

GM NOTES TURN 14 - Next Turn Due November 20th.

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.

When Visiting provinces for diplomatic purposes I will generally send you home before the end of the turn especially in the case of a nation. Staying longer than the current turn is viewed as over staying your welcome.

Women Rulers: Women can rule but the first time this happens there is a risk if you have Feudal Allies, SFA's, EA's or Allied provinces they will bail on you. There are some variables on this based on the Queen's stats. Whenever a female takes the throne after the first time there is a small chance of problems once again stats of the Queen help determine the results.

Multiple Wives: Yes you can have them. Two weaknesses of this, makes the possibility of a DF greater and eliminates the effectiveness of a political marriage.

ARMY BREAKDOWNS:

Ground troops: 1 Unit = 200 Men
Field Forts: 1 Unit = 1 Field Fort **** NOTE CHANGE *****
Naval Units: 1 Unit = 2 Ships

1065 - 1069: Rise of the Hordes

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:	Johan Olavsens Independent	855	1HI, 10I 10W, 10XW
Mediterranean (Catholic)	Zulicini	749	5HC, 5C
(Catholic)	Barceli II	973	10EW
Non-Islamic	Alicius Independent	A44	1HEI, 5EI 5HW, 15W
France, Spain, Italy, Germany & England, Scotland, Eire	Independents Independent		10I, 20XI 3C, 5XC
Any Nation on the Red Sea 5S Or East Africa	Horgan's Free Co.	767	5HEI, 10EI,
Egypt, Morocco & Cordoba:	Taureg Clan Independents	833	3XEC, 30XC 10XC, 10XI
Hungary, Serbia, Russia, Poland REE	G. D'Kolner	769	6HEC, 10EC 3XEC
Hungary, Serbia, Russia, Poland	Independents Independents		3HI, 7I, 15XI 5C, 10XC
Buhwayids, Egyptians, Yemen & Shiraz	Independents (Moslem)		7C, 15XC
Central Asia			
Buddhist & Lamanist Nations	Monk Kaing	A27	10HEI
India Proper	Deccan Raiders Independents Independents	824	13XEC 5I, 5XEI 5XEC
Asia (naval)	Independents		10XW
SE Asia & So. China	ZuKhan Independent	875	6EC, 3XC 5C, 10XC
N.China, Korea, Japan	Ju Jin	A55	8EC, 10XEC

Africa:

Shia:

Not near as wealthy as the hated Sunni the Shia still managed to construct some facilities and help provide an uplift for the city of Alexandria which the Egyptian king greatly appreciated.

Egypt: Benghazi and Alexandria +1CL, Sicily (F)

Al-Hakim was growing concerned about family matters so he sent couriers to Thebes to go collect Al-Hakim's nephews. Nadra sent her 3 sons to aid her brother. How these Coptic nephews would be accepted in the court was of much question but they arrived at court with some fanfare and things seemed to go pretty smoothly. The Fatimid fleet was consolidated and patrolled the Eastern Med. vigilantly. Nobody really is too concerned about Egyptians affairs and so they are left to their own devices.

The King married off one of his daughters to the Jordanian Prince this cycle in a quiet little ceremony held on the palace grounds. Al-Hakim was having no success having children so it was hoped one of his daughters could help the bloodline be carried on. Well the match seemed like a good one as it produced a son in 1068 sadly in 1069 the princess died so no more children could be added by this pair.

Ghana: +1CL Kwame, Royal Road to Boure from Ghana, Boure (A)

King Kanissa'ai was not even middle aged by most standards but his health began to steadily decline from 1065 to 1068. No one was sure what was really going on, witch doctors pumped the young king full of all kinds of concoctions that contained Rhino horn, lion hearts, strange herbs pretty much anything you can imagine the king took. It did not stop the once fit and healthy Kanissa'ai from becoming an invalid and dying tragically. The nation breathed a sigh of relief after the king's death. The recent rampages in the neighboring provinces had caused stress to the economies of the Ghanan villages on the kingdoms borders and the additions of slaves to the economy while a short-term benefit did not seem to have changed things dramatically. Ghana tried a little different way of dealing with their neighbors this cycle theyparleyed! Shocking but true Lord Botwe and Lord Karisa traveled to the province of Boure and initiated negotiations. Botwe had to do a great deal of reassuring to convince the locals that an army was not on the way to cart them all off to some pet project of the king. He was successful though not quite as successful as he would have liked but close, a little money gifted here would have made a big difference but there is always next cycle.

Morocco: Port City of Sidi Ifni in Arguin, +1 CL Idjil City

Sunni Church:

The Sunni church decided the best way to mend the fences with the Buhwayid was to do them a great service. The people of Lebanon were the beneficiaries of this gift. Several large facilities were built in Spain.

Algeria: +1CL Algiers

Tunisia: +1 CL Annaba and Mahida

Tunisians continued to go about their business ships watched the sealanes and the army was always on alert. Prosperity was not breeding slothfulness in Tunisia.

Hausa: Ivory Coast SFA, Ja built in Oyo

The tribal kingdom put forth a great effort to woo the Gold Coast states. The Gold Coasters liked the idea of someone offering to aid them if the Ghanans came to kill them. While General Askari's military was nothing to sneeze at for a sleepy little African kingdom any assistance is good assistance. It was hoped that the Ghanan's would be persuaded to look elsewhere if the Gold Coast tied themselves to the Hausa host. The Hausa did show more life than they had in recent years as they built a sister city to Abu in Oyo. A project was started to connect the capital with the Niger River as well it was about half completed by the end of the cycle. The King died on his triumph return home from the Gold Coast so his son assumed the throne.

Kanem: Port City of Umbata built in Kafin, Kafin (A), Benin (NE), Kwarafara (NE)

The leaders of Kanem were pleased to see Umbata rewarded for his years of dedicated work by having the new port town in the province of Kafin. Diplomatic efforts south of Kafin were attempted but the distance from the interior African capital was too much to overcome and so the river province remained independent.

The big news of the cycle was the extended stay of Patriarch Timeon of the Coptic Church

Zagwe: Road Funj to Gezira

The lands remained quiet. The lands of the Upper Nile continued to slowly develop and prosper on the Matriarchs of the Zagwe Kingdom. Mera II, much like Mera, has been guiding the lands into prosperity. A road was ordered built between the capital of the Zagwean state and the ever growing city of New Alexandria this was completed due to the heavy expenditure by Mera and the

Coptic Church. Yekuno Amlak was sent to Ethiopia to rebuild relations. He was a wily diplomat but the Ethiopians were content with their place in the world.

Ethiopia: City of Gore' in Walaga

Ethiopians are back to minding their own business and living the peaceful life on the plateau. All of the Ethiopian cities received walls this turn.

Coptic Church:

The Coptic Church put their people and resources to work. A road was started that would run from New Alexandria to Soba. The Archbishop of Ethiopia died but his successor David took over and oversaw the beautification project in New Alexandria. New Alexandria is quite likely the largest purely religious city in the world. Lamanist would argue that the Tibetan capital is the largest religious city in the world but since it is the Tibetan capital most think it is just Lamanist arrogance. A vast majority of the population are monks and nuns (if nuns are inappropriate for the time period or religion the GM apologizes for his ignorance) of the Coptic faith. Patriarch Timeon managed to journey through the vast tribal lands and into Kanem. The Patriarch opened the conversation of conversion with the Chieftain of the Kanem tribes.

