

Lords of the Earth

Campaign Nineteen

Turn 75

Anno Domini 1271 - 1275

TURN 76 ORDERS DUE BY: 10PM PST, DECEMBER 7TH, 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To liven up the wars, players from other campaigns wrote orders for the unplayed positions that were fighting.

Rulebook Version... In [[Wiki](#) | [PDF](#)]

Your turn costs... \$7.00.

Recommended Order Form... [[Excel](#)]

CONTACTING & PAYING THE REFEREE

Players sending funds by mail should make all paper style checks payable to Thomas Harlan and send them to his address, which is:

Thomas Harlan
1270 Fir Street South
Salem, OR 97302

Below is Kas' email address:

lords19gm@throneworld.com

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

lords19pmts@throneworld.com

ZERO AND NEGATIVE CREDIT: CONSEQUENCES

If you haven't paid for your turn, you don't get your stat sheet.

RULE CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS

Main Differences with the V6 Rules

- Cities cost more to build and to expand. See Table 5-7.
- Units have different costs and some now cost Industrial Capacity instead. Please review your new build chart carefully.
- Projects (almost always) cost 50gp/25nfp per level – and this now covers regional settlement/colonization as well.
- Optional Units are in play.

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.

The Adepts of the Free Spirit

The Adepts of the Free Spirit, were active in Europe roughly from the thirteenth through fifteenth centuries. In VERY simplistic terms, this was a millenarian movement that was found among the both high ecclesiastics as well as the poor itinerant laity. The Adepts essentially viewed the Papacy as the Beast / Antichrist, etc.¹ So the bad news is, The Pope has a heresy to deal with, the good news is that this is NOT the Reformation! So how this will work is as follows:

1) Regions/Cities experiencing Adept activity will be marked on the map with a red cross. Papal holdings in those regions and cities will garner income at one level less than their normal one. Cathedrals will generate income as if they were Monasteries; Monasteries as Abbeys; Abbeys as Churches; and Churches won't give squat. The control web will be intact and the actual holding will not be affected (**see below for an important exception to this**) they will just generate income at the lower level. The Holy City of Rome will never have Adept activity and therefore, will be unaffected.

2) Papal actions (and secular actions in support of the Papacy) in areas or cities affected by heresy will have a sharply decreased chance of success. It's hard to raise money to build that new monastery when some gits are screaming that you're the Whore of Babylon and the new structure is just another sign of the Mark of the Beast.

3) The heresy will spread on its own accord at an irregular rate. Some turns it will spread one region/city in all directions, some turns it won't spread at all. All-non RC regions will be unaffected by any of this.

4) Each city or region where the adepts are active will have a secret Charisma value that will be determined anew every time a leader attempts to suppress it. To attempt to suppress the Adepts in a given region or city a *Papal* leader must attempt an opposed CHA check (using the Preach action) against the CHA value of the Adept infested region or city. If the leader gets a higher success effect than the region/city, the heresy in that place is successfully suppressed (N.B. it can return however). If the leader gains a critical success against the Adepts, the heresy has been decisively crushed in that region or city and it will not recur there except under very rare circumstances. In the event of a tie, there is no effect. If the Adept gains a higher success effect than the leader, the heresy either spreads or gains a bonus against all subsequent attempts to suppress it, (depending on where it is). If the Adepts get a critical success, the heresy spreads two regions instead of one (and in this case a region or city that was decisively suppressed can be re-infested).

5) In most cases, secular leaders can also attempt to rid a given area of the adepts in the same way as Papal leaders. However (and read this well), if the Adepts get a critical success in the CHA check, the local heresy then explodes into a revolt against the secular and Papal authority, all church holdings in the region or city are destroyed, the ref generates a player position for the rebels and you all have a major headache on your hands as new religion is born.

JAPAN & THE PACIFIC RIM

THE EMPIRE OF NIPPON

Taira Fujita, Daimyo of Kwanto, Shogun of Japan.

DIPLOMACY None

Urbanization continued, though slowing, with Tottori on Shikoku, Sakurajima in Kagoshima, Hakura-jimo on Cheju Do, Machu Kuo in Sikhote and Noshiro in Akita expanding. Efforts to colonize the Kurile islands failed, stranding a large Japanese fleet on the hostile shores, when their commanding admiral took sick and died. Admiral Akida, commanding the southern fleet, also perished at the beginning of the turn, leaving the Tsushima Straits undefended...

THE MOLUCCAS SEAHOLD

Tekalameme, Lord of the Spice Islands

DIPLOMACY None

¹ Those who wish to read up on the Adepts can start with Norman Cohn's *The Pursuit of the Millennium* which was the first major work to examine the group in any detail.

The islands remained tranquil and quiet, save in the byways of Buku Salat where the youth frequenting the *loa*-bars turned their discussion to the natural world and the peculiar, yet common laws which governed its nature.

MAREE BUNDJALUNG HEGEMONY

Burnu, Prince of Maree

DIPLOMACY No effect

While huge mobs of Maree ships prowled the coasts of Austral and ventured north and east – to be seen even off the coast of Sumba and Timor (much to the alarm of the natives) – the Hegemony itself was quiet. Old king Doongara died, and his son Burnu followed him as “man of the people”.

CHINA – WAR OF THE SIX SWORDS

XI-XIA KHANATE

Li Dimeng, Khan of Under-Sky

DIPLOMACY Bah!

