning to you and your people. Do not violate the desert trust. The sands are no longer your peoples homes but they are still ours."

With the message delivered Ahktal waited for the King of Aden to reply and when the king completed his diplomatic reply full of flowery words Ahktal departed.

Ghazi: Kophat-Dagh & Transoxania +1 Colonization level

The Ghazi attempted to rebuild and their brothers, Samarkhand and Buhwayids helped out a great deal. The Ghazi were apparently very confident that no more Seljuks would be headed their way as the busied themselves recolonizing the lands depopulated by the Seljuks only a few years ago. Overtures continued with Endrosia but Endrosia fearing being tied to closely to the Ghazi with a horde wandering around did not feel like full integration would be the wisest move. Everyone besides the king breathed a huge sigh of relief when the Seljuk's moved further east leaving Ghazi realm alone. Much better if they, the Seljuk's, pick on some Hindus.

Edrosia: Baluch and Sukkur +1 CL and Fortified

The Edrosians expended their reserve NFP's and Expanded and fortified their northern Cities. With the constant threat of hordes hanging overhead Fortress might stave off intruders for a little while. Large amounts of Agro were also placed in storage and troops were sent north along the postal road to aid their brothers the Ghazi.

Chorasmia: Road from Ugrench to Salik's Hold

A road was built to aid in the efficiency of the government and the people of Salik's Hold were very happy about this. The King promoted his two sons' to prominent positions with in the government they are both well suited to rule the country, which is quite a relief. A pretty large contingent of heavy lancers was raised this turn as a safety precaution. The all-veteran army while not huge is a very well led and formidable force.

Samarkhand:

3000 Lancers and a smattering of Field forts were put in place around the country. It was probably not enough to stem the tide of a serious invasion but reconstruction of the military and the nations defenses remained a top priority. At home the usual fare was in order, rule, prepare for horde invasion etc. The prince did assist in bringing a daughter into the world and that was a good thing as long as the king could keep the kingdom from being over run.

King Padawan came up with the brilliant idea of creating a steppe ally with the Frunze so he did so. There are serious concerns about this endeavors viability but one never knows how an experiment might turn out till one tries thus the experiment has begun.

Seljuk's:

The Seljuk's did what Seljuk's do, the wandered the steppe and collected money and troops. Khan Toghrid had to fend off the usual attempts at assassination that went poorly once again for the would be assassins. The negotiations with the Osmani went well and they were absorbed into the tribe. While not large every man counts. Toghrid took his clan to the Kuchen tribes as well. Rather than join the small western contingent seeing that they were not going to be supported by the Kuchen nation fled east were they were strongest. Toghrid then moved his mass into the land of the Kuchans. The Kuchan's only recently departed from the steppe themselves were unphased by the passing of the Seljuks who that saw as kindred spirits as opposed to the git who lives upstairs and occasionally floods your apartment or harasses you a bit.

India: WAR! (sort of)

The King of Tripuri decided that the Kingdom of Uttar Pradesh was getting just a bit to fat and so the obvious solution in Vishnar's eyes was to go in and carve off the part he wanted. Now Vishnar's son Dyupati was very skilled in the art of war and was very anxious to prove his worth to his father so he took the army and the mercenaries that were hired, short the Deccan Raiders who were currently in the employ of the Raj of Punjab. Off the army went in to the most battled over province in L5 Jihjhoti. Now in the past Jihjhoti had been a death trap for would be invaders but Dyupati was well prepared for a battle in the wilderness and this may just save his life in the upcoming months.

Jihjhoti was easily overrun.

In Mathura word had come that there was an invasion occurring in the recently conquered province of Jihjhoti. King Suva and Heir to the Bengal throne Jish who had been incredibly moving into position to support his allies against a potential invasion by the Seljuk host. Jish could not allow his army to be cut off from his homeland so he took up position in Rajput and waited.

Dyupati was in a quandry the Bengals were not bad people, just the people of Uttar Pradesh were foul and contemptible. Dyupati decided to hold his position in Jihjhoti. The Bengal army held and was reinforced by the forces of Dwijesh. Both sides eyed each other across the Ganges but no one made a move. An attempt was made of Dwijesh's life in Rajput during the cycle but it failed in a most miserable fashion.

Tibet: Nepal (F)

A quiet time of reflection for the Tibeteans as they contemplated the path to take next.

Lamanist Tibet: Port City of Colombo

The Lamanist continue their aggressive expansion adding a city in Southern Ceylon for their most recent convert. Some other minor things were done as well to expand the faith.

Punjab:

Word had come down through the mountains that the Seljuks were coming and there would be no mercy given to the Hindu's. The King fearing for the worst put forth a titanic effort to prepare his nation for the impending doom. Loans were taken; the provinces of Und and Sahis were given nominal independence in exchange for honoring Allied obligations. It was an impressive effort. The Seljuk did not show up but they did visit the neighbor of Punjab Kashmir.

