

1016-1020: The Age of Turmoil

Mercenary Pool:

Northern Europe:	Independents Independent		10W, 20XW 20T
Mediterranean	Independents Independent		5W, 5XW 20T
France, Spain, Italy & Germany:	Santobal Independents Independent	865	1HEC, 3XEC 15I, 5S 3C, 5XC
(Portugal hired Santobal and all the Independent Cavalry)			
Egypt, Portugal & Cordoba:	Al Wat Independents	735	10XC, 2C 5XC
Hungary, Serbia, Russia, Poland	Moldavian Lord	755	3C, 5XC
Hungary, Serbia, Russia, Poland	D'Kolner	914	5HEC, 3EC
Venice, REE	Independents Independents		3HI, 5I, 10XI 5C, 10XC
Buhwayids, Egyptians, Kilwa, Copts Yemen & Shiraz	Agram's Free Co. Independents	767 (Moslem)	3HEI, 6EI, 3S 5C, 10XC
Central Asia	None		
Buddhist & Lamanist Nations	Monk Xain	866	5HEI, 10EI
India Proper	Deccan Raiders Independents Independents Independents	857	12XEC 5I, 5XI 5XC 10W, 20T
(10W and 20T hired)			
Asia	Black Wind Independent	A29	6EW, 12XEW 10XW, 25T
SE Asia & So. China	Chou Yun Ghazou Robbers Independent Independent	888 657	6EC 2XEI, 15XI 20I, 40XI. 5S 10C, 20XC

(Java hired the Independent Infantry force in total)

No. China, Japan, Korea	Clan Wolf	769	30XC
	Clan Smoke Jaguar	833	30XC
	Clan Ghost Bear	966	30XC
	Independents		50XC

Africa:

Egypt: Benghazi CL 4, Road Egypt to Faiyum, lose provinces of Medina and Hijaz , Dongola (NT)

It was business as usual in the kingdom. More public works, more military, Princess Jasmine marries the Royal advisor, the King kills off another wife but finally after seeming to go through most of the nearly endless supply of wannabe princesses he finds one that last through bearing two children, one boy and one girl. The kingdom also made two attempts to expand. There was a big effort put into the Coptic Province of Dongola to bring them into the fold. It was a minor success. In the Other Effort.....

Lt. A'Fil "former queens cousin?" was sent to Dahy for some reason to try to negotiate with the Sunni desert tribesmen. He somehow had the good fortune to find the desert nomads. That was the extent of his luck however. A'Fil proceeded to insult the Sunni faithful, Desert Clans and there was something said about Mohamed himself "allegedly" but by the end of the first couple of days the Kings cousin had so incensed the tribesmen that they not only decided to kill him but that they would attack Egypt! The Tribesmen visited a few of their neighbors and shared with them their great disdain for the Egyptians. The soon had a force large enough to move.

SLAVE RAID PETRA! Ships arrived on the scene and quickly grabbed up as many pathetic and defenseless peasants as they could then sailed off before anything could be done.

Tiamat breathed and the children of the desert did spring forth. 5000 angry nomads spilled out into Madina sweeping away the essence of Egyptian existence from this holy land and the Sunni citizens of this land added to the Nomad numbers. They proceeded to move into Hijaz were once again no trace of Egyptian settlement was left. Here too the Sunni embraced the coming of the nomads and added to their numbers. The Sunni citizens of the Egyptian Empire seem to be a little resentful of the newfound prominence of the Shia.

MEANWHILE.....

Hassan Hey you hear princess Jasmine got married?
Abdul Damn man
Hassan No princess for you, ha ha
Abdul Who'd she marry?
Hassan Grand Vizier Jafar!
Abdul Damn he is always at sea hanging around with Sailors he won't treat her right
Hassan Quit your whining
Abdul Hey you hear who they sent to conduct diplomacy with the desert nomads?
Hassan No who?
Abdul *Whispering* The Kings cousin A'Fil
Hassan No way he sucks!
Abdul Shut up some one will hear you
Hassan He is ugly, bright as this sack of rice I am carrying and he can barely speak the Egyptian Language
Abdul Your telling me, rumor has it he only got a one-way ticket from the King
Hassan Poor bastard
Abdul You hear about the incentives they are offering to move to Benghazi?
Hassan Yea, I have been thinking about moving the clan out there
Abdul Really, hey you think maybe I could go with you
Hassan Let me talk to the wife
Abdul Thanks man
Hassan When you going to get a Wife?
Abdul Soon as Jasmine leaves that Jafar Bastard!

Scamper scamper scamper whack!

Hassan Hey buddy watch where you're going!

Runner Apologies I am in a hurry to get to the Palace.

Hassan Well be more careful next time

Scamper scamper scamper

Abdul You all right?

Hassan Yea think so

Abdul Maybe you should have gotten his name what if you neck starts hurting tomorrow or something

Hassan You might be right it is kind of stiffening up

Abdul There was this guy on Dock 11 and he had three bags of rice fall on him and he didn't do anything about it

Hassan What happened?

Abdul Well when he tried to file his claim later because it apparently injured his back they wouldn't give him time off and his kids had to beg on the streets to support their father that was laid up unable to work

Hassan Maybe I should go to the Palace

IN THE PALACE:

Runner Sire it is a disaster!

Al-Hakim What is?

Runner Desert Nomads have swarmed out of the Desert and taken Madina!

Al-Hakim What!

Runner It is true I barely got out of Mecca in time and I managed to catch a boat coming up the Red Sea

Al-Hakim They have taken Madina do you know anything else?

Runner They were definitely heading north to capture more Sunni lands

Al-Hakim Run to the barracks and tell them to mobilize this behavior will not be tolerated!

The king gathered his army and marched across the Sinai in early spring of 1018. The word had reached him that the Nomads were in Petra and had looted it. He had to act quickly before they attacked anything else. So Al-Hakim force-marched the troops into Petra in an attempt to catch the Dahy before they could hit elsewhere. When Hakim arrived the Nomads were gone. The King cursed. It was too late in the year to cross the mountains and he wasn't positive he wanted to do battle in the deserts of Arabia. The Egyptian army settled in. It took a year for the land to recover but once it did the land provided the food the army needed. They waited for the new cycle to arrive the King was nothing if not cautious. The nomads made no more attempt to come across the mountains. Wild rumors circulated about the numbers of Nomads but one thing is for certain they intended to hold the Sunni lands they had taken.

Shia: All turn was spent converting Holy City of Jerusalem to Shia religion. It is now as much Shia as it will get without atrocities being carried out against other faiths. Jerusalem can be named as a Holy City by all "Western" Faiths and will never be totally converted unless an atrocity is committed to eliminate the other faiths that occupy sections of the city.