Rousing themselves from a long sleep, Khan Li dispatched his son Li Yuanhao and two of his feudatories – Ozmish of the Uighurs and Byanchan of the Kerait – to plague all the lands around about his domain... Beshbalik, Tanu, Oriot, Telmen, Yumen, Suzhou, Tsinghai, Tarim, Tuhnwhang and Lob Nor were all raided, pillaged and enslaved by the Xi-Xia hordes. Thousands of slaves were dragged away to black-walled Xiangqing to perish in the mining pits of the Khan’s ambition.

THE KINGDOM OF SHAN’SI (SHAN)

Xoing Feng, King of Shan’si, Watcher of the Northern Marches

DIPLOMACY Lang’shan (f)

Missionaries continued to annoy the northern nomads, beseeching the khans and muliks of Gaxun Nur, Khitan, Dzamin Uud, Karatao, Naiman and Kutai to follow the peaceful way of the Bodaisattva. Because Xoing Feng was the king of peace! Yes, he was. Which is why he immediately ordered his generals to invade Honan (as that nation was distracted, or so Feng hoped, by war with the Hupei further south).

A massive Shan’si army marched south into Houma, intending to besiege and capture Yanling and then press on to Hopei and seize Kaifeng from the Wangist faction...

THE KINGDOM OF HONAN (WANG)

Cao Dao Wang, King of Honan

DIPLOMACY None

The upkeep of the Great Wall was abandoned. Grass grew up, and there was no more wall. King Wang presumed (very grumpily, I might add) that everyone would attack him and that no one would like him (and he did not like very many people, to be honest), so he raised as mighty an army as he could and girded his loins for battle. He was not to be disappointed!

175,000 Shan’si troops roared into **Houma** under the command of Manchu Cao (assisted by two Shan princes) to collide with the famous General “Egg” Shen and 192,000 Honan regulars. Believing his men more than a match for the soft southerners, Manchu Cao ordered a frontal attack on the Honan lines – his initial attack foundered on unexpectedly soft ground, then shattered when the Honan Imperial Guard charged the left. Turkish light horse swept down on the Shan baggage train, capturing it intact, and then the Honan cavalry mopped up, slaughtering thousands of Shan troops trapped in the mud, and taking thousands more captive. The princes Xoing Ni and Xoing

Sang were both slain, and Manchu Cao only escaped by the barest hair (he hid in the river, naked, pretending to be a dead body).

After the battle, General “Egg” accepted the parole of several thousand Shan troops, sending them and their commanders off to the south to watch the border with Hupei.

THE KINGDOM OF HUPEI (WEI)

Cao Man Li, King of Hupei

DIPLOMACY None

Lord Tau Saou Son led off the turn for Hupei by dying of a liver disease, which stranded the Wei fleet in Chekiang. King Kai responded to the tumult which had engulfed the Middle Kingdom by fortifying the cities of Chiang’ling, Wuhan, Nanchang, Zhengzhou and Shanghai. And like the other kings embroiled in the War of the Six Swords, he raised a powerful new army of nearly 190,000 men and marched off to the south to crush the damnable Kwangsi bandits who had stolen Hunan province from him... (see the Kwong)

In 1273, as the mothers and widows of Wei were lamenting the deaths of so many sons and husbands in the south, the Hunan (having dealt rather sharply with the Shan) attacked **Anhui** province. Prince Cao Man Li (now the King of the Wei) could only grit his teeth and dispatch General Fou Kei Dai with the survivors of the southern campaign and a strong contingent of engineers to reinforce the regional garrison.

This set 25,000 Wei troops (mostly fortress garrisons) in a desperate battle to slow down the 230,000 Wangists. They fought bravely, but “Egg” Shen and his veterans handily crushed them. Fou Kei now holed up in the fortress blocking the north road, and was immediately besieged by the Wang army (who had, it must be said, come well prepared for the southern fortresses).

The Shan parolees went into the breach first, winning themselves a brave funeral and the admiration of the Wangist knights. The fortress fell, and now “Egg” and his army closed in on the great city of Chiangning. General Fou (who had escaped the fortress via a hidden tunnel) once more put up fierce resistance, and now his forces included a large number of Royal engineers. Still, they were sorely outnumbered... sadly, by the end of 1273 the city walls were in ruins and a Wangist flag flew over the mayor’s house.

THE KINGDOM OF KWANGSI (KWONG)

Wu Juan III, Prince of Kwangsi

DIPLOMACY None

Famine afflicted the southern Chinese, who found their armies campaigning in the north to eat vast quantities of rice and ever demand more! The cities suffered, to feed them, leaving everyone pinched and malnourished. It was only to be the beginning of their troubles... General Go Jing, who was serving with the Prince in the north and had been wounded in the massive battles last turn in Hunan, died at the beginning of 1271. Other Kwong leaders were attacked by a variety of assassins, but no others were slain. Lin Yao the Bold – commanding the raider army in Ghang’de – was nearly done in, but escaped by the barest chance.

Prince Wu Juan III, a smart but not-terribly martial lad, betook himself north with an army of horsemen to reinforce his father’s position in Hunan and arrived just in time (along with Lin Yao and his raiders) to join the elder Wu in another massive, earthshaking, cloud-piercing, rain of blood and steel battle with the armies of Wei. Second **Hunan** saw 205,000 Kwong troops stand off the 189,000 Hupei. Though old Wu was beginning to feel his age, he could still keep a cool head in battle – and his enemy

assailed him with solely cavalry, which ran into immediate trouble amongst the various defenses thrown up by the Kwong engineers.

