

Lords of the Earth

Campaign Nineteen

Turn 60

Anno Domini 1196 - 1200

TURN 61 ORDERS DUE BY: Monday, September 12th. Orders will not be accepted after Midnight MST on Tuesday, September 13th.

A NNOUNCEMENTS

Price Increase:

Due to increasing workload, beginning this turn (60) I will be increasing the price per turn to \$7.00. I apologize for any inconvenience this decision may cause.

Missionaries

From this point, any player who sends missionaries to an **uncontrolled area** that is of a **hostile organized religion** will get no conversion result and a bunch of dead missionaries.

Leaders & Espionage Actions (Battle Assistance): In order for a leader to perform this action he must remain with the army he is aiding. APs spent in moving around with the army do not count towards the action itself. The maximum bonus a leader may make using this action is +1. So make sure you've got leaders with high CHA scores on this.

Interactions between the Hemispheres: at this point only the Seafaring cultures may sail between the Hemispheres. Once people hit Renaissance, then they may attempt to do so as well. So the New World players should stop trying to get to Europe and Non Seafaring Old World players should do likewise.

Building units: The vast majority of units must be built in a city within your HBZ. The exceptions are as follows:

- 1) Ships may be built in a port outside the HBZ if it is the only one available.
- 2) Field forts may be built in any region at NT status or higher.
- 3) Inexperienced infantry may be built in a F region within your HBZ.
- 4) Nomad/Barbarian cultures may build units at a Trade Center within their HBZ.

In all these instances please be aware of the yard capacity for all ships and all heavy class units.

Some advice that will (hopefully) speed up processing time):

- 1) When players are increasing a city, please indicate what the new size will be.
- 2) For ships to be built for conversion to MSP, you can also put what route they're going into in the Builds section. Projects may also be put in the Builds section.
- 3) When building a road link, indicate which region it starts in and which region it's going to. Don't give me city names.
- 4) For players who are not using a standard WORD or XTEL format, please put the information in the

following order: Revenue; Maintenance, Investments, Builds, Transfers, Projects, Trade Routes, Intel Ops, Religious Ops, Leader Actions. When indicating an expense, please list gps first then nfp.

CONTACTING & PAYING THE REFEREE

I will no longer be taking money directly for turns. Instead, players sending funds by mail should make all checks payable to Thomas Harlan and send them either to the 2nd Street address or to Thomas' address, which is:

Thomas Harlan
3210 E. 23rd Street
Tucson, AZ 85713-2261

Below are my Email and Regular mail addresses:

4858 East 2nd Street
Tucson, AZ 85711
Email: ancarc@throneworld.com

Payment: When paying via Paypal, please send all funds to this account:

lords19pmts@throneworld.com

ZERO AND NEGATIVE CREDIT: CONSEQUENCES

Players at zero or negative credit **at the time of deadline** or will have a negative balance at the conclusion of processing will not have their orders processed, plain and simple. So get your orders and payment in before processing starts or life will become very unfair very quickly. Finally, players with a negative balance are liable to get their country reassigned without notice. You have been warned.

RULE CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS

The complete list of rules changes (including the happy stuff on Smallpox) can be found on the Lords 19 page on the Throneworld website. If you haven't read them, please do so. Reading them will save you (and me) a lot of grief.

JAPAN & THE PACIFIC RIM

THE TAIRA BAKUFU

Taira Tankokazu, Dainyo of Kwanto, Shogun of Japan.

DIPLOMACY Shimane (f)

A quiet turn of building ships for MSPs and public works. A postal road link between Kwanto and Toyama was begun.

THE MOLUCCAS SEAHOLD

Rokaku III, Lord of the Spice Islands

DIPLOMACY None.

Rokaku dispatched generals Tamani and Tamluk to occupy Sabah, which was done with little difficulty. The newly conquered region was then turned over to Lowan of Maree to rule as his personal fief.

THE KINGDOM OF JAVA

Mingfa Tengku, Beloved of Ganesha

DIPLOMACY None

No orders for this country as Leslie had other priorities this turn. He also had insufficient funds to pay for this country.

THE MAREE KINGDOM OF AUSTRALIA

Gelar Taree, Prince of Maree

DIPLOMACY None

No orders.

THE ARIKAT OF MAORI

Ghorgon, King of the Southern Islands

DIPLOMACY None

Ghorgon spent his time pouring funds into various city public works and sending fleets loaded with peoples and material for building new city levels. Tatasara, Aoteora, Pojemi, and Taiku grew to size 5, Attara Su to size 3 and Suva to size 2 by these methods.

CHINA

THE KINGDOM OF SHAN'SI

Xoing the Merciless, King of Shan'si, Watcher of the Northern Marches

DIPLOMACY No effect, unless you count the beheading of the diplomat as an effect...

Parhae was colonized back up to a (2/6). A diplomat sent to woo the Kin was beheaded and disemboweled by the locals, who then used the head as a football. Note: to Jeff: Look at your player's notes please! I have been repeating myself on several occasions there and you haven't been reading them I guess.