Kilwa:

Prince Kenan manages to kill two wives but has no luck being blessed with children this cycle. The good news is however the Prince Kenan becomes King Kenan without incident and that is not a bad thing. Prince Mafune got shipped off to Nyasa a nice place to visit but wouldn't want to live there. In Nyasa, were he couldn't cause any trouble, Mafune found himself a wife, what's a guy to do when sitting around for 5 years the lovely pair had a daughter by the end of the cycle. Little else happened in this fair nation. The people of the Comoros were pleasantly surprised to see boatloads of material brought to their islands so they could have all the luxuries that the people on the mainland enjoyed.

Zanzibar:

Pleased that the Ceylonese had not forgotten about them.

Zimbabwe:

Both the King and his son stayed in the capital to take care of ruling the country and work on expanding the royal family. A great cultivation was initiated in Kafue this cycle as the project was nearly half way complete by the end of the cycle. The only other thing of note to occur in this region was the rise of some controversy between the Nobles and the religious caste. Apparently African paganism/shamanism is coming under some scrutiny, which is causing some unrest.

Zulu Nation: Sharik +1CL

Europe:

Bolgars: Built lots of troops.

Kiev: Torki and Levedia (NE), Atelzuko (FA)

The peaceful kingdom of Kiev continued to pursue diplomacy as a means of attaining what they wanted. Diplomatic efforts were launched in the south. Vachko, Ivan IV and Pytor all traveled south to the lands of the nomads. While the diplomatic efforts of the Rus were taking place in Levedia and Torki, the Scythians came with fire and sword and the Rus, having no alternative, attempted to flee. Vlachko was not successful in getting away and was put to the sword. In times of trouble the cream rises to the top and the venerable Pachenko took over Vlachko's duties and returned to the capital with the news of the Scythians arrival. There was uproar in the court. The peace loving Rus were no match for the Scythians and their tremendous army, messengers were immediately sent south to Constantinople in hopes that the Patriarch would help solve this problem.

Novgorod: GM Moved Novgorod to the Baltic because he didn't like it on the Lake, +1CL
Novgorod, Kymia (C), Yaroslave (A)!

The King who was entering his early sixties decided his kingdom would probably be best served if he stayed at home and ruled so he returned to his city by the sea and ruled over his country. He of course chased his children out of the palace because they were driving him crazy. Princess Katerina was given some governmental duties which was pretty surprising considering the reason for the split with the Rus was blamed on them naming a Queen as ruler. Katerina was exceptional though and so the King felt justified in his decision, he also did not name her the heir.

Ivan III and General Feodor made a brief trip to the lands of Kymia and discovered that only a few Lapp tribals ever called the area home so the Heir laid claim to the region in the name of Ivan II. Princess Katerina had a much tougher task she was sent to Yaroslav to secure her father a blushing bride and to land as good of a political arrangement as possible with the leaders of the region. Yaroslav had broken with Novgorod many years ago over some dispute no one even remembered anymore, fortunately for Katerina. Katerina was especially wily when dealing with the boyars of Yaroslav so she somehow managed to persuade the most powerful Boyar that her father needed a bride and he agreed to send his daughter to Novgorod. After that she showered the leader with some gifts and may have seduced his son though no one is saying anything. Anyway when she left everyone was very happy and the province was economically allied to her father. Shortly thereafter the Yaroslav Boyar died and his son took over which elevated relations a bit more.

Ivan II was ecstatic with the results of the cycle and his new bride. A peace agreement was secured with the Kievan Empire that is to last no less than 15 years. So far so good.

Galica: +1GPV Galica

The Galican's ecstatic over having successfully cultivating their home province immediately initiated a land grant program to give the citizens who had been toiling in the rough terrain of Galica homesteads. The Church helped sponsor this expansion by providing the materials and the gold for new homesteads and farming equipment.

England: Dyffed and Cornwall (F)

The King spread the wealth as he allocated funds to improve numerous provinces. The people were happy for a change. This is England of course so you couldn't really tell they were happy though. Athelstan Black Tongue died of old age in July 7th 1066. Athelstan's legacy rightly or wrongly will forever be connected with his betrayal of the Welsh. To those in the core areas of England Athelstan was known as "The Conqueror" for smashing the foul Welshmen's kingdom to bits. Either way you view the lengthy rule of Athelstan he should be regarded as a man who ruled all of England and Wales, which is no mean feat.

Molly assumes the throne! There is a good deal of disgruntlement over the ascension of a Queen to the throne. There is urban unrest in Caernarvon and in Lancaster and York's northern areas but these did not amount to enough of a problem to be a great concern. The Caste society of the English saved the kingdom from exploding into a full-fledged revolt.

Athelstan and Molly's daughter Edwina died in pregnancy. Percy assumed the role of Prince. Business went on as usual and many leaders swarmed into the regions of Dyffed and Cornwall and the provinces finally relented and became friendly.

Celtic Church:

A lot of builds and support for the loyal followers of the Celtic church.

Ireland: Port City of Dublin +1 CL, Trondhiem (F)

While most of the leaders of the Kingdom tended to the standard affairs of state the Earl of Ulster, ummm second Earl of Ulster, the first Earl died very early in 1065, traveled with some troops to Lienster to check out the goings on. The influx of Welshmen 15 years ago or so had not been monitored very well but since they hadn't caused any trouble it was not a great concern. The Irish and the Welsh had never gotten along well but the Irish were somewhat sympathetic to the

Welsh because they had been chased from their lands by the foul.....well now that Molly Ryn was on the throne not so foul Englishmen. What was truly amazing is that when the Earl arrived on the coast he found that the Welshmen had so inundated the area that where the once small fishing village of Dublin had been their now resided a small port. Stunned by this development the Earl immediately sent a message to the king. The Earl took the citizens that had agreed to move into the region from the surrounding counties into the city and met with the local mayor a hearty middle-aged warrior Finnaughen who claimed to be the King of Wales. The Earl of Ulster tried to act amused but he was quickly becoming very concerned. Finnaughen invited all the settlers to join the community however and was as hospitable as one could possibly be.

The Earl was given a nice home with stables and his men were fed well while he was a guest in Dublin. The new citizens seemed to not be an intrusion and quickly settled into the area as the city expanded. The goods and gold that were to be applied to the construction of a full sized city were instead applied to the construction of public infrastructure, which was woefully lacking in the city. The King sent word to the Earl several months later, probably shortly after he recovered from his shock the King sent a Message to the Earl and the "King of Wales"

Good King Finnaughen

It has come to my attention that your people are enjoying and prospering in my lands and I applaud you and the citizens of Dublin for attaining such a presence in the tiny hamlet of Dublin. Since I know you only have the best interest of the Kingdom of Ireland in mind I would like to thank you for your peoples faithful service. Your father when he sent you and your brother to my lands assured me you would handle yourself like gentleman and that you would aid my nations prosperity. You have exceeded expectations I must say. Due to your good works I will assign you the Title of the Earl of Lienster effective immediately and brother Lwellyn will be assigned the title of the Mayor of Dublin. If you would like to trade these titles you can the Earl of Ulster will make the Decree in the town square when you decide who is to be what. Please feel free to make the Earl aware of your military contingent as soon as possible as well.