The Wei knights fouled amongst the revetments and caltrops, then were swarmed under by endless legions of archers, halberdiers and axe-men. King Cao Man Kai and Lord Por Mei Du were both slain in the melee, while General Dun managed to extricate a fraction of the Royal Lancers back to Hupei proper, though the general was badly wounded himself.

After this cataclysm Prince Wu fled south again, shaken and terrified – though he did then write a long, epic poem extolling his father's virtues in battle. Unfortunately for the prince, he had not seen the end of strife... (see Sri Vijaya)

Old Wu returned to Kwangchou, victorious for the third time, but now the gods decreed the end of his glorious life. He died in his own bed, his generals weeping, and his kingdom secured – for now.

SOUTHEAST ASIA & INDIA

THE EMPIRE OF SRI VIJAYA

Khavirhan III, Maharaja of the Khemer People, Prince of Champa, Lord Protector of Java

DIPLOMACY None

Ill health stalked the royal family of Khavirhan, taking two of the aunts. Lord Jayavarman, traveling in Palembang, also died at the beginning of the turn. The young lords Kavirhan IV and Srivarman, however, flourished and were elevated to the principate. Seeking great glory in the north, the maharaja loosened his vice-like grip on the lands of Bali, Flores, Palembang and Timor. The cities of Kupang and Srivijaya were also given a great deal of local autonomy. This was coupled with very successful missionary efforts in Palembang – so you had your carrot and your blue elephant working in concert there, if you know what I mean.

Having set the stage for eternal victory, Khavirhan III and his brother the great general Indravarman now marched north into Annam, where Lord Nguvarman peeled off with a cavalry force to watch their supply lines and the two brothers (and 158,000 Champans, Viets and Malays) stormed into the Kwong province of Lingnan. Glory!

Particularly since the region was undefended. The city of Chou was immediately besieged. After a brief resistance, the gates were breached and the Malays poured in, shrieking their islander war-cries with torch in hand. The city, long having held peaceful commerce with the south, was sacked and burned in a splendid orgy of destruction and rapine. The skies blackened with the fume of so many houses consumed by flame.

The two brothers, now sporting war-attire modeled on that of Saiva the Destroyer, let their troops exhaust themselves and kept none of the loot for themselves. Word of their attack, however, had fled north on crows-wings. Soon the Kwong would have to respond *somehow*.

At the same time, the Sri Vijayan fleets scoured the Gulf of Tonkin and the Dongsha Hai, seizing Kwong merchant shipping and making themselves a tidy profit in the process.

Yet no Kwong armies rushed to the succor of tomb-like Chou, so the Malay army then advanced (jingling with loot) across **Kwangsi** province towards Kwangchou itself.

Now old Wu revealed himself, having marched his armies down from the north in haste, and the hearts of the Kwong soldiers were aflame with a desire to revenge the innocents of Chou. The 155,000 Malays roared a great shout of challenge, striking their elephant-hide shields with their spears, their *keris* knives clanging harshly. The 197,000 Kwong Chinese responded

with a cold, grim silence as they advanced, their banners snapping sharply in the breeze. Kvarihman and his brother had not quite expected the enemy to be so many, or so fierce, or battle-hardened... regardless, they ordered their men forward – into a vast, brutal melee.

Old Wu had one last trick... his heavy horse had lain hidden on the flank of the open fields where the two armies faced off. The Malays, unfamiliar with the terrain, had failed to note the shallow valley hiding the ranks of knights. Now they stormed up out of the defile and fell upon the right wing of the Sri Vijayan army, wreaking a great slaughter. Indravarman hurried to rally the third cohort, and was badly wounded. The Malay army staggered, Wu sent Lin Yao and his men into the thick of the main struggle, and then the southerners broke.

Kharivarman fled, carrying his brothers gore-soaked body away, and his army was laid in windrows. No mercy was shown the despoilers of Chou. None.

THE KINGDOM OF MAGHADA

Gunaratna, Rajah of Bengal

DIPLOMACY Sind (nt), Sukkur (ea)

Maghada has brand new, shiny elephants. Everyone is jealous. And missionary work in Panat, successful. In Sikkim, not so much. The city of Navlakhi in Jats expanded and a general air of unease settled over Gunaratna's mind. He ordered many towns and cities fortified. A string of new forts were erected along the frontiers as well. "Ain't no one gettin' at *my* elephants," muttered the Rajah, adjusting his enormous golden hat. "No one!"

Great Prince Vinay (who was off roistering in Kosala) was married off to a pretty rani from Sukkur, securing her father's allegiance to the Rajah.

THE KINGDOM OF CHOLA

Manthan, King of Chola, Lord of Thanjavur

DIPLOMACY Jihjohti (f), Surashtra (f)

Ignoring the pridefulness of the northerners ("impressed by elephants, are they? Children with a shiny bracelet?" Jagrav focused his attentions on expanding cities (like Kollam) and making sure the farmers of Avanti realized the forests of that land had been cleared. The Prince of the South also kenned the unease which afflicted the Rajah of the north – so he too set his builders to fortifying everything in the sight.