THE KINGDOM OF HUPEI

Cao Ai Tiao, King of Hupei

DIPLOMACY None

Work on the Great Walls in Hupei and Kansu was completed. Quinn in Fujian continues to grow as well, reaching size 6. More wall points were also added to cities and fortresses throughout the Empire to even more thoroughly discourage any potential aggressors (not that there were any). To the north, Buddhist missionaries had some small success with the Hsuing'Nu.

THE KINGDOM OF KWANGSI

Wu Juan, Prince of Kwangsi

DIPLOMACY None

No orders.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

THE KINGDOM OF CHAMPA

Khavirhan, King of Champa, Lord of Vijaya

DIPLOMACY Preikuk (+6 to YfC)

The new King was determined to press his advantage while he could. The initial intel results went well, as Champan assassins ravaged the Khemer Intel and Government sectors. Raising additional troops, Khavirhan took to the field himself. After pausing in Preikuk to gather the army sitting there (and burning the city of Songkha to the ground); the Champan King stormed across the Mekong with some 33,000 troops. The ensuing campaign was a bit of a lark as both Surin and Siam (with their accompanying [wall-less] cities) were quickly overrun. By the end of 1197 Khemer itself was occupied and Angor was

invested by land, although the city still had access to the Sea via the Mekong.

THE KINGDOM OF KAMBUJA

Issana, Deveraja of the Kambuja

DIPLOMACY None

No orders submitted. So, yours truly had to cobble together something, and cobble I did, by gum. First off, Anucha ordered the road between Surin and Preikuk destroyed. Second, scraping together what little NFP was available, Anucha ordered walls built around Pattaya (lest the Champans just walk into the place) and additional troops raised to defend the capital. Finally the King dispatched his son to bring the troops parked in Surin back to Angor as well as sending orders to general Chandan north from Johor to assist. The reinforcements arrived in Angor just in time to avoid Khavirhan's victorious troops. And there the situation stood. Finally, Anucha died in late 1197, an event rife with Melancholy.

INDIA

THE KINGDOM OF MAGHADA

Namdev, Raja of Bengal

DIPLOMACY Pundra (f)

Chitra, envious of his Chinese neighbor with his fortress-in-every-region lifestyle, decided to emulate it, ordering fortresses to be raised in Kalinga, Chandela, Palas, Nadavaria, Assam, Maghada, Pegu, Samatata, Gaur, Ava, Gtsang, and Burma. All but the fortresses in Ava and Burma are also ports. No sooner had this task been accomplished when Chitra died, without ever having a chance to visit all of his new fortresses. In other events, work began on a road link between Gaur and Bhutan.

THE KINGDOM OF CHOLA

Varun, King of Chola, Lord of Tanjore

DIPLOMACY Kalyani, in Nasik (a), Madurai (a)

The road between Satava and Nasik was completed. Also Kakinda, Solapur and Chitradurga all grew to size 2.

THE PRatihARA EMPIRE OF KAUNAJ

Javar Vikram, Emperor of India

DIPLOMACY None

No orders. Mogli II died in late 1200 and was succeeded by his son, Jawar.

CENTRAL ASIA

THE KINGDOM OF JUNGARIA

Kerk Borgha, Lord of Karakocho.

DIPLOMACY None

Alp died in late 1199 and was succeeded by his son without incident. Work continued on the Jungaria-Karluk road.

THE EMIRATE OF SAMARKHAND

Hakim ibn Osman, Emir of Samarkhand

DIPLOMACY Hazarajat (a), Kash (f), Afghanistan (ea)

Hakim continued to dispatch his diplomats hither and yon. In other events, Hazarajat was put under cultivation and a road link was built between Firoz Kohi and Kash. The link between Baluchistan and Bandar was also completed. Finally, extensive preaching by Hakim himself, convinced the Kushites to embrace the Islamic faith.

THE KHAZAR KHANATE

Chortan, Kagan of Khazar and Saksiny

DIPLOMACY None

Missionary work among the Bolgars continues apace. The postal road net from Levidia to Polovotsy and Taman was upgraded to a royal road and Kara-Kemen was expanded to a size 3. Khazar fortunes in the war are detailed below.

THE NEAR EAST

THE HAMADID SULTANATE

Salal al-Hasan, Sultan of Damascus and Protector of the Holy Places

DIPLOMACY Bostra (a)

Go directly to the war results below.

THE BUWAYID EMIRATES

Masoud ibn Tajir, Emir of Emirs, Protector of the Caliph.

DIPLOMACY Dropped in the heat of the moment!

Things started out relatively quietly for Masoud...until word got out that he was still selling grain to the infidels, while the latter were waging war on the Faithful. Worse was news that Masoud had attempted to cover up his attempts to profit in this manner.

This DEFINITELY did not go down well in the Mosques and Midrasas throughout the Emirate. Even the Caliph snubbed Masoud when he came calling one morning. Although the unrest for the most part was primarily verbal, outbreaks of violence occurred in Baghdad, Farselos and, most critically, Basra. Although the Emir's spies and assassins managed to quell the unrest in the former two cities, Basra revolted outright.