Shiva Church of Kashmir:

Well it is not everyday a Horde come calling. The Steppe tribesmen while somewhat lacking in communication skills did express their desire to get money from Kashmir, this really was not a problem and was taken care of promptly. Some activities in the state of Punjab went off well also as that nation was becoming more and more part of the Shiva Church.

Kucha: Wusu (T) and Beshbalik (FA)

The Kuchan's waited for the move of the Horde like everyone else, the Seljuks did come but there was no trouble. The Kuchan's also watched their eastern frontier with interest. There was a lot of action going on and the Kuchan king was hoping he could avoid the pitfalls of the neighboring lands, so far so good. The Kuchan leader Akai decided it was time to pull more of his steppe brothers into the fold so he sent his emissaries out onto the Steppe. They were for the most part very successful and the kingdom as a whole benefited from the new influx of citizens. The Altai were standoffish and are thinking of migrating to the east to be with their brothers who have not given up the pony riding tent living ways, when the horde showed up that is exactly what they did. Tragedy struck late in the cycle as both the King and his son Kaing died of 'the fever' Massoud took over though and the transition was very thankfully peaceful. Massoud's grandmother, mother and 8 sisters all mourned the families' losses but it is hoped that Massoud's new wife from Wusu will be bearing sons soon. There is some talk of a marriage or two of Massoud's sisters to prominent Kuchan leaders in order to continue the bloodline but that has yet to happen.

Manichaeans:

The Manichaeans, who have yet to have a leader die (your odd fact for the turn) devoted all their attention to developing the Holy City. The Primate visited briefly with Khan Toghrid as the Horde passed through the lands, it is unknown what progress was made as the Seljuks are Sunni.

Paramara Alliance: Avanti (FA)

Word had sifted down from the Steppe that the Princes were meant to be the victim of the Seljuk horde. So the Paramara Princes contacted their allies and prepared to defend their lands. A leader was sent off to pay the appropriate respects to the Horde as well. On the Diplomatic front the Prince Mridul finally found someone in the province of Avanti that didn't hate the Paramara Princes and that person was elevated above all others in the province in hopes of lending stability to a province which has gone through many convulsions in recent years.

Bengal:

The Bengals because of concern over potential Hordes and nasty Tibetans continued to expand the military. The Kingdom remained quiet while part of the army marched off to aide the Paramara incase there was trouble. Trouble did come but from an unexpected source and the Bengals were caught in the middle.

Kashmir:

An interesting dilemma occurred when the horde came calling since most of the army was out of the country when the army arrived the Shiva church made sure the horde was well taken care of (paid off). So the lands of the Kashmir were not destroyed. The army returned on the news of the arrival and there was a great deal of tension. The Kashmir people were very happy of one thing and that was that they had constructed MANY defenses in their country.

W. Chalukya: Banavasi +1CL

The Raj devoted huge amounts of resources to increasing the city size of his capital and making it more beautiful. He did not neglect his responsibilities to the kingdom though and so troops, a full city defense force, was shipped off to Ras

Chola: Port Fortress Oman, City of Masirah in Oman

All is good on the southern tip of India. People go about their days toiling in the fields, being shipped off to the deserts and things of this nature all in the name of the Raj. There is no internal strife and even Oman likes the Cholan's so Raj Tamahla rules over his domain and trains his son how to be a good king.

Sri Lanka: Maldives colonized

His father made Igneb heir of the realm in 1054 following a brief but heartfelt speech to some local nobles. The Island kingdom was relieved that King Siberut's son had come of age as the King was in his 50's now and there had been some concerns over the line of ascendency. The king once again became the proud father of two daughters before his young wife died in the early stages of a third pregnancy this cycle. The people of Ceylon watched and worried about the outbreak of another Indian war. It was very troubling that the people of the continent were so war like. Thankfully the Cholans did not seem to be this way.

Tripuri: Completion of the postal roads to Pawar and Chela from the Capital, Kalinga (F), Pundra (T)
War with the North see above.

Uttar Pradesh: Rajput (NE)

The nation of Uttar Pradesh was plagued with bad luck this cycle. The King went through one wife and managed to get a daughter the Heir to the throne went through two wives and had no children. Then there was that invasion of the Tripuri while half the army was out of the country!

S.E.Asia:

Burma: Akyab, Songkhla, Thon Buri & Rangoon +1CL, Sagaing (EA)

In Burma where it is peaceful huge amounts of urban development was occurring. Quite possibly more than anywhere else in the world as many cities grew in size and many urban improvements were built within those growing cities. The King and his youngest son took a little trip to Sagaing where they wowed the locals with their brilliant diplomatic aptitude and secured an Economic arrangement with the province. Meanwhile the less than diplomatic Aniwratha stayed at home and ran the country. Aniwratha's wife died during the cycle, as did the royal families Matriarch, Pearl.