The road-layers were busy too, for the clearing of Avanti now allowed the King of Builder's men to lay a new highway east from Gujerat into Avanti, and thence to Kalanjara in Vasta and into the rural districts of Jihjohti.

And all seemed well, until the summer of 1275, when King Jagrav fell prey to a wasting disease and passed away with appalling swiftness. He had already proclaimed Prince Jaisawal his heir, but that worthy fellow was overshadowed by his far more appealing (and younger) brother Manthan. When the lords Gupta and the elderly Prince-Uncle Kumbesh died within a few weeks of Jagrav's passing, Manthan was seized by a premonition of his own doom – at his older brother's hand. Determined to best *dharm*a, he led his army south from Vengi at great speed along the coastal road – and almost immediately came upon Kumbesh's retainers encamped in Madurai. He beseeched them to aid his cause, claiming that Jaisawal had murdered their commander.

Finding him preferable to the dour Jaisawal, Kumbesh' men threw in with the rebel prince and together they marched on Tanjore. Now the putative King had heard of his brother's rebellion by this time, and he was marching south from Anhivarta on the western coast – but he reached Tanjore a critical two months later than Manthan and his adherents.

The rebel prince had, by excellent luck, arrived at Tanjore to find his mother in residence at the palace – between them they suborned the ministers, seized Jaiswals’ three children and secured the loyalty of the Royal army by large payments direct from the treasury.

When Jaisawal approached, Manthan led his forces out to meet his brother in open battle (ignoring his mother’s pleas to hold tight in the city and let the older prince spend his men fruitlessly on the fortifications) near the farming village of **Vallam**. The elder brother commanded 60,000 men against the younger’s 84,000 – though neither was a particularly skilled general... Jaisawal was barely managing to get his men arrayed in a proper line of battle when Manthan, who simply charged against the enemy as soon as he could see them, led his cavalry into a brawl right at the crossroads.

Jaisawal’s forces immediately abandoned the field in disarray, scattering baggage and weapons behind them, while Manthan wound up stunned and nearly unconscious after falling from his horse. As a result, his faction did not pursue Jaisawal, who retired south to Kollam in Pandya proper.

Which set the stage for a nasty little civil war... Manthan’s Cholans wound up controlling: Avanti, Belur, Chola, Dahala, Gangas, Gujerat, Karnata, Madurai, Nasik, Satava, Sri Lanka, Vatsa and Vengi as well as the cities therein.

EMPIRE OF THE PANDYA

Jaisawal Sundara Pandya, King of the South

DIPLOMACY None

Jaiswal, now commanding from Pandya, owned the allegiance of Anhivarta, Chera, Jihjhoti, Malabar, Maldives, Pandya, Pawar, Seylan, and Surashtra.

CENTRAL ASIA

THE KINGDOM OF JUNGARIA

Al Harrat, Lord of Karakocho.

DIPLOMACY None

Peaceful growth held sway across the steppes ... Karakocho expanded; while three new towns were hewn from the grassy loam of the steppe – Yenisei in Dzungaria, Kiphack in Altai and Xinjiang in Beshbalik. Young prince Usbeqs was elevated to the hierate, while his brother Qing became a prince of the lances.

The Xi-Xsia raided into Beshbalik, but did not sack Xinjiang.

GOLDEN SAMARKHAND

Al Abdi ibn Abdi, Emir of Samarkhand

DIPLOMACY Bandar (ea)

The Emir’s roadwrights touched the blue bowl of heaven itself while hewing a trade road between Uzbek and Kashmir. The Emir himself, meantime, traveled to the far south to try and woo the chieftains of Bandar back to his allegiance. “Bring me your most beautiful maiden and I will wed her,” he proclaimed, hoping some hottie hid amongst the local population. Similarly, the Emir had dispatched his generals to suppress religious troubles in Kul’sary and to bring Und into the emirate in the far south-east.

The Emir’s efforts were successful, regaining the allegiance of the Bandaris. General Achmed’s campaign against Und also found success, defeating the local levies at Manipurwand and then laying siege to Peshawar itself. Though the city was well defended, there was little hope of relief ... who would come? So the town fathers surrendered to Achmed after a token resistance of a few months.

Lord Jamal – who had taken a force of some 7,000 men into the deserts of Kul’sary to drive out the Eastern Orthodox

missionaries operating amongst the tribesmen – did not fare so well. His expedition was attacked by the Christian tribes and thumped soundly. He fled back into North Port, but now found himself isolated... as the province revolted.

This only presaged some serious structural issues with the Golden Emirate. Despite the massive road network, the realm was just too far-flung and stretched over too many rugged mountain ranges, deserts and distant lands. Lord Ikram, who had made great progress in converting the Afghans to Sunni, now revolted outright with his army, declaring himself Bey of Kabul. General Achmed, almost isolated in Und, managed to stay loyal. The provinces of Shadad and Baluchistan also revolted, stranding the Emir himself in the far, far south.

THE KHAZAR KHANATE

Valeria, Kaganess of Khazar and Saksiny

DIPLOMACY None

A great calamity was only barely avoided by the Khazars, for kagan Bulan, his uncle Issac and even the renowned Arigh Boke all fell ill and died within weeks of each other in 1274. This left only two nameless boys as possible heirs to the kingdom – and it seemed that kinstrife was only days away... when Atakhazar’s daughter Valeria (a redoubtable woman herself) claimed the kaganate by blood and cowed all in Sarigh-Shin into following her.