Hoping to deal with this inconvenience, Masoud marched south with 29,000 cavalry were he linked up with the heir, Nouri, and 2,000 more horse (the heir had been there on a diplomatic visit when everything went ballistic). For the next four years, Masoud and his cavalry beat their heads in vain against the walls of Basra. In late 1199, the Emir broke off the siege and retreated, leaving over 2/3rds of his army dead in the process. Fired by their success, the rebellion quickly spread into Abadan itself and then south to Kuwait and Carhaer.

THE EMIRATE OF ADEN

Mansoor al-Sheikh, Emir of Aden and S'ana.

DIPLOMACY Sheba (t)

Things here were pretty quiet. A new citadel, christened al-Mubarit al-Sheikh (or Shiekh's Redoubt) was built adjacent to San'a (and if you think I'm putting the name on the map you're nuts). The Adenite troops in Aleppo remained on react (see below for all that stuff).

EASTERN EUROPE

THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

Constantine Paulos, Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire.

DIPLOMACY None

Orthodox missionaries continued to press their monotheistic ideas upon the locals of Croatia, Kuban, Transylvania, Banat and Pechneg. More money was also sent out to Constantine's many sycophants, er, I mean allies...Finally, a small nest of Egyptian spies was uncovered in the Byzantine government. For the war, see below.

THE PRINCIPALITY OF MUSCOVY

Oleg I, Boyar of Muscovy

DIPLOMACY Mordva (t), Pereaslavl (t)

Oleg continued to stitch his Kingdom back together.

THE KINGDOM OF POLAND

Lech, King of Poland

DIPLOMACY Little Poland (f), Pomerania (t), Volhynia (a)

More grain was shipped to the Byzantines and Slovakia was put under cultivation. Nelek dispatched various diplomats to the four corners of his realm to cajole, placate and court. Then, after a relatively successful reign, he keeled over in his lentil soup in late 1200.

THE DUCHY OF ESTONIA

Konstantine Viikberg, Duke of Estonia

DIPLOMACY None

Colonists were sent into Vaasa, settling it to a (1/8).

Cultivation work began on Yaroslavl. Trade was opened up with the English via Riga and with the Khazars overland. For info on the Estonian fortunes in Asia Minor see below.

WESTERN EUROPE

THE DUCHY OF BOHEMIA

Martin Gomer, Duke of Bohemia

DIPLOMACY Carinthia (f)

On the domestic front, Martin ordered the construction of a great dike and ditch between Moravia and Bochnia (in order to keep those shifty Poles from getting any ideas). A road link was also built between Saxony and Westphalia and Dresden, Amsterdam and baberg all grew in size (to 2, 5, and 7 respectively). In other events, Martin decided to conditionally intervene in the Spanish War, see below.

THE VERNONIAN EMPIRE

Valdemar Germanicus, Emperor of Italy

DIPLOMACY Switzerland (a)

The Italians continued their expansion into Tripolitania, landing over 44,000 troops and rebuilding Tripoli with an attached citadel. An attempt to woo the pagans of Croatia was a failure and the diplomat barely escaped with his life.

LE ROYAUME DE FRANCE

Henri II, King of the Franks

DIPLOMACY None

The Franks built up the walls of their southern cities and waited for the Spanish to do something...

THE EL REINO DE NAVARRE

Jose, regent for...

Miguel V, King of Navarre

DIPLOMACY None

The Spanish obligated the French (see below).

THE FRANCO-SPANISH WAR

France and Bohemia versus Navarre.

Initial Intel and other stuff: An attempt on the life of the French Heir failed. French agents continue to ravage the Navarre infrastructure, this time taking out two points of Infra.

The Tunisians were set to become involved as French allies, but then had some internal problems, see below.

1196: despite the difficulties he was facing in the Capital itself, Joao decided on an aggressive approach. While Generals Gregorio and Cisneros and the elderly Prince Jose stood on the defense; the King, his son (and heir) Miguel, and General Stefano marched north to Bilbao gathering up additional troops that raised their numbers to over 100,000 elite heavy infantry, elite heavy cavalry and siege engineers. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Ricardo and Prince Diego crossed the border alone, in an attempt to convince some regional leaders to renounce their allegiance. Both were quickly caught and imprisoned (Secret Movement will generally be better for moving in the enemies back country).

For his own part, Henri (sitting with the fleet in Narbonne) ordered General Jean Phillipe into Aquitaine with over 68,000 cavalry while he, his heir Phillipe, Prince Gaspar, and Lieutenant Nacisse moved into the Gulf of Lyons with nearly 500 ships and played musical commanders. Lieutenant Bernard later showed up and joined the fun. By July, Gaspar had begun blockading Valentia; Bernard was off Tortosa accomplishing the same task, while Phillipe and Nacisse were moving through the Gates of Hercules. Henri had returned to Languedoc, had taken command of the remaining 75,000+ troops (mostly infantry) sitting there and marched into Aquitaine to join Jean Phillipe.

The French sat in Aquitaine until September when word reached them that the main Navarre army had crossed into Gascony. Reacting into the region, the two armies met near **Mont-de-Marsan** and went at it hammer and tongs. Despite superior numbers, the superior quality of the Spanish troops (virtually all heavy, elite types) proved unstoppable and the French army was devastated, over 100,000 falling or taken prisoner. Spanish losses were a quarter of this number. Jean Phillipe was wounded and Henri pulled his shattered forces back into Aquitaine.

