

LORDS OF THE EARTH

Campaign Twenty-Four
Age of the Crusades



Turn 29

Anno Domini 1141 – 1145

Turn 30 Orders Due By February 8th, 2002

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please read the Campaign Notes before plaguing the GM with questions.

Cult of Shiva: The Cult of Shiva is hostile to Hinduism, but otherwise identical thereto.

THE NEWS

MANCHU'KUO

Mercenaries: 22c, 12xc, 3i, 3w, 2t

THE MONGOL KHANATE (ASIATIC-PAGAN, NO CAPITAL)

Bartan, Khan of the Mongols, Future Lord of All Asia

DIPLOMACY None

Bartan and his families lounged around, savoring their domains and conquests...

KHANATE OF THE KUTAI (ASIATIC-PAGAN, NO CAPITAL)

Gujen Shih, Khan of the Kutai and Khitan

DIPLOMACY None

Seeking lands for their flocks, the Grand Khitan attempted to expand east into the lands of the Kutai. A vicious war followed in '44 and '45, which ended in the defeat and subjugation of the Khitan.

THE JU-CHEN KHANATE (ASIATIC-PAGAN, NO CAPITAL)

Ju'ki'ta, Khan of the Ju-Chen, Favored of the Thunderbolt

DIPLOMACY None

The Ju-Chen, too, turned inwards in these years, but eyed those around them with concern. Song priests came among the tribesmen, but only roused the ire of the Tengri shamen and outraged the clansmen with their foreign ways.

THE GORYEO KINGDOM (BUDDHIST, KAICHING)

Yun Yen Zun, King of the Chaosen

DIPLOMACY None

Goryeo was afflicted by a plague, which killed the king, his cousin Cho Zun and the lord Chiang. The king's son, previously so ignoble as to lack even a name, was made king.

An embassy came from the Buddhists in Saga, beseeching Yun's aid and protection against the Fujiwara.

UIGHUR JUNGARIA (ASIATIC-PAGAN, KARAKOCHO)

Khagan Thakir, Lord of the Karluks

DIPLOMACY None

The Khagan, proud and fierce, ignored the pleadings of his attendants and tended to his own affairs, and ignored those of the clans. Tribute came from the Ilig and the Khwarzim, which pleased Thakir. "Those western slaves know their place," he proclaimed.

NIHON

Mercenaries: 14c, 8xc, 16i, 5s, 2w, 2t

CLAN KIYOWARA (SHINTO, HEIAN)

Kiyowara Motosuke, Lord of the North, the "victorious"

DIPLOMACY None

The clan turned their attentions inward, ensuring their dynasty would continue, and their honour would remain unsullied.



FUJIWARA JAPAN (SHINTO, HEIAN)

Naetoru Torashima, Shogun of the Isles, Protector of the Emperor

DIPLOMACY Saga/Kumamoto(revolts)

The Shogun was forced to hurry to Kwanto, for Lord Yabu died suddenly. Any mutiny or revolt by Yabu's army was forestalled by Naetoru's decisive nature. Courtier Izo, sent to lean on the Sagans, found a hot welcome and perished amid yet another revolt of the southern daimyo. Toyama Junichiro barely escaped with his life. The revolt then spread into Kagoshima, where thousands of Shinto priests were slaughtered by enraged Buddhists.

NIHON-NO-TENNO (SHINTO, HEIAN)

Tenno Sotoku, Emperor of Nippon, Blessed of Amaterasu

DIPLOMACY Kwanto(mn), Aichi(ab)

Temples controlled by the Emperor were destroyed in Saga and Kumamoto, which caused him great dismay. The master of the laquered cup, Hikojuuro, was waylaid by Buddhist pirates in the Tsushima Strait and murdered.

宋 THE LAND UNDER HEAVEN

Mercenaries: 70i, 45c

THE GREATER VEHICLE OF TIBET (BUDDHISM, LHASA)

Thirumbaba, Dalai Lama of Lhasa, Light of the World

DIPLOMACY None

Minded their own business.

WESTERN SUNG (BUDDHISM, CHANG'AN)

Song Zhi Zhe, "The Foul", Lord of the Middle Lands

DIPLOMACY None

There was a family scuffle in Chang'an, which resulted in the deaths of Song Chou Lin, his son Wu Wei, general Lu Tzin Wai and many other notables. When the dust had

cleared and the blood was washed from the steps, the sly prince Zhi Zhe was king.

PHOENIX SUNG (BUDDHISM, CHANG'LING)

Bloody T'an Hua, Prince of Kang, Celestial Emperor of the Middle Kingdom

DIPLOMACY None

Amid a glorious efflorescence of culture and wealth (a port city Tai-pei was built in Taiping province and five other cities were expanded), the Emperor Gaozong suffered a crippling heart-attack at the age of 59 (in 1142) and died, leaving his wife T'an Hua as regent for a sixteen-year old son. As the Empress was out of the capital at the time, Zhong Tan Song immediately ordered her arrest, claimed the throne for himself and dispatched letters to all of the Imperial generals, demanding their support.

The Empress, who was in Kiangsu at the time with wagonloads of gold, immediately hired a mercenary army and marched into Anhui, declaring her son Gao Tan Song the *true* Emperor of the Song. He was ten, so her tenure as Regent was assured...

While the rival Emperors prepared to do battle, there was a sideshow scuffle in Hopei, where lord Lu Pan had declared his support for the Empress, while Xan Tien (made duke of Hopei in one of Gaozong's last edicts) proclaimed his support for young Emperor Zhong. The last of the generals, Fang Rui Zhi, returned to the capital and swore his allegiance to Zhong.

As the Empress advanced on Pienching from the south, her partisan Lu Pan in Hopei was murdered by Imperial agents and his troops swore fealty to Xan Tien. The new duke then crossed south into Honan, ostensibly to support Emperor Zhong against his mother.

The young Emperor, however, soon found the Duke desired a considerable price for his loyalty – gold, the provinces north of the river – and as T'an Hua approached, a squabble broke out between Zhong and Xan Tien. Again, the assassins' noose served the young Emperor well and the over-mighty Xan Tien met a gruesome end. These efforts left Zhong in debt to the general Fang Rau Zhi.

T'an Hua approached Pienching with a huge force of mercenaries and her own adherents. A silent struggle ensued to control the mercenaries, a contest won by the Empress. Zhong was forced to give battle at **Lankao** (Summer' 43) with 16,000 men against the Empress' 28,000. Zhong's army was smashed to bloody ruin by T'an Hua and she stormed into the capital at the head of a gore-stained, victorious army. Pienching burned for weeks, wracked by a paroxysm of rapine, loot and slaughter.

The Bloody Empress cleaned house while the mercenaries ran wild, arresting thousands of her enemies and slaughtering them out of hand. Her son Gao was placed on the throne, though there was *no* doubt who truly ruled o'er the Phoenix Throne.

Hopei (and Kaifeng), Chekiang (and Chengshi), Funiu, Houma, Hubei, Kiangsu, Kweichou, Szechwan (and Koueichou), Yen (and Yen-Ching) revolted in the aftermath. T'an Hua had her work cut out for her...

THE WUDAN MASTERS (BUDDHISM, PIENCHING)

Shun Ri, master of Wudan Mountain

DIPLOMACY Anhui (op), Hupei(oe), Chang'ling (oh)



While master Ma was away, searching for something of great value to him, Sho Windsword made a productive journey among the farms, temples and schools who followed the teachings of the mountain of wind and fog. Unfortunately, the eruption of civil strife among the Song princes derailed a number of plans.

A Japanese bonze reached Pienching after a harrowing journey across the China Sea, and pleaded with master Ma for the Laughing Sword to come to the aid of the embattled followers of the Buddha in the barbarous land of the Jai-pen.

Many of the Masters also urged Shun Ri (who replaced the absent, slain Ma) to take up arms against the 'traitor' Empress T'an Hua, who had murdered Zhong (a young man much enamored of the rites and rituals of the sword masters) and caused so much devilry and sorrow.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Mercenaries: 9i, 9w, 8t

THE DAI KINGDOM OF ANNAM (BUDDHIST, TONKIN)

T'an Bao, Da-Wang ti Annam

DIPLOMACY None

Farms spread across Guizhou province, port towns bustled into prominence in Mison (Da Nang) and Kwangtung (Shantou). The king employed hundreds more clerks, scribes and copyists. None of this prevented the deaths (due to the Song plague) of General Sanh, councilor Hunh, Prince Hsieh or the dowager Empress Yingam. This spoilt many plans, including a fleet visit to Khemer lands.