THE NEAR EAST

THE BUWAYID EMIRATES

Alik, The Sword of the Faith (Sayf al-Din) Protector of the Caliph.

DIPLOMACY None

Emboldened by the behind-kicking they’d given the Greeks last turn, the Buyids now determined to slap around the Syrians (who were doubtless still going to be fighting the Greeks and other Christians in the west). The Sword Alik himself attacked into Mosul with a strong army of cavalry and newly raised heavy infantry (outfitted almost Roman-style...).

General Dhakir attacked Selucia with another infantry army, and Lod Fu’ad punched into Circis with a third force of *dingham*. Finally, the Azerbaijanis raided Carhae.

THE HAMADID SULTANATE

Faruq al-Motresh, Sultan of Damascus and Protector of the Holy Places

DIPLOMACY None

Faruq – weary from decades of war – did not send forth his fleets or armies to harry the enemies of the Faithful. Instead, they all stayed home, waiting for the next round of attacks. They were not disappointed!

The first attack was the Azerbaijani’s raid into **Carhae** – that was met by Prince Abdul and his light cavalry army, which responded out of Aleppo along the eastern highway. As the 5,000 mountaineers were entirely afoot, Abdul was able to intercept them with his 20,000 desert *fellabeen*. The results were not pretty. Only a handful of Azeris managed to flee back across the border with their lives.

Second was Dhakir’s incursion into **Selucia** with 19,000 footmen. This attack fell upon the frontier far enough away that Abdul and his riders were not able to respond in time, though they tried. By the time they had arrived in the southern deserts, the Buyid force had already withdrawn.

Third came the Sword Alik and his main army, which probed into **Mosul**, seeing what they could steal, burn or carry away. The movement of 83,000 Buyid cataphracts and dinghams could not be disguised – Selahadine and Azeddin (the two finest of the

Syrian generals) swept into the province to meet them, leading just over 100,000 men (including the provincial militia). These two forces clashed at **Ninawa** on the approaches to Mosul proper. The Sword – still feeling himself a mighty general after thrashing the Greeks several years ago – blew his deployment and his army was decisively crushed by Selahadine’s veterans. The regent escaped with his life, but not so the vast majority of his men.

The last Buyid general, Fu’ad, now abstained from attacking into Circis. Instead he rushed his forces to Baghdad, as all expected the Syrians to counter-invade. But they did not. There was trouble elsewhere to demand Selahadine’s attention.

While a thousand enemies assailed the Hamadid state from without, even in Damascus there was chaos and confusion, for the students at the ancient *ulema* of Badr became fired with a religious frenzy and rose up against their teachers and against the Sultan himself, leading to fighting in the streets... Faruq had little choice but to send General Moq and his militiamen against the students, which led to fierce fighting in the university district before the rebellion was suppressed.

At the end of 1274, Selahadine passed away, leading to widespread mourning throughout all Syria.

THE EMIRATE OF ADEN

Usayd ibn Ishaq, Emir of Aden and S’ana.

DIPLOMACY Hijaz (fa), Adulis (fa), Muscat (c),

Behind the shield of Syria and Egypt, the Adenite emirate prospered. A new town, Al-Mukallah, rose to prominence on the shores of Hadramuht. Prince Usayd found himself saddled with a strong-willed, sharp-voiced wife from Hijaz, whom he bore with ill temper. *She*, however, was quite pleased when her new husband suddenly became Emir upon his father’s death in 1275. Even better that his main rival, Suleiman ibn Farouk also died at the same time.

EASTERN EUROPE

ROMAN TREBIZOND

Basil I, Proconsul of the East.

DIPLOMACY Pamphyla (c)

Wisely deciding to keep to home and rebuild his battered domain, Basil ordered work begun on roads between Galatia and Vaspurakan, and Lydia and Phrygia. His armies moved back east, to watch the Syrian frontier but steered clear of the Buyid attacks into Hatamid territory. A great deal of new trade was received in Trebizondi ports, which also pleased the Proconsul.

A secret diplomatic mission by Spiriatos to Cappadocia found that region (though Orthodox) to be firmly aligned with the Hatamids, at least as far as shooting arrows at “icon-loving city-dwellers” went.

THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

Theophanos Konstantinos, Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire.

DIPLOMACY None

Thoroughly disheartened by the division of the east, and continuing failures of Christenden to drive the Moslems from Sicily (or recapture the holy places), Theophanos sulked for a good five years and fooled around with the wives of the nobility.

THE PRINCIPALITY OF MUSCOVY

Giacomeo Igor di Pasquale, Boyar of Muscovy, Tsar of Russia

DIPLOMACY Turov (a)

Missionary efforts continued in the west, where the Orthodox clergy were trying to drive the damnable taint of Catholicism from

Mother Russia. The towns of Igotown, Igorgrad and Olgaville all grew in a frenzy of urbanization. Work also began on a road from Respublika to Olgaville. The forest road between Rivne in Goryn and Kyiev in Kiev province was finished.

None of this, however, lifted Boyarina Olga’s mood. Still she mourned for the dead Roberto – and falling into a wasting illness, she herself expired in 1271. Which then left her son Giacomo the ruler of Muscovy and tsar of Russia. “Wonderful!” He declared. “What an excellent fate the Lord has had in store for me. Now, what time is the train for Capri?”