Ghana: Port city of Kwame Built in Takrur, Takrur (F), Songhai (F)

Diplomatic efforts continue and with promises made to and delivered on in Takrur they join the kingdom. Songhai were a little easier to persuade.

Morocco: Built port city of Agadir in Merakesh.

Algeria: Pushing the economic envelope. The Algerians got their city last cycle so they were content for the time being.

Tunisia: The King died and his son took over. The new Emir much as the old one continued to develop his land and his navy. He was successful in both.

Hausa: Port City of Abuja built in Nupe

The Hausa Government saw huge growth in size spurred apparently by the move from a Feudal System to the Clan System of old.

Kanem: The Home province was improved both economically and militarily.

Kilwa: Mombassa (T)

The beat goes on in Kilwa, The Prince killed off yet another wife. A trip to the local witch doctor and some sacrifices to Pagan gods seem to have cured the problem though. The Prince now has a new wife and she has given him two sons. Mombassa was lured into the Kingdom. The promise of the return of Paganism was a plus to the efforts. There was some discussions about the strange seamen that showed up last cycle, the thought of trade with them was intriguing and might begin very soon.

Zagwe: Soba (5), Axumopolis (2), Alwa (NT)

The luckiest Diplomat in the game Prince Lalabela once again was very effective in reducing the angst felt toward The Coptic Queen Mera. Dil the unluckiest diplomat in the game continued to have woeful luck, he did manage to not have Alwa not kill him this time though. Missionary Work in the Jungle province of Ilubator continued to be effective. The desire to have the biggest swimming pool in Zagwe was overwhelming for the Queen. There was no way she was going to let her son have a larger pool than she had! Thus she built a magnificent pool of white marble imported from Italy. Many pool boys were hired to make sure the pool was kept clean and all the guest at pool parties were taken care of properly. Swimming pools were becoming all the rage in Zagwe.

Slave Raid Adulis: After Petra the Slavers came south to Adulis. They hit quickly but were not nearly as effective against the locals here primarily due to some established Fortifications on the coast protecting the small town growing up around the port facility.

Coptics: (AB) Gierza, Ilubator converted to Coptic, Kosti (F)

Due to the apparent incompetence on the part of the Coptic leadership in regard to running the government and Bishop was sent to help get things in order. Ilubator was shown the glory of God and the submitted to his will. Kosti became the Patrimony of St. Mark and may someday hold the Coptic Holy city.

Zimbabwe: Continuing to make Zimbabwe a beautiful place to live.

Zulu Nation: Continuing to make Zululand a beautiful place to live.

Europe:

Kiev: Smolensk (Cultivated), Sudzal (EO Convert), Pechang (EO Convert)

A Freak storm in the middle of the summer took the lives of the King and two of his fishing buddies, Lieutenant Ingmar and Ivan. Apparently one of the leaders was standing in the boat with his rod held high and "CRACK!" The lightning hit him and killed his companions too. The nation mourned but the leaders of the nation quickly got back to work. Lots of religious conversions going on, Sudzal and Pechang are fully EO now. Estonia is still a work in progress. In Lithuania the population took exception to the visit by the talented Gregory and chased him from the country, troops in tow.

Novgorod: In an effort to better maintain their military and infrastructure Novgorod worked on some beautification projects.

Galica: Slowly developing. Hooray for the Fishing Fleet! Doh! GM should have built a trade ship.....there is always next turn.

England: Anglia & Mercia (A) York (5), London (7)

The Kingdom of England suffered two big blows this cycle as both the King and Heir died. Fortunately the King had prepared for the possibility of his aging leaders dying and his two younger sons rose to the occasion and assumed their pre-designated roles. Life goes on in the English nations as the Channel is vigorously patrolled and the urban areas keep growing.

Wales Very Slowly developing, Wilderness provinces suck.

Celtic Church: York (CH), Oslo (CH), Edinburgh (AB) & Limerick (CH)

Slow and Steady expansion continues as the Celtics Celebrate locking up the "Northlands". The church was especially happy this was done in a non-violent way since angering the Pope can be a very risky thing.

Ireland: Faeroes (C)

Things were on the upswing in Ireland. The King and his wife had 4 children this cycle and three of them were boys. And the Faeroe Is. were found and claimed. Toward the end of the cycle however things took a turn for the worse. First King Conard passed suddenly one night of an apparent heart attack. Then the Queen got a gift from Aquitaine.

Ruler of the Emerald Isle:

The parcel we sent along contains the remnants of your spy who you sent to attempt to subvert our population. We suggest next time you try such and action you have the fellow learn a little French and bring some money too. We will not pay the return freight next time. On a more serious note, I suggest you immediately dispatch a note of apology to the French King for your intrusion into his lands, begging for forgiveness might also be appropriate.

Henry II of Aquitaine

Norway: Port City Oslo.

The Norwegian King decided it was time to start building the Capital of Scandinavia (Apparently Stockholm wasn't satisfactory) The Work was done by cycles end and there was even a Priest on hand to christen both the city and the King of Norway's new son. Apparently the former King of Sweden was sick of his daughter and when she came a calling on Gotland he refused to see her. She decided to return to Norway where her husband was. They began working on having a family. On her way back to Norway she picked up a sailor who apparently had strapped himself to a mast. He was nursed back to health by the time the fleet got to Norway and he told his tale.

He spoke of Great Dragons who live in the straits and how its children sprang from its back and devoured the entire crew while the Great Dragons watched. Very scary indeed. He seemed very serious about the whole affair but he may have just been crazy.

Orkney/Scotland: Isle of Man (F)

Isle of Man continued to be a top priority. Harwulf the Ravager got to find wife number four this cycle. And like every previous wife the first child from this marriage was a daughter. Disturbing rumors hit the Kings court hard; apparently someone or something had decided to prey on Baltic trade. The Scots had lots of ships in the area and some were lost, more would have been lost if Harwulf hadn't been waiting in react mode. Though Harwulf never actually fought anyone on a couple of occasions some ship that had the Dragon of old on their sails, when Harwulf attempted to close on the "mysterious" ships they avoided contact. The ships were apparently very fast in the water.

Heresy Spreads: The provinces of Swabia, Savoy, Lyonnais and finally Provence all go Branist Christian. The Holy Roman Empire apparently is not so holy.

1016 - Starts with an assassination attempt on Bran Jacobson. Bran had been walking from village to village preaching to any who would listen in Switzerland he had accumulated a loyal contingent of followers who traveled with him as well. One night while out on the road a group of men snuck into camp and pour fuel around the tent of Bran Jacobson and lit it (obviously the security in the camp was pretty lax). The Tent lit up immediately and there was panic in the camp. It was total chaos as a matter of fact..... the assailant escaped. That is when something weird happened just as people were finally getting around to getting buckets of water on the fire that totally engulfed the tent Bran walked right out of the inferno unscathed. Well that is how the story goes at least.

