

Lords of the Earth



Campaign Twenty

Turn 23

Anno Domini 1110 — 1115

TURN 24 ORDERS DUE BY Friday, October 2nd, 1998

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Your Nation:** Due to the data-loss that transpired as a result of Myles disappearing from the face of the Earth, your nation as you have received it with this set of results is the reference point. Everyone had ample opportunity to send me stat sheets, so what you have now is what you have. Back corrections will **not** be accepted. Tough huh? Stop cryin'!
- ◆ **MSP Basing:** As per section [5.2.3.1] of the ME 5.5 rulebook, you can only base MSP at, and conduct International Trade by sea, out of a **port city**. All MSP assigned to port fortresses or port areas have, therefore, been switched to port cities in your country. In some cases, this resulted in the closure of a trade route.
- ◆ **Religious Issues:** Many of you had Friendly provinces that were not your religion – these provinces have had their status adjusted appropriately.
- ◆ **New Rulebook in Effect:** The new Middle Ages 5.5 rulebook is now in force for Lords Twenty. If you have not already acquired a copy it would be wise to do so.
- ◆ **Questions & Errata:** If you've got questions pertaining to the campaign, please **email** me. I can answer them faster that way. If you have *errata*, note that on your stat sheet.
- ◆ **Hiring Mercenaries:** Note that mercenaries must be hired at a **City** within the Regional area that they form the mercenary pool of. If a group of mercenaries move out of their Regional area into another, they may be hired at the location they ended the previous turn.
- ◆ **Warships as MSP:** If you allocate Warship units to be MSP on a trade route (as opposed to their being anti-piracy patrols), they become transports of the proper size and if withdrawn from the route, remain transports.
- ◆ **Opening Trade Routes:** If you do not provide me with **all** of the trade route information (your base port, the other nation's name and base port, the distance, the MSP assigned) I will not open the route.

- ◆ **Map Changes:** The region of Carmania (southern Iran) is Hostile Desert, not Wilderness. The southern edge of the *Celtic Sea* is moved up to the tip of Cornwall, making the *English Channel* and the *Bay of Biscay* adjacent. The Asiatic province of Kur, on the Amur river, is Kurshin instead.

TROOP CONVERSIONS

Infantry (500 men = 1 point), Cavalry (500 men = 1 point), Siege Engineers (500 men = 1 point), Warships (2 ships = 1 point), Transports (2 ships = 1 point).

LORDS ONE WEB RESOURCES!

The all new and all improved Lords Twenty homepage is at:

<http://www.throneworld.com/lords/lot20/index.html>

All of the on-line resources, including mailing lists and web-sites, for *Lords of the Earth* are summarized on this page:

<http://www.throneworld.com/lords/players/resources.html>

You can subscribe to the Lords Twenty mailing list by sending an email to:

listserv@play-by-mail.com

without a subject, and the following message body:

subscribe lote20 <firstname> <lastname>

like so:

subscribe lote20 Thomas Harlan

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VARIOUS FEES AND LEVIES

Turns	\$5.00 per turn.
Maps	Entire World [11x17] \$7.00 (<i>Local</i>) or \$10.00 (<i>Mailed</i>). Sorry, no colored or "small" world maps are available.
5th Ed. Rulebook	\$10.00 (<i>Local</i>) or \$13.00 (<i>Mailed in US</i>), \$15.00 (<i>mailed overseas</i>).
Renaissance Supplement	\$3.00 (<i>Local</i>) or \$6.00 (<i>Mailed in US</i>), \$8.00 (<i>mailed overseas</i>).

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THE ORIENT

Mercenary Troops 10mc, 8mi, 11ms, 16mw, 17mt
Mercenary QR's c03, s02, i03, w04
Mercenary Leaders Kotowari Haisen (M896)

YAMATO NIHON

Jenguku Tohiro, First Minister of the Diet

Diplomacy Cheju Do(fa)

The Japanese were quite busy – the cities of Kumamoto and Edo expanded as the merchant class grew fat on trade with the Chinese. In Heian, there was trouble though, as the elderly Yoofoo succumbed to a fever and spit his life up in blood. The diet squabbled over the succession and repudiated Yoofoo's designated successor – Tanaka – in favor of the brash young Jenguku Tohiro. Rumors of bribery abounded, but little could be proved. Luckily for Tohiro, many of his rivals were overseas.

THE HONAN CHINESE KINGDOM

Mao Ling, Supreme Monarch of Pienching

Diplomacy Kalgan in Hsuing'nu(f)

The northern Chinese expended vast sums on the construction of an elaborate series of dikes and levies in Kiangsu province. They hoped to control the flood of the lower reaches of the Grand Canal – perhaps they would succeed. Landowners in Bao Ding and Lu'an were urged to begin breeding horses with stock from the Hsuing'nu and other points east. Messengers hurried back and forth between Pienching and Chang'an, bearing word of the various nomads in the northlands.

THE SHENSI CHINESE KINGDOM

Cheng Ping, King of China

Diplomacy No Effect

Cheng Ping issued various orders to his ministers – the rather feeble walls of Chang'an would be strengthened, lest the rascally nomads of the northlands pillage his gardens. Too, some work was done on communal wells in Xining town and the land of Yun. Princess Qin Boqing undertook a mission to Yun, where she reviewed the progress of the well construction and exercised ten thousand of her father's guardsmen – in a proper manner!

Too, the sons of Ping came of age and stopped making a ruckus in the palace – now they could mess about with the whole realm! Their sisters were not pleased, but boys would be boys.

THE CH'IN KINGDOM

Che The, Divine Overlord of the Middle-Kingdom, Lord of the River

Diplomacy None

Despite the great wealth and culture of the Ch'in court, sometimes the Divine Overlord drank a little too much rice wine... so a vast throng of masons, engineers, laborers and carpenters descended upon the province of Ghang'de with orders to build a new city – Chunking – therein. And lo! They found a city by that name there already. A puzzle. So they took a short vacation on the river (in party barges) and made their way to Hwai, where they built a city named Jiujiang.