THE KAMBUJADESA EMPIRE (HINDU, ANGOR)

Javyarvarman, king of the Khmer

DIPLOMACY Hmong(no!), Surin(t)

A fleet was sent south to found a city, Singapore, on the Riouw Sea, hard athwart the Malacca Strait. The prestige and influence of the Hindu temples continued to erode, picked away at by the king. The handsome young Javyarvarman found his court beset by silken rebellion – his wives refused to entertain him, as he'd gotten them all pregnant at once and they were very, very cranky.

"Where shall I find shaved ice and pickles in the summertime," he lamented. "Where?"

An attempt to coerce the Hmong into paying the king tribute ended in a bloody, indecisive war. General Khakanang's forces were forced to retreat back to Sambor.

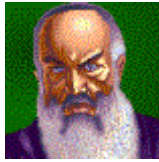


THE KINGDOM OF THATON (BUDDHIST, MOULMEIN)

Souphan, Lord of the Mon

DIPLOMACY Lampang(nt), Gtsang(ea)

Eager to secure the north, Souphan ordered a new city built in Burma (Mandalay), as well as a royal road from Rangoon through Ava to the new outpost. An outbreak of the Song flu claimed the lives of princess Jade, and the lords Lan Xang, Krung and Phi Kanu. Prince U Thant was dispatched to the north, where he found Lhasa to be cold, forbidding, lacking in any amenities and was not even able to obtain an audience with the Holy Lama.



THE INDONESIAN ISLANDS

Mercenaries: 1i, 1w, 2t

THE GOD-EMPIRE OF SIRI VIJAYA (BUDDHIST, SRIVIJAYA)

Gozomonye the Magnificent, Blessed of the Bohdisattva, The Builder

DIPLOMACY Pajajaran(a)

The Vijayans were busy, sending a strong fleet to guard a colony on Flores (resulting in a 1i3 province).



THE FREE STATE OF PALAWAU (HINDU, BALABAC)

Mukmin, Master of the Savu Pirates

DIPLOMACY None

Minded their own business.

THE DELEUR ACEPHALUS (OCEANIC PAGAN, NAN MATOL)

King Lezerux, Lord of the Palm Kadira

DIPLOMACY Mollucas (fa), Marianas (ea)

A census was successfully completed by the dashing Metharek, who then went on to attempt to map the northern passages. Unfortunately, the drifts of Kazan are notoriously dangerous, and he was forced to turn back after a few years with half his men lost at sea.

INDIA ~ LAND OF THE FERVENT

Mercenaries: 8i, 8c, 3s, 3w, 6t

THE PALA OF BENGAL (HINDU, BIHAR)

Humaputri Quicktongue, King of the Pala, Prince of Tamralipti

DIPLOMACY Nadavaria/Calcutta(f)

Massing an army, Humaputri stormed south into Nadavaria, where the imposing size of his army and his agile wit won him both a queen (princess Binama), the province and more troops for a vigorous campaign against Palas itself.

"I am *King* of the Pala," he declared, drawing his bow. "They will kneel before *me* and be my slaves!"

Sadly, despite his allusions to the Mahabharata, Humaputri's campaign of '42 against the rebellious Palans was a bloody failure – the true prince of Tamralipti proved a cunning and deadly adversary. Still, Humaputri was not



easily dissuaded, and after regrouping his army in '43, he invaded again in '44. This time, despite a brilliant defense by the Palans, his numbers crushed their frail dreams of independence.

PRATIHARA KINGDOM OF KAUNAJ

(HINDU, KAUNAJ)

Otarappan, Emperor of the North, Master of All, Hammer of Arjuna and Faithful of Krishna

DIPLOMACY Ajmer(No!)

While the Emperor was all-powerful and wise, he still could not prevent the kshatriya Rambir and Jigand from inciting the Ajmeri to riot – leading to their horrible deaths – or an outbreak of Song fever which laid waste the Imperial household, killing the Five Princesses as well as noble princes Sughand and Samana. Though rich (he lavished gifts upon the Western Dhara), Otarappan now felt rather lonely.



KALACHURI KINGDOM OF TRIPURI (HINDU, TRIPURI)

Jayala, King of Kings, Lord of Ramagiri

DIPLOMACY None

Jayala continued to be indolent, though some of his ministers saw to the needs of the people. Another of those annoying embassies from the Dharans was expected...

WESTERN DHARA KINGDOM (HINDU, VIJAYANAGAR)

Munja II, "The Wise," Lord of Dhara

DIPLOMACY Tripuri(Allied)

And indeed, an embassy of excessive size wound its way up from the plains to Tripuri, where young Munja II plied Jayala and his advisors with gifts, kind words and all matter of pleading. Eventually – impressed by the young man's ability – Jayala agreed to marry one of his daughters to Munja, who also struck an alliance with the indolent monarch. The prince's joyful homecoming was tainted, however, by the death of his elderly father, old king Munja, who had brought the Dhara through so much.

SAD DRIVIDA KINGDOM OF CEYLON (HINDU, POLONARVA)

Bhaljahu, Lord of the Tamil and the Nadu

DIPLOMACY Trichar in Chera(t)

Vorjabal, who had not been king for very long, besought himself a wife among the noble families of the court, but found only a case of the sniffles ... which soon took his life, as well as that of princess Vina. The king's brother, Bhaljahu became supreme potentate of the south. Calamity also overtook lord Dhalimar's fleet as a huge storm swamped many of their ships and killed the admiral.

THE ORDER OF THE DAGGER (HINDU, KAUNAJ)

Mahavaisa Skhenkar, Sanjal of Shiva

DIPLOMACY None

Minded their own business.

CENTRAL ASIA AND PERSIA

Mercenaries: 15i, 15c, 5s

THE GHAZNAVID SULTANATE (SUNNI ISLAM, KABUL)

Mahmud (II) al Dala, Lord of the Punjab, Master of the Highlands

DIPLOMACY Balkh(No!), Punjab(f), Firoz Kohi(nt), Registan(c), Sistan(c)

The Sultan was chased out of Balkh province by angry locals. A marriage was arranged between young princess Rudihana and the prince of Punjab. Lord Kemal ate too much curry on a dare at the wedding feast and suffered a burst stomach.



THE SAFFARIDS OF BALUCHISTAN (SUNNI ISLAM, SAFAHALI)

Salman, Shah of Baluchistan, Governor of Khorasania, Lord of the Hunt

DIPLOMACY None

The Khorasanians were plagued by the Pratihara spotted fever, which killed shah Rasul, his son Fawaz, general Abu Walid, old queen Widjan and princess Hania between '42 and '44. All this death left everyone depressed and prince Salman the new shah. Work continued on the road from Baluchistan to Siahn, and surveyors began laying out a further extension from Siahn into Bauluch. General Kazarani returned from the far west, where the might of Saffarid arms had laid waste to the Christians, and immediately left again – having learned he was now Sultan of the Buyids.

THE EASTERN TURKI (ASIATIC PAGAN, NO CAPITAL)

Arslan, Khan of the Turki

DIPLOMACY No Effect

The collapse of the Turki Khanate in the lands north of the Caspian was completed by the death of Dastan and the succession of the charismatic Arslan as *khan* of those Turki who had not fled west with Queen Mahea. Arslan and his brother Kilij then led the remains of their people east, finally reaching Tabolsk in the far northern steppe, in lands recently abandoned by the Great Khan.

THE KARAKHANATE OF ILLIG (SUNNI ISLAM, SAMARKHAND)

Jasmine, Bughra-Khan, Queen of the Ilig

DIPLOMACY Failed...

Jasmine, though growing old and feeble, ordered a new road be built from Iskandar to Heratt. Tribute was sent to the Hungarians. Her daughter Rana was made a princess of the realm. Missionaries were sent, with great success, among the Chagatai in Gurgan. Huge new armies were raised and literally hundreds of new forts bristled along the frontiers of the karakhanate. The Great Khan had passed thru her lands without a major war,



despite the foolishness of a single, stupid guard. The agreement with the Uighur seemed to be holding and the invasion of the Christian pigs had been turned.