HRE: Jutland (T), Viborg (NT)

Otto was drinking wine in a little café on the Po River waiting for his son to arrive and allow him to travel to Lorraine where he hoped negotiations would allow him to take control of this very rich and militarily strong region. Mathias was giving Otto on the latest troop movements when all of the sudden Otto keeled over. Dropping his wine glass Mathias summoned the guards immediately and had all the staff at the Café arrested and soon there after executed because the wine was found to be poisoned. This was a disaster.....thankfully Henry was on his way to the area. Henry had really no opposition for the throne currently and so the transition went smoothly. Henry went through with the orders his father had laid out to him.

Mathias took Latium easily and turned it over to the appropriate Tuscan authorities. Henry patiently awaited the arrival of the Roman fleet but it never arrived. Meanwhile elsewhere in the kingdom things did not go so swimmingly.

The Danish King dies and per the agreement Jutland joins the HRE after some rioting. The Island of Zealand joined with Gotland as independent states.

Von Ryan traveled to Bavaria and picked up the 800 Cavalrymen to take with him on his march against the Heretics. He then traveled to Swabia where he picked up the troops 800 more Cavalry and Swabian Lord. Apparently Lord of Switzerland had been captivated by the Heretical teachings. His 600 HI would be tough to dislodge from the mountains. Von Ryan took the lead and headed into Switzerland. Much better eliminate the known force first than worry about the unknown. 1600 Allied Cavalry and 2000 Infantry began working their way through the Alps, it was not easy as at various time they encountered traps such as rock slides and attempted avalanche and other sundry things that make life difficult. Near the village of Zurich Von Ryan caught the Swiss Lord encamped. There were many campfires on the lack but Von Ryan was sure he could disperse the rabble and eliminate the Heresy issue.

Battle of Zurich (1017): The forces were deployed in the morning surprisingly the Heretics chose to accept Von Ryan's offer of a field battle. Everyone deployed. The Rebels had 600 Zurich Mountain Troops, about 2400 mixed Tyrolean and Swiss Lights and another 1200 Swiss and Tyrolean regulars. Von Ryan was confident, there were not good places for Cavalry to be used but the enemy had none, which meant even in the wilderness of Switzerland he would have maneuverability and a huge advantage on pursuit. The forces maneuvered a little bit the Swiss however seemed perfectly content to have their back to the water (a dangerous stance to take but it makes sure your troops fight hard since they can retreat). Von Ryan marched his troops toward the Swiss who stood stoically and waited. The Cavalry forces launched charges on both ends of the Swiss lines, then Ryan's troops charged in the middle.....crazed screaming and war cries and the armies engaged each other fully. After a very short time engaged Von Ryan heard wild screaming and a roar was erupting in the rear of his army. Von Ryan disengaged so he could check out what was happening. The Swabian Prince had betrayed him! The horns sounded for full retreat and Von Ryan directed his forces as best as he could but the German infantry was in full retreat. In an act of great heroism the Bavarian Prince pulled him cavalry out of their engagement against the Swiss infantry and charged the Swabian princes forces that were attempting to block the retreat rout of the German infantry. The battle raged and between the two fairly evenly matched cavalry forces the Swiss and Tyrol Infantry swarmed over the Bavarian Cavalry and slaughtered them to the man. In the melee the Swabians prince also perished. Von Ryan limped back to Bavaria with just over 1/3 of his force intact; he rested in Bavaria and spent time with the family. Over the next several years Von Ryan watched with great interest as the Heresy played out.

Carinthia: Fortified Trieste.

Lorraine: Lots of Field Forts and increased military and home improvements as well.

Bohemia: City of Prague is built!

Bavaria: Big economic development

Swabia: Heresy in the whole nation, Revolts against it's German master in the field and nearly kills the illustrious Witch-hunter Von Ryan. Note.....Sometimes nations do things that are not very smart.

Denmark: Defunct....King dies Jutland absorbed, Zealand joins Gotland

Now officially the Branist Christians: Branist Christian Provinces

Swabia, Switzerland, Tyrol, Lyonnais, Provence

More on the Heresy: Bran Jacobson had watched the events unfold at Zurich and was glad he had survived another day. First the assassination attempt now the Germans are sending armies. Something had to be done. Bran decided this movement had to grow beyond him. He ordered the confiscation of Church properties in Swabia, Switzerland and Tyrol. The religious zeal carried over to Savoy as well. Bran contemplated his future and God came to him and spoke (so the tale is told at least)

Go to the lands of the oppressed and persecuted.

Offer them salvation from their plight

Show them that though they have been persecuted by

people of their faith God has not abandon them

Bran was torn...the Burgundians and the Veniceans both qualified. God always seemed to be vague and mysterious. Then an odd thing happened, Bran was visited by the former Prince of Burgundy. He had survived several attempts on his life and so he had been in hiding. Bran and the Prince discussed many things and when they were done Bran knew his calling was to go to Provence.

Apparently Bran was right because when he entered Savoy on his way to Provence the Savoyians embraced him. It was becoming more and more apparent that the HRE religious fervor was faltering and the German people as a whole were becoming more receptive to the Branist Movement. Bran grabbed up the Cathedral in Savoy and moved on to Provence. The people went wild at his appearance. The French occupation army wasn't too pleased but they were not inclined to slaughter a bunch of heretics unless they had orders to. Lyonnais also adopted the Branist doctrine. Marseilles was declared a holy city and the Faithful came to the city in droves. Bran rested and organized things to end the cycle. His movement started 15 years ago in Tyrol had become a full-fledged religion.

France: Languedoc (NE)

Couple of thousand men was drafted into military service this cycle as the king became increasingly concerned about national security. The King decided the country should be scoured for insidious and evil plotters of deceit. He ordered his intel services to do so but they were completely ineffective with so much ground to cover. The King along with one of his Lieutenants had some success in finally breaking down the walls in Burgundy. Some of the Burgundians accepted the fact that they were part of Greater France now. Diplomacy was also conducted in Languedoc to no effect primarily because of the fact that the King's advisor passed about half way through the process. The King chose not to destroy the religious fanaticism running rampant through Old Burgundy. It would have really done damage to his good efforts of recent years. For more see the *Branist Christian Section*.

One last problem cropped up. No telling how the French King is going to deal with this but it could be VERY Serious. Robert Duke of Normandy refused to follow the orders issued by the King.