THE KINGDOM OF POLAND

Dansk I, King of Poland

DIPLOMACY No effect

Like their Russ neighbors, the peace prevailing in Eastern Europe allowed the cities of Warsaw, Lodz, Vilnius and Minsk to expand. Efforts to bring the Orthodox churches of Courland into the Catholic fold continued to find success.

THE DUCHY OF ESTONIA

Juku Enellson, Duke of Estonia

DIPLOMACY None

Could even more peace and prosperity rain down upon the blessed lands of Eastern Europe? It could! Duke Jaak, having no enemies to speak of, spent his tax revenues refurbishing churches, building barns and digging public sewers across his white-painted and neatly swept domain. Work began on a road between Helsinki in Kymia and Valga in Vaasa.

Then the duke died – fell through the ice while fishing and drowned – and by the All-Father there was no sure heir to the Duchy. Unfortunately for the gods of war, only Prince Johannes actually *had* an army, and he marched forthwith from Oulu to Estonia to demand the crown. However, when he arrived he found (to his outrage) that the generals and clerks in the capital had already declared his younger brother Juku the new duke.

Now here was a fine state of affairs in such an orderly land! Johannes refused to accept the oily Juku being promoted over him, and attempted to lay siege to Talinin. General Erikk, however, marched forth with the city garrison and Ducal guard – leading to – of all things – an actual **battle** on the Novgorod road!

Johannes’s 23,000 men shouted all manner of war cries as they drew up a shield wall across the fields and road, while Erikk’s 35,000 men (mostly cavalry) shook out into orderly banners and then put their horses to the trot, lances lowered... Johannes’s forces fought bravely, but were crushed. The pretender (yes, now he was...) fled to Sankt Petersburg, seeking the support of the town fathers.

They, in turn, arrested him and turned him over to General Erikk when that worthy arrived with his army. Peace was restored, Juku became duke in fact, as well as name and no one visited the poor, lonely grave of the daring Johannes.

WESTERN EUROPE

THE DUCHY OF BOHEMIA

Kurnik Gomer, Duke of Bohemia

DIPLOMACY None

The “Duke” (something of a misnomer, given the vast wealth and power of the Bohemian state – Emperor of the West would be more appropriate). The cities of Brno, Retion, Bremen, Munich, Lubeck, Dreseden, Ulm, Vienna, Hydrothia, Posen, Gotha and Madgeberg all expanded.

The German army that had wound up in Calabria, at the southern end of Italy, was recalled to Trieste – which was just as well, for Princess Joanna had come down with malaria and did not live to see her homeland again. Admiral Arnim was well pleased to return to civilized lands too.

The Adepts of the Free Spirit continued to be quite active in Germany, spreading their teachings into Pomern, Lausatia, Austria and Holstein.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Lucius IV, Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Christ

DIPLOMACY None

The Bishop continued to spend generously to support his allies, particularly the Romans in Trebizond. Cardinal Pantaleon managed to return from Egypt with a tan and manacle scars. Lucius, who had been off in France, made his way into Germany to Thuringia to try and suppress the popularity of the Free Adepts – and unfortunately failed. The people, particularly in the modern, mercantile cities of Germany, were beginning to turn away from the Church.

Cardinal Conti – who was active in Bavaria – had better luck, as the citizens of Munich were more conservative than the northerners. After some prompting, the Free Spirits were driven from the province with (mild) violence.

THE VERNONIAN EMPIRE

Valdemar IV, Emperor of Italy

DIPLOMACY None

All Italian efforts were focused on reclaiming Sicily from the Moslems. General Decimus remained poised at Reggio, waiting for Catholic naval superiority to allow him a crossing to Messina... even as the Germans abandoned the campaign and sailed home. Luckily for the Italians, the Syrian fleet had stayed home, which meant there were no opposing forces in place – at least until the Fatamid navy arrived from Egypt.

Decimus had spent long enough sweltering the Calabrian heat. He attacked as soon as the weather allowed in 1271, once more crossing the **Straits** in force. Again, he was opposed by the Fatamid mutineers under Beni al'Sadr (who was a piss-poor general, but also he knew he'd have no hope at all in Christian hands...). A fierce battle on the headlands above Messina resulted, and once more the Christians were thrown back. By this time the Moslems had fortified the approaches and were filled with wily tricks. Decimus himself was captured in the fighting and his second, Brutus Vittorio commanded the retreat to Calabria.

LE ROYAUME DE FRANCE

Antoine I, King of the Franks

DIPLOMACY None

Ah-ha-ha-ha! Money money money! Antonine stayed home, in the palace treasury, counting his money. Save for an enormous sum he sent east, with Prince John, to help the “crusaders” recapture Jerusalem from the Saracens. Unfortunately the quick way to Smyrna was by sea – and the whole of the Middle Sea was plagued by pirates of all kinds, not a few of them vast fleets of black-sailed Musselmen. By land was equally dicey – first Germany (which seemed safe enough, with well patrolled roads), but then the wilderness of the Balkans and the unsettled Eastern Empire... John did not easy an easy passage at hand! Nevertheless, he set out with a thousand knights and a train of armored wagons with heavy locks from Paris in May of 1271.

He reached Croatia without incident, and crossed into Byzantine territory – and then was attacked by a huge host of bandits within days of entering the dank forests. Word of his

journey had long since circulated in the criminal underworld, and a wagon-train of French *reals* ... well, it drew attention. A lot of attention. The bad kind of attention. Prince John did not return from the Serbian wilderness, nor did his wagon-train ever reach civilization.