The Queen also received a letter from Kahir-al-Din's courier noting his anger at the faithlessness of the Rawwadid. Jasmine however wished not to war on other Muslims, so she instructed the General to stand firm. The letter reached the Ilig army too late – Kahir had died of a fever. General Mostafa marched the men back to Bactria, where at least they could sleep in beds and see their families.

Princess Nia's efforts to convince her husband, Kemal of Khwarzim, to co-rule Ilig and Khwarzim continued, but things went very poorly. Kemal's father Mustapha was feeling constrained by his alliance with Jasmine (whose life would soon end...) and he had no intention of bowing to a slip of a girl like Nia. The princess hurried home to Samarkhand, disappointed and worried.

SHAHDOM OF KHWARZIM (SUNNI ISLAM, KHIVA)

Kemal al-Huandar, Khazarim-shah

DIPLOMACY None

At the urging of the Ilig, tribute was sent to the Hungarians. This – as did many things involving the easterners – did not sit well with Mustapha and he became even grouchier when his clerks told him the army could not be paid and the city sewers were decaying because of the tribute demanded by the Ilig. Disgusted, Mustapha parted ways with the Ilig army in Khurasan and returned home.

There he found his son Kemal in an equally sour mood. Princess Nia had been trying to get Kemal to sign papers making them co-rulers of both realms. This was too much for Mustapha, who fell ill and died in '45. His son, taking the throne, repudiated the tribute. "Not a riyal for her! Not one copper riyal!"

AR RAWWADID EMIRAT (SUNNI ISLAM, TABRIZ)

Mikai'l Alueddin, yabghu of the Rawadid, the Persistent

DIPLOMACY None

Though they expected hordes of nomads and Ilig warriors to traipse through their country, the Rawwadid were equally happy to see no visitors at all. Indeed, the farmers and shepherds gave a great sigh of relief. Mikai'l returned to Tabriz with his army and struggled to keep control over his provinces and failed – Arbiliq and Zagros became independent.

MIDDLE EAST

Mercenaries: 40i, 20c, 30xc, 15w, 15t

Leader-at-Large: Manosh Kazarani (K646), true Sultan of the Buwayids

THE 'ABASI KALIFATE (SUNNI ISLAM, BAGHDAD)

Omar, Judge of Judges, the True Kalif

DIPLOMACY Algiers in Algeria(ch), Syria(ab), Hamadan(ab)

Work began on a monumental, glorious mosque in Baghdad. Omar was quite disturbed to learn the Ilig and their Khwarzimian allies had abandoned the *jihad* against the

Christian dogs – worse, the Rawwadid had withdrawn to their fortress of Tabriz as well, fearing the departing Ilig planned an attack upon them. Luckily for the followers of the prophet, the western Muslim nations were spoiling for a fight...

Hijah loitered around Shirvan for several months in '42, but the Great Khan's men did not appear to receive his gifts, so he proceeded on to the east, where he found a cold welcome in Tabriz. Other nations also received many, many bags of clinking, metallic gifts.

THE BUWAYID SULTANATE (SUNNI ISLAM, BAGHDAD)

Zarife the Bold, Sultan of Baghdad

DIPLOMACY None

The Sultan Akbar ordered vast new armies raised to fight the infidels. Generals Ameen and Zarife were dispatched with 16,000 men to the west to join the Egyptians, Hamadids and Almohads in their war against the Rum turks.

At home, the middle-aged Sultan (having sired only daughters) arranged a marriage between the young and comely Yasmin to a Saffarid nobleman, one Manosh Kazarani. By these means, Akbar sought to gain himself an heir. Now, as it happened, Manosh and Yasmin were wed and then the young general was forced (by the unexpected deaths of prince Fawaz and many of his staff) to march the Saffarid army home.

While Manosh was gone, Akbar took sick from the same bilious cough which had laid the Saffarid nobles low. He died, leaving a twelve-year-old Yasmin in the custody of the palace ministers. Riders were dispatched to all quarters with the terrible news.

The word reached Manosh in distant Safahali. The general immediately raced back to Baghdad, fearing for the life of his bride and desirous of claiming his kingship. After some perils on the road, he arrived in Mesopotamia to find the treacherous cur Zarife in control of the city, the Queen and the realm. Manosh made a lucky escape from Baghdad, and snuck back into Saffarid lands, determined to raise an army to recover what was rightfully his!

Zarife, for his part, secured his rule by marrying Yasmin himself, imprisoning her mother Serena, executing those who displeased him and generally squatting in Baghdad like the bloody-handed despot he was.

THE ALMORAVID EMIRATE (WAS ALMOHAD KALIFA, SUNNI ISLAM, NO CAPITAL)

al-Muwahhidun, Emir of the Almoravids, Prince of Aleppo

DIPLOMACY None

Backed by the promised might of nearly every sultan, kalif and emir in the Islamic world, the Almohads settled a great many of their tribesmen in Aleppo, returning the province to a (3c5), and then – with a vast, sky-shaking shout of “Allau akbar!” stormed into Rumish Cilicia...

When the shattered remnants of the Almohad army crawled back into Aleppo, they finished settling the province and spread into Edessa and Carhae as well, though the new Buwayid sultan squalled like a stuck pig.

THE FIRST CRUSADE (“BASIL’S CRUSADE”)

AD 1135 ~ 1145

Almohads, Hatamids, Egypt, Cyprus, Great Khanate
vs.

Armenia, Rum Turkiye, Eastern Rome, Western Rome, Venetian Republic, Hyperborea, Norman Salerno, Roman Papacy, Kiev

THE HATAMID EMIRAT (SUNNI ISLAM, RUINED DAMASCUS)

Sadalla al-Din, Sultan of Damascus

DIPLOMACY None

The very elderly Sultan watched with relief as the vast swarm of the Almohads pelted off to the west, leaving him with his relatively small army encamped near the ruins of Antioch. Rukh was not pleased to see the fertile plains of Aleppo now tenanted by thousands of nomads, but there was little he could do about this, for now. Most of the citizens of the northern provinces had fled south to repopulate Syria.

He turned his attentions instead on retraining his army and consolidating his forces while he waited for the arrival of the Egyptians from the south and the Buwayids from the east. The Buwayids arrived first, under the command of lord Zarife, but then left again (even as the Egyptians were showing up) due to trouble (or so Zarife said) in Baghdad. This pleased Rukh quite a bit and he conveniently forgot to order the governor of Carhae to obey orders from Baghdad.

HAYRENİK’UN ARMENIAM (EASTERN ORTHODOX, HIERANCYRA)

Hayrenik Mecatun Hieriea, Queen of the First Men

DIPLOMACY None

The First Men stood ready to repel an invasion from the east, which did not come, and meddled in various affairs in the lowland provinces around them. Prince Vestarion came of age, which pleased his mother greatly.



RUM KHANATE OF TURKIYE (ROMAN CATHOLIC (ROME), BURSA)

Tyox, Khan of the Seljuq Turks

DIPLOMACY None

Expecting nothing less than the wrath of god to descend upon them, the Rumish armies fell back into Bithnia and dug in, expecting reinforcements to reach them promptly. At much the same time, an 'Abasi agent, Al'Qiyah, snuck into Lydia, hoping the Almoravids would have conquered the province giving him a free hand to preach to the local Greeks. As it happened, the nomads were still mucking about in Cilicia, and Qiyah was captured by the Rumish.

With Lydia swarming with Moslems, a wide-spread series of attacks were made on the various and diverse Rumish governors, tax-collectors and priests. Isauria was plagued by countervailing mullahs and Armenian priests, both attempting to sway the populace to their faith...



ORIENTAL ROMAN EMPIRE (ROMAN CATHOLIC, CONSTANTINOPLE)

Theodore "the scribe", Avtokrator of the Romans

DIPLOMACY None

Old Basil – still hale and hearty at the age of 83 – swore a series of might oaths and took up the tabard of Crusader in the Army of God. Leading a fair portion of the Roman army south, he marched swiftly through Bithnia (gathering up the Rumish in his wake and was in Isauria on the southern coast by the time the Almohad host had finished crushing the rather-well-fortified garrison of Cilicia into the ground. Many of the Rumish troops there escaped under the guidance of Nikolus Banadres and his engineers, who now gathered in Isauria with armed contingents from the Varangians, Western Romans, Eastern Romans, Venetians, Hyperboreans, Salernan mercenaries (Germans, Italians and Franks) and Armenians.