K of France I need you to go help our allies, Kingdom of Leon, Finish up the Portuguese
Robert They are Slavers
K of France They are our allies
Robert That does not make their actions right
K of France I have been assured that they are freeing the slaves
Robert They are returning the people to their homeland?
K of France Well no they are sending them to Cordoba
Robert Cordoba is a Slave State!
K of France All Islamic nations are
Robert Now Leon is in the business of Selling Slaves? The public outcry was great enough they knew they couldn't keep them so now they are selling them!
K of France Have been told they have no intention of selling them
Robert Then why not return them to Portugal where they belong?
K of France It is his country not mine, maybe he does not want to have to face them this cycle
Robert Non-Combatants get enslaved, not combatants, combatants die defending themselves
K of France All that is irrelevant I am your liege and I told you to go do something, I do not care what your Standing is in my court you are obligated to act.
Robert My first responsibility is to God, you are second on the list and in this case God tells me that I should not go assist the slave state of Leon. When the Pope issues a decree absolving the Catholics of Spain of their crime against God I will aid them in their endeavor. Until then I am going to go spend some time with my wife and son who I have not seen for 10 years. Damn my son is almost a man. So much for Robert the Pious.....I am thinking Robert "the Pious when it is convenient" might be more appropriate.

If things were not irritating enough there was some concern about Henri remarrying. His wife was missing not "dead" yet Henri was anxious to marry the sister of the Aquitaine Lord John II. There was rumbling in the court that maybe Henri in a fit of rage or something had killed his wife and that is why the disappearance wasn't investigated and why Henri was so anxious to remarry. Henri did marry Anne of Aquitaine and at the end of the cycle she bore him a daughter.

Gascony: Bordeaux increases in size (4).
King Died his son took over.

Aquitaine: Rouen Increases in size (2).
King Died and son took over. There was a spy captured, tortured and killed this turn "see Ireland". Note, the failure was so bad that there was no need for a RF action.

Petition by the Nobles of France:

We respectfully request that your Lordship, Robert the Pious, King of all France immediately end your support of the Kingdom of Leon in the affair of Portugal and all other things. The practice of slavery is deplorable and until the Kingdom of Leon puts and end to this practice we, loyal Servants to France and God, request that no a single French Catholic soldier set foot inside the borders of Leon.

Your Humble Servants,

Gerard of Gascony & John II of Aquitaine

Leon: Santiago (Razed)

Portugal Strikes back. In a very odd turn of events the Portugal actually attacked Leon this cycle. The King of Leon and his brother were patiently waiting for the French Lord Robert of Normandy. Robert of Normandy never arrived. The Portuguese who had spent money on Mercenaries were not going to let them sit idle so at the beginning of year three. "SEE PORTUGAL"

Portugal: Early in the cycle a messenger entered the makeshift court of the Portuguese King. He bore a message from the king of Leon. The King read it the message as the messenger sweated. The King began to chuckle. The messenger was somewhat relieved. The king told one of the guards then to remove the man's right hand. The messenger squealed (big sissy). The king apathetically replied that the hand that delivered that message had to be destroyed. Least you will get to live. Tell your king that he will have to take my lands if he wants them; they will not be had freely.

The Portuguese hired every Mercenary they could. No one else bothered so the Portuguese got lots of Mercenaries. Santobal came with his 1800 Cavalry and then the 3000 additional Independent Cavalry were also hired. The Portuguese knew that Leon would probably be coming it was just a matter of when. The Portuguese waited two years for the Leonese to show up and they did not so over the winter the Leaders of Portugal and the Mercenaries conferred. It was decided that maybe there was a reason for the absence of the Leon military forces so it was decided that action should be taken.

Into Galica: 5000 Mercenaries and 5000 Cavalry of the Portuguese Army. The invasion was unopposed. Leon did have a leader here, the Galicians Guard, 1000 Galicians Heavies with their captain; their only job was to protect the Holy City. They moved within the city walls and waited. The Portuguese pretty quickly disposed of the 5 small fortifications in the region. Losses were a little greater than the attacker would like but not excessive. The Portuguese waited to see if the Leonese would react. They did not so the Portuguese Decided in year 4 to attack the RC Holy City. The walls of the city were not terribly high and the Leonese were outnumbered by 10 – 1 and by the end of the several Assaults on the city which were pretty bloody the city was broken. The Portuguese were smart enough to attack on all sides at once, they were also thankful they brought along their infantry contingent.

Raising the Holy City! The Portuguese military was order to do as much damage as possible. Avenging Salamanca was important. The Portuguese raised the City and all Catholics were killed. When word got to the Capital City of Leon got word the Holy City was being assaulted Thomas knew he had to act. He moved out with his 4000 Cavalry and a rear guard of Infantry. Thomas crossed the mountains and launched his forces into the province. The Mercenary army was there to receive him though they were surprised to see he had made it across the mountains before they could oppose him. Santobal a hard line Muslim held a great deal of antagonism for the Leon forces and Thomas in particular (the Defeat of Cordoba at the battle of Leon 19 years ago still made many Muslims bitter) so Santobal after dancing around Thomas forces for a few months thus insuring the Holy City could be sacked, finally met Thomas on the field of battle.

First Battle of Galacia (1019): Santobal's main contingent was his 600 Argonese Heavies, since his army was all Cavalry he went with a standard configuration Aragonese in the center, Moslem Regulars in the center and the Maduran lights on the wings. The big disadvantage Santobal had was the disparity in strengths, he had a lot of Maduran Lights and a good amount of Moslem Regulars but his Heavy contingent was very weak compared to the fearsome Leonese Knights and Navarre Heavy contingent number 1000 men each. Santobal decided that if the battle was struck and he could not flank the Catholics quickly he would withdrawal back to the allied forces and fight as a combined force. Battle lines were drawn and the skirmishes began, charges.....counter charges but nothing terrible substantial came of all of this and Santobal was forced to conduct an ordered retreat. Thomas d. V 's forces lost 600 to 1000 men the Portuguese Merc. Force lost a bunch of Maduran Light cavalry trying to force the flanks but that was about it.

Second Battle of Galacia (Early 1020): The Mercenaries had bought the Portuguese time, which is exactly what the Portuguese had hoped for. Early in 1020 and the infantry was moving to Portugal the Salamancan Lord and Santobal decided to take another crack at Thomas d. V. Salamancan Lord had a small contingent of Knights to complement Santobal's Argonese Heavy Cavalry. Once again there was a ton of Maduran Cavalry on hand to try once again to force the flanks. Along the coast near the small village of Vigo the forces met. Numerical superiority mattered not at all to Thomas; Moslems had outnumbered him the last 15 years why should this be any different. The forces lined up on the open field at first light. The Leonese and Salamancan Elite Heavy horse looked very impressive bedecked in the armor of the day. Both sides brought out their Sunday best, banners were flying all the soldiers had pendants, ribbons, sashes or something of the like flying from helmets or on muscled biceps it was quite a site to behold. The Portuguese

knew that if he could just deliver a defeat to Thomas d. V. then maybe the Leonese would reconsider trying to annex Portugal.