1197: At sea, Phillipe and Nacisse enter the Atlantic with the former entering the Bay of Biscay, detaching more ships (these go to Lieutenant Roche) and taking up blockade of Bilbao. Roche takes up station off Corunna, while Nacisse blockades Lisbon. These blockades remain in effect for the remainder of the turn and I shan't mention them again. Things in the Med are more interesting as Prince Jose's Spanish navy of 240 ships sorties from Tortosa and engages the French squadron of 96 ships under Bernard blockading the city. Bernard's squadron is smacked up good, losing half their number either captured or sunk. The French flee to Narbonne. Jose then tries to engage Gaspar's squadron off Valentia but the wily Frenchman succeeds in evading him for the rest of the year.

On land, Joao has the bit in his teeth. After plundering Gascony ruthlessly (I wonder where Ruth is) and doggedly (Arf! Arf!), Joao disdains the city of Bordeaux and marches into Aquitaine. Again Henri reacts, this time engaging the invaders at **Rodez** and again the result is catastrophic. The remaining French mobile army is destroyed, at the cost of some 12,000 Spanish troops. Jean Phillipe is killed and Henri flees to Languedoc.

1198: on the Briny, Gaspar continues to play hide and seek with Jose until May, when he's finally caught and his 98 ship squadron is completely destroyed. Gaspar survives and his lighter eventually winds up in Narbonne, where he commiserates on the wiles of Dame Fortune with Bernard. Jose returns to Tortosa.

Meanwhile, Joao subjects Aquitaine to the same treatment with which he subjected Gascony, (including the ignoring of the city of Dijon). The Spanish then march into Languedoc and begin reducing the field forts in the region, in which Henri attempts to defend the region. Joao dies at year's end to be succeeded by his son Miguel. With the entry of the Spanish into Languedoc, the Bohemian army in Swabia (45,000 strong, mainly infantry) under Prince Ewald begins reacting south (they had known about the invasion sooner, but the bohemian orders specified that reacting troops remain with the AR of the Bohemian border and Gascony and Aquitaine are outside of this).

1199: In Languedoc, Miguel clears the last of the field forts (losing 3,000 men to accomplish this) and begin looting the region. This activity is interrupted by the arrival of the Bohemian force. Fortunately (or not, depending on what side you're on) the Spanish are not surprised and the impact of their heavy elite cavalry on Ewald's primarily infantry army can be imagined. The Bohemian force is annihilated near **Albi** and Spanish losses are a mere 400 men. Behind the walls of Narbonne, Henri waits for the next Spanish move. Miguel obliges him by finishing the looting of the region and then orders an assault on Narbonne itself. The first round is inconclusive, although Miguel loses 9,000 troops in the attempt.

1200: undaunted by this check, Miguel orders another assault and Narbonne is stormed (with negligible Spanish losses). Henri, Gaspar and Bernard flee to LaCroix by ship. Miguel orders the city burned to the ground (and gets no loot because the player forgot to include the Sack City order). Miguel then marches into Provence and spends the rest of the year clearing out the field forts of the region. Not wanting to be caught in LaCroix, Henri entrusts the defense of the city to Gaspar and Bernard and heads north to Paris to raise more troops. Miguel no sooner secures the region then he dies, leaving command of the army to General Stefano (who is a rather loyal fellow fortunately).

NORTHERN EUROPE

THE KINGDOM OF WESSEX

Eadric Harethson, King of the Angles and Saxons

DIPLOMACY: No effect.

Alarmed by the conflagration on the continent, Eadric put his navy on patrol in the English Channel, specifically to block any Navarrese warships from operating there (none showed up). Closer to home, Port de Saxon grew to a size 4 port while Edinburgh grew to a size 2. A new port, Cadair Mor was raised on the coast of Dyffed.

THE KINGDOM OF THE SVEAR

Erik Erikson, King of the Swedes

DIPLOMACY Adger (f)

Things up north were pretty quiet. Norway was put under cultivation and Kristiansand increased to a size 7 port. A new port, Hammerland, was also raised on Aland.

THE NORSE KINGDOM OF ICELAND

Gregor II Gregorson, King of the Norse

DIPLOMACY None

More supplies and equipment was shipped to the western colony of Vinland as well as materials to begin cultivating the

place. On Vinland itself, another delegation of strangers arrived and, miracles of miracles, fighting did not erupt. Some rudimentary trading of goods began: the Atakapa gave the Norse information about the seas as far south as the Carolina Sea and got some information about the icy northern oceans as well (not that this will help, see the notes above). On the plus side, the natives received several dozen horses and some metal trade goods. Further discussion led to a “marriage” between the Icelandic *Jarl* Knut and the Atakapan princess Bright Vixen. All seemed well...