The city-raising party was quite a success – particularly with rice wine and gyoza for all. Indeed, the market for stonemasons was in severe straits – the Overlord had ordered that the cities of Taichou, Chengdu, Taishan, Wuhan, Nanchang and Chenjing all be expanded.

BACPHAN ZHUANGZU

Ming'ta Zhou, Overlord of South China

Diplomacy None

The sound of men shouting and the clash of arms momentarily broke the tranquil peace of south China in Hong Kong. Old Mao had died without leaving a son. The Ming'ta family – rich merchants and nobles in the capital – took the opportunity to slaughter the remainder of Mao's relatives and take the throne themselves. A nasty piece of business, but quickly over.

THE CELESTIAL KINGDOM OF THE JADE BUDDHA

Singh Hao "the Generous", 4th Incarnation of the Blessed Jade Buddha, Light on the Path to Nirvana, Illuminator of the Human Soul, Thinker of Deep Thoughts, Mayor Shangri-La

Diplomacy Failed

Hao sent forth his priests to assist the Javans – an effort that found fertile ground for the teachings of the Gotama Buddha in Khemer and Assam. Efforts to establish a friendly temple in Siam failed, though.

SOUTH EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC RIM

Mercenary Troops 19mc, 20mi, 20ms, 25mw, 10mt

Mercenary QRs c03,s04,i03,w03

Mercenary Leaders Korash Sharana M846

THE UNITED MONARCHY OF THE AVANS

Anisakan II, the Celestial, Virtuous, and Benignant King Anisakan III, Monarch of all Burmese People, Munificent Potentate of Pegu, Dispenser of all Avan Goodness and Benevolence

Diplomacy Surin(t)

Busy as elephants in banana season, those Avans... the cities of Honan Phen and Narathu were expanded. Trade missions to Bacphan Zhuangzu and Java from the new ports on the Siam Wan were a great success. The boy prince Anisakan III took a grand journey to Thaton, where he wed (after a little dickering) the daughter of the raj of Thaton in a ceremony marked by a profusion of flowers and tremendous singing by the Thaurin choir. The prince then returned home to sire an heir or two.

This, unfortunately, was a task met with disaster. After two years of heroic efforts, the rather sickly Je Le finally took with child, but then died in the bearing of it. Anisakan III was devastated and felt particularly sick himself. Now he would have to begin again.

While this tragedy was unfolding in the capital, the lord Tharanu was busily casting about for fresh slaves to fuel the farms, mines and factories of the Avan realm. With an experienced slave-raiding army of eight thousand men at his command, the lord rampaged across Sagaing and Shan into the forbidding mountains of Korat. There, amid the misty peaks and unexplored valleys, he fell prey to the bandit chiefs of Tai'li, who fell upon his small army with almost four times their number. Not one Avan escaped the trap, many ending their days as slaves in the thriving Chinese stone-breaking and lumbering industry.

THE JAVAN FEDERATION

Cankuang, President Sirivjavan

Diplomacy None

Eager to place his own stamp on the Federation, Cankuang sacked all of his advisors and ministers – replacing them with new men of his own choosing. This, of course, ignored the fact that he had chosen the *previous* ministers as well... The enormous reserves of manpower, gold and energy that had been building up for some time were – at last – allowed to surge forward.

The cities of Singhasari, Sunda and Kadaram all expanded. A massive undertaking in Khemer was launched; to more than quadruple the arable land under cultivation and to build a gigantic artificial lake (the Tonle Sap) just north-west of Angkor to fuel a vast array of canals and sluice-gates. Khemer would be one of the richest farming provinces in Asia!

THE MOLUCCA SEAHOLD

Te Rangj, Arikara of the Molucca Te Anu

Diplomacy None

A plague came upon the Te Anu in their strongholds at Moluccas and Sabah, killing many of the people. Tazu, the old chief, and his family were among those that perished. A great tomb was built for all the dead, on the northern shore of Sulawesi – a place now called Owhakatihi (“where the dead are piled”). The chief Rangj became lord of the islands after this.

THE KATOOMBA RIDERS

Yamma Lamma, Chief He'e Nalu-sen

Diplomacy None

The He'e people were quite busy, lazing in the sun, drinking the fermented brew of which they were so proud. Amongst them, though, there was at least one soul that was dissatisfied with the lackadaisical state of things – the chieftain Wave Spear. He did not fear the Great Leviathan that prowled the waters beyond the great reef, no – he turned his eyes to the horizon and wondered what lay beyond. And, again, alone among his people he could do something about it...

Months before, some of his warriors had brought him a man that had washed up on the shore, cast up by a great storm. A man with funny looking pale brown skin, a man that was clinging to the wreckage of the greatest canoe that He'e had ever seen. This was Te Anu Taipo, a lost sailor from the Seahold. Finding a warm welcome amongst the southern barbarians, he taught them the building of the great catamaran canoes of his people.

Wave-Spear knew that soon he would walk-the-waters with Taipo at his side and see the wide world.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

Mercenary Troops 15mc, 15mi, 25ms, 13mw, 15mt
Mercenary AQR's c04, s04, i04, w02
Mercenary Leaders Shalbeb (M767)

PALANKALA

Kanamori, Guardian of the Ganges, Divine Wrath of Kali

Diplomacy Vengi(c)

The Palans continued their vigorous ways – the northern borders were fortified with many new strong points and the cities of Tamralipti and Dharaharama were expanded. Too, Kanamori built a great park in the center of his capital, and had it blessed by priests of the Buddha. This did not please the priests of Siva and the other old gods, but the Emperor was a forward-thinking man and he saw that the old ways would no longer do in this modern world. Then again, the power of the old priesthoods was a check to his own...

The princes Kalimbo and Tuvasiva came of age to join their father in his mighty works – they were immediately put to work in the palace. So many parchments to shuffle! At much the same time the royal household was plunged into mourning as two of Kanamori's wives died in childbirth. Rumors spread, oh so silently, that the old gods – particularly Kali – were displeased

that the Emperor was turning his back upon them.