There was some trouble amongst the varied detachments, particularly between the Venetians and the Rus – who drank the wimpy Italians under the table and then complained when the Venetians stole their pants while the Rus were sleeping it off the next morning. Byzantine troops were required to stand watch between the camps of the Hyperboreans and the Salerno Normans as well.

While war raged in the south, Constantinople was shocked to learn the middle-aged Caesar Heracles had taken sick and died, leaving his nearly-witless brother Theodore as heir presumptive. Meantime, the Byzantine fleet had sortied to Taman, taken aboard a whole passel of Turks, Abasigians and others, then sailed back south into the Aegean.

In **Isauria (I)**, the Almohad host of 40,000 nomads (and some very doughty¹ fighters they were too... none of this Turkish trash) slammed into 41,000 Christians ready, steady and prepared among a network of Rumish forts. The Roman engineers had been busy, too. The assault was a thorough disaster for the Moslems. Old Basil directed an inspired defense and the Almohad host was viciously shredded by the Christians. After three months of almost non-stop fighting, the Moslem fanatics shattered, fleeing back into Cilicia in disarray. Vast pyres burned in Isauria for weeks as the Romans cremated the bodies.

Their leadership cut down in the field (essentially all of the Almohad captains had perished) the remaining nomads drifted back into Aleppo, where they settled among their families and clans. When the Hamadid sultan and prince Zahir of the Fatamids urged them to renew the war against the Romans, the Berbers cursed them and their entire families – “you hid behind us while we died on the Roman spears! You may fight them, but we are wise men – and we will not!”

This threw all of the Fatamid plans into disarray, yet they still had a powerful army between Zahir's forces and those of the Hamadids (though they cursed the Buwayids for scurvy, cowardly dogs – Zefire had chosen to seize a crown before fighting for Islam). The Romans and their Rumish and Armenian lackeys would be weakened by the

effort of repelling the Almohads... Zahir and Rukh-al-Din launched their campaign in '43, marching across Cilicia into Isauria, even as the Almohads had done.

At the very end of '45, old Basil – having won two great victories, and the hand of God having withdrawn the threat of the Great Khanate – finally died at the age of eighty-five. Sadly for the Romans, only his weak, bookish son Theodore remained to become Avtokrator in his stead.

THE SWORD OF ALLAH (SUNNI ISLAM, ALEXANDRIA)

Jamis, Master of Cyprus, Sword of Allah

DIPLOMACY Alexandria in Egypt(op), Memphis in Faiyum(oh), Al'Qadi in Danakil(op), Sana in Aden(oh), Adal in Zeila(oh)

Though the Order was *presumably* based on Cyprus, in truth the city of Carsk and the island were only nominally under their control. So, when a Byzantine fleet hove too off the northern coast, there was no one to prevent the Christians from storming ashore and capturing the entire island as well as the town.

Back in Egypt, master Jamis had left his force of mujhadeen at the sprawling fortress/estate complex maintained by the Order at the old port of Canopis (east of Alexandria, near the mouth of the Nile) and set off for the south. Soon after his departure, however, the Christian slaves penned on the estate rose up in wild revolt. Under the command of an ex-baker/ex-mercenary named Tannehauser. The mujhadeen – taken unawares and leaderless – fought fiercely, but were driven out of the complex. Then, as if planned², Michael Comnenus' Byzantine fleet pounced, intending to pillage the Egyptian coast – instead they found Tannehauser's rebels looting the Order complex and piling aboard a whole raft of merchantmen Jamis had left behind.

The Fatamid sultan Badr rushed his army to intercept the invasion, but Tannehauser's rebels had destroyed the bridges across the canals leading to Canopis³. The Byzantines, the freed slaves and the captured Order fleet all escaped to safety, making rude gestures at the angry Egyptians on the shore. A vast column of smoke climbed into the heavens, marking the ruin of Jamis' estates.

Ladrow barely escaped death at the hands of an angry Coptic mob in Kurman, fleeing to sea in a leaky boat.

THE EMPIRE OF EGYPT (SUNNI ISLAM, ALEXANDRIA)

Badr II, Sultan of Egypt, Kalif of the West

DIPLOMACY Mount Sinai in Sinai(no!)

The Egyptians flexed their manly muscles, sending Prince Zahid off to reinforce lord Muhamad and the armies in Aleppo. Badr himself stayed home and wound up chasing rebellious slaves and Greeks around, to little effect. Princess Nafarra found herself demoted by the crowning of little prince Badr II as 'heir' to the Sultanate.



¹ That is, they were all religious fanatics and every man jack Elite as well. Nasty, very nasty...

² ...but it wasn't. Just blind luck.

³ As in, Badr blew his reaction roll, while Comnenus and Tannehauser won their 'getting away' rolls.

Zahid reached the camps of the Hamadids in Aleppo to find the Egyptian army mourning the unexpected death of Muhhamad. After some bickering with general Assam, the prince took control of the army. By this time the Almohads had fallen back from the Rumish border in tatters and Zahid and Rukh of the Hamadids decided to finish the job themselves...

Nearly an even 40,000 Egyptians and Hamadids plowed into the Rumish defenses of **Isauria (II)** and this army came prepared (and more!) for siege work and the brutal, messy business of reducing fortified settlements and castles. Unfortunately for Zahid and Rukh, old Basil still had every canny wit and stratagem at his command. The Egyptians and Hamadid assault shattered on the Roman rock, and they too fled back to Aleppo, wailing and weeping, leaving so many of their dead comrades behind. General Assam was sorely wounded, as was prince Sadalla of the Hamadids. Old emir Rukh was killed.

Almoravid border guards (the Almohad's having all perished on the field of battle) shook their heads in sympathy as the beaten, mangled Egyptian and Hamadid armies streamed past to safety. "We told you..."

With the Hamadid emir Rukh dead, his son took his body (and the remains of their army) south to Jerusalem to bury the old man and lick their wounds. Prince Zahir quarreled with the Almoravids again, then betook himself away as well, at least into friendly Lebanon.

EASTERN EUROPE

Mercenaries: 15i, 9c, 10xc, 5w, 5t

THE WESTERN TURKI (ASIATIC PAGAN, NO CAPITAL)

Mahea, Queen of the Turki and the Polovotsy, Lord of the Steppe
DIPLOMACY None

The Turki armies smashed by the Moslems and their people scattered, queen Mahea fled west with the ragged remains of her people – truly only a shadow of what they had once been – reaching Polovosty by the end of '45. And the sky behind them was black as night with dust...

THE GREAT KHANATE (ASIATIC-PAGAN, NO CAPITAL)

Tesuido Khan, Lord of the Tzin-Kiang, the Suzhou, the Memar
DIPLOMACY Suzhou clansmen(f)

The Great Khan's horde of Tsaidamese, Tzin-Kiang and Suzhou riders swept out of Kul'sary on the eastern shore of the Caspian, frightened the Saksiny and the Khazars, rampaged past the scattered and demoralized Turki, then crossed the snowy Caucasus into Abasigia, all full of piss and vinegar and looking to smack some Christians...

Within a week or so, the nomads were taught a little of the treachery endemic among the dirt-grubbing farmers – the Cha Khan was struck down by men in felted hats and embroidered vests who took him unawares while he was watering his horses.

The clan lords gathered and elected Tesuido as the new khan, then continued south and west, heading for an expected rendezvous in Psidia. They reached Hierancyra

without undue incident (the Greeks fled before their vast numbers) and Tesuido was outraged to find the expected emissaries *were not there*^d. So the Tzinkiang laid waste to the province, enslaved everyone they could catch and swarmed off to the north again.

In time, they reached Polovotsy near the Crimea, only a week behind the fleeing Turki, who were now shaking in their felt boots like little girls...