Then this happy state of affairs was abruptly terminated when an Atakapan leader, Walnut Brother, was caught snooping where he shouldn't have been. Further examination found several metal blanks for making axes hidden in his tunic. Needless to say, the Norse became rather irritated by all of this, to put it very mildly. They quickly clapped the Atakapan princess in irons, along with the leader Gray Apple. When Prince Hair Like Corn tried to intercede, he was cut down along with his 400 man entourage by the *Jarl* Hakon and his 3,000 man force. The Norse then extended to Walnut Brother an old form of ritual execution from their pagan past, the “Blood Eagle”, in which the individual's rib cage is cracked open and his innards arranged like the wings of an eagle under the unfortunate's outstretched arms. (I guess you have to kind of visualize it). So now the Atakapans have nothing to show for their diplomacy except that the knowledge that these terrible new-comers now know how to sail as far south as Cape Hatteras...

NORTH AFRICA

THE MAGHREB EMIRATE

Ishmael ibn Misr, Emir of Morocco

DIPLOMACY None

Ishmael had plans to support the French in his war against the Spanish, but no sooner had he put his army into the hands of his declared heir, Bulent, then the latter ran him through with a spear. He then took ten men and marched into Ishmael's *harem*, where he proceeded to cut out the living guts of all twenty plus of the late Emir's wives and concubines, in order to ensure that none of them were carrying any mewling brats that might threaten his position. The sheets of the *odas* ran crimson by the time he was through. He then slaughtered all of his brothers, whom his scum-puke filth father (may he rot in the clutches of *Ibli* for all eternity) he continued to sire after declaring him heir and leaving him to do scut-work so he couldn't sire kids of his own. Finally he had the princes Kuzu and Kasurga strangled with bowstring, beheaded and put the heads on pikes outside the palace.

Needless to say, all of this kinda threw a monkey wrench into any attempt to become involved in the war...

AL FATAMID CALIPHATE AL QAIRA

Muhtadi Mujahid ibn Fadi, Fatamid Caliph of Egypt

DIPLOMACY None

Muhtadi raised more troops for Akbar and pretty much stood on the defense. See below for...

THE WAR

Constantinople, Estonia, Khazaria, and anyone else I missed versus Syria, Egypt and Aden.

Initial Intel: an attempt to foment a mutiny among the Estonians in Cilicia failed. Assassins wounded Byzantine Admiral Taulos on Rhodes and the Egyptian heir Wasim in Aleppo. A small Egyptian cell is discovered in Constantinople, playing whist and draughts and wiped out.

1196: things started off rather slowly, with the *Khan* Chortan (fresh from securing his rule in Sairgh-Shin) marching south, accompanied by his subordinate Bulan and 24,000 heavy elite cavalry. Another Khazar force, of 3,400 light elite cavalry, under Bhagatur (and assisted by Naphbos) heads south as well, after adding another 1,200 xec at a stop in Urkel. By year's end, Chortan arrives in Pontus where he goes on react in order to prevent anymore Syrians running around the eastern *Themes* of the Empire (since the Muslims don't march east this turn, the good *Khan* drops from our narrative at this point). Bhagatur, intending to pay the Syrians back in the same coin as they have been, er, paying ends the year slogging through the mountains of Urmia (from which he will not emerge until the following June).

As for the Byzantines themselves, Emperor Demetrius hatches a plan to break the stalemate and give the entire Levant over to the Empire. Raising an additional 34,800 troops in Smyrna (about half cavalry (of various types) and half infantry with a smattering of siege engines); Demetrius orders the *Strategos* Lucas from Constantinople to command this new force while ordering the Byzantine Fleet from Rhodes to rendezvous with Lucas there. By August (when their APs run out) they are off the Levantine coast. Meanwhile, the main Byzantine army (along with the Estonians) sit on the defense in Cilicia. Finally, far to the North, another Estonian force of 1,000 light infantry begins marching south. Because neither the Muscovites nor the Khazars provided guides, the *Jarl* Erke's march takes months longer than it should. Erke only entering Kiev at year's end.

Meanwhile the Muslims had not been idle. After some discussion it is decided that while the main Muslim host would stand on the defense in Syria, ancillary forces would be detached elsewhere. First the ubiquitous general Boq was dispatched to Beirut to command the small Syrian navy. Next, general Ghul Atzar was sent to the Levant to command the 12,400 man garrison. Finally, in a move that can only be described as downright silly, General Al-Adin is sent at the head of 12,800 light cavalry into Cilicia (via secret movement) in order to try to slip past the 136,000+ Byzantine host and hence into the Isauria to raise some heck. This is proof that even the creator of the game doesn't always remember the rules. Al-Adin's army is 64 points, which is pretty big to try to sneak around a force ten times its number. The 684 point Byzantine communal creature lashes out with a pseudo-pod and Al-Adin's army is mashed into a wee greasy spot on the pavement. Its commander survives and flees back to Aleppo, bearing tales of “Greeks lined up from here to hell”. The Muslims gird themselves.

Finally, this year also marked the death of the Byzantine heir Diocletian.

1197: Blood in the surf: to the northeast, Bhagatur passes through Urmia, transits Armenia and is crossing into Carhae at year's end. To the north, Erke gets to Levidia by year's end. But more interesting is the Byzantine landing in the Levant. Lucan and Dromedus disembark with 34,800 troops and run smack into Ghul's 12,400 defenders backed by over twenty field forts. The Byzantines are out-generalled and Lucas' force is annihilated (Lucas and Dromedus flee to their ships and spend the rest of

the turn blockading Beirut with the 470+ Byzantine fleet). The Emperor's diversion is a failure.