King Ryn

Patrick Ryn the Lord Ryn's younger son died this cycle in a riding accident. He had enjoyed a good life so it was only tragic in the sense that he was still reasonably young.

Norway: Iceland Colonized, Norway Cultivated

Having not done much in the last couple of cycles the Norwiegn's got off their duffs.

Orkney/Scotland: End to Slavery!

The nobles and jarls of Scotland decided to agree with the king and give up their slaves. There was a big sigh of relief in the court as the laws abolishing slavery were accepted by all. Walter II who is the heir to the throne was happy to find out his new bride was quite fertile. He was now the proud father of three daughters and a son, Walter III? The children all seemed very hearty, at least their lungs were because they could all wail loud enough to make the castle shake or so it was said. In order to celebrate the peaceful transition from a slave society Edinburgh was beautified with a park complex.

Poland: Port City of Szczecin in Odoibia, Odoibia (A), Pomerania (NE)

Continued effort was put toward becoming more faithful in Poland and this effort netted some rewards this cycle. It helped a great deal that the Roman Catholic Church had made a great effort to support the Polish people including assist to those living in the rural areas of Kauyavia this cycle.

Krzysztof III traveled to Obodria and picked up his new bride. She was a pagan but it was assumed that with the religious zeal that embodied the Polish state during this era that it was only a matter of time till she threw off the old ways and embraced the true faith. This did help the diplomatic efforts in the province but not nearly as much as the brand spanking new city did. Conversion efforts continued to some effect in Pomerainia and Obodria as there populations were

slowly lulled into believing that their salvation lie in the hands of only one God as opposed to many.

Baltic Pagans: Economic Development

Baltic Trade Coalition: Port City of Helsinki in Turku

The BTC continues to grow and prosper on the Baltic.

HRE: Fortress Franconia, City of Antwerp in Holland, City of Mainz in Hesse, Road from Bremen to Hamburg.

+1CL Ostend, Bremen, Viborg, Ulm & Koln

The Queen continued to rule with an iron hand. Behind the scenes she pulled the strings as well. Even at 65 she had all her facilities and controlled nearly every aspect of the government. Most of the rest of the drones, I mean leaders, went about doing the things that Elizabeth told them to do. Otto III returned from Italy just in time to get the Army and his wife Athena to Swabia before he died. Athena took control of the army and waited for the Queen to send a general to take it over. The tension was building over this development because now the very capable Athena who had recently had to relinquish the Tuscan throne to her nephew was in charge of a large army of Germany and actually had a nominal claim to the throne that she could press if Elizabeth was out of the way. That would have to wait for next cycle however.

Carinthia: New City of Klagen

The Carinthians built the new city of Klagen in the shadow of the ancestral castle.

Kingdom of Italy: Rome (F)

Athena was very concerned about the viability of her empire. She was south to Rome, she laid claim to that city as the Pope finally divested himself of the last of his material possessions (GM failed to take care of this last turn). The army grew a great deal as a result of the concern over a potential invasion and everyone was put on alert.

Bohemia: Economic Development

Bavaria: The Bavarians concerned about how things were developing in Europe decided it would only be appropriate to bolster their army and increase the effectiveness of their defenses.

Pope: Cathedral in Romagna

The Popes realm remained peaceful. The Orthodox missionaries seemed to have retreated from Southern Italy and there was a good deal of relief over this. The Kingdom of Naples still existed but the rest of the south was in the hands of good Catholics. The Pope did many good works in support of his loyal Catholics and everyone was happy. One thing was becoming a problem for the Pope. Catholic missionaries lacked the religious zeal of days gone by; the Pope knew he would have to address this issue soon because it was affecting the abilities of his bishops and missionaries to convert the masses.

Branist:

The Branist deployed into southern Italy. The tension between the Orthodox and Catholics could be cut with a knife and the Branist had agreed to step in and try to defuse the situation because the Pope had notified them of Pietro had confessed his sins, prior to his death, to the Pope. The Elder Gregor Jacobson had not asked the Pope for any details from the confession when he passed through Rome though he did stop to visit the Holy City for a short time to determine what the Pope's policy was on the provinces of Southern Italy. The Branist arrival in Southern Italy seems to have had a good effect on the stability of the region, well that or the fact that no was paying to the region this cycle it was tough to tell.

France:

The French conducted a great deal of economic development and the people rejoiced. The most impressive thing about the French progression is the devotion of the French ruling class to developing their urban areas. In 1068 King Michael died of the cough that was going around. This did cause a brief bit of nervousness because no heir had been named but Michael's sister

took control of the situation and assigned Michael II as King and his younger brother as prince. Things continue on the whole to be quiet in the lands of France.

Gascony: Urban Development

Aquitaine: Rural Improvement in Limousin

Leon: +1CL Leon

Tragedy struck as Francis III heir to the throne was pitched from a horse while riding and was killed. This could have caused a little bit of a problem but the King is pretty healthy and Thomas II Francis II 's cousin and prince is hearty and hale and ready to assume the throne if needed. Gold arrived from the French, which helped bolster the coffers of Leon. Funding was allocated to the recruitment of a 1000 horsemen to bolster the army of Leon in case trouble came from the south. Some defensive structures were put in place as well. Thomas II married and sired a son in 1068 his wife died shortly after the birth tragically. The Matriarch of the family Queen Corianna died at the age of 82.

Cordoba: +1 CL Palina and Valencia

The 80 year old Mohamed finally died in 1066, which actually made him 81. Someday someone will write a book about the two lives of Mohamed. At 20 he was considered the military hero who was going to lead the armies of Islam to the conquest of all of Spain. He failed because of the Catholic unification of the north. His fathers dream shattered his life became endangered. His father conspired to put the Moroccan Prince on the throne over Mohammed because of his failures but his father was unsuccessful in his attempted unification with Morocco and Mohammed assumed the throne peacefully on his father's death. Mohammed turned to God and supported the huge amount of religious construction in his lands by the Sunni church. He also devoted himself to the betterment of the lands of Cordoba. This he carried out with great zeal. The cities grew a great deal roads were built to connect the cities, infrastructure was put in place to make peoples lives easier even in rural areas irrigation projects, schools and other services were provided for the betterment of the people. Mohammed dies a happy man and possibly has gone from the peak as general of the great Cordovan armies to the pit as the goat that could not defeat the Catholics back to the peak again as the great builder.

The passing of Mohammed went peacefully and Abdul who had been waiting patiently for the opportunity to take the throne finally did. He followed the guidelines his father had set and been so successful with. Some troops were raised since there were concerns over a peaceful Europe full of large Catholic powers. Urbanization continued in a few cities and some economic development occurred as well. Everything was quiet.