XANTHI EMPIRE OF XANADU

Palpatyn III, Grand Poobah of the Xanthi Zieterund, Rajah of the Rajputs

Diplomacy Avanti(fa), Pawar(f), Ajmer(fa)

The mightiness of the Xanthi was unparalleled! Great new monuments to the gods were raised in Xanth city and the regiments of the invincible armies swelled with thousands of new recruits. Prince Mikal was recognized by his father and given great responsibilities within the realm.

SULTANATE OF SIND

Mehmet, Mansurashah, Protector of the Indus, Barrier of Allah

Diplomacy None

Mehmet ruled wisely and well in his realm along the banks of the great muddy river. Even the growing power of the Xanthi did not overly disturb him – for Allah watched over his realm and provided for all.

THE CHOLA MANDALAM

Tu Arshtra, Mandala Chola

Diplomacy None

The Cholans, as befits a power of their stature, sat and chewed betel nut in the shade of the palm trees. The wind was warm and the sun shimmered off of the waves.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Mercenary Troops 9mc, 8mi, 7ms, 20mw, 20mt
Mercenary QR's c02, s03, i04, w04
Mercenary Leaders Pireheram M965

THE SHAHDOM OF MERV

Uthman al'Saidar, Shah of Bactria

Diplomacy None

The Persians lolled about, drinking dark Arabica in tiny porcelain cups and discussing the Quran. The barbarian hordes that had darkened the northlands with the shroud of their lances had passed away to the west, leaving little to worry about.

Oh, but the Kucha were returning from the west! And their spies knew that the Persians had grown fat and soft and lax in their watch on the northern frontiers. So it was that the Kucha stole down out of the north through the wastelands of the Kyzl-Kum and into the rich province of Bokhara. The king of that land, seeing the vast numbers of the Kuchans, bowed down before Jasmir and his demons.

With their entrance to settled lands secured, Jasmir and his armies stormed out of Bokhara into Bactria and then south into Transoxania. The Shah, who had been at his capital of Merv, rushed after him with the Persian army. Jasmir, having drawn his enemy to battle, turned and gave battle at **Mazar el'Sharif** with 98,000 lancers. The Persians – quite poorly led by the ineffectual Uthman – numbered 78,000 men. Indeed, despite having gangs of archers and quite a number of *dibanari* in his host, Uthman was on the defensive almost immediately.

The Persians were smashed, with tens of thousands dying under the storm of Kuchan arrows and then more after Uthman had fled the field in fear. Despite the wreck of his army, though, the Persians managed to fall back to Merv in good order. The Kuchans reveled in the loot that they seized.

THE WHITE HUNS

Jasmir, Kucha Khan, "The White Demon"

Diplomacy None (bah!)

With Uthman slapped aside, the Kuchans overran Turkmen,

Khwarzim (including Khiva), Kara-Khitai (and Samarkhand) before being driven off in a weak attack on Otrar. There, the prince of Tashkent had decided to ignore the weak Persians and form his own defense. Thus, Otrar was independent. All this left the Persians with Kophat Dagh, Khurasan and Dasht'kavir to their name.

THE ABBASID CALIPHATE

Mahtaub, Kaliphat Rasul Allah

Diplomacy None

Much like the Persians, the Abbasids were sure that no hordes would bother them – no, the disgusting baby-eating Christians would get it in the neck instead!

IMAM AL MUSLIM

Ali Mahdi, Siadat Kuran, "The Sustainer"

Diplomacy Morroco(ca), Mosul(ca), Hahmar(ab)

The Imam was quite grumpy and kept a close watch on all of his neighbors – for some reason he feared that he would be attacked at any moment. However, other than the nomads being up to their usual tricks, nothing much was going on. Shefah did, however, die in 1112 while in Andalusia. His successor was the learned savant Ali Mahdi, who had once been the governor of Persia.

THE FATAMID EMPIRE OF EGYPT

Montiqit Amal, Guardian of the Holy Places, Emperor of Egypt.

Diplomacy None

The Fatamids labored in the hot sun, spending the efforts of their troops in Jordan excavating old Roman fortifications and restoring them to use. More than against the bandit tribes of northern Arabia, they were sited to forestall Abbasid incursions into the Holy Land.

The prince Jafan and general Abal Mon'sar, who had been loitering around Levant for some time with an enormous army, fell to quarrelling over a game of chance and the prince was forced to kill the general in a duel to recover his honor. He would *never* cheat an Indian castles! In a similar wise, Haku Jafa Adir, who had been travelling on the Afriqan coast, fell ill and died in Adulis, puking his guts out.

EASTERN EUROPE

Mercenary Troops 7mc, 8mi, 10ms, 12mw, 20mt

Mercenary QR's i03, c03, s03, w03

Mercenary Leaders none

THE BYZANTINE ROMAN EMPIRE

Leo, Roman Emperor of the East

Diplomacy None, as it turned out

Ancient Leo continued to rule the Romans with an iron fist. His son, Justin, managed to begat a son (Nikolas) to further the rule of the Eternal Empire. Efforts were made to break up the great landholding estates in Morea and Isauria to put more land under cultivation. The forum of Heraclea was rebuilt around a new cathedral. John Doukas, on his way to Athens, fell ill and died in a roadside inn near Marathon.

PRINCIPATE OF KIEV RUS

Piotyr Nechesik, Grand Prince of Kiev

Diplomacy None

A great ceremony was held in Kiev in 1110 as the boy-prince Piyotr came of age at last. The elderly Vladimir, who had

ruled the principate for so long, stepped aside and laid down his burden at last. Unfortunately, he died soon after, leading to an equally grandiose funeral. A serious discussion was held following the ceremonies – many of the prince's advisors, particularly one Ced, felt that the realm had grown too large to be administered directly from Kiev. Piotyr began a plan to decentralize his administration.

Luckily for the future of centralized power in Russia, before this could be accomplished Ced disappeared (rumored killed by angry peasants who had lent him money) and Piotyr found that he could, in fact, rule his entire domain effectively from Kiev.