But he does not know this and some debate occurs in the Byzantine councils. The Emperor is inclined to begin the invasion. Even if the diversion fails, it will prompt the Muslims to march south to rescue the Levantine coast. A month is spent debating the issue before Demetrius' will prevails, the great Byzantine army rouses itself and begins marching south in September (in game terms Demetrius failed a Combat check (success would mean he stayed put) and then won a debate with General Ritan (first CHA check tied, the Emperor won the second check).

1198: THE EARTH WILL SHAKE.

Let us pause at this point to look at the armies in some detail;

THE CHRISTIANS:

The Byzantine Army of Constantine Demetrius:

3,200 <i>Ili</i> (light cavalry)	(16xc)
11,800 <i>Xystoni</i> of the <i>Scholae</i>	(59xec)
20,800 <i>Kataphractoï</i>	(104hc)
51,800 <i>Klibinariï</i> of the <i>Scholae</i>	(259hec)
37,200 un-mounted <i>Kataphractoï</i> of the <i>Schola</i>	(186hei)
12,000 <i>Lithoboloi</i> (siege engineers)	(60s)*
Subtotal: 136,800	

The Estonian Army of Prince Elmo:

6,200 light infantry	(31xi)
1,600 light cavalry	(8xc)
6,200 cavalry	(31c)
Subtotal: 14,000	

TOTAL: 150,800

THE MUSLIMS:

The Syrian Army of Sultan Salal al-Hasan

5,600 light infantry	(28xi)
13,800 infantry	(69i)
7,400 heavy infantry	(37hi)
9,400 cavalry	(47c)
15,000 heavy cavalry	(75hc)
12,000 heavy elite cavalry	(60hec)
1,200 siege engineers	(6s)
Subtotal: 62,600	

The Fatamid Army of Wasim Umar ibn Muhtadi

16,000 cavalry	(80c)
18,000 heavy cavalry	(90hc)
24,200 heavy elite cavalry	(121hec)
Subtotal: 58,200	

The Adenite Army of Wakil al-Yemani

10,000 cavalry	(50c)
Subtotal: 10,000	

* The ref begs your indulgence as Byzantine history was a bit of a passion of mine. As it is, I'm not sure if some of the terms used would apply to the Byzantine army (save *Kataphract* and *Klibanrii* and even for these two I'm not sure of my spelling). The others are from Classical Greek. I hope various Estonians, Syrians, Egyptians and Adenites will forgive me as I didn't know the Baltic/Arabic equivalents.

Additional Muslim Forces: (22f)

TOTAL: 130,800

Demetrius advanced full of hope. Alas it was in vain. The Muslims had not marched south to rescue the Levant, they had not abandoned the northern border. They were waiting, weapons ready, expressions grim. The Byzantines, however, did not shirk. If there was to be a battle, let it be here, now. And with that fatalism, the two armies swept together in blood and death.

The first round was a stalemate, neither side giving way. The Christians were led by General Ritan, a master of war. But the Muslims, under the overall command of the Fatamid General Ulat rose to the challenge and both sides fought each other to a standstill.†

Only with the second round of combat did the situation begin to unravel for the Christians. On their left flank, the Estonian contingent, commanded by the incompetent Prince Elmo inexplicably shifted position. Into the resulting gap plowed Wakil's 10,000 Adenite lancers. Ritan managed to pull some forces over to that flank and Wakil's forces were decimated, he himself falling in the melee. But the damage had been done and the entire Christian left wing began to crumble. Ritan started to pull back in general and the Muslims were quick to capitalize on this. Only after taking massive casualties was Ritan able to extricate some chunk of the army to fight another day. It was a crushing Muslim victory.

THE COST:

CHRISTIANS:

Byzantines: 107,600
Estonians: 14,000
TOTAL: 121,600

MUSLIMS:

Aden: 9,600
Egypt: 13,600
Syria: 26,000
TOTAL: 49,200

Of the casualties, the computer takes losses from roughly light units first, then regulars then heavies as well as taking inexperienced, then normal, then elites. Engineers seem to be taken last of all. In this situation, a core of some 29,200 Byzantine troops (87hec, 59s) escaped the battle. The entire Estonian contingent was wiped out. Of the Muslims, most of the Syrian losses were in infantry although some heavy infantry did survive. The Fatamids and Adenites, having only cavalry to lose lost that, in the case of the latter, to the extent that they were annihilated.