Back home, the Free Adepts spread their teachings into Anglia, Ponthieu and Rennes.

THE EL REINO DE NAVARRE

Marco Aroca II, King of Navarre

DIPLOMACY None

King Marco's generals hurried here and there, consolidating fleets and armies. His spies hunted high and low for Muslim agents (but did not find any) and peace prevailed in Spain. Admiral Cruz did die of pneumonia in 1273, and Dowager-Princess Olivia was killed in a hunting accident in 1274.

NORTHERN EUROPE

THE KINGDOM OF WESSEX

Sebbi Cearlson, King of the Angles and Saxons

DIPLOMACY: None

The English sat around, growing fat on beer and sausages.

THE KINGDOM OF THE SVEAR

Erik IV, King of the Swedes

DIPLOMACY None

Svearish craftsmen and timberers labored long and hard to build roads across the bogs and fens of Norbotten – plank-roads leading north to Vadvet Jakko and the mines at Malmberget, and northeast into Lohar Jarvi to the fisheries at Kemi. A third road cut through the deep forest still further east, towards Oulu in Livo-Joki. These same northern towns also expanded with this activity – Visby, Ljuma, Oulu, Kemi and Copenhagen all grew.

Admiral Gustav died – ashore, in his bed – and Prince Svenstrom took command of the fleet.

THE NORSE KINGDOM OF ICELAND

Sven Erikson, King of the Norse, Dragon King of the Isles

DIPLOMACY None

While reviewing the cod harvest, Jarl Erik took ill and then died of a burst intestine. This left cousin Sven the jarl-apparent, and he ascended to the dragon throne without violence. The Seven Aunts (Aetta, Sulia, Marunta, Ceska, Marka, Alekra and little Maksa) could have interfered, but were distracted by Aetta's illness and then *her* death, which led to a much larger and more grandiose (and well attended) funeral than Jarl Erik's.

NORTH AFRICA

THE MAGHREB EMIRATE

Umbad ibn Aslar, Emir of Morocco

DIPLOMACY None

The emir, seeking to reward his brave followers, elevated the noble Bahis to the rank of *Bashar* and also named him “Admiral of the Maghreb”. Every city and town along the long coast was filled with the sounds of hammering, sawing and pounding as hundreds of new warships were fitted out and set to sea. All expected war against the infidels to continue without respite!

A massive counter-missionary effort in Morocco drove out nearly every single Christian convert, demolished their churches and ran off the remaining Spanish and Papal missionaries. This, as

chance would have it, turned out to be the *only* conflict in the Maghreb this turn, as the French and Navarrese stayed home.

AL FATAMID CALIPHATE AL QAIRA

Fayed ibn Mutadi, Fatamid Caliph of Egypt

DIPLOMACY None

The Caliph ordered his armies to march, his fleets to sail. He was also blessed by the birth of a son. General Fawad returned from Tripoli with the victorious Army of Africa – and immediately succumbed to a summer fever and died. A powerful new fleet (reinforced by fresh construction and more levies) sailed to Sicily under the command of Abdul-Bari and found that, by the time they arrived, the Italians had already tried to force the Straits of Messina and been thrown back.

Still, the mutinous Beni al'Sadr was now overjoyed to be “relieved” by Abdul-Bari and a fresh host of Egyptian troops (another 95,000 of them, or so) and accepted the Caliph’s pardon and a fine noble title to go with it.

Cardinal Pantaleon, the Papal cardinal who had been languishing in a Fatamid cell for some years, managed to escape his captors with the help of some greedy jailers and a friendly Nestorian cleric. Rumors out of the western desert now spoke of actual Catholic churches being built from the salt-brick of Siwa.

WEST AFRIQA

THE KINGDOM OF GHANA

Kwazi III, Lord of Kumbi-Saleh

DIPLOMACY Ghat-al-Barkat (nt)

Seeking to keep the Maghrebi from extending their influence any further south, Kwazi ordered that a settlement be raised at Dakar, on the coast of Mauritania, to fly the banners of Ghana and keep an eye on the Moslems to the north.

THE KINGDOM OF TOGO

Tseke, King of Togo and Akan

DIPLOMACY Kongo (nt)

An enormous fire broke out in Lagos, nearly destroying the entire city. Thousands fled into the countryside, where they lived in ditches or hastily-built wooden sheds for months afterwards. Despite the pleas of his ministers, King Tseke refused to visit the ruins.

THE KINGDOM OF KANEM-BORNU

Ju I, King of Kanem and Bornu

DIPLOMACY N’jimi (f)

The industrious farmers of the Tchad continued to till fields, hew down forests and dig wells and canals across the sub-Sahara. The provinces of Jos, Benue and N’jimi all became cultivated as a result. King Ju ordered his son to canvass the land, counting goats, men, women, children – everything of value – and present an accounting. Unfortunately, the lax Ju II failed to do more than fritter the assigned monies away on women, goats and everything of value he could acquire for himself or his sycophants. The King was not pleased with the results, which was no accounting of use at all. Even the acquisition of a pretty new wife from N’jimi did not sweeten his mood.