Hungary:

A large effort was made to make Pecs as beautiful as it could be. Once that was done a couple of political marriages were enacted one with Bulgaria and one with Galica. While marrying between religions at this time in history was risky Hungary was seemingly exempt from the strife that was tearing apart Southern Italy. Hungary had always maintained good relations with its Orthodox neighbors and in the southern reaches of the Hungarian realm house a good many Orthodox constituents. Mathais died in 1067 but his brother assumed the throne quite peacefully.

Serbia: Postal Road to Dalmatia, Royal Road to Thessaly, Ragusa

The Serbian King Mikhail II decided staying at home and enjoying the company of his wife and the big comfy chair (the throne to you and me). Mikhail was blessed with two daughters and a son during this cycle. Prince Zarko Mikhail's nephew was named heir and then immediately shipped to Aleppo to take control of the Army of the East. Zarko was very capable of handling an army and relished the opportunity to take the helm. The Buhwayids did not threaten the security of the Byzantines Eastern frontier.

Greece: Merger with Montenegro

Kingdom of Trebizond: Port City of Oblia in Polovotsy

Trebizond laid down a city on the Dnepr River to take advantage of the opportunities in the North. The Kingdom of Trebizond moved its capital to Kherson since it is quickly becoming the most important city in the kingdom. The arrival of the Scythians forced Trebezond to close the ferry to Taman.

Bulgaria:

Waiting and watching.

Byzantines: Antioch Fortified

The Byzantines were very busy on many projects within their realm. Idle hands are the devils workshop was the motto of the good Emperor Jovian. Public works projects in many rural areas helped boost the confidence of the local magistrates. Walls were erected around the city of Antioch. Antioch's valuable port was given a facelift, which included some tall towers and a very heavy chain across the mouth of the port that could be raised should the alarm be sounded. In Vaspurakhan the Armenians were shown the generosity of the Byzantines...hmmmm.... well they seemed nice enough, as a cultivation project was started in the province. Naysayers said the only reason it was done is so the locals could be taxed more heavily but what are the peasants going to do they are nothing more than serfs so they do as they are told. The Emperor Jovian also struck on a great scheme he would alter the economic model so that the middle classes could make more money. That would pave the way for much greater taxes being collected so he set about remodeling his economy, it would be a lengthy process.

The Armenians generally do not hold a great deal of ill will toward their Orthodox brethren however the Armenians had enough of the diplomatic overtures of their people and the mucking around of missionaries. The Armenians rose up! While the mountain villages were small because of a visit by the Turks barely a generation ago the Armenians were a hearty lot and the mobilized army of about 6000 mixed infantry. They killed visitors in Armenia and Lazicus and those not killed were lucky to make it out alive. They then moved on Cappadocia where they put a great many of the Orthodox faith to the sword. Those not put to the sword decided declaring that the Coptic faith was superior to that of the Orthodox faith was a good idea. The news reached Aleppo along with Parthenius who had been part of a diplomatic effort in Armenia proper. The King died at about the time Cappadocia was being ripped apart and so the armies in Aleppo sat idle and waited. By the end of 1068 the Heir to the throne had died leaving just Constantine left since his other brother had died in Lazica allegedly. The Empire held together remarkably well through all that turmoil and the commander of the Eastern Armies, Quo Validar assumed control of the army of Aleppo and prepared the defense incase the Armenians came over the mountains. The Armenians were not as foolish as some might think however they were well aware of the large military contingent that resided in Aleppo to defend the Byzantines from the Buhwayids. They decided to raid Edessa and Psidia instead. The Byzantines could not respond quick enough to stop the actions from being successful. At the end of the cycle the foul Armenians had retreated back into their mountain hideaways and the Byzantines began plotting ways to deal with the wretched Coptics.

Patriarch:

The Patriarch has learned from his predecessor follies. The Archbishop of Athens newly appointed to the post of Patriarch handled things in a very controlled and methodical manner. He concentrated on the things that made the religion strong, its people. He knew the faithful regardless of where they were would remain faithful and while the efforts of the Catholics had some effect the Orthodoxy was having similar successes elsewhere and great successes on the Steppe. Churches were built and the people flocked to them. Public works a calling card of the Orthodox faith continued at a break neck pace as well. All was good at least until the Scythians showed up. The Patriarch sighed and began counting the coin it was going to take to persuade the Scythians to go elsewhere.

Mercenary League:

There is always work to be had for the Mercenary league, more money flows into their coffers from Europe.

Scythians: Khirgiz (A), Turk (F) & Caucus (A)

The Scythians seemed to have recovered from their life under the Turk. While a fair master the defeat at the hands of the Mongols left quite a bad taste in the Scythian's mouth. There is an old Scythian adage the goes " I wouldn't send my mother on a trek to the east" well the Turks paid when they ignored that age old warning and the Scythian Khan Rusik II was not about to follow the bad Turk example. To the West the Scythians went flying the banners and blowing the horns of war. The Kirghiz were the first to hear the call to battle. The Khirgiz had been sometimes friends and sometimes enemies. The Horde Mistress Briana took a liking to Rusik and so she and her host befriended the Scythians. The Scythian force seemed to double over night and Rusik thanked Allah for this surprisingly large infusion of manpower, even if the vast Kirgizian host was only an ally. The Turk and the Caucus followed suit as the force traveled westward to the promised land?

Once the vast host of 80,000 plus reached Patzinak the settled in and began raiding neighboring provinces. Taman was hit most hard by this assault as they had the most to lose. The Kingdom of Trebizond cut the ferry route in order to stop the lightning fast steppe nomads from getting across the straits before the call to arms could be struck. Leveda and Torki were also victimized though there was not much of a haul.

Middle East:

Buhwayids: Road from Mesopotamia to Media completed

The Buhwayids prepared for the possibility of invasion. None came and the King was happy. Another 5000 more men were added to the active rosters of the king's army in support of the defensive posture that the Buhwayids were taking. Aside from that all was pretty quiet.

Persia: Persia Colonized

Persians waited for more assaults by the foul Buhwayids they did not come so the former homeland was resettled.

Azerbaijan: City of Baku in Shirvan

While it has often been peaceful in this mountain kingdom the peoples of this region were shocked when a group of unsavory Shia's were caught trying to gain influence among some of the lesser nobility. These undesirables were rounded up and eliminated.

Yemen:

The Chalukyan city of Raas Zuufaan is the bane of Yemense existence and will continue to be for another five years. King Ali had the right idea. He built 20 large warships to bolster his fleet. The sailed out of port with his fleet now numbering nearly what the Chalukyan fleet numbered last turn. Thirty-Four ships mostly heavies moved into Mandab where they immediately put the city under siege. The Chalukyan fleet arrived about a month after the seaside siege began.

King Ali - 22 Heavy Warships, 8 Regular Warships and 4 Light Warships also a small contingent of marines numbering 400.

Vs

King Chalu - 10 Heavy Elite Warships, 20 Regular Warships and 20 Light Warships, 1000 Elite Marines and 1000 Light Spearmen

Ali kept all his ships close together. The heavy ships would need protection from the much more numerous lighter ships of the Chalukyans. The Chalukyans grouped the Heaviest ships together in a fairly tight formation and used the Regulars and lights on the wings.