So what happened? Well this attempt at explanation is by no means anywhere near complete but some factors may have been:

- 1) The field forts coupled with a defend action. Steve had a good idea to try to lure the enemy armies south into saving Jerusalem. Unfortunately, the only way to see if it would work was to test the plan. In this case it didn't

† The computer determines who the overall commander is in combat depending on charisma (among other things). Thus the leader controlling the troops might not be the one who determines the result. In this instance it selected the best commanders of both armies. Subordinates do play a role however, see above.

but it could have just as easily succeeded and the Greeks would be eating grape leaves and *baklava* in Antioch had they won.[‡]

- 2) Number of leaders and the size of an army. The Christians went into the fray with three leaders (2 Greek, 1 Estonian) versus eight Muslim leaders (2 Syrian, 4 Egyptian and 2 Adenite). Extra leaders are very useful in helping control large unwieldy armies (and if there was ever a large unwieldy army, the Christian host was it). Extra leaders may also give you a favorable DRM if there are more of them than the army needs.
- 3) Quality of leaders. The purple prose regarding Prince Elmo raises an important point. Leaders with a combat rating of less than five have no business being anywhere near a battlefield. Even if they're not the overall commander, a poor leader (and Elmo's rating was a one, folks.) can be a major disaster waiting to happen. If the Byzantine heir, Diocletian, had not died of natural causes and accompanied the army, his combat rating of three would have made it worse. One of the Muslim leaders was poor as well, but they had enough extra commanders to offset the poor modifier.
- 4) Finally, sometimes it all comes down to a die roll. Remember that a high combat rating just indicates the chances for a success, it does not indicate the degree of the success. In the last combat round, the Byzantines rolled a "2". This is a success. The Muslims however, rolled a "9". Not only is this a greater success, it was a critical success, as that was their final combat rating. It is on these variables that the fate of Empires hangs.

The remainder of 1198 witnessed the arrival of the Khazar force under Bhagatur in Carhae and its defeat by General Ghul reacting out of the Levant. Having accomplished this, Ghul returned to the coast.

1199 and Beyond: Chortan remained on react in Pontus while Bhagatur and Naphbos returned to Sarigh-Shin. Demetrius remains on defend in Cilicia with Ritan, while Erke arrives in Cilicia with his troops. The Muslims sit on the defensive in Aleppo while the Byzantine navy blockade Beirut before returning to Heraclea at the end of the year.

WEST AFRICA

THE KINGDOM OF GHANA

Kwaz̄i, Lord of Kumbi-Saleh

DIPLOMACY Susu (a)

Kutukomla had grand designs for this turn, a great campaign against the Bani and Mossi followed up by war against the Kurfei, Kanuri and Hausa. Unfortunately, he had a fateful encounter with a spear-point while campaigning against the Mossi and got run through for his troubles. The army then acclaimed the late King's brother Kwazi as king. That worthy then backtracked back to Kumbi-Saleh where he spent the remainder of the turn mustering support for his acclamation, particularly from the commander of the home army, Tutu Quatay. Fortunately, that worthy really didn't feel like starting a bloody Civil war today and acceded to Kwazi's *fait accompli*.

[‡] Hmmm, Baklava! Argle! The sign of a truly civilized people.

THE KINGDOM OF TOGO

Morenike, King of Togo and Akan

DIPLOMACY No effect.

Having smacked his neighbor around, Akintude turned his attention to domestic pursuits, Dahomey was expanded to level 4 and Kebbi and Mbundu grew to size 2 each. Akintude died in late 1200 and was succeeded by his son and heir, Morenike.

THE KINGDOM OF KANEM-BORNU

Susiseko III, King of Kanem and Bornu

DIPLOMACY Kanuri (nt)

Susiseko shuffled troops hither and yon, determined not to get caught unawares again. The Feudal troops of Ikego were also called up.

SOUTH AFRICA

THE BAKONGO KINGDOM

Ugo Wambolea, King of Bakongo

DIPLOMACY None

Work began on reclaiming Bandundu from the Jungle. Boanberi grew to a size three and the city of Kango was inundated with new Muslim settlers, who quickly drove the Animist locals into second-class citizen status. To the south, the rebellious region of Nambe was turned over to General Wasabda to rule as his personal fief. Back home, Ugo was saddened by the sudden death of his son and heir Wapiti, who died in late 1198. The grieving King then passed succession on to his second son, Kumfadi.

THE KINGDOM OF NYASA

Asserate IV, Chief of the Nyasa

DIPLOMACY Malawai (f)

Work continued on the Nyasa – Kilwa road link and was begun on another link between Nyasa and Makura.

THE KINGDOM OF ROZWI

Munyika II, King of Rozwi, Lord of Zimbabwe

DIPLOMACY None

Kariba was cultivated and old Ntombhela passed on.

THE KINGDOM OF VAAL

M'tesa IV, King of Vaal and Mapungubwe

DIPLOMACY Cape (f, following Allied leader death)

The Karoo were finally conquered.

NORTH AMERICA

THE TLINGIT PEOPLE

Xuts, Chief of the Tlingit, Lord of the Far North.

DIPLOMACY None

Ka-Seen died in late 1198 and was duly replaced. Chemakum was colonized to a (2/1).

CALIFORNIA

Obsidian Coyote IV, Ruler of California

DIPLOMACY None

All in all, a quiet turn in the GREATEST EMPIRE IN THE WORLD. Just some city expansions in the north: Chaw'see, Lassen, and Miwok city to size 3; Koos Bay to size 4; and New Teotihuacan to size 5.

THE ANASAZI NATION

Motega, Chief of the Anasazi, Lord of the Chaco

DIPLOMACY None

Let's see, city expansion at home and expeditions at sea. The Gulf of Corcovado was successfully mapped while a trip to the Gulf of Alaska was a bust. At home, Xinaian grew to size 4, Chaco grew to size 8 and Eagle's Bluff to size 10.