While the Russians argued in the palace, the southern tribes that owed some minor allegiance to the Necheski family had planned a big raid into Pechneg and Torki to take slaves – but then the sky darkened and the earth shook and they fled for the safety of the forests. The Khitan were days in passing – endless lines of wagons and mounted men, vast herds, campfires like the night sky... The Thunder moved west, though, and did not tarry in Russian lands...

KINGDOM OF RUSSIA

High Lord Vostov Borislov, the Wanderer, King of Russia

Diplomacy Novgorod(t), Estonia(t), Lativa(ea), Livonia(nt)

Something approaching unity began to claw its way out of the northern forests as Vostov managed to arrange a marriage between his son, Ivan, and lady Amaya of Novgorod. The city fathers of that trading town were most pleased to make such an alliance. Further west, the burly Penosky was also making the rounds amongst the Balts.

THE POLISH KINGDOM

Bram Brodzinski, King of Poland

Diplomacy Pomern(t), Thuringia(a), Bavaria(un), Moravia(un), Bochnia(un)

Bram was mighty pleased, both for his own self and for his realm – new cities were hacked from the forests of Pomern (Gdansk on the sea) and Little Poland (Lodz). Many men were recruited and armed to flesh out the personal retinues of the prince of Bochnia and the duke of Franconia. While the king was out and about, the general Lek Leczinski oversaw the gathering of a great army from all across the kingdom in Warzau. Who knew what the nomads storming about the east might do?

[[See Khitan next](#)]

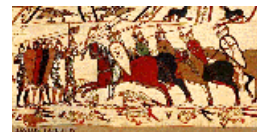
THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK

Kolbyr Swanson, Rex Danmark

Diplomacy None

While other potentates went about saying things like "the sky is so blue, the Huns will never come here" Kolbyr was taking some more prudent steps. His large and fierce army under the command of Erik Longtooth was placed on alert and scouts were posted at the frontiers to watch for invasion. Too, priests were sent into the hills of Agder to preach the word of the Christ to the savages there that still made the fist over their mead and bowed before the Tree.

That slothful youth, Thorfinni, who had been lolling around the palace reading old poets and drinking was finally put to work - "you are my son," growled Kolbyr, "now you must act like it!" The sickly princess Nia finally succumbed to the summer cough and died. [[See Khitan next](#)]



WESTERN EUROPE

Mercenary Troops	3mc, 2mi, 1ms, 21mw, 20mt
Mercenary QR's	c02, s03, i05, w04
Mercenary Leaders	None

THE KHANATE OF KHITAN

Altan the Red-Handed, Thunder

Lord, Khagan of the Khitan

Diplomacy

Bavaria/Munich(ea)

The sound of drums rolled across the open steppe. Tens of thousands of Khitan, their heads bare, stood in long lines along the shores of the Black River¹.

Slowly, over the ridge, the drums came closer. Then, appearing over the crest, the horse-tail standards of the Hundred Clans. Five thousand knights in heavy armor followed the heralds, and behind them, in a great cart sixty feet on a side, the funeral bier of the great Mogwai the Thunderer. On a high hill at the side of the river, facing the west, slaves had labored for three months to dig a vast burial mound. The cart and its embalmed passenger passed between the lines of waiting Khitan.

Stricken by the sight of their dead king, the mourners spilt their own blood and hacked at their hair in grief. A great wailing rose of the heavens, and with it, the smoke of hundreds of sacrificial fires. The cart halted at the base of the hill, and the knights dismounted. Servants hurried up the long rampway built to the summit, bearing heavy packages of grave-goods; coin, jewelry, skins, hides, clothing, a thousand other items needed by the great king in the afterlife. The knights folded down the sides of the cart and took hold of long stout poles that ran under the casket itself. Young maidens climbed the rampway, dressed in white and gold, with flowers in their hair. They halted at the top, making a half-circle around the mouth of the pit.

On the plain, the rest of the Khitan arrived, following the burial cart and its procession - in total numbers, there were more than a half-million people assembled on the low snowy plain by the side of the river. They stood silent, waiting, while the knights - with slow, unhurried steps, carried the casket on its bed of lance poles, up the ramp. When at last the dead king was laid to rest in the bottom of the pit, in a room of slab-sided stones, the drums began again, a thundering roar that filled the sky. The roof of the room was levered down, closing off the king from sight of the Sky Father.

The maidens began to sing; a long wailing dirge filled with loss and pain. One of their number was led forth and descended into the pit. The skull-priests anointed her with oils and perfume, then laid her down atop the great stone and - with a quick motion - cut her throat. Too, horses and servants were led into the pit and laid to rest alongside the great king. When this was done, the maidens ceased their song and filed away down the hill. The knights took up shovels of wood and bent their backs to filling the pit.

Days later, when the ceremonies were done, the chieftains of the tribe gathered and - after long discussions - elected the son of Mogwai, Altan, as the khagan of the clans. Then the elderly Turene, the wife of the dead king, came before the

assembled chiefs and spoke of his last words. They were:

"Go west, and destroy all that you find there."

So when spring came - for the burial had been accomplished in the depths of winter - the Khitan and their subject tribes; the Liao, the Tatar, the Tangut and so on - moved west in a vast flood. In June they crossed the lower Dnepr and found that the grasslands there were only sparsely populated. The passage of the Uze, and other

tribes, had driven the native peoples away. The Rus boatmen on the river withdrew to their northern forests, and the Khitan were allowed pass unmolested. In the fall, the Khitan reached Moldavia, where they destroyed the Polish trade city of Moldau and took the population as slaves. The fair-haired Polish women were much prized by the swarthy Khitan. By winter, the Khitan had reached Walachia and the looming snow-capped

mountains of the Iron Gates, where the Blue River foamed and thundered in deep cataracts.

There, in the winter of 1110, an embassy came to the camps of the Great Khan - these were Greeks, from the south - and they brought many gifts to Altan and his wives. The Greeks offered the blessings of their god to the Khitan and offered an alliance against the western kings. Altan considered their words, but saw that the Greeks were weak, and poor. Too, he had heard that the Uze had passed this way, and those mongrels had probably stolen everything worth stealing.