THE YASI (ASIATIC PAGAN, NO CAPITAL)

Tzoemir Khan, Destroyer of the Khazars, Stormblade
DIPLOMACY Bulgari Bogdan(a)

The Yasi – as all the nomads seemed to be doing – swept west, ignoring the Neogoths, and into the lands of the Bulgari. There, old Tzoemir struck an alliance with the local chiefs, wedding his son Usafzir to one of their princesses. Raids were launched into the forests of Goryn and Galich, gaining many slaves and gold. Despite the approach of the Great Khan, the Yasi lingered in Pechneg at the end of '45.



WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE (ROMAN

CATHOLIC(PARIS), OCHRIDIA)

Euthemius Porphyrogenitua, Rex Bulgaris, Duke of Illyricum, Emperor of the Romans

DIPLOMACY None

A dark pall had spread over the society of the Western Roman Empire over the last two decades. The land was prey to thieves and bandits, the government officials lived in fear, mutiny spread among the high officials of the land. The days of glory seemed far away. In this time, the prince-regent Euthemius tried to steer the land as best he can. He continued his aunt's policy of keeping relations with the Normans on an even keel and this had borne fruit. The Norman emissaries claimed to be able to prevent an attack by the Yasi upon both the Western and Eastern Roman Empire. Their condition was support for the Paris papacy...

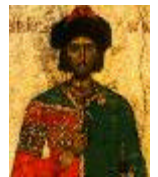
The mad Emperor Christophoros was taken away to a monastery on Mount Athos, where he spent his days praying and shrieking by turns, plaguing the gods with constant, impious questions. His son Euthemius, accompanied by the Master of the Offices, betook himself and the Western army to fight beside their Christian brothers in Rumish lands.

VARANGIAN RUS KIEV (EASTERN ORTHODOX, KIEV)

Thorfinn the Old, Prince of Kiev, Lord of the Rus and the Varig

DIPLOMACY Muscovy(t)

Russ troops continued to fight in the south against the Moslems, proving themselves brave warriors and feared on every field of battle for their great axes and unstinting bravery. Old Thorfin's household in Kiev was nearly obliterated by a round of tuberculosis which



^d The 'Abasi agents were waiting patiently in Shirvan. Oh well.

took the lives of the princesses Olga, Anya, Lana, Dima and Svetlana.

Though he was still hale, old Thorfin stayed home while his sons and grandsons saw to strengthening the frontier defenses of the realm against rascally nomads. Which seemed to have worked, as no one attacked.

THE ESTS (EURO-PAGAN, REVAL)

Valthan Christoslayer, King of the Estonians and Sons of Rurik

DIPLOMACY None

The young prince Cimir, always thinking of his dear father determined a statue (as they call it) should be built of his father in Reval - should he die (which might be soon, given the old man's immense age). Of course the statue would be made of massive stone but he wanted an innovation he had heard about wherein the stone itself was a likeness... how magical! But what figure should his father take? A sword, of course, and riding on his horse. And his gesture? Perhaps he should point West to Riga - the future.

Rather unwisely, the prince then spent public monies on this private project, which earned him the considerable wrath of the Christoslayer when the embezzlement was discovered.

Meanwhile Valthan and Magda had been seeking a suitable wife for their son. "She must be beautiful and with much personality" said Valthan forcefully. "Of proper rank and education," his wife suggested more practically...

Princess Freya of course has already had 'the conversation'. Soon after the wedding to lord Piotr, mother and daughter went for a walk. They talked for hours, about this and that, until Magda could bear it no longer...

"You should have *baby!*" she blurted out in broken Estonian (no... nobody ever worked out why a woman born of Estonia would forget her tongue when agitated). Her daughter rolled her eyes and with some asperity shot back "*a* baby... you should have a baby! Why can't you speak Estonian like everybody else! Sometimes I think you're a complete peasant! ... besides..."

Sadly, a Russ merchant traveling up the river brought a queer, hacking cough into the royal compound and by the end of '43; Magda, Freya and noble old Arunas Kupasson were all dead. Master Piotr, though now wifeless, agreed to help prince Cimir keep his books. This caused some dispute with Cimir's new wife, Olga of Libau, but seemed to pass.

Work began on clearing a regular post route between Reval in Estonia and Riga in Latvia, though it would be years yet before the track was complete.

DUCHY OF LITHUANIA (ROMAN CATHOLIC, VILNA)

Duke Wladimir the First

DIPLOMACY Courland(nt), Bialoweza(nt), Polotsk(ea), Volhynia(t)

Despite an outbreak of the Roman flu, the Lithuanians set about repairing the ruin wreaked upon their lands by the Hyperboreans. The province of Lithuania was cultivated, trade was established with all their neighbors and prince Peter got himself a wife among the Polotsk clans.



DUCHY OF POLAND (ROMAN CATHOLIC, WARSAW)

Ziemowit Curlyhead, Duke of Warsaw, King of the Poles

DIPLOMACY Danzig(f)

Some of the Poles did not leave their ancestor's lands with the feckless Hyperboreans. Threatened by the resurgence of the Lithuanians to the east, they organised again by the ruler from the local dynasty - brave Ziemowit Curlybearded. People gathered again in the church of Warsaw. An army was formed to protect the people from the pagan tribes in the North-East and against the cruel Lithuanians. Kauyavia was settled by many Poles.

The best negotiator of all Ziemowit's men, Lord Krut, undertook a journey to northern country of Danzig. He spent long time at the ruler's court convincing him to join Poland against the pagan Baltic tribes and the Lithuanian threat. Danzig tribes' origin is Western Slavonic, same as Poles, but much different from Baltic Prussians, Latvians and Lithuanians. By good luck, Krut arranged a marriage between Maslaw and Eudoksja of Danzig, which resulted in the coastal tribes swearing fealty to Ziemowit.



SCANDIA AND THE OUT ISLES

Mercenaries: 11i, 5s, 6w

KINGDOM OF SVEAR (ROMAN CATHOLIC (ROME), UPPSALA)

Erik Lughassen, Christian King of Scandia

DIPLOMACY Norway(Free State), Halland(f)

Skonet in Skane expanded. Missionary work in Norway continued and Erik's long-standing diplomatic efforts among the western pagans bore fruit at last. Princess Erika was married to Bjarne the Red's grandson Olaf (otherwise known as the Witless).

THE NORWEGIANS (EURO-PAGAN, HORDAVIL)

Bjarne Hejarsson, "The Red", King of the Norwegians

DIPLOMACY None

Bowing to the inevitable, Bjarne became a client of the Svearish king - in the main due to his mistrust of so Olaf's ability to rule the fractious and unruly Norse. The province of Norway became Catholic.

JARLDOM OF ORKNEYJAR (ROMAN CATHOLIC, KIRKVAL)

Bjorn Torvalds, vikingrik na orkneyjar

DIPLOMACY Brest in Brittany(a)

A mild outbreak of the Russ flu took the lives of princes Lief and Haragar. The Orkneyjar fleet returned from the southern seas to frigid Kirkval (and just in time, too...)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF ICELAND (ROMAN CATHOLIC, THINGVELLIR)

Lauren Silverhair, Jarl of the New Islands

DIPLOMACY None

The Icelanders, hearing the call for aid from their eastern kinsmen, raised a fleet of many longships, crowded

with fierce warriors and dispatched them to Kirkval to fight the perfidious Germans.

Old king Olaf, hearing of the destruction of Thorsavn, composed a lament in honor of the dead. As chance would have it, the ode proved his own death-song, for he died in '43 at the age of sixty-six.

Iceland, fortunate isle! Our beautiful, bountiful mother!
Where are your fortune and fame, freedom and virtue of old?
All things on earth are transient: the days of your greatness and glory
flicker like flames in the night, far in the depths of the past.
Comely and fair was the country, crested with snow-covered glaciers,
azure and empty the sky, ocean resplendently bright.
Here came our famous forebears, the freedom-worshipping heroes,
over the sea from the east, eager to settle the land.
Raising their families on farms in the flowering laps of the valleys,
hearty and happy they lived, hugely content with their lot.
Up on the outcrops of lava where Axe River plummets forever
into the Almanna Gorge, Althing convenes every year.
There lies old Þorgeir, thoughtfully charting our change of religion.
There strode Gissur and Geir, Gunnar and Héðinn and Njáll.
Heroes rode through the regions, and under the crags on the coastline
floated their fabulous ships, ferrying wealth from abroad.
O it is bitter to stand here stalled and penned in the present!