THE MISSISSIPPIAN EMPIRE

Patamon, The Great Beaver of the Snake

DIPLOMACY None

Patamon decided to turn his attention to areas of his vast Empire that he had been ignoring of late. The northern postal road link between Kickapoo and Nameluni was upgraded to a royal road. A new eastern postal road route was set up between Scioto and Saginaw/Erie via Miami. Colonization was not neglected with Potawatami being settled to a (2/5), Croix to a (2/9) and Dakota to a (2/3).

THE NATCHEZ CONFEDERACY

Swift Fox, Great Sun of the Natchez

DIPLOMACY No effect

Dancing Wolf died in late 1198 after a short illness. Events at home included the cultivation of Osage; the construction of a new port, Clifftown, in Taposa and construction of a road link between that place and the Yamasee lands in Muskogee. Events in the far north went to Hell and a Handbasket.

THE YAMASEE PEOPLE

Eagle's Feather, Chief of the Yamasee

DIPLOMACY None

Catawba was put under cultivation.

MESOAMERICA

THE TOLTEC HEGEMONY OF CHICHEN ITZA

Moya, Grand Hegemon of the Maya

DIPLOMACY None

Work on the great Imperial city continued. Two new cities were also built, Ita Laza, a port in Tepanac; and Aki Mali, in Tahwhaka. Then there were the usual city expansions:

City (Region)	New Size
Tikal (Quiche)	7
Itza Hatul (Cuyutec)	4
Tahata (Huastec)	3
Ilyani (Huave)	3
Texcoco (Huexotla)	7
Mali (Nahuatl)	3
Tula (Otomi)	8
Comalcalco (Popoluca)	7
Tapachula (Tarascan)	4
Iz Huala (Tepuztec)	3
Tatelolco (Tlapocoya)	6
Tres Zapotes (Totonac)	6
Mitla (Zapotec)	8

THE ARAWAK OF THE ISLANDS

Lautaro, Lord of the Islands

DIPLOMACY None

Feeling the pinch geographically, Tizoc dispatched over 27,000 troops on over 170 ships south to Akawaio. After off-loading the troops, the princes Pelantaro and Guarico marched across the Chibcha border into Cumangoto which was taken with little difficulty. Only after crossing into Caraca did the invaders encounter any resistance, in the form of over 25,000 troops commanded by Pech Toq and a coterie of Lieutenants. Guarico's superior generalship managed to best the defenders who fell back into Caquetio. Guarico's attempts to follow up on this success by attacking Caquetio were repulsed, however. And there the situation sat. At sea, Tizoc dispatched his heir, Lautaro to blockade the port of Tunja, an event that a) annoyed the Mayans, who were trading with Chibcha through that place, and b) was cut short when word reached him of his father's death, in late 1198.

SOLAR EMPIRE OF CHIBCHAN

Pech Toq, King of the Chibchan

DIPLOMACY None

The last wave of eastern colonization settled Yekuana (2/5), Arcuna (2/10), Camaracoto (2/8) and Cumangoto (2/8). Then the Arawak attacked and ruined everyone's day.

SOUTH AMERICA

THE KINGDOM OF PARAIBA

Panib III, King of Paraiba

DIPLOMACY Arana (nt)

Various colonization projects continued or were completed. Toratapa was settled to a (2/5), Timbira to a (1/8) and Suya to a (-/3).

THE MIGHTY INCAN EMPIRE

Culja, regent for...

Atabulapa, Emperor of the Incas

DIPLOMACY None

The region of Huanco reverted to jungle, destroying two city levels and canceling a planned eighth one. Otherwise it was more city expansions:

City (Region)	New Size
Hauri (Ataura)	9
Pusharo (Chinu)	9
Payकिन (Choco)	7
Huexotla (Cuilino)	8
Queros (Mashco)	9
Alta (Mura)	7
Abancay (Pucara)	9
Curva (Tacana)	9
Tiahuanacu (Uru)	9
Jauja (Wairajikira)	9

Finally, Machicho died in late 1199 leaving a 5 year old son as heir. Fortunately, the Empire did not disintegrate. The elderly Prince Culja stepped in to run things until the boy came of age.

THE KINGDOM OF KARANGA

Amaru III, Lord of the South

DIPLOMACY None

Work on the Guanacane – Quillaca road continued.

THE KINGDOM OF SHOKLENG

Upulo, King of Shokleng

DIPLOMACY None

Colonization and development of the west continued with Terena, being settled to a (1/9), Parana to a (1/6) and Kayapo to a (1/5). These three regions, as well as Uruguay were put under cultivation as well. Finally, Shokleng sailors managed to explore as far north as the Mouths of the Amazon.

THE MAPUCHE EMPIRE

Bakari, Emperor of the Mapuche

DIPLOMACY None

A new port, Caldera, was built around the citadel in Atacama. Colonization to the north and south continued with Chono being settled to a (-/2), Coquimbo to a (2/1), Atuel to a (2/4), and Millicayac to a (2/9). The capital, Quiroci, also grew to a size 8 port. Work began on a compilation of Southamerind religious belief and ritual.