Today apparently wasn't the day for Portuguese celebrations. The Portuguese and Leonese charged each other. A huge mass of man and horse thundered across the field. The sound of the collision as the two sides hit was sickening to all but a hardened veteran. Blades flashed men died in droves. Several times during the course of the battle Thomas lead counter charges on his flanks to drive off the enormous amount of annoying Maduran Light Cavalry hanging around looking for openings. In the middle of the fray the large quantity of highly trained Leonese and Narvean Knights won the day. They smashed up the Salamancan's and Aragonese units and the center broke. Unfortunately for the Leonese pursuit was ineffective because of the lack of light cavalry.

Serbia : Zara (EA), Epirus & the city of Dhyrrakhion revolt

Odd happenings in Serbia. The King died suddenly at the very young age of 36! The matter was investigated a little bit but nothing odd was discovered. There was some tension in the capital after this occurrence but after a couple of weeks of heated discussions between the 2 princes and the Heir (Who is Croatian, thus the reason for the concern) things calmed down (the two princes probably figured out the new King would probably be able to kick both of their buttswho knows). After all that hubbub the REE representative showed up with some much needed money. Leaders were immediately sent to the Venetian Cities of Ragusa and Zara. After lengthy discussions in Zara capitulated. The commander of the Ragusa garrison refused to even allow the representative into the city. The Ragusa garrison commander then closed the city to traffic from the interior. Toward the end of the cycle in apparent disgruntlement over a Croatian taking the throne the province of Epirus and the port city of Dhyrrakhion revolt. The nation of **Montenegro** is founded!

Dragomir II will go down as the great unifier of the Balkan people, will historians ask the question 500 years from now "What if Dragomir's life hadn't been cut short?"

Venice: Lost Spoleto & City of Benetivo also the city of Zara, Also Latium.

Lots of Ships built as the Venetians prepared for the return of the REE. All the ships built were manned with elite troops and were large in size. The Venetian Fleet was not going to be out gunned, outnumbered maybe but not outgunned. Before setting sail the Doge penned a letter to the Pope:

Pontiff

Why do you abandon your loyal Servants? I have done nothing. Someone you should never trust has duped you, by someone who would like to see Rome in flames. Why would you believe anything he tells you? He seeks only to divide your loyal followers so he can pave the way for the ascension of the Orthodox Church. Mark my words; you will rue the day you took that serpent into your home.

The Doge of Venice

It was now time to clear the shipping lanes of those foul REE so the Doge set out to sea. The Adriatic was his pond. First Stop Ragusa to pick up some of this cycle's fleet builds. From there... on to the Ionian to wreak havoc on the REE merchant marine. Sure the Doge could have concerned himself with his land provinces but what good would it have done him? He couldn't hold the land provinces versus a determined aggressor he could however hold the City of Venice forever as long as he controlled the seas.

Battle of Strofadhres (Ionian Sea 1017): Another good size Fleet was sent to destroy the Venetians who had to be on their last legs after that very big naval battle outside Venice last cycle. They had defeated the REE but at a cost. When the REE Fleets arrived in the Ionian they immediately started getting reports of the Venetians raiding the shipping lanes and capturing transports. Apparently they had been taking their anguish out on the REE shipping industry. Bardas and the Kyklades Captain decided their fleet of 100 plus galley's (mostly the standard warship of the day) should be able to remedy the problem rather quickly they had gathered some information at Sparta that indicated that if the Romans to their fleet on the east side of Strofadhres that they might get a jump on the Venetian fleet. Then they could go on to the more important matters at hand the passive siege of Venice it's self.

Kyklades Captain and Bardas conferred and decided to act immediately on the information they had. The REE leadership was also informed that the Venetians had 100 warships. Bardas who participated in the Po River didactical was shocked when he heard the absurd statement. There was no way they could have that many ships he thought. The REE fleet moved out immediately. They came around the Eastern side of the Island and sure enough there was the Venetian fleet. Bardas leading the light warships immediately headed into the enemy opposition and Kyklades Captain

followed suit.....the odds were even numerically so the REE leadership thought they might be able to really cause some serious damage. THEY WERE WRONG.....

The Alarm sounded and the Veniceans wheeled the fleet around very quickly the Doge had been operating in a fairly closed formation since he entered the Ionian, he had done so because he knew that the REE would be bringing a good sized fleet to renew the siege of Venice. The elite crews on the heavy galleys maneuvered into position began hammering the standard galleys. Projectiles rained down from the higher decks of the Heavy Galleys onto the sailors of the smaller REE vessels. The rest of the Veniceans ships attempted to encircle the REE forces as best as possible. The Doge wanted to stop as many of the REE ships from fleeing as possible. Captain of Kyklades and Bardas started to panic. The REE force had immediately engaged the Veniceans fleet thinking that they had them exactly where they wanted them.....what a disaster this had become. The REE leaders made every attempt to disengage but they were having serious problems. The Veniceans were relentless, the battle carried on into the night men were fighting by fire light as many a ship was in flames. Finally sometime in the middle of the night whatever was left of the REE fleet made it's escape. It was quite a haul for the Veniceans. The Doge returned to Ragasu to get repairs and men for his newly acquired ships, Thus 1017 ended and 1018 begins.

1018 More Daring by the Veniceans. The Veniceans decided to hit the REE where it hurt, SPARTI! This was the only REE city on the Ionian and so the Doge decided to check the cities defenses. His vast fleet sailed right up to the port. Sparti was undefended and unwallled.....Sparti was completely razed, the Veniceans celebrated. Well with nothing better to do the Veniceans pirated some more and at the end of the cycle they returned home ships brimming with captured gold which was used to secure food for the upcoming cycle. Shipping on the Tyrhennian also suffered from pirate activity.

Roman Empire of the East (REE) : Edessa and Cilicia are cultivated

The Fortress of Antioch still stands as negotiations wind on for another 5 years, actually the thought is that the Islamics "holding out" in the fortress will eventually just relent and everything will go back to normal. Apparently that is not the case though as the Antioch Moslems seem to be waiting for the REE to consent to their demands. The only way to get in or out of the fortress is by ship but the port isn't blockaded so the Moslems are not starving. It is business as usual outside the city walls as well.