TUATH KINGDOM OF THOMOND (ROMAN CATHOLIC, CLONFERT)

Sean ard-Brien, High King of Eire

DIPLOMACY None

Minded their own business.

SAXON KINGDOM OF ENGLAND (ROMAN CATHOLIC, LONDON)

Robert Godwin, King of the Britons

DIPLOMACY None

King Robert had just about gotten to thinking things had calmed down... peace had a chance in Europe, the Vikings were becoming respectable citizens... then Bishop Heethman was ambushed by a Celtic Church mob in Lancashire and beaten to death (apparently in protest of massive land-clearing and farming operations underway there). While digesting this news, another messenger came from Caer Myrrdin in Dyffed to report the locals had been swept up in some kind of grass-roots religious revival based on the old tenets of the Church of Iona.

There was an immediate argument in London between the representatives of the Paris and Rome factions about what to do, which resulting in nothing being done.

WESTERN EUROPE

Mercenaries: 5i, 5c, 5s

The PEACE OF GOD: AD 1115 ~ 1145

Synods in Rome, Paris and Cherbourg. No conclusion.

DAS DEUTCHES KONIGSREICH (ROMAN CATHOLIC (ROME),

HANOVER)

Joseph the Good, King of the Germans, Emperor of the West

DIPLOMACY None

The aged Emperor Fredrick tottered off the mortal coil, finally sparing his countrymen the effects of a rotten temper, a spoilt disposition and a rheumy, cynical eye. One of his last acts was to send a whole herd of Papal nuncios, clerks and

accountants packing – he no longer wished to feed, house, clothe and pay them. Despite this, Germany remained a staunch supporter of the Roman faction.

Some kind of Polish rheumatism also cleaned out the Imperial apartments of the prince Augustus, Jakob and Matthias as well as doddering old grand-duchess Clarissa. The new Emperor, who was *not* a young man, was happy to see them go. “Slothful wretches, the lot!”

DUCHY OF BOHEMIA (ROMAN CATHOLIC (ROME), PRAHA)

Sviatel, Duke of Bohemia, Prince of Prague

DIPLOMACY None

The Duke took a wife, Anne of Ulm, who then performed her wifely duties as the Lord decreed and bore him a son. The Bohemians also began clearing the forests of Austria and offered aid and assistance (but no troops) to those Crusaders who might be heading east to fight the Turks.



ANACLETAN PAPACY (ROMAN CATHOLIC (PARIS), PARIS)

Anacletus III “Shorthand”, Shepherd of the North

DIPLOMACY Normandy(ca),
Cherbourg(ab)

Bishop Le Roy, after learning of the true death of his predecessor, proclaimed himself ‘Anacletus II’ and pontiff of the Parisian faction. He then set off for Cherbourg, where he managed to finagle the local priests into supporting him, then took sick after a dinner of morels and ham – dying in '44. His successor, in turn, was a bearded clergyman from Le Mans known as ‘short-hand’ due to a crippled finger.

Upon attaining the silken cap of the pontiff, the new man was heard to declaim ‘death to Rome’ in a gruff voice and then go about his business with a frown. Considerable sums in gold bars were turned over to the Normans.



THE KINGDOM OF FRANCE (ROMAN CATHOLIC (PARIS), CHERBOURG)

Henry The Young, Duke of Normandy, King of the Western Franks

DIPLOMACY Hainaut(fa), Brest in Brittany(c)

Desirous of aiding his southern cousins, Henry sent several shiploads of gold (in coin, bar and dust) to Hugert of Castellon. There was much work for the Normans in the south, and Mars ate gold... the Milice du Christ, who had been whining about a lack of wheat, were given several hundred wagonloads of produce to *shut them up*.

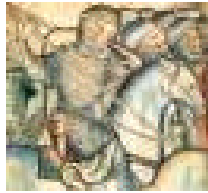
And despite the presumed peace, the Normans just could not keep from meddling in Burgundian lands...



LE ROYAUME DE BOURGOGNE (ROMAN CATHOLIC (ROME), BURGONE)

Philip the Blind, Duke of Burgundy
DIPLOMACY Languedoc(fa),
Champagne(ea)

An attempt by Norman agents to kidnap Philip's son failed by only the barest margin, leading the Duke to issue a fresh call to war! "By the Blood of Christ, let those Norman dogs all hang for this!"



LA MILICE DU CHRIST (ROMAN CATHOLIC (PARIS), PARIS)

Guillame de Guiscard, Count of Gascony and Orleans, Master Brother of the Militia of the Temple

DIPLOMACY Maine/Le Mans(oh), Brittany(oh),
Nivernais(oh)

A huge pile of rotten vegetables, grain and fruit were dumped in the courtyard of the Templar offices in Paris. "A gift from the king," announced a bored knight, before leaving with his long nose in the air.

THE KINGDOM OF HYPERBOREA (ROMAN CATHOLIC (PARIS), CAVALLERI)

Silverweasle, King of the Lithuanians, Poles and Savoyards; Defensor Christianum

DIPLOMACY None

Though all Italy feared the might of Hyperborea, even the savage Litts needed to eat and to be paid, so Silverweasle, after groveling before the court of the Doge of Venice (and having his sister and aunt foisted off on him again), was able to pay his men in freshly minted gold coin (of a goodly weight, too)⁵. A huge host of the Litts also marched over the mountains into Liguria and kicked out the Venetian garrison there – the Republicans went peaceably, unable to withstand such a large army, and were allowed to take many of the local Italians with them.



LA SERRINISSIMA (ROMAN CATHOLIC (ROME), VENICE)

Marcus of Vinicenza, Doge of Venice, Sea-King
DIPLOMACY None

Refugees from the west, driven out by the barbarous Litts, swelled the cities of Venice and Vinicenza. The duke of Carinthia died, but his brother renewed the alliance with Venice. Marcus also sent lady Lydia and her daughter Christina back to live with her father in Hyperborea.



Though some Republicans had taken up arms against the Moslems in the east, they also maintained good relations with the Umayyads in the west, even allow their ships to land at Venice itself. As a result, a great deal of Moslem gold was melted down in the mint of the city.

⁵ Actually, Dong threatened to destroy all the Roman faction churches within his lands if not paid off, so the Doge managed to scrape up enough cash to satisfy the barbarians.

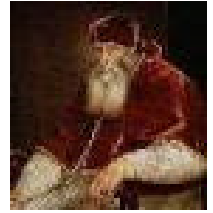
THE PAPAL STATES (ROMAN CATHOLIC (ROME), ROME)

Victor II, bishop of Rome, vicar of Jesus Christ, successor of the prince of the apostles, supreme pontiff of the universal Church, primate of Italy, archbishop and metropolitan of the Roman province, sovereign of the Papal States, servant of the servants of God

DIPLOMACY Venice(ch), Romagna(mn), Lombardy(mn)

The Roman Papacy, freed of the necessity to fight on the field of war, retrenched and tried to secure its traditional position in Italy. The constant threat of the Hyperboreans – filthy Paris faction fogs that they were – loomed over Rome at all times. Leo IX returned to Italy and spent long enough in the fogs and mist of Romagna to catch a cold. He died in '44 and was succeeded by a German bishop, Gebhard (previously the Count of Hirschberg), who took the praenomen *Victor II*.

A Sword of Allah fleet raided Latium itself, burning many ships on the shore and wreaking havoc among the fishermen. Luckily for the Holy City, Cardinal Formosus was nearby with a strong army, and he drove off the attackers. Shipping in the Tyrhennian Sea did not fare so well and many Christian maidens were carried off into captivity among the Moors.



NORMAN PRINCIPALITY OF SALERNO Y

LÉON (ROMAN CATHOLIC (ROME), NAPLES)

Marco Silvio de Stantito, Prince of Sicily, Duke of Naples, Lord of Bolonga, King of the Italians

DIPLOMACY Palermo on Sicily(nt)

Duke Marco remained in Tuscany, attempting to secure the allegiance of the local dukes and barons by marrying into the Gatti family. This had some small effect. His agents were busy hiring a huge number of mercenaries out of Germany, France and Italy – all of whom were shipped off to Asia to fight alongside the Crusaders against the Turks and Arabs. Lords Giotto and Campini had barely returned with the fleet from this foray when both took ill in Naples (bad clams, I'd wager) and died. A number of nefarious plans were thereby sent awry.