When spring of 1111 came, the Khitan mounted the passes of the Iron Gate and entered the great plains of the Alfold. North and west they swept, again finding the lands empty of tribes and livestock. In the fall, their scouts entered Bakony and found some even poorer farmers there, scrabbling a meager life from the arid lands there. The people there seemed so wretched that Altan could not countenance their destruction, so they continued north and west. So it was that in the late fall, the full might of the Khitan stormed through Polish Austria, slaughtering the paltry thousand knights that the local barons could raise. When winter closed in, the Khitan had entered Lombard-held Bavaria.

Faced with the overwhelming presence of the Khitan - and the smooth words of the prince Kubli - the Bavarians abandoned their erstwhile Lombard masters and swore allegiance to the Great Khan. The Austrians, in turn, were allowed to retain their religious practices, but a Khitan viceroy was installed to govern them. The winter of 1111 was one of complete panic in the northern European capitals - the Storm of God had arrived, on a scale that beggared the miscreant Uze, and made even the near-legendary Huns seem pitiful. However, nothing remotely like cooperation could be established between Pole, Dane and Turq, so when spring came each stood alone.

The year of the Christian god 1112 opened with the Khitan host splitting into four main bodies - the great host under Altan Khan swept west into Lombard Swabia, while the Tatar and the Tangut punched north into Franconia. Lastly, the Liao and the prince Kubli (he called Goldentongue) doubled back into Austria and then north into Bavaria.

Swabia fell easily to Altan, for the Lombard garrison had fled and Heidelberg had no walls. This land, rich and along a great river, Altan chose for himself, settling many of the tribespeople there. Undaunted, he crossed the Rhine into Burgundy with over two hundred thousand men at his command. And there, on the fields beyond, Soloman of the Turquis had massed every man, child and dog that could carry a blade or draw a bow - 126,000 in all. The Khitan stormed up the banks on



¹ The Volga at the edge of Urkel province.

the far side of the river into a hail of arrows, stones and spears. The Turquis had just this one chance, there at **Colmar** to stop the hell-tide. And oh, there was a slaughter on the heights. The Turquis fought like demons themselves, knowing the fate that would befall them if they yielded the river to the Khitan.

But the Khitan kept coming, in wave after wave, though the river was black-red from bank to bank with the blood of the dead, and the Khitan swarmed forward over windrows of their own dead. They would not stop coming on and Solomon was forced to abandon the bank and fall back to Colmar, fighting for each wood-lot and acre of pasture. Still the storm did not abate, and at the end of the second day, eighty thousand Turqs had fallen. And still the Khitan were numberless. Solomon, seeing that his flanks were buckling, gave the order to fall back. So it was done, and Burgundy abandoned.

But Altan had tasted blood and he pushed his men onward – overrunning Nivernais and reaching Paris by winter of 1112. There the old Turq king Sengir commanded the defence. Solomon had fled with the remainder of his army to the south, into the forests of Orleans, where he was joined by the Normans. Altan viewed the walls of the city with distaste, but he could not leave the city in his rear area. A multitude of crude ladders were gathered or made and he launched a full scale assault against the full length of the city wall. Again the Turquis inflicted dreadful casualties on the Khitan, but there were far too few men to hold every length of wall and the city fell.

Here, Altan made a wise decision, slaughtering only the Turqs in the city and restoring the Frankish nobility to the administration of the place. So, too did he do in the Ile De France, Burgundy and Nivernais – this won him great acclaim amongst the Franks (who hated the Turqs greatly). A great pile of Turq heads was made outside the eastern gate of the city. Altan took the skull of old Sengir for a drinking cup.

Unwilling to risk his remaining army against Altan again, Soloman covered in the south while the Great Khan overran Vermandois, Hainaut and Champagne before returning (at the end of 1115) to his capital at Heidelberg. There the Khan entertained a bevy of Orthodox priests sent to bring the word of Christ to him from the Eastern Empire. Altan had weighty matters of religion to consider...

Meanwhile, the Tatars under the command of the loathsome Suqnaq-tigin had struck through Franconia and into Alsace, capturing Stuttgart from the Poles and then Lorraine from the Turqs. Suqnaq was most pleased – the locals warriors were pitiful and few, easily filled with arrows or run down by his lancers. Holland was next, where the rich trade city of Karnkorb was without even a rudimentary dirty berm and palisade². At the sea, Suqnaq bathed his long hair in the cold gray waters and swore a might oath to circle the world. Then he turned south, and crossed the lower Rhine into Brabant as winter closed in.

The Batavians proved more a match for his men; fighting fiercely amid the marshes and forests of their homeland. Despite their valor, they were overwhelmed by the Tatar numbers, however. Flanders was another tough nut, costing Suqnaq many men before they were ground under. Then Ponthieu fell – yet another struggle. After this Suqnaq declined to attack Normandy, falling back to Paris for the winter.

To the east, the 97,000 Tangut under the fierce-browed Galdan, had ridden north through Franconia (where many of the tribes settled) and across Thuringia (abandoned by the Poles, who fell back to positions in Kauyavia) to the forests of Saxony.

There, while making their slow way north along the little roads and tracks towards Hannover, the Danish army fell upon them in great numbers (sixty thousand of them, to be exact). A fierce scrum brewed up at **Clauen** southeast of the city and the Tangut suffered heavy losses in the thick trees. But then the Danish axemen hurled themselves against Galdan's archers and were repaid in black-fletched death. The Danes were giving as good as they got until Erik Longtooth was pierced by an arrow and the Danish army broke in panic. Then the Tangut lances and sabers feasted long on Danish blood and the Viking host was chopped to bits.

The disaster at Clauen cost the Danes the provinces of Saxony, Holstein, Friesland and Westphalia as they had also neglected to fortify any of the cities therein. Galdan returned to Thuringia at the end of 1115 well pleased with the rich nature of his conquests. The great khan would be generous in his gifts!