On another note apparently Basil the Great (as he should be called) has tired of the military life, the near death experience may have caused him to re-evaluate his place in the world, who knows. He did send a fleet to squash the Veniceans and also ordered the Army of Southern Italy into action assisting the Kingdom of Naples (soon to be renamed) in the occupation of Spoleto and the seizure of Benivito.

Eastern Orthodox Church:

Continued gradual expansion. Everything went pretty smoothly even though the Patriarch died in the last year of the cycle. Serbia and it's capital now have religious facilities. In other areas, the Province of Atelzuko was completely resistant to the charms of missionaries and Bishop Leo. Though decent effort was put into the conversion process the Turkic tribesmen politely declined, everyone was shocked when no one got hurt. That was not the case in Antioch however. Missionaries established a church in the Orthodox part of the city but within three months of it's construction it lay in ashes burnt to the ground by arsonist. With some of the military departing the area local police worried there would be more violence forth coming though there was none this cycle.

Tuscany: Tuscan Troops sat outside the city of Venice waiting for the Byzantines to begin the blockade. It never happened. Also during this cycle King Pietro passed leaving his son in charge of the Kingdom of Northern Italy. After waiting for what seemed like an eternity Pietro decided to set up court in Verona and begin ruling the northern Italians. If the REE ever did manage to show up he could get back to the business of sacking Venice.

Kingdom of Naples: Spoleto (P), Benivito (P)

Naples moved in unopposed to Spoleto. Apparently there was concern that there would be sizeable forces here because lots of boys showed up for the party. The lands were turned over to the REE at the end of the conflict. Apparently the personality change has made Emperor Rex a humbler man (welcome to the game Ivan). The Kingdom of Naples has been renamed the The Capitanata and the King has sworn his undying loyalty to the REE and Emperor Basil II.

Poland: Lithuania (EA), Obodria (NT) , Gdansk (Lvl 3), Silesia (F)

Things seem to be picking up steam in Poland. The City of Gdansk is booming after the Polish Government recruited Catholic immigrants to move into the recently expanded city. They did come and settled happily in to their new enviroment. Diplomatic efforts abounded as Lithuanian Pagans embraced the idea of joining the Poles, Obodria warmed a bit to them and Silesia came under their full sway. Can the Polish infrastructure handle all this expansion???

Papacy: Alfold, Bakony, Kauyavia Abbeys; Thuringia (MN), Pest (CA)

If it wasn't for those damnable heretics life would be reasonably good.

Cordoba: Palina, Valencia, Esbeyla & Al-Mireya all increased in size

Slaves acquired from Leon for a price of 20 Gold were put to work immediately building a postal road. The Cordovan king was very happy though his subjects were becoming more and more concerned. The King had been dumping Lords, giving up lands, not supporting the Moslems in Portugal and now using former citizens now as slaves? It was a very disturbing to the populace and the nobility. Two of the kings trusted nobles died this cycle and one was sent home for incompetence where shortly there after he committed suicide so as not to bring to much disgrace to his family.

Middle East:

Buhwayids: Cedar lvl 2, Lebanon (F)

The newly crowned King of the Buhwayids jumped into action quickly. First of all the New King married off his sister to the Hatamid Prince and named The Hatamid as an official Prince. During the same year 1016 there was swimming accident the younger brother of the King died, apparently eaten by crocodiles. The Hatamid Prince who was actually on the scene did manage to kill the crocodile but sadly just not in time. There was very little left of on the young prince. The Hatamid Prince returned to the capital just as the King was blessed with a daughter. Shortly there after the King also passed.

The Hatamid Prince assumed the throne! Long live the Hatamid Prince. The Hatamid prince was embraced by the Buhwayid Kingdom and the Persian Kingdom (yes I have rolled every change of Government to see what the Persians do). The Hatamid Prince thus begins the Hamzah Dynasty. No actions were taken against the Shiraz in the South and maybe that was best for everyone. At the end of the Cycle the Hatamid Prince's Wife died birthing a son. It was a loss but at least some sort of ascendancy was established.

Persia: New City Isfahan in Persia

Consolidation of holdings. The Persians built the city of Isfahan on the Silk road in hopes of garnering greater trade form far away nations. The Persians embraced the opportunity to work with the new leader of the Buhwayid Kingdom. The Hatamid Prince was renown throughout Islam for opposing the Romans, aiding the stability of the Buhwayid throne and being a great swordsman.

Yemen : Ziela (F), Hadramuat (NE)

A big effort was put into getting Zeila fully in the empire and it was successful. Slavers came calling in gray flagged ships of mercenaries. *See Slavery* (Egypt and Zagwe)

Slavers hit Danikil: Once again the defenders put up resistance and this time it was the Local troops reacting to the attack. The light cavalry rushed to the scene and though not near as well lead as the slavers they did gain the element of surprise and burned a couple of ships before the slavers could drive them off. The slavers then moved off there was some desertion apparently as to what the next step should be. They sailed out into the Bab Al Manda and were set upon by a small squadron of light attack galleys. They easily turned them back but the environment was getting a little hot for the slavers liking so they headed back out to sea.

Ghazi: City of Lumanca in Transoxania, Baluchistan (NE), Registan (H), Sihan (H)

Apparently the desert Tribes are still all in an uproar about the events several years ago in Endrosia. These tribes apparently were all counting on the support of Edrosia that would be gained when one of their brethren married the Edrosian princess. That support was not forthcoming because of the failure of the Carmania Lord to marry the princess. An effort was put in by the Ghazi to secure minimal tributary status in these areas but the diplomatic corp was met and turned back in all regions. The Diplomatic Corp chose not to attack this regions since there was not any loss of Ghazi life in the activities in these regions. The King will now have to decide how best to approach this situation.

Edrosia: Mansura is fortified and is now a Lvl 4 City

Edrosians improved their defenses and hoped that Punjab would leave them alone. The Ghazi had delivered on the promise of troop allocations but you could never be too prepared. Mansura was growing and more and more trade poured in from abroad. The Edrosians decided that putting a few more warships on the water would be a good thing so the did so.

Chorasmia: Consolidating their holdings was just about the only concern the King had. A Fortress was constructed in the homeland, as were some Field Forts. 10 years of peace amongst the Turk tribes was making everyone in Chorasmia a little nervous. A 25-year Peace agreement was struck with the King of Samarkhand to bring peace to the region.

Samarkhand: Samarkhand armed with a peace treaty assuring 25 years of peace began the work of rebuilding the country and preparing for the Turkic horde.

India:

Tibet: Gtsang (P)

The Tibetan army went on maneuvers in Gtsang and decided to stay. Gtsang was not prepared for the Tibetan onslaught and the crumpled under the weight of a very balanced and very well lead military force. The Tibetan's quickly turned their attention to the military conversion of the Hindu's which was pretty simple since these folks are not that far removed from being Buddhist.