INITIAL DEPLOYMENT:

HEW HEW HEW HEW HEW
wwwww wwwwww

Final Closing: Ali saw the snakes tail wrapping around behind his back and he knew if he did not break the engagement in the center all would be lost so the trumpets were sounded and the Yemenese began to extract themselves as best as possible. The Chalukyans gobbled up a couple of the heavies in the center but Ali because of his superior ship designs was able to extract a good amount of what remained.

The Chalukyans docked the damaged vessels in their African port and sailed north to Al Mokha and parked in the straits Aden. Now rather than block all shipping, which might have been appropriate, the Chalukyans sent an emissary ashore with a message for the Sultan of Yemen.

Sultan Ali,

You do us a great disservice by waging war on us. We have done nothing to draw you ire yet you persist. We will offer this token show of peaceful intent by returning your captured sailors. We will also refrain this one time from turning your merchant fleet into a large pile of kindling. Please reciprocate by removing your troops from the Berbera province and let us call a truce. Then we can negotiate a lasting settlement in the upcoming years.

Raj Chalu

When the messenger returned the captured Yemenese sailors were sent ashore in small groups and then the Chalukyuan fleet sailed off.

Ghazi: Fortress Transoxnia

Many lesser leaders died this cycle but it did not lessen the effectiveness of the Ghazi government. Omar who provided a couple of heirs for the Ghazi royal family provided the most important action of the cycle. The rest of the Empire really busied themselves with things like making sure that the government held together and that no one messed with them. Reactionary armies were stationed around the nation to stop intruders. A fortress was constructed in hopes that the Kingdom would not have to experience the same misfortune they had at the hands of the Seljuks. Troops were stationed in the north to watch the Persian border as well. There was a great deal of concern that the religious fervor would spill into the Ghazi lands and Wadi wanted nothing to do with religious fanaticism.

Chorasmia:

Chorasmia already possessing a very large army decided to build some roads to connect up the cities in the empire.

India:

Tibet:

The Tibetan Army could not pass on and opportunity to help the Bengals.....or themselves. They launched a serious invasion against the provinces of Guar and Palas. They helped facilitate the destruction of the Lamdu faith by their actions as well.

Lamanist Tibet: Port City of Tanahbala on Nais

Everything went very well for the Lamanist this cycle except their missionary work in the lands north of the Kano tribes. Missionaries disappeared without a trace in Tsaidam and returned from Tsinghai after ineffective efforts. In Kilwa and Charchan however efforts of the missionaries was

very successful. Continuing their close association with Ceylon and their other Lamanist constituents the church built public works and other facilities to aid their loyal followers.

Punjab:
Nothin much

Shiva Church of Kashmir:
Facilities and investment in Punjab

Kucha: Beshbalik (F), +1CL Kuqa, Turfan (A) **“See Tartars”**
The 85-year-old Matriarch of the Kuchan people continued to rule even though her grandson came of age this cycle, no reason to rush her out the door. There was a great deal of anticipation in the realm as three large hordes occupying the Steppe. These were dangerous times so the army was increased in size. Seljuks who had for quite a while been friendly toward the Kuchans settled in Kuchan territory with the assistance of the Manichaeans church.

Manichaeans:
The Manichean priest visited with the Seljuks, what remained of them at least and persuaded them to settle on Loulan Viji. The city of Toksun was founded by the Manichaeans to support the Seljuk settlement in the province.

Paramara Alliance: Tarain (F)
Mrigai II decided his brother the Bengals needed a little help against the Usurper king so they sent ships down the Ganges to aid with the passive siege. At home the only concern the king had was bringing the wayward province of Tarain back into the fold. This effort was very successful.

Bengal:
Life in the Bengal lands pretty much stunk. The declared Raj, Ekak II, decided to conduct a passive siege of the Bihar capital. Some folks were startled by this decision until about 20 Paramara ships showed up outside Bihar and began blockading river trade. Things then got a little tense in the capital. Not long after that things got a little tense throughout Maghada as well when news came that the Tibetans had moved against Guar. The Tibetans rolled across the border with nearly twenty thousand men who were very well trained, well equipped and well lead. Guar fell quickly and panic set in among the Hindu Kingdom of Palas (Bengals).

Ekak II had a tough choice to make. He could try to oppose the Tibetans in Guar with his nearly 16,000 men or he could wrap up the siege and hope the Tibetans headed into Palas. He chose to complete the siege.

1066 rolled in the Tibetans moved against Palas. When this happened the Lamdu Bengals who had been seduced somewhat by agents of the Bengal throne decided to offer to surrender. The Lamdu Bengal “Raj” was captured trying to flee down river in the middle of the night and his successor who feared all of the Rajdom of the Bengals would fall to the foul Tibetans decided that it was time to end the insurrection. Since the Lamdu “Raj” was safely disposed of the wise Ekak accepted the surrender and the Bengal army was nearly whole again.

The Tibetans rolled into Palas and chased the Lamdu Bengal General from the region. He wisely fled to Maghada. Where his army was incorporated into the reformed Bengal military. In Palas the Tibetan King moved on the city of Tamarapilti. The City had very high walls and the Tibetan King knew this would be tough but he had a VERY large contingent of highly trained infantry and a pretty good grouping on siege engineers also. On to the walls the Tibetans went in force. August 3rd, 1066, the city fell in the brutal onslaught but the Tibetan king died in the assault so the cost was high.

1067 rolled around and Raj Ekak died early in the year so no campaign was initiated against the Tibetans. For a change the ascension of the Bengal Leadership actually went smoothly so there was a very minor positive. The Cycle ended with the New Bengali leader in Maghada with the Kalia firmly in charge of the military but looking across the border at Guar and Palas and wondering what to do about the Tibetan threat.

Brahmin Hindu Church:

Busied them destroying the Lamdu Church. And building a few facilities.

W. Chalukya:

At home, improvements continued on the capital. A good many lightly armed spearmen were added to the army and a good number of light lancers were added to the land forces at home. King Chalu led his fleet once again to Africa to do battle with Yemen. This time the Yemenese decided to sail out of port with their newly construct heavy draft ships and do battle. The battle looked to be pretty even "SEE YEMEN"

Chola: +1CL Matwada, Tanjore, Vihilla

The Cholans continue to mind their own business and develop. Several Projects were initiated to make life better for the people of the Cholan Empire. Both Slavery and the Caste society were coming under scrutiny. These archaic forms were thought to be holding back the further economic development of the nation, thus they needed to be removed. In the end nothing bad happened and that was good as Southern India continues to prosper under the benevolent and wise rule of Raj Tamahla.

Sri Lanka: Scebelli (NE)

The aged King Siberut made sure Tanahbala was built then he set sail out into the open ocean after provisioning. He returned battered and beaten along with what remained of his fleet he told tales of great sea monsters that could wrap their bodies completely around whole ships and crush their hulls. Other great creatures that seemed to have hundreds of arms and would pluck up ten sailors in one grab and drag them into the sea. Loyal commander Race was killed on the expedition. Lord Quest journeyed to Africa and disappeared into the lands never to be seen again.

Tripuri & Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh won the Mercenary bidding this cycle and parked a vast majority of their armed forces in the bitterly disputed land of Vasta. Shortly after the beginning of the cycle the king was found dead in his tent. He was 63 so it is the subject of some debate what happened to him though, some nefarious characters had been apprehended recently trying to infiltrate the camp so it was possible that an assassin might have played a part in the king's death. This was not investigated because Dwijesh decided now that he had control of the entire army he should be King!

On to Matura! Dwijesh took the Army across the river and into the Homeland were he quickly subdued the region and the capital as the Raj fled into the lands of the Paramara Princes. Dwujesh installed himself on the throne and placed various family members in position of Authority. Admiral Sanjiv decided that there was no reason to oppose Dwijesh. Dwijesh finding the admiral loyal then moved against Rajput and subdued it as well.

While Dwijesh was busy securing his right to rule the Tripuri decided to seize the opportunity

When the Tripuri got word of the calamity striking the Raj of Uttar Pradesh they moved on the province of Vasta with their very large cavalry force of about 13,000 men. Unfortunately for the Tripuri the numerous fortified towns in the region still existed. More unfortunately for the Tripuri they had no siege engineers. Dyupati slowly and methodically attempted to reduce the forts in Vasta. He was effective in reducing some of the positions but eventually Dwijesh came back across the river into Vasta with his 17,000 men. Dyupati broke off his attempts against the fortified towns and turned his force to face Dwijesh and the Deccan commander.

Dwijesh was not near the commander Dyupati was but his force was more skilled and remarkably more flexible with the addition of the Deccan Raiders. Dyupati thought he would be best served meeting his opponent in a field battle so the forces met outside the city of Gwailor. Per usual the UP army was anchored in the center by the Royal Guard, 1600 Infantry with heavy scimitars, long spears, and shields as well as chain. They were backed by 3600 short bowmen. The Tripuri

were incapable of breaking up that center core so the attempted feints and maneuvers to draw out the Cavalry forces of the UP army. This worked to some effect as the Dwijesh ordered his 4400 heavily lancers out to engage nearly 7000 light lancers of the Tripuri. The UP troops did not make as much of an impact as they had hoped but they did push back the Tripuri. Both sides unleashed the horse archers to harass each other's main forces. The light forces then split off and began engaging each other. The battle broke off pretty early as Dyupati knew his light lancers could not be allowed to engage the royal guards of the UP.

With all the defensive positions in the province and the imposing skill of the UP forces Dyupati was forced to give up on the attempted conquest of Vasta. In 1069 the Tupuri Raj Vishnar died of old age and Dyupati was relieved he was not entangled in Vasta still as he had to return to the capital and make sure his brothers did not try anything stupid. Unlike the rest of the Indian kingdoms who have been racked with dynastic failure after dynastic failure the Tripuri change of leadership went smoothly.

S.E.Asia:

Burma:

Yezagyo died when traveling back from Samatata and panic spread throughout the kingdom. Fortunately for all concerned the kingdom held together. Nothing much happening here besides some economic development. The Kingdom is peaceful and the people are happy. A close eye is on the developments in the Tibetan and Bengal lands as a conflict is breaking out there hot on the tail of the dynastic failure of the former Bengali regime.

Khmer: Angkor Wat +1 CL

Jayavarman VII died at the age of 36 leaving the kingdom in the hands of his 15year old son. Fortunately Jayavarman VIII was one of the best leaders the throne had seen in the better part of a century and so the realm remained stable. Diplomatic efforts in the former Champan capital were curtailed somewhat because of the death of the King but they had some effect.

Vishnu of SE Asia: MW Aceh & Utara also some facilities

The Vishnu dove into their work and benefited from their newfound enthusiasm. Support was given to all the loyal followers of the faith and this was a good thing. The big win was in Java where the leadership there had been somewhat reluctant to open the door all the way to the enlightened Vishnu Church. Now after much hard effort the Illuminated one had won over the Ruler of the Isles and full cooperation was at hand.

The only misfortune to befall the Vishnu occurred in Sula Wesi where apparently no one had bothered to inform the locals that religious figures are not to be eaten. The locals did not really like the Hand of Vishnu's message so they ate him.

Malay Confederation: Singapore Fortified

Java: Bangka Colonized, +1 CL Singhisari and Sunda, Mindinao (Very Angry), Jambi (NE) & Sula Wesi (A)

Java continued its pursuit of an aggressive diplomatic policy. While the plans for diplomatic endeavors seemed well thought out things just did not go well at all. The fates seemed to have decreed that this cycle was a poor cycle for pursuing diplomatic relations and so only one such action bore any fruit at all. In Mindinao the Cannibal King became so enraged at the overtures of Kawashutri and Patali that Kawashurti ended up in the cook pot and Patali barely escaped a similar fate.

Asia:

Mongols:

Ah gold it is a wonderful thing. The Mongols march off to China to waylay one of their former Steppe brothers. "See Liao"

Tartars: Ulani Hostile

Baltajin took all his men and their families and decided it was time for the clan to move. Long had his people been a neighbor of the Ulani so he thought it would be a good idea to visit them before heading out to the Khitan lands. Baltajin being from the great lake region apparently did not know that the Jaguar were especially mean to the "people of the valley" as the Ulani were called. When Baltajin arrived in the forested reaches of Ugria the Ulani were there to meet him in force. Baltajin opened up with a parley but sadly Baltajin was not much of a diplomat as he was used to having the great number of troops that traveled with him intimidate those he was negotiating with. This while often effective did not have the effect on the Ulani Baltajin had hoped. The Ulani leader Arigh was a man of some note in the Ulani tribes who were on the verge of mobilizing themselves.

Baltajin and others with his 80,000 horse archers met Arigh with his 12,000 horse archers and 40,000 spearmen. Baltajin though he had numerical superiority had a problem because he was in rough terrain, not conducive to the steppe tactics of cavalry armies. Baltajin met with his war council. It was decided that a defensive stance would be taken and that the paths out of the mountains would be guarded by Quara Arlsan.

The fires burned high in the province of Ugria all through the night of June 24th as the two forces planned their moves. Arigh was a crack tactician on the same level as Baltajin. He held back his limited number of horse archers and used them just to counter probing actions by the Tartars. The morning of the 25th the forces deployed in a wide expanse near the village of Kyzyl. The battle was met on a wide front and was essentially a large number of small battles across a broad front. The Tartar while having a nearly two to one advantage had difficulty bringing their strength to bear in lands full of trees as well as steppe hills and valleys especially when those lands were unfamiliar. The Tartars fought valiantly but chose to withdraw rather than risk a drawn out battle with the Ulani which Baltajin after the first encounter, which was effectively a draw.

Into the lands of the Kuchans & Seljuk. The Seljuk, well at least what remained of them had been absorbed into the Kingdom of Kucha. Sulieman and his clan had taken up residence Turfan and a city was being built in the province by the tribe and Manicheans. First to be hit was Tuhnrwang. The Tartar made hay here terrorizing the civilians and taking everything of value. The then rolled into the province of Turfan and had to face a foe prepared to meet them though only half their size.

Baltajin and his 65 thousand or so horse nomads engaged the Seljuks under Sulieman and the Kuchans under the tough Tien Shen Lord. The Defenders had some very impressive heavy cavalry with armor and shields as well as lances and swords their armor glistened in the sun; this was Seligman's royal guard of 4000 men. The Kuchan commander 6000 heavy lancers and 7000 light lancers to boot. The combined Seljuk and Kuchan army also had nearly 20,000 horse archers. Apparently the men of the steppe did not underestimate to greatly their northern neighbors.

The Tartars moved along the prosperous silk road up into Turfan picking off small caravans as they went, the men laughed about the wealth that was just laying around to be picked up in civilized lands. Loulan Viji was the merchant stop over in Turfan and the Tartar assumed that was where a good amount of the population could be found for their slave raid. They were right they rolled around the north end of the Lop Nur and began crossing the Korqi toward what looked to be a large settlement the flags flying were green with a down turned sword of white indicative of the Seljuk disgrace. On the opposite bank was Sulieman but Baltajin and his compatriots were not worried they saw only 16,000 men awaiting them and the river this time of year was generally passable so with out a care they streamed across the river and up the low rise on the other side to engage directly the Seljuks. Baltajin's forces tried no sly maneuvers and did not attempt to subdue their opponent with a rain of missile fire they simply drew their short swords and charged. Sulieman waited patiently and his horse archers got in several volleys on the enemy till the gap

was closed. Sulieman leading his knights of the steppe charged down the slope and headlong into the fray. The Tartars swarmed but the Seljuk heavy lancers exacted a tremendous toll on the poorly armed and armored opponents at least four Tartars fell for every one Seljuk Heavy lancer.

The Khan's heir/brother Dsaluu and his cousin Al Jebei seeing the host swarm decided to seek a little glory for themselves, since they were severely lacking in moral fortitude, among the defenseless tribals and the civilized folks in the village of Loulan Viji. They both were sure that the Khan and Quara Arslan could deal with the enemy. Ahead they rode. This was either a very good thing or a very bad thing depending on your perspective as a Tartar. Dsaluu and Jebei, as they closed in on the village and its surrounding "defenses", which amounted to pickets and a variety of young and old defending with short bows, all of the sudden were assaulted by a very large and angry force of Kuchan's who had been hoping the greed of the steppe nomads would lead some of them into this ambush. The trap was sprung, the hapless gentlemen, Dsaluu and Jebei had gotten to close and the Kuchan heavy lances caught them unaware. The battle was soon met by the Kuchan light lancers and horse archers who all fell on the Tartars and slaughtered a good many of them before they could escape. Dslauu was captured in the ruckus but Al Jebei escaped and warned the Khan at the river. The Khan was having a tough time trying to wipe out the Seljuks and when he heard the news of an approaching Kuchan army he sounded the retreat immediately.

It had been a very bitter cycle for the Tartars who attained almost nothing from their exploits and lost a great deal of men in the process. The young khan had learned much from his first foray into the lands outside the Tartar realm. He returned to the ancestral lands to lick his wounds. News came from the East that yet another of his kin the Manchu had risen up and was ready to move with their vast host. It was a dangerous time to live on the steppe and an even more dangerous time to live next to it.

Sung Imperial Domains: Many Small Facilities

War with the Hsia "See Liao"

Bandit Kingdoms of Hunan:

No one is really sure what is going on here but they are bandits, thieves and cut throats so be certain they are up to no good.

Shanan - Zhou: +1 City Level Chaing-Ling, Tangchou colonized

The Emperor ascends, Zou-cho-ma the young, is now the ruler of the mighty Zhou. Following the direction of his father Zou and the royal family, what there was of it. The populace was for the most part unconcerned about this development. While there was growing hostility in the North the conflict was one between barbarians not Lamanist and Buddhist.

Jaingnan:

Defensive structures built just to be on the safe side.

Clan liachi:

The Tiger returned to their peaceful ways, not that they did anything violent last turn but they were prepared too, sending ships up to the Huang to guarantee the security of the holy city, well keep it from being passive sieged at least. Back at home the king ruled and the lands prospered under his benevolent leadership. He was not over confident that the outbreak of peace in the south would be lasting so he built walls around Shaoguan and Hepu to make sure nothing bad happened to those cities.

Buddhist Primacy: Cathedral in Hangchou, Monastery in Lu'an

The Buddhist Primacy stayed out of the fray for a change choosing to only supply troops for defensive purposes. Monk Jaing and some financial assistance were sent to Kansu where it was happily received. They in turn defended their ground against the possibility of vicious attacks from the foul Hsia who they knew would show up at any moment, they of course never did for obvious reasons, "**see the Liao**". Ju Jinn was sent with a very large detachment of mercenaries who would have probably been very helpful in attacking the Hsia to the Liao capital. It might not have been a bad move since during this cycle the Manchu tribes began to pull up stakes and

consider their options. A good deal of effort was put into building facilities this cycle and the results were very mixed. It seems if there is a bit of a black cloud hanging over the Primacy.

Nanchao: Tz'uk'an (F), Lanchou (NE), Chinling Colonized fully

Looking to extend the royal authority of Han further to the north Han ordered Chinling settled.

After a decade of war and death in Northern China, and both sides punch-drunk and spent from the struggle, Han sent messages to the leaders of Liao, Hsi Hsia, and the Buddhist Primacy, offering his services as a mediator and peace envoy. Each leader expressed reservations about the chances of a successful outcome, but agreed to at least try. After an extended period of shuttle diplomacy, it was with a great sense of relief and thanks to the Gods that Han announced the agreement of all three parties to the terms of the Treaty of Huang Ho. Despite the wrongs that each party felt they'd endured, wisdom and foresight was exercised by each leader in accepting key compromises. Only time will tell if the peace can hold, but at least a start has been made.

The other major initiative by Han was the supply of personnel and resources to restore the province of Chinling to its former levels of production and habitability. Representatives from Nan Chao embraced and nurtured the people of Chinling who survived the bloody pillage 15 years earlier, and sought to provide them with security and reassurance in this new age of peace amongst the Chinese. In a short speech, Han declared "These people have suffered enough, and I have decided it is time to put things right here. For 15 years these people have lived in constant fear and poverty, well no more I say! It is time for them to resume some semblance of a normal life, without fear of abuse or oppression, and Nan Chao is proud to sponsor this rehabilitation in Chinling."

When asked whether Nan Chao would do the same for Funiu and Tangcho, "Nan Chao will bring hope and prosperity to the common people wherever we can, however, in Chinling we are merely copying the excellent humanitarian work undertaken by the Jaingnanese in Taiping an Anhui. We pray to the Gods that the nations neighbouring Funiu and Tangcho will consider rendering aid and respite to these poorest of people, for it is not a matter of resources, it is a matter of resolve and compassion. If they fail to act, then yes, I will consider doing so."

Sadly Han for all his hopes failed in securing the peace of Northern China. The Liao & Sung apparently lacked the courage to honor an agreement that the ruthless Hsia was happy to comply with. The Liao have twice now proven they have no honor.