Finally, in the east, Goldentongue and the Liao had trekked through the forests of Austria and north into Bohemia, where the prince Kubli spoke long with the duke of that land then headed east. By the end of 1115 the prince returned to Bavaria, well pleased with himself – the lords of Bohemia, Moravia and Bochnia had all abandoned their allegiance to Poland and now formed a barrier zone between Khitan and the Slavs.

GRAND DUCHY OF VERONA

Jesus Maquina, Grand Duke of Verona, Defender of Italy, Chosen of Christ, Shepherd of the Faithful

Diplomacy Verona(a)

Jesus, rejoicing that he had at least two pigs to rub together, sold his pretty dark-eyed daughter Juanita off to the duke of Verona for a pledge of support. Some privies were dug in Neuvopatria as well and the view of the sea was improved by putting in a pier. Rumors from the south indicated that a large band of armed men had been sighted building a camp on the Illyrian coast, but investigations found nothing but some campfire rings and mermaids.

Some Khitan scouts raided into Bakony and Slovenia but became disgusted when they found that the peasants were penniless and the nobles worse. They rode off north grumbling that the Italians were all paupers.

THE LOMBARD KINGDOM OF ITALY

Mario D' Orsini, Rex Sognari

Diplomacy Switzerland(ea), Corsica(nt)

In Lombard lands - in stark comparison to those of the exiled Spaniards in Verona - the fields were rich with grain and the people fat and happy. Never would they understand, in their soft life, the titanic favor that the hard-scrabble farmers and shepherds of Verona had done them. For, despite the sprawling rich cities of the south, the Khitan did not go that way. Thus did poverty shield wealth.

In any case, Milan and Gerace expanded and that portion of the old Via Postumia between Milan (old Mediolanum) and Genoa (old Genova) was rebuilt into a postal road. A substantial tithe in grain, cloth, sausages, timber, linen, wool and flax was sent to Rome to help maintain the Papacy. The king was away in the Alps so his son, Mario, took over direct control of the government. The prince was blessed with the birth of a son, Ludovico, but soon after the birth news came from the north that Luigi - while attempting to cross a high mountain pass with his entourage - had been killed by an avalanche.

This news was dreadful and became worse when the elderly queen Maria suffered from a stroke, became a mewling idiot and then fell down a flight of stairs, breaking her neck. Mario, who had been overseeing the army on maneuvers in Lombardy, returned to Genova at this news and was crowned king of the Lombards. Of course, the next messenger from the north brought news that the German provinces had been lost to Khitan. Oh well.

² The Danish army was fully occupied in the east by the Tangut attack into Saxony.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PAPACY

Innocent V, Il Papa, Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Christ

Diplomacy None

Ringed about by a strong army and high walls, the Pope felt quite pleased with the state of the faith. Even the destruction of one Catholic kingdom to be replaced by hairy eastern barbarians who barely gave lip service to the Church and secretly worshipped at altars of blood and horn failed to discommode his soft!

KINGDOM OF TURQUIS

Soloman II, King of Turquis, Champion of the True Faith, Lord of the Franks

Diplomacy Normandy(f), Lorraine(a)

The Turquis continued to impress the strength of their rule upon the Franks - Sengir himself took a host of lancers to Anjou to oversee the emplacement of a colony of retired warriors. Thousands of Frankish landowners were dispossessed and the Turq put in their place. As Sengir had half-desired, half-expected, the Franks rose up in violent revolt at this. His lancers and horse-archers reaped a dreadful harvest then, slaughtering the poorly led Frankish peasants and knights. At Sur-le-Mare, he drove thousands of the rebels into the town, then had a wall built about it - then fires were set and he laughed at the endless screams as the Franks were consumed.

In the north, Turq emissaries found a fruitful alliance, and a wife, for Soloman II, amongst the Norse lords of Normandy. Those sea-reavers had no love for the Franks either! The Germans in Lorraine were also quite willing to rule over Frankish subjects. In the south, though, Turq rule only lay lightly on the Franks and Provence and Languedoc (bereft of any Turq garrison) revolted outright. Efforts by various powers to trade with the Turq were foiled by a complete lack of port cities on their part. [[See Khitan next](#)]

THE KINGDOM OF SUSSEX

Edward III Saxon King of England

Diplomacy None

The Saxons grappled with the limits placed upon them by the Interdict - but refused to bend their necks to the Pope. Edward II died, and his son ascended the throne without undue trouble. The Catholics were still in disarray and the rumors of another nomadic invasion proved false (at least for England...)

KINGDOM OF EIRE

Cedric, Defender of the Cross, High King of Eire

Diplomacy Munster(a), Ulster(a)

Cedric traveled amongst the Irish lands and managed, by dint of clever words, to gain the allegiance of the Munster and the Ulster clans. Their representatives came to Dun Laoghaire to brighten his court. Too, strong ships made by the monks of St. Brendan's took to the sea, seeking trade with other lands like England and Denmark.

UMMAYAD CALIPHAT AL CORDOBA

Asad Nasir, Caliph al Cordoba, Infidel's Bane

Diplomacy None

Ummayad whips were busy in the central mountains as tens of thousands of Christian slaves labored to chip a great highway through the rocky defiles of the New Castille / Old Castille border. Paltry sums were allocated for tools, the Arabs preferring to see the sweaty, lash-scored backs of the Christians bent in

labor under the blazing sun. Too, the great aqueduct of Cordoba was rebuilt and many fine public edifices raised in the capital of the Caliphate. The wise Asad was blessed with a strong son (his third) to join his large and boisterous family. Life was good within the realm of the Caliph.

AFRIQA

Mercenary Troops 19mc, 10mi, 4ms, 10mw, 15mt

Mercenary QR's c02, s03, i04, w03

Mercenary Leaders Rayshey M694

THE CALIPHATE AL'MORAVID

Caliph Siddig Al Farrd, "Zaban Nogreh", Lord of the Rif, Lion of Morocco, Sword of the Prophet

Diplomacy Cheliff(a)

The Rif, doughty corsairs that they are, were quite busy - new port, Caligari, was built in southern Sardinia. Trade with the Rus was lost due to the depredations of the Khitan, but the merchants made their way to Verona instead. Otherwise, there was a bit of trouble with the vizier in charge of the accounts, but he just lost his head over it.