Khmer: Agkor Wat +1 CL, Postal Road to Royal Road Khemer to Surin

The Khmer continue to work hard to develop their lands now that the threat of the warring states are gone, Champa and Annam. The neighbors to both the North and West seem to be peaceful and that is quite a relief to Jayavarman VI. The King sent his son Jayavarman VII to the lands of the Champa to continue to work on bringing these lands fully into the kingdom.

The political waters in Champa were still pretty rough and there were a few families of importance who still hold some sway in Champa that held back full integration. For the most part however the effort met with decent success. The provinces independent spirit is nearly broken and with the conversion efforts being carried out by the Vishnu priest the region will soon be completely assimilated into the Khmer Empire.

Vishnu of SE Asia:

Lots of building up rather than out this turn. All the Vishnu followers also benefited from their loyalty to the church.

Malay Confederation:

Got really drunk and did very little.

Java: Singhiari, Sirivjaya & Sund +1 CL; Port City of Bali-hi built on Bali, Jambi (revolt), Sirivjaya (F)

Java is heading for economic boom times and the citizens are happy. Expansion of three cities coupled with the construction of the city of Bali-Hi in the Bali Is. chain is a sure sign of prosperity. Everything went very well for Java except in Jambi.

Rampak II journeyed to Jambi to try to improve the very slowly improving state of relations. Rampak II was not in any way exceptional at any thing but it was felt that if the right amount of time was spent on this effort that the Jambi would crater to the will of Java. Well no money and poor skills lead to poor results. The Jambi had no love for the Javan's and Rampak's visit was an insult to the dignity of the Jambi people so they rose up against their oppressor and threw off the Javan yoke!

Asia: And the lands did weep.....The Hsia did not take kindly to the influences of the Sung in their lands. Kuluki also decided that the Chinese Buddhist were conspiring with the Ancient Sung and so all must be made to pay! With a sizable army sitting in Anhui, Kuluki issued a dreadful order. All lands owned by the Hsia with the taint of Sung in them must be cleansed. So it was told and so it was done. The Army was split in half and they set about their task. All religious institutions were looted and all people were to be rounded up and enslaved. Suluki and Xun both accepted their task and relished the opportunities it represented, pockets lined with gold and loads of beautiful concubines, mmmmmmm. Since no one was expecting such an atrocious act to take place and because the armies of Suluki and Xun were very large they were virtually unopposed in this brutal action. The provinces of Anhui, Tangchou, Funui, Chinling & Houma were all looted and enslaved. Some folks did manage to flee from Houma and Shentung, which is currently occupied by Suluki's army, before the arrival of the Hsia "horde".

Sung:

The Order mourned the destruction of so many Sung lands and the carting off of the citizens. In light of the horrible events of the last 20 years the Sung dynasty looks very benevolent. The Sung did what they could to improve their strength while the events in China transpired.

Bandit Kingdoms of Hunan:

Patiently waiting for their ship to come in, to bad they are landlocked.

Shanan – Zhou: +1CL Chiang-Ling & Kwanchou, New City in Hubei Chongqing

Remarkable, there was actually peace in the lands of the Zhou. This outbreak of peace paved the way for much in the way of rural and urban development and the people were happy. The Kingdoms leading diplomat passed this cycle, if he had been born in peaceful times he would have been a great asset to the Zhou, in the times of the Warring factions however he held very little use in the court sadly.

Jaingnan: Kaingsu (FA)

Nothing much going on here. The Nanchao sent some financial assistance and this was greatly appreciated.

Clan Iiachi: Ganzhou (F)

The King offered up his daughter to the Ganzhou Overlord in marriage and she was accepted into the Ganzhou house and with this binding the Ganzhou became part of the Iiachi house. The defenses in the realm were improved in hopes they would make the defense of the realm more adequate, which they did. Prince Saw-fu received his very own personal contingent of troops and he happily marched them around everywhere he went. At the end of the cycle the head count in the royal household had gone up by 4 as the Heir to the throne and his wife added 3 daughters and a son, though sadly the birth of the son caused the death of the Heirs wife. When the admiral of the navy did not return from exploring the Ganzhou Overlord became a general in the Iiachi Army an honor appropriate for a many of his stature as potentially one of the most capable men in China.

Buddhist Primacy: Port City of Hongwon in Mantap, CL+1 Kaifeng

The Primacy had grown very large and powerful so the Primate decided to curb his appetite for expansion and concentrate on converting the masses. Shocking news came when it was discovered what was going on in the lands of the Hsia. It was thought that relations were good with the barbarians but apparently they were not as many Holy sites were sacked and burned.