Worse, this allowed the Umayyad pirates out of Santa Maria (or "Black Maria", as the Italians were now wont to call the captured port), to sack Calania and loot Apulia province with impunity.



THE CATHOLIC KINGDOM OF SPAIN (ROMAN CATHOLIC (PARIS), CASTELLON)

Hugert, Baron of Castellon and Valencia

DIPLOMACY Aquitaine(fa)

Faced with imminent attack by the angry Moors, Hugert abandoned his paltry defense of Leon and Galacia, having lord Carlos withdraw the garrisons there. Just in time, too... The Baron was delighted to receive quite a sum of cash from the Normans; which he desperately needed, both to pay his own troops, repair the damage done by war to his state and to keep the Umayyads



at bay. Navarre, with a great deal of help from the French, was settled to (2w6).

THE AKRAMID SULTANATE (SUNNI ISLAM, SEVILLE)

Mohamar, Sultan of Granada

DIPLOMACY None

Greatly angered by the depredations of the Christians in Aragon, the Sultan ordered his great-uncles Mohammad and Abdul to take a powerful army into the north and lay waste to the infidel province of Leon and Galacia. Unfortunately for his vengeful efforts, both Mohammed and Abdul took sick and perished on the road north. Their command was taken over by their (um, rather feckless) subordinates "Ali and Wakil", who proceeded to wander aimlessly around the northern country, trying to catch the tricky Christians, who eluded them at every turn. The army was shamefaced and filled with horror at the thought of returning to face Mohamar's rightful anger over this embarrassment.



Worse, on the road back to Seville, the two Generals fell in with a traveling showgirl who convinced them they could be **sultan!** If only they convinced the army to overthrow angry old Mohamar. Sadly for their budding musical careers, Mohamar had entered their camp in disguise, tipped off by his soldiers and the two idiots were arrested. The girl escaped⁶. They wound up in The Hole.

UMMAYYAD SULTANATE AL ORAN (SUNNI ISLAM, ORAN)

Muawiya, Sultan of the West, Emir of Oran and Mahidia

DIPLOMACY Cheliff(a), Kabilya(a), Fez in Morroco(nt)

Under the guidance of prince Valenzia, the captured Catholic city of Santa Maria became a thriving den of villany – crowded with Umayyad troops, mullahs, foundries and armories of all kinds. Indeed, from his new fortress, Valenzia launched a punishing raid along the Italian coast, destroying the Norman city of Calania and wreaking untold havoc in Apulia and points south.

Tribute came from the Normans of Valencia, as those weak, puny men hoped to keep the fleets and armies of Oran from destroying their tiny kingdom. Also, Muawiya allowed – after proper tribute was paid – the Christian post riders to pass through Catalonia.

THE RED SEA AND ENVIRONS

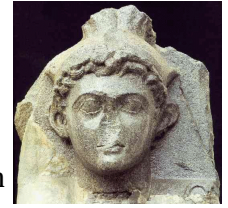
Mercenaries: 10i, 5c, 5s, 5w, 5t

MAKURIA KINGDOM OF DONGOLA

(COPTIC, OMDURMAN)

John, Negusa-Negast of the Makuria

DIPLOMACY Kurman in Adulis(a),
Atbara(a), Gezira(a)



King John was very busy in the south – the royal highway from Axum to Funj was completed, and the section leading towards Soba almost so. Lord Lazarus raided the southern jungles of Ilubabor for more workers, dragging the hapless natives north to break rocks on the dusty plains of Sennar.

THE YEMENI RASSID IMAMAT (SUNNI ISLAM, MECCA)

Ibrahim ur'Adal, Emir of Yemen, Guardian of the Holy Places

DIPLOMACY Sheba(t)

Old Yarik finally drank his last cup of tea and died in his sleep. His very young son (young enough to be his grandson in fact) attained the royal tent, though his mother Hannah did most, if not all, of the talking.

AR RASSID IMAMAT AS SA'NA (SUNNI ISLAM, SANA)

Abu Jahal, "the Jackal", Imam of the Beni Makhzum

DIPLOMACY Zeila(f)/Adal(a)

The opening of Sa'na as an entrepot for trade in the Red Sea and Gulf of Oman resulted in a veritable explosion of merchant activity in the dry, coastal city. Despite all the excitement, old Abu Jahal continued to putter about, still hale and hearty despite seventy-three summers. His wife Amina beni Zhur, however, did not live out '45, finally falling ill and dying. With this, the old Jackal knew his time was pressing at last... A new city was built on the coast of Hadramuht, Jakhaila.

THE CHWEZI DYNASTY (AFRICAN-PAGAN, GAMO-GOFA)

Ndahura, Lord of Bigo Bya Mugenyi, King Ba-Chwezi

DIPLOMACY Sidamo(ea)

Veritably bursting with martial vigor, Ndahura ordered many new cattle-pens built in the metropolis of Gamo-Gofa and led his army off north to war – the tramp of so many sandaled feet drowned out the wailing and chanting of the priests. The king and his warriors invaded Kobowen and crushed the local tribesmen in a brutal melee. Then, just to show he was a big man not to be trifled with, the king enslaved every villager he could find.

His own people arrived from the south and settled in the newly empty villages, while the Kobowenites were their slaves and field-hands. There was much lamentation. Ndahura followed up this cruel display by raiding Ilubabor for slaves, but found the Dongolans had already devastated the region.

⁶ There can be no other *reasonable* explanation for the horrendous series of rolls "Ali and Wakil" got in their campaign against the Christian dogs.

WEST AFRICA

Mercenaries: 8i, 3hi, 7c, 5s, 3w, 3t

THE SONINKE KINGDOM OF KOUMBI (SUNNI, KUMBI-SALEH)

Yuloui, gh?na of Koumbi, Queen of the Mandé

DIPLOMACY None

The Queen – who was getting a little wiggly due to the torments heaped upon her by the Songhay – retreated into the mountains of Boure with those few men left to her. There, with her stunned family around her, she swore to fight until the end...

THE DIA KINGDOM OF SONGHAY (AFRICAN-PAGAN, TIMBUCTU)

Baru, dia Songhay, "The Damned"

DIPLOMACY Gorouol city(ea)

Plagued by rumors of dissention and unrest, Baru hurried back to Timbuctu, where he married, was blessed with a son, and tried to forestall the incipient revolt of the Goruolese. General Zabou took command of the garrison in Segu and – reinforced by fresh troops – assumed custody of Ghana and Kumbi-Saleh (where, as a youth, he had hoped to study at the great university). The Ibo army there relinquished control of the province to Zabou and his men.



THE USAMA-YORUBA EMPIRE (AFRICAN-PAGAN, IBO)

M'Bwanza, Chief of the Bini, Prince of Usama, High King of the Yoruba

DIPLOMACY Zaria in Hausa(f)

Determined to crush the Moslem threat of the Soninke kings once and for all, M'bwanza marched a vast host of 28,000 men up out of Koumbi-Saleh and into Boure. There, he found mad Yuloui and her last troops holed up in Boure-town. Sadly for them, they were terribly outnumbered. A six week siege reduced the towers and then the city fell... Yuloui and her family were slaughtered. With the Soninke destroyed, M'bwanza abandoned Boure and marched east, heading home.

The king's triumphant return to Ibo was spoiled by flags of mourning – his son Cestwana had died after a sickly youth, as had lord Ameche, the ancient lady Estubu and two of the royal brothers. Damn Fatamid merchants and their sniffles!

THE BAKONGO KINGDOM OF KANEM AND BORNU

(AFRICAN-PAGAN, NGAZARGUMU)

Nombato, King of the Kongó, Lord of Great Kongo

DIPLOMACY None

Though he was feeling positively decrepit, Nombato continued a rather leisurely siege of Ngazargumu. His tribesmen, tired of endless marching and migration, settled in Kanem Bornu and Kafin. Eventually, seeing the Bakongo were *not* going to leave, the city fathers of Ngazargumu surrendered to the king's mercy.