THE SONGHAI HERDSMEN

Osei Kersil, Chieftain of the Herds

Diplomacy None

Osei bolstered his rule by appointing two of his brothers, Houla and Sono, to the principate. Otherwise, things were very quiet in the land of the herdsmen - though some merchants from Tarfeya and Ziguinchor began imploring Osei to open sea trade with the Al'Moravids rather than continuing to use the dangerous Rif sands route through Terhazza. The merchants from Terhazza were just as quick to point out the dangers and added expense to the crown of the other route.

KINGDOM OF NIGERIA

Santara the Wicked, Empress of Benin, Darkknife

Diplomacy None

The great king Mutuwa returned at last from his campaign in the south - having crushed the Kongo people and made them his slaves. His victory celebration lived long in the stories of the people, but what happened after lived much longer! Mutuwa died some weeks after returning home of bloody bowels and he left no son to rule in his stead. So it was that his eldest daughter, Santara, proclaimed that she would rule instead, until such time as she had a son and he came of age. There was trouble of this, of course, for the Nigerians had no tradition of a woman ruling in a man's stead, but Santara wooed the army spearmen with drink and women and they stood by her. Her sisters were more difficult, but one was strangled and the other mauled by a lion and then died, so Santara ruled unopposed.

Once these things were done, the great nobles of the realm put themselves forward to woo the Queen, but she demanded impossible things of them, or sent them into the deep jungle in search of fabled Opar and they were not seen again. And so Santara ruled, alone on the throne of ivory and gold, and none gainsaid her.

THE KINGDOM OF TCHAD

Yambuku, King of the Dead, Omar Kanembu

Diplomacy None

The Tchadi were very busy; working furiously, not unlike the ants and termites that inhabited the great stone mounds scattered across the arid plains of Tchad. The postal road from Tillaberi in Gorouol to Zaria in Hausa was built up to a royal road, while a new postal road was marked across the grasslands of Kanuri, connecting Zaria and

Kinnsasha. Now a post rider could rush a message from Ngazargumu to Tillaberi in half the time it had previously taken. The cities of Tillaberi and Jamaa, too, waxed fat with trade and expanded a level each. Irrigation projects and new wells were begun in Hausa and Soro.

Yambuku returned home to glorious Ngaz and ruled as a veritable god on earth; all he surveyed was his and bowed before him. It made him a little giddy.

GREAT ZIMBABWE

Chunkalor, Shaka Zulu

Diplomacy Phalaborwa(nt)

Where other realms, like the puny Tchad, might scrounge about looking to mark out a postal road or two, the Zimbabwe were about more glorious efforts. They had bided their time and gathered their strength for many years, and now they would execute Chunkalor's great vision. So...

Four new cities were raised, many as military colonies to give retired spearmen from the Imperial *Impi* new homes and many wives – these were Umtata in Nguni, Usayo in Transkei, Vahine in Matopos, and Xhotizan in Banhine. Then, a new royal road was cut from Matopos to Banhine, bringing Xhotizan into the road network that funneled all trade to mighty Harare itself.

THE AMERICAS

Mercenary Troops 4mi, 9ms, 12mw, 12mt

Mercenary QR's s04, i05, w03

Mercenary Leaders Recka M655

THE SONOMA KINGDOM

Leaping Bird, King of Sonoma

Diplomacy

The Sonomans threw a great potlatch to celebrate King Striking Cougar's fifty-ninth birthday and his abdication from the throne in favor of his son, Leaping Bird. This turned out to be an excellent idea, as Cougar was dead the next day. Bird was sad, but he was a mighty king and he bore his responsibilities well. The cities of Albion, Tharsis, Ursa Majoris, Ursa Minoris and Mokelumne all expanded a level.

ANASAZI REPUBLIC

Arikara, Chief Executive of the High Desert

Diplomacy None

The round-tower builders continued about their business, though it consisted mainly to settling more tribesmen in new pueblos in Comanche (making it a 1V6 province) and Apache (also a 1V6). There was also an argument about the role of the Speaker of the Council, but then everyone agreed that the Executive was actually in charge of things, so the Speaker could continue his legislative (and not executive) business.

THE IROQUOIS NATION

Softspear, Prime Chief of the Council

Diplomacy None

The Nation continued to invest their energies in the lucrative southern trade route – the city of Atakapa in Ayoel was expanded again, and a dozen warehouses built out of sod and fired mud brick. Many new, large, canoes were built to carry trade goods to the Mayan realm in the south, too. With all the wrong kinds of help from his three sisters, Softspear (the son of Talon) managed to get one of his wives with child – a squalling brat named Little Egg. The ancient Talon held the baby in his

arms one time, his wrinkled old face lighting up with a rare smile, and then he died peacefully in his sleep. Softspear became chief of the council of the nations.

The warrior Thunderbolt attempted to take a canoe up Lake Ontario and up the Saint Lawrence, but it was wrecked near Sokoki lands and he had to walk back. Upon making his report to the Council, he urged that they build quite a number of canoes to use in making this voyage. One was not enough.

THE AZTEC EMPIRE

Ometepec, God-Emperor, Divine Ruler of Mexico

Diplomacy Tamaulipe(c)

The Aztec spawned and spawned again like the little dogs and fat guinea pigs that formed such a staple of their diet; the metropolises of Texcoco and Tlacopan reached tremendous size – matching even the thriving cities of the Sonoma in sheer population. New terraces and aqueducts were built in Tarascan as well, for the cities at the Heart of the World had an endless appetite for corn.

THE MAYAN ASTRONOMERS

Ah Cacao, Priest-King of the Yucatan

Diplomacy None

The Astronomers watched the sky with great interest. Far away, on another turn of the Wheel, a vast struggle was unfolding between the infinite Sun and the abyss of Darkness. Though the outcome would be terrible, it mattered little to the Mayans, for they had made their sacrifices to the Gods and knew that they were safe for another turn of the Wheel.