Nanchao: Tonkin +1 CL (F) Laos (C)

Throughout the nation of Nan Chao there was much consternation over recent actions of its neighbors. Although the opportunism of the Hsia was not unexpected, it was nonetheless disappointing to see a fledgling religious state crushed merely because it seemed vulnerable and happened to occupy a prime piece of real estate. The king was sad and shocked when he was informed of the events that occurred this cycle. The Barbarians of the North were destroying northern China and there was nothing that could be done. Han was very happy he shared only a very small and easily defended border with the Hsia.

Yet that was nothing compared to the sheer barbarity of the Zhou. Not content with having killed thousands of soldiers and innocents alike in Jaingnan, the Zhou went on to completely ruin the Jaingnan's lands and permanently impoverish the people of that nation. The Zhou ruler has assuredly consigned his future reincarnations to relentless misery; such was the extent of the bad karma he has brought upon himself, and those who carried out his inhumane orders.

In light of the actions of these neighbors, there was increased expenditure on Nan Chao's defensive capability, and a shipment of aid to the suffering Jaingnanese to help them recover from the Zhou's depraved conduct in their lands. This aid was greatly appreciated by the Jaingnan who have a very long memory and will remember for many years who came to his nations aid in a time of need.

Another destination for Nan Chao's aid was the city of Tonkin, which had been recently devastated by freakishly high tides. Affected sections of the city were cleaned up and rebuilt so that the people of Tonkin would once again have homes and the basic infrastructure for earning a living.

The diplomatic efforts of the heir and his entourage were very well received in Tonkin as was the great assistance in rebuilding that was bestowed on the city. The people of Annam also recognized this good deed and responded in a more positive manner. Laos was a different story. The Laotians really don't like folks very much at all and are extremely difficult to get along with. Though the effort was strong by the Nanchao it just was not enough to budge the Laotians. Guku died in Laos of malaria and was returned home.

His Hsia: Shensi is now the Hsia homeland

See Asia section

Kuluki was pleased his plan was carried out with vigilance, he would have liked to have taken more slaves but the movement of slaves back to the capital was a slow process as the civilized folk could only walk so fast.

Korea: +1 CL Xing Tao

The clan, 7 all told by the Kings wife and his brothers' spouses, had a plethora of children too. Outside of that all was fair in the land of Korea. The people paid their taxes, listened to the rantings of the Buddhist monks that were prevalent in the lands and generally went about their business as usual. Xing Tao did become more of a city of Korea than a Buddhist Monastery, since King Kim sent more of his people to expand and improve his major trading center in the Tsushima Strait. There was a bit of religious strife in Suifenhe when Ming-so tried to continue the conversion of this land. Seems as if the barbarian peoples can only be force fed so much Buddhism before they have had enough. There was not an outbreak of violence but the efforts of Ming-so were ineffective.

Japan:

The Emperor of all of Japan devoted himself completely to the development of his country.

Shinto: +1CL Heian

Shinto religion is at its height in Japan as it now completely dominates the islands.

Liao: Royal Road Luan to Yen, City of Kikihar in Shangtu, Honan (F), Hopei (FA)

The Great Northern Emperor Kuzhuk was blessed with a son and two daughters this cycle before his beautiful wife Charman passed. Kuzhuk oversaw many improvements to his lands including the completion of the Royal Road from his capital of Mukden all the way into the heart of China a very nice accomplishment for a barbarian the former Sung would say however now with developments as they were the Liao were quickly becoming one of the possible successors to the Sung. They should they were civilized by not shackling up all the citizens of their captured lands and the Northern Emperor promoted the creation of cities and roads to the benefit of all.

A great effort was put into diplomacy in Hopei and Honan, though no gold, which would have been beneficial. One thing did help this action and that was the rampage conducted by the Hsia, which scared the heck out of the rest of China. No one wanted to be a victim of some insane barbarian.

Australia:

The great Ayr cultivation project is nearly completed as the Australia. The educational system of the tribals in Australia continues to be top flight as efforts continue to make sure that all citizens are knowledgeable of all the appropriate pictograms in the Australian symbol language.

New Zealand: Fiji and Vanuatu (T)

It was a very productive turn for the Ocean King as both of his ordered diplomatic forays went about as well as they could. On the home front there was some question on how much ruling was actually going on. The Crown Prince's wife bore five children this cycle 4 girls and a boy. With all of these new children running about the further allocation of education funds was really important, college was expensive after all.

Shark God Cult:

Growing the little church of the Shark God was a easy thing as it was part of the religion of a vast majority of the Island peoples. Some overtures would be made toward the New Zealanders soon. Churches were built all along the coast of Australia.