SOUTH AFRIQA

THE KINGDOM OF NYASA

Shaka II, Chief of the Nyasa

DIPLOMACY None

Seeking to reduce the number of petitioners crowding the halls of his *kraal* in Nacala, Shaka (II) declared that the provinces of Masai, Luba and Chilwa would only pay tribute to him, and otherwise govern themselves. Similarly, the chief married off his sister Aliya to the warrior lord Mthethwasogoya – which saddled that fellow with a fierce wife (see painting, below) *and* got her out of the kraal as well.



Nyasan troops under Senzeangakona raided into Sebeli, taking slaves and harrying the desert tribes. Though they took captives, they also found the camel-riders to be fierce opponents. Another Nyasan army – this one commanded by the newly married Mthethwasogoya (who had hurriedly left home) attacked the Muslim settlements in Mombassa with a force of men mounted on enormous, armored elephants. Unfortunately, the Arabs had faced elephants before, startled the creatures with sudden fires, and then laughed as the Nyasan army stampeded back over the border in a self-inflicted rout.

THE KINGDOM OF ROZWI

Shaka III Northron, King of Rozwi, Lord of Zimbabwe

DIPLOMACY None

Shockingly, an earthquake flattened the town of Senanga in Barotse, leaving not a building standing, or barely a person alive.

THE KINGDOM OF VAAL

Shaka II Southron, King of Vaal and Mapungubwe

DIPLOMACY None

Things were darned quiet down Vaal-way for a time – but then Prince Malandela of Rozwi arrived all unannounced in Matopos with a long train of bearers laden with gifts. The prince was in search of a wife, and spent lavishly to woo the various relations of King Shaka – eventually winning the heart and hand of Wuae, the “southern lily”, despite her grandfather (the king’s) displeasure.

NORTH AMERICA

CAV COUNT: 40

Pox Reminder

Rebuilding a poxed regional GPv now costs the V6 standard amount, which is 50gp/25nfp. Rebuilding a poxed City GPv costs the appropriate amount from table 5-7.

THE TLINGIT PEOPLE

Aak'wtaatseen, Chief of the Tlingit, Lord of the Far North.

DIPLOMACY None

Even amid the privations which had afflicted his people of late, the Chief managed to hire a slew of new sub-chiefs, priests, salmon-counters and tree-huggers to bolster his rule.

CALIFORNIA

Obsidian Coyote V, Ruler of California

DIPLOMACY None

The highway between Mono and Moapa was completed. A new city – Guatai – built in Gosiute. While the towns of Chaw’ssee in Chehalis, Mokelumne Hill in Ipai, Koos Bay in Kalapuya, Kettenpom in Pomo and San Francisco in Salinan all increased in size. Princess Xatai fell from an imported Mochean emu and broke her fool neck. Work began on digging wells and irrigation canals throughout Bohogue. Coyote sired another son, but the little boy died of a cough before he was even a year old.

THE ANASAZI NATION

Desert Fox, Chief of the Anasazi, Lord of the Chaco

DIPLOMACY None

The rains fell regularly in the south-west and life was good. Aside from the empty cities where the pox had passed, of course.

THE MISSISSIPPIAN EMPIRE

Kabailo, the Great Beaver of the Snake

DIPLOMACY None

The Beaver ordered that every town, village, clan and dam in his domain account for itself. Message takers plied the streams and rivers in their Imperial canoes, carrying the bark-paper rolls with the reported figures back to Natchez for the Official Count. Given the import of the effort, all chieftains attended the Court, waiting for the outcome.

THE NATCHEZ CONFEDERACY

Red Bird, Great Sun of the Natchez

DIPLOMACY Choctaw (f)

Prince Two Feathers (who was a bit of a threat to Red Bird, if truth be told) was sent off to Choctaw as escort for Princess Light Melody, who was being sold – I mean, married – to the king of that southern principality.

MESOAMERICA

CAV COUNT: 90

THE TOLTEC HEGEMONY OF CHICHEN ITZA

Yahatul, Grand Hegemon of the Maya

DIPLOMACY None

Arawak and Timuca became cultivated as hordes of lowland Maya farmers were deposited on the islands, given their hoes and set to work. The Hegemon’s fleets were very busy, shuttling waves of settlers from the mainland to Arawak, Taino, Ciguayo and other smaller islands. Though Quayatilla had grand plans – he did not even hear of their success, dying of a ruptured gland in 1274. His son Yahatul became hegemon in his place, a process eased by his command of all of the warriors at Chichen Itza.

SOUTH AMERICA

THE MIGHTY INCAN EMPIRE

Jigamo, Emperor of the Incas

DIPLOMACY Chimu (nt), Nazca (fa)

After four years of constant striving, the Emperor managed to get the Sun-Queen Anta-Anella pregnant and she gave birth to a son, Tupac Prince of the Sun.

THE KINGDOM OF SHOKLENG

Chalez the Wise, King of Shokleng

DIPLOMACY None

Though the pox had hit them hard, Trunka had the opportunity to begin recovery – it wasn’t as through the black demons from the eastern sea were plaguing him (yet). As a result, Kaingan increased to (1/4). Still, fate caught up with him – Trunka died in 1271 and was followed to the throne by his son Chalez, who quickly gained the moniker “the wise” for his perceptive rulings upon the law.

THE MAPUCHE EMPIRE

Peltuish, Emperor of the Mapuche

DIPLOMACY None

Desperate to restore agricultural potato production, Peltuish ordered all available families to return to the devastated countryside of Mapuche proper, which increased the region to 3 GPv.

(end)