Lamanist: Gtsang Converted to Lamanist and Church built
Assisting in the conversion of the Hindu masses in Gtsang.

Kashmir/Kush: Rise of the Shivan Hindu Church. Both provinces become Shiva Hindu's

Holyman Abhinavagupta has emerged as the leading religious leader in the Kashmir/Kush region. His fervent preaching as to the virtues on Shiva as the primary God of Hinduism have swayed the northernmost Hindu state.

Punjab: Cholera Outbreak in the Capital was limited to the poor sections of town. Lahore reduced by one Level. In other area of the nation AO on the Island of Jats was increased in size and a string of forts was built through the desert regions to help India defend it's self from the Moslems.

Uttar Pradesh: Nepal (NE), Uttar Pradesh becomes a Trade Center

The Lamanist Buddhist apparently won't kill all Hindu's that go into the mountains that or Uttar Pradesh's Vasta Lord is considering becoming a Buddhist. The Vasta Lord got sent on a diplomatic mission to Nepal and though it had no effect on swaying them into the Uttar Pradesh camp he did manage to return home safely and.....Nepal told the Vasta Lord that Nepal would agree not to raid their lands (for what that is worth) and that since the Uttar Pradesh king was brave enough to send his most trusted diplomat into the Buddhist lands all trade from the outer Himalayas would flow through Uttar Pradesh! Several thousand men were recruited into military service.

Bengal: Census & lots more men drafted into the military. Civilians revolted in Tamaralipti (Dhaka on the map till the map update), there was rioting in the street and the citizens were opposing the huge amount of resources being put into the military build up and the lack of improvements in the city of Tamaralipti. The military of course rolled in and squashed the protesters. City was reduced one level. On the upside the census takers had a few less people to count. Also destroyed in the ruckus was a Brahmins church.

Hindu – Brahamin: Jaunpor (CA), Uttar Pradesh (MN), Gujerat (MN), Anhivarta (CH), Baroda (AB), Vasta (CA)
The Brahamin continue to spread rapidly. They did hit a speed bump though this cycle. Unlike the cattle of Northern India the Chalukya do not open their lands up to all who want to pass. When the Brahamin missionary Bithra arrived in Nasik and started to build a church troops came along and carted him off to the border. They handed him a note and told him to take it to the Brahaminist Primate. Realizing there might be some urgency Bithra did exactly that.

In Bihar a couple of months later.

Bithra Your excellency I have a message from the Western Chalukya
Primate and what of the work among their people could this not have waited?
Bithra They escorted me to the border and told me to deliver this immediately
Primate interesting I guess I should examine it

Supreme Brahamin

As ruler of Western Chalukya I would request that before you assume that I and the people of my realm will embrace your religion above all others, you should confer with me. We respect your desire to be the pre-eminent religion of India but as Hindu's there are many options open to us, Shiva has risen in the far north and

Vishnu in SE Asia. Our lands and those to the south have often respected Shiva above all others in the Indian Pantheon. If you would like to discuss this matter further please feel free to come visit my court or send one of your missionaries so that we can discuss this matter further.

*Respectfully,
The Chalukya King*

Primate Well that is interesting, did they treat you roughly?
Bithra No they were very polite
Primate Well I suspected (Dean would be a butthead) that the Chalukya would not bend a knee so easily as the others
Bithra They have been noted as being very independent in the reports
Primate True but they shouldn't resist my authority, I will have to consider my options
Bithra I await your instructions as always

And the Supreme Brahmin did contemplate what the next course of action would be.

Kucha: Kashgar (EA)

Big effort was put into securing Kashgar and it succeeded as the rulers of Kashgar saw the reasoning behind being aligned to with their fellow Manichaeans brothers. The Kucha Khan had 3 more daughters bringing the total to 7. All with the same wife (she should get a medal for bearing NINE children).

Manichaeans: Tien Shan (F) Tuhn Wang Converts, Kashgar Converts (actually did a turn or two ago)
The church decided it needed to firmly establish its self somewhere and through some divination and other religiously sanctified events it was determined that the location should be Tien Shan.

Kaunaj: About 5000 men were drafted into the military this turn. It appears the nuclear escalation continues in Northern India. The Kaunaj secret police apparently were working over time to discover the party involved in the intel actions against them.

Paramara Alliance: Diplomatic War starts in W. Chalukya. There is nothing gained. King gathers nearly his whole army together and goes on maneuvers. The kingdom remains peaceful.

Chola: Port City if Vindon built in Mandurai

Diplomatic efforts in W. Chalukya come up with nothing thanks to the unwanted intervention of the Paramara Princes. I guess on the plus side it could be noted that the Chalukyans in the end were apathetic toward both parties. The Raj passed toward the end of the cycle so his son returned home to ascend the throne, this happened most peacefully.

Pandya: All quiet as Pandya watches the Cholans closely to determine if they are an honorable lot.

Western Chalukya: City of Kalyana in Nasik was Fortified. The Chalukya seem very intent on sticking around as a viable independent nation. Diplomats visiting were ineffective and the Brahmin's Missionary was shown the door too.

Ceylon: Zanzibar (p), built Port here

The king of Ceylon lacks a lot when it comes to diplomacy. The King made a stab at being nice to the Islamics of Zanzibar and failed miserably so he squashed them with the troops and naval contingent he brought along. A Port fortress was built on the island.

Kingdom of Kalachuri: Kalinga (PT)

There was much celebrating in Dahala as the Prince finally subdued the province of Kalinga. The Generals celebrated because the Prince finally figured out that fighting in the mountains was best done with Infantry. Due to the extremely hateful nature of the people of Kalinga the Prince decided to leave 400 Heavily armed infantry in the province to make sure the province didn't cause more trouble. When the Prince arrived back home he found his father had taken with a summer cold and was very ill. He died at the end of 1018 overjoyed his son had cut a swath across India, before the old king passed.

S.E.Asia:

Burma: Merged in its entirety with Pegu

Pegu: Merged with Burma – Renamed the Empire of Burma, Marriages of the King and the princess along with a HUGE financial contribution and a great deal of diplomatic effort that has been put in not only this turn but the last 20 years paved the way for this event which barely was consummated at this level. Thus the Empire of Burma is born.

Champa : Sri Viencene dies of in his sleep in 1019. Sri V's passing is mourned by all in Champa, since he is the conquering hero admired by all. Even in the North he was respected because of his defeat of the Khemer (Annam's ally at the time) at the battle of Mison. Anyone who could make the Khemer back down deserves respect. Champa continued solidifying the nation that had more than doubled in size. Many investments were made to improve the nation of Champa.

Khemer:

With the exception of some rural projects in Surin everything was quiet in the realm.