THE ANDEAN INCAN EMPIRE

Anapa Roca, Emperor of the Heavens

Diplomacy No Effect

The Roca was not one to let the Roadbuilders Guild lie idle and lose their skills, so a postal road for the Emperor's Messengers was hacked out of the mountains between Wairajikira and Atuara, connecting Huari to Raqchi. Raqchi, of course, expanded with the influx of workers, priests, gamblers and blessed god-women to deal with the great project. The port of Tarma Tambo in the south also expanded. A government town, Pasto, was also built in Kuelap province to service as the governor's residence there. So blessed was the Empire that the Empress gave birth to a son as well.

QUIRO MAPUCHE

Kniso, the Chosen

Diplomacy None

The Mapuche minded their own damn business, down there at the bottom of the world. And you should mind yours, too.

ISI RANKINGS FOR TURN 23: ANNO DOMINI 1110 - 1115

#	Nation Name	MSI	ESI	Player Name	Phone	TV	Email address and Notes
1	Xanthi Zeiterund	159.2	10	(Charles Hurst)	None	10.9	charlesh@teleport.com
2	Ch'in Kingdom	157.4	2	Bob Nardone	None	23.2	bnardone@mail.del.net
3	Abbasid Caliphate	141.4	5	Geordy	None	27.7	raider26@hotmail.com
4	Fatamid Empire	141.3	7	(Ken McGee)	01-360-687-0421	17.9	keng@pacifier.com
5	Byzantine Roman Empire	117.7	17	BJ Kersteter		9.9	kerstete@tcfreenet.org
6	The Honan Chinese Kingdom	114.3	6	John Millsaps	None	9.8	MillsapsJ@aol.com
7	Palankala	107.7	11	(Joe Leonard)		10.0	Jle@world.std.com
8	Andean Incan Empire	105.1	1	Will Holmes		18.7	Willholmes@juno.com
9	Kingdom of Sonoma	97.7	16	John Schmid	None	24.9	magus@netcom.com
10	Kiev Rus	97.2	36	(Ivan Mostinckx)	None	7.1	Ivan.mostinckx@village.uunet.be
11	Yamato Nihon	97.4	4	(Rick Stevens)	None	35.2	Tgreateahz@hotmail.com
12	Shensi Chinese Kingdom	89.9	31	John Chan	None	6.0	J1WESCHAN@aol.com
13	Ummayad Caliphate Al Cordoba	89.3	27	Jeffrey Smith	01-505-525-8271	5.9	kaladan@zianet.com
14	Songhai Herdsmen	86.9	30	Mark Willner	None	10.0	marc24@ix.netcom.com
15	Lombard Kingdom of Italy	82.4	8	Mark Bailey	01-650-933-3226	12.8	markcb@bedevere.mfg.sgi.com
16	Anasazi	79.1	32	Chris Wayne		6.6	cwayne@nmia.com
17	United Monarchy of the Avans	75.9	26	(Paul Petonak)	None	8.6	paulp@microbio.ucla.edu
18	The Caliphate al Moravid	68.4	20	Scott Norton		8.6	Snorton@netcom.com
19	The Khanate of Khitan	67.4	15	Open for a player		7.1	None
20	Bacphan Zuangzu	66.5	9	David Berryman		6.4	dcber2@uswest.com
21	The Aztec Empire	64.9	18	Open for a player		14.1	None
22	Kingdom of Tchad	63.9	24	Mike Magoon	01-210-967-5533	8.5	mrgune@aol.com
23	Iroquois Nation	61.0	14	David Nardone	01-302-322-5342	17.8	dnardone@inet.net
24	The Polish Kingdom	60.2	35	Mark Newman	None	2.9	MNewman565@aol.com
25	Sultanate of Sind	58.9	12	(Stephen Hope)		6.3	SLHope@ats.com.au
26	Javan Federation	58.0	25	David Salter	None	11.3	salterdj@aol.com
27	Imam al Muslim	57.0	22	Darin Byrne	None	1.3	dbyrne@woudenberg.com
28	Kingdom of Denmark	53.5	28	Steve Hogie	None	9.8	SHogie@deltanet.com
29	Chola Mandala	53.1	13	Open for a player		9.0	None
30	Roman Catholic Papacy	49.6	21	Logan Vanderlinden	None	1.0	loganv@concentric.net
31	The Dalai Lama	48.1	3	James Gemmill	01-604-251-6353	2.0	jamesgem@vpl.vancouver.bc.ca
32	Great Zimbabwe	48.4	19	Open for a player		8.4	None
33	The Mayan Astronomers	45.6	37	Open for a player		5.1	None
34	Kingdom of Nigeria	46.2	29	Tim Atchison		11.2	None
35	The Molucca Seahold	44.1	40	Mark Hilton	None	5.1	Mark.hilton@lineone.net
36	Quiro Mapuche	43.6	23	(Liz Young)	None	6.2	eYoung72@aol.com
37	Kingdom of Turquis	43.9	41	(Todd St.Pe)		0.0	Todd@mcia.com
38	Saxon Kingdom of Sussex	39.9	34	Bob Gurley	None	8.2	lords_26@yahoo.com
39	Kingdom of Russia	37.1	43	Open for a player		0.7	None
40	Grand Duchy of Verona	30.3	42	Ben Vincent	None	3.4	vinny@worldnetla.net
41	Kingdom of Eire	28.4	44	Open for a player		1.4	None
42	Katoomba Riders	28.3	39	(John Rascon)	None	2.5	tracker@flamestrike.hacks.arizona.edu
43	Persian Empire of Samarkhand	25.6	38	Keith Parker	8049841775	3.5	kpg8d@faraday.clas.virginia.edu
44	The White Huns	21.8	33	Devin Cornwall		6.1	MaestroDC@juno.com

Note: Players whose names are in parentheses owe me money, so pay up! **NOW!**