Fatamid flu killed lord Seke and Nombato's Kanem wife. His elder wife, lady Neila-Tsu of Giri, did bear him a son, though.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mercenaries: 8i

THE LUBA EMPIRE OF MALAWI (AFRICAN-PAGAN, LUBA)

Langalibalele, King of Luba, Lord of the Bone Chair

DIPLOMACY None

With the port of Lului finally open for trade, the Malawai built many canoes (and even some ocean-going dhows modeled after those used by the itinerant Arab traders plying the jungle coast) to open commerce with the Malays and the Mwene-Mutapa in the south. Old Little Man died, leaving a vast harem of wives and daughters, as well as one over-worked son.

THE MWENE-MUTAPA EMPIRE (AFRICAN-PAGAN, MWENE-MUTAPA)

Chakran, Lord of Great Mutapa

DIPLOMACY Kafue(No!), Tswana(t)

The minions of the Great Lord were quite busy, clearing fields, felling forests, getting into altercations with neighboring tribes. All in a days work...



THE NAMAQUA KHOIKHOI (AFRICAN-PAGAN, NAMAQUA)

Xamseb, Chief of the KhoiSan, Protector

DIPLOMACY Xhosa(t), Nguni(t), Cape(f)

Though Xamseb stayed home, his sons were very busy – Tchilxo led a force of over three thousand warriors to crush the Khosia, and his uncle Mahongo convinced nearly the entire southern coast to bow down before the Protector.



THE RAJA KINGDOM OF MALAY-BETIS (HINDU, IMERINA)

Amanitore, High Judge, Raja-Lord of Imerina

DIPLOMACY Sakalava(nt), Hova Merina(a)

Raja Amanitore and his royal spouse Queen Andrapoina spent all their entire free time together. Amanitore finished the construction of the new palace he erected especially to make Andrapoina comfortable. The palace was called Andafiavaratra and stands in beautiful, shadowy gardens outside Imerina. Surely the most beautiful residence in South Africa. Andafiavaratra was home to a royal love blessed by the birth of a strong son.

When not with his beautiful wife the Raja took the role of the High Judge, listening to his people gathered in the old palace beside the port. The people had felt a bit neglected while their king traveled to the strange city of Sofala, but now they were full of devotion to their wise and fair ruler.

Prince Antsiroa visited his friend, the ruler of Sakalava. As the result of his first visit both Sakalava and the Betis had become friendly. The Betis adapted some Sakalavan beliefs to their variety of Hinduism. The greatest change was the decision the *zebu* was no longer a holy animal and the

pantheon of holy animals included only those which lived wild, in the jungles and forests.

Antsiroa spent a great time at the chief's headquarters telling stories of Imerina's palaces and gardens, beautiful Queen Andrapoina, Betis festivals and colourful temples. A coterie of Betis apsaras accompanying the prince stayed in Sakalava's main village not only to make the chief's nights more pleasant but also to influence his court. Some of the apsaras turned out to be already married to Sakalavan lords who had converted to Hinduism. The result was many children of the mixed race. Sadly, prince Antsiroa was killed while hunting with a group of young Sakan lords – gored to death by a wild boar.

NORTH AMERICA

Some angry badgers and a pissed-off hawk...

VALLEY OF THE YOKUTS (NORTH AMERICAN PAGAN, EAGLE'S NEST)

Shining Scales, Valley-Lord, Son of Bear-Killer

DIPLOMACY Serrano(f)

A new city, Samon, was built in Serrano.

THE HOHOKAM (NORTH AMERICAN PAGAN, NACO)

Tawa, Speaker to Thunder-beasts

DIPLOMACY None

Hunted, fished, planted some squash plants.

THE SIOUX PEOPLE (NORTH AMERICAN PAGAN, BUFALO)

Nawanda, "The First"

DIPLOMACY None

A new city, Bufalo, was built in Teton near the placer deposits.

THE DAKOTA TRIBES (NORTH AMERICAN PAGAN, MANKATO)

Crazy Dog

DIPLOMACY None

The Dakota weathered the winters, safe within their huts and long-houses by the Great Snake...

THE HAUDENOSAUNEE (NORTH AMERICAN PAGAN, NONE)

Chondote, Proud Chief, Stone-Stick, Lord of the Ongwehonweh

DIPLOMACY None

The chief took some warriors up into Poctumtuc, where they were greeted properly and allowed through. The Pennacook, however, shot arrows and them and the Haudeno ran away. "Very fierce," declared Chondote.

THE HURON CANADIANS (NORTH AMERICAN PAGAN, OH CANADA!)

White Wolf, Chief of the Guyandot

DIPLOMACY Ottawa(t)

The chief sent his uncle River Wind and Soaring Eagle off to the ...end of the earth! To find him a bride. Not desiring to tramp across countless, endless leagues of pine forest to the lands of the distant, legendary Cree, they visited their neighbors in Ottawa, found a likely lass, brought her home and said she was "Queen of the Cree."

THE MOUNDBUILDERS (NORTH AMERICAN PAGAN, CAHOKIA)

Crow, Lord of Illini, Master of Michigamea, Spear-master

DIPLOMACY Miami(ea)

Crow started to feel a little peaked, but managed to cling to life. The chief of Erie, however, did not. His son was healthier.



THE ATAKAPA COUNCILS (NORTH AMERICAN PAGAN, AYOEL)

Heap of Birds, Reed-Lord

DIPLOMACY No Effect

The Heap led a whole gang of his warriors (as well as some Chitimachans) off to the east, where they tried to sneak up on the Echotans in their camps at Kolomoki. Unfortunately, they were ambushed while passing through the lands of the Chatot and had to fight their way out to the west. A narrow escape for the Heap.



THE ECHOTA CONFEDERATION (NORTH AMERICAN PAGAN, ECHOTA)

Nottley, Wind-Holder

DIPLOMACY None

Though they escaped a fearsome attack by happenstance, the Echotan's efforts to explore the lands to the north-east led to the deaths of prince Ya-hiya and the scout Tsali.

CENTRAL AMERICA

TZINTZUNTZAN (MESO-AMERICAN, TZINTZUNTZAN)

Tz'yu, Huey Quetzl

DIPLOMACY None

Minded their own business.

ZAPOTEC KINGDOM OF MITLA (MESO-AMERICAN, MITLA)

Tzintzunotzlin, Son of Sky-Wheel-Speaker

DIPLOMACY None

Minded their own business (and that of the gods).

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE (MÉXICA) (MESO-AMERICAN, TIACOPAN)

Eight Deer, King of the Tiacopan, Lord of Texcoco and Tula

DIPLOMACY None

Minded their own business.

CHICHEN ITZE (MESO-AMERICAN, CHICHEN ITZE)

Zerdan, Priest King of the Maya

DIPLOMACY NONE

While the king tried to keep his children corralled and convince his cousin Juhemu to help him rule, the idiot Xoofy went wandering in the woods – "hey, isn't there a cenote around.... Aaaaiiiii! ... splash!" – and did not come back. Prince Bozeca was found strangled in a chili orchard.



THE INCA COAST

Land of the Moon-Cult

THE MOON KINGDOM OF QUITO

*Pocomoc II, Moon Prince of Valdivia, Lord of the Moon Cult,
Listener to the Great Eye, Eater of the Moon-Pie*

(Moon-Cult,
DIPLOMACY

Pocomoc gathered his forces for the onslaught on Nicayo. Although separated by sea from his generals, Quezon and Nomozon, he was able to instruct them to await the Chanchan force and then move into Nicaro. Varna-voche arrived in early 1142 with the vanguard of the Chanchan forces. However, by this time his cough had developed into fever and the general soon passed away in the spring of that year.

The fleet returned to Chanchan with the general's body. Young Ponche-vocha was singled out to be his replacement. The new general was fit, able and although blighted by unsightly boils he was a popular choice amongst the troops. The remaining Chanchan troops were then shipped to Chiriqui where they met up with the Quito general Nomozon and his army of twenty-four hundred spearmen (amongst whom were a few men skilled in the art of siege).

This combined army moved onto Boruca where Quezon and his garrison of one thousand spears were collected. The total force descended onto Nicaro in May 1145 and easily overwhelmed the pathetic militia turned out to defend the province. Swiftly they lined up to besiege the Nicarao capital. Topiltzin, seeing all was lost, tried to escape but was captured by the Quezon as the city defences were breached. The entire nation of Nicarao convulsed and then died