The Nanchao continued a flurry of diplomatic efforts, which finally saw the assimilation of the sparsely populated Tzukan lands. This effort should guarantee the free flow of trade with India.

His Hsia:

The untrustworthy Liao and their lackeys shot the attempt at peace to hell. **"See Liao"**

Korea:

With all the trouble in Northern China and the rise of the hordes on the Steppe the Korean King thought it would be wise to make a substantial investment in fortifications in the capital province. Many of the local villages were invested with walls and the people were happy. The mountains to the north and south of the capital province had long been enough of a barrier against nomadic intrusion but times were changing and a war was raging in China. If the Chinese came then the mountains would not be enough of a deterrent. The lands on whole were peaceful this cycle and the people rejoiced. The people in Xing Tao and Hongwon rejoiced more than others because many of them now had running water now that the aqueduct projects were completed.

Japan: Road Aichi

Economic Development

Shinto: Tumin (NT)

Supported Japans Economic Development

Liao:

All the dead piled up in the home province after the assault by the brilliant Ming festered and were feed on by the carrion. The Liao disposed of the bodies as quickly as possible but there was an out break of the plague that spread throughout the Liao lands. The Army was devastated by

this outbreak and an astonishing number of soldiers died tragically as did the King. The civilian population fortunately suffered very lightly. Kam-Thong who was put in charge of the military chose not to revolt and headed off to war.

In the Hsia capital there was the feeling of joy as the wars had finally ended they had documents signed by the Buddhist they hated indicating a cessation of hostilities after nearly two decades of war. Sadly the Hsia would find no peace this cycle only more death and destruction. For a second time in two decades the Liao had gone against their word and shown to the world the blackness of their soul. Fortunately for the Hsia they figured out something was up. First assassins fell on the king on two occasions and were stopped dead in their tracks. The Liao was apparently responsible for one of the failed attempts. Ming heard about the Mongols traveling peacefully through Liao lands and figured that some ill must be afoot so he summoned his allied leaders to Shensi and waited. Just because you are paranoid it doesn't mean people aren't out to get you.

The armies came. A very large Sung contingent led by Chin Tzn Kai the best-allied leader. He brought with him 8000 Heavy Lancers, 5000 Royal guardsmen in full armor and carrying shields and heavy swords and lastly the siege train composed of nearly 5000 engineers. Apparently the Sung were serious about moving against Chang An if given the opportunity. The Mongols led by Otagi brought approximately 40000 horse archers and mounted short swordsmen (all XC's). Lastly the Liao arrived with their army of some 10,000 mostly Heavy Lancers.

Ming was reasonably prepared for what he saw. While not excited about his prospects because of all the steppe nomads he was reasonably confident that his overall skill and large number of Royal Lancers and Heavy lancers, 13,000 approx, would make the Mongols think twice about their actions should they choose to engage the Hsia and the 10,000 or so horse archers the Hsia had could act as a good screening force if need be.

Outnumbering the enemy nearly three to one the allied army took the initiative, or was given it, and sent the Mongols out to locate the Hsia. The rest of the army marched on Chang An. The plan was to have the Mongols find the enemy and then the much slower moving allies would move toward the enemy once they were located. While the Mongols were very capable of netting the slippery Ming, their slow moving allies hindered them. Ming lured the Mongols to Zouneishi up against the mountains and the Great Wall. The town had lost most of its luster with the fall of the Han but it would be the site of a very bloody battle in 1066. Ming knew he had to strike the Mongols hard and fast before the Liao and the slow moving Sung could deploy. Ming led the Mongols and their allies to the Wall and then maneuvered in such a way that the Mongols actually had their backs to the Wall. Now the tactics changed a little bit. Ming was pretty sure the Mongols could be goaded into charging away from the slower moving heavy horse of the Liao and the Sung so that is what he did. Otagi did not like the feeling of being boxed in and so he did exactly what Ming had hoped.

Ming saw what was coming and he drew his ranks in close and counter charged with his lancers. The Mongols were none too pleased with this turn of events but they were a horde and hordes love to fight so they relished the opportunity to engage in a really bloody conflict. The battle lines crashed together there was no missile fire on this day. The Hsia ripped right on through the light cavalry of the Mongols. While the Mongols are very skilled on a horse the complete lack of armor and light sword did little to aid them against the lance carrying heavily armored Hsia. Thousands and thousands of Mongols died in the carnage. The Liao and Sung Heavy horse waited for lanes to clear so they might be able to charge the Hsia but the Mongols kept swarming and dying in droves, then they broke!

The first battle of Shensi was over fairly quickly. The Mongols were sucking wind after getting really beat up. The Mongol withdrawal from the field shook up the Liao leadership and while the Sung were prepared to fight the Liao weren't. Now things got a little hairy. The Sung had a real problem withdrawing with their big siege train and lots of heavily armored infantry. The Hsia rested briefly and watched. Ming noticed there was some definite dissent on the part of the

allied armies. It was late in the day but he decided to take a run at the Sung and catch everyone off guard since the Mongols were out of the picture and the Liao were in the process of a controlled withdrawal.

Down about four thousand men maybe the Hsia charged. They wisely did not charge the heart of the Sung Guard Infantry they hit their cavalry. The Sung were just not the horsemen that the Hsia were that is for certain and the Hsia were on them before they knew what hit them. Once again this was a bloody mess. The Liao after gaining their wits about them dived into the mess as well and all hell broke loose. The Hsia and the Liao had no love for each other so retreating was not an option. The battle got especially brutal and the Sung leader was killed just as he entered the fray to try to rally his Heavy lancers. When that happened the royal guards grabbed his body and began an orderly withdrawal immediately. Sun was beginning to set on the day and the Liao and the Hsia had no choice but to break off their engagement as well.

When the tallies were taken of the dead the result was horrific. The Sung, Liao and Mongols had suffered mightily at the hands of the Hsia. The allied armies withdrew to Houma and liked their wounds the Hsia left them alone once the Mongols regrouped since the Mongols were very capable of laying a fine screen. The Sung promoted the commander of the Royal Guards to the position of overall commander since he had shown the wisdom to break off the attack and managed to protect the army from a complete rout when the former commander died. The Sung forces were still pretty healthy except for about 4000 heavy cavalry that lay dead on the fields of Shensi. The Liao head was heavy nearly all that remained of their cavalry army was 3000 Royal Guards. The Mongols had about half the men they once had and had looted nothing which made them none to happy. The Hsia forces were unknown and while the affair was bloody for them they were still a force to be reckoned with.

PACIFIC RIM

Australia:
Slept

New Zealand:
Slept

Shark God Cult: Eha-Rana & Ayr (CA)

The great Shark was happy the tribute had been paid and the strength of the cult was growing. Education of the priest in the ways of the world became a priority as well and schools of religious learning popped up around the countryside. All of the very devout had their children attend these schools rather than the regular Australian schools. Bishop Onobah assumes primacy and relinquishes his name in a small ceremony preceding the consecration of the new cathedral in Eha-rana. Prince Kahumanu discovers a talent for music and spends the 5 years doing nothing but writing new religious chants and songs. Church officials are just happy he's found something he can do without screwing it up.