Vishnu: Abbeys in Phan Rang, Nakhon and Johor.....Church in Melaka

The Vishnu Primacy also worked diligently to restore the Holy City to its former glory.

Srivayana: DIES

Maylay Confederation: Hianan, Johor, Perak, Singapore and Bangka w/ cities

A message was immediately sent to the Javan's to cease hostilities.

Java:

Prince Jo'sean went to Timor with great hope he left an embarrassment. It was pretty obvious to the people of Timor that the Prince lacked skill in matters of state and the night he got falling down drunk at some banquet and starting spouting off about Javan superiority or some such nonsense he got the boot and was told not to return till he learned a little humility. The Molucas however liked Frie'aran and the province became friendly after Frie'aran won the big fishing tournament.

On too important matters like the war with the Srivajaya (God I hate that name, I will be glad if they die). The Javan King decided to take a Huge chance and led the army all by himself into the war. Obviously the King knew he was invincible and so he had nothing to worry about. Lots of mercenaries were hired as well (gee hope he gets across the straits). As all the troops moved into position on the ferry point news came of the assassination of the Sriv King. King Beoane was already thinking about his new title "HmMMM Emperor of the Isle" "no Beoane the Uniter" guess this would have to wait for another day as the ships started loading up and carrying troops to the other side.

This should have been more glorious than this but Srivijaya was not at all prepared to defend its self. The death of the King caused the island kingdom to collapse into chaos. The Javans swept in and simply cleaned things up. (Bad GM I didn't notice these folks had nothing at home when I did their last turn, Liam go make the appropriate sacrifices to the God of Luck). The Srivajaya now will get a name change (Yea!) and they still own Hianan (there new capital) and several other territories.

Asia:

Sung: Resting on their laurels. The people of the land remained content and all the neighbors of also respected their peaceful nature.

Buddhist: Shensi (CA), Chang An (MN), Szechwan (AB), Kwanchow (MN), Chiennan (AB), Lu'an (AB), Tangshen (AB), Liao-tung (AB), Koguryo (AB), Kaiching (AB)

The constantly evolving Buddhist continued to expand. Peace between the Buddhist houses was a good thing for all involved.

Nanchao: Yi in the Province of Kwiechou (actually been there for two turns) City of Tai'Li grows to size 4, Guizhou cultivated. City of Tai'li becomes fortified.

Province was cultivated and Capital grew in size.....there got rid of all that stuff that had been piling up.

Clan Tiger: Shaoguan increases to size 2

The capital grew in size and the people were happy.

His Hsia:

Border provinces of Huang, Ordos, Ningsia and Yanhsi all became fortified provinces. Field Forts were built as well. The adoption of the Lamanist teachings was a cause for concern. It was felt in the kingdom that the Sung and mainstream (that's you Eddie) Buddhist would be pissed about this and attack.

Korea:

Developing the land

Japan: Port City of Kobe Built in Yamaguchi Province, Kido enlarged. Postal Road built Yamato to Toyama March to Akita: The Emperor had done battle on numerous occasions in this province, it was a harsh wilderness and the people had always been difficult to rule. The Michinaga Emperor moved out of the Imperial Province with 8000 mixed troops more than enough to subdue the Akita Warlord he was certain. The Emperor and his host headed north through the wildlands of Toyama and Nigata. The Emperor wintered in Nigata. The following year in May he decided to press forward into Akita.

Attack on the Akita Lord: E. Michinaga led his army into the province very aware of the potential pitfalls that would be awaiting him. He has wisely brought along a contingent of Light infantry to scout ahead and make sure the army didn't walk into any traps. He had a good sized contingent of cavalry to do long range scouting activities, everything was good. The first small fortified Akita estate was discovered in June. It was a pretty typical establishment Low wall on a hilltop with the trees cleared away so the defenders could see for several miles. E. Michinaga made camp and shortly thereafter ordered in the engineers and light infantry to take it out. The defenders were pretty effective at defending themselves and the action several days. In the middle of the week notice came that an army was moving in from the north. The Emperor smiled, he had drawn out the Provincial Lord. He prepared for the field battle. The terrain was not really suited for cavalry actions but there was some open area nearby that would allow some work to be done by the cavalry so Michinaga moved there he left a small contingent of light infantry and the engineers to take care of the fortified home while he went and fought the real battle.

The armies deployed on the broken ground E. Michinaga sat with his cavalry in reserve and ordered his infantry forward. The infantry alone had an advantage of about two to one, though no heavy or elite troops were in the mix for the Emperor. The Akita rebels had taken up positions at the base of three small hills. The center formation of Michinaga Infantry was sent fourth in a full charge. The light infantry was waiting on the wings. Almost immediately the center of the Akita formation broke and ran.....the rout was on.....the Emperor was gleeful and ordered the cavalry to charge into the center at full speed the King would teach the Akita dogs he was not to be trifled with! Into the center they charged the light infantry left standing in place. The king was nearing the banner of the Akita Lord when all of the sudden things became suddenly very bad. The fleeing infantry turned to fight and the flanking Akita troops also came crashing down on the cavalry and infantry it was total mayhem the retreat was sounded as the King tried to salvage the campaign and his troops fought valiantly and were falling back in good order. Then the kings horse buckled under him as an arrow pierced the horses eye killing it instantly. The troops still retreating didn't notice the Emperor's horse had stumbled and that the king was down. The Akita on the other hand did and they rushed in and snatched him up. The Akita trap though very costly worked, they now had in their possession the ruler of Japan! In order to avoid any stupid heroics on the part of the remaining Japanese army that was for the most part intact the Akita Lord ordered the King put to death immediately. Thus it was done and the army beat a hasty retreat back to the capital. There were some desertions along the way though and the army that returned was a shadow of it's former self.

With the news of the Emperors death reaching Nigata they revolted, Toyama and Kwanto and the city of Edo. The only northern province not to rebel was Aichi who held firm against the cries of rebellion. Fortunately for the new Emperor all the other leaders were out of the country when this happened so there was not a true Dynastic failure. At the very end of the cycle E. Michinaga II's wife the Hakkaido princess died in child birth and Hakkaido went independent when the news of this along with all the other disasters hit.

Minamoto Clan (thanks Leslie I didn't have to do any research) : Death to the Michinaga!
City of Edo, Provinces of Kwanto, Toyama, Ningata and Akita

Liao: Wudan (F)
General build up

Australia: Port City of Mackay built in Tir – ah – dha, Borang colonized to 0/5
The first Australian city was constructed and the Aboriginies celebrated! They could now trade with Java when Java decides to send ships their way (if I counted correctly at least).

New Zealand: Exist as Dean's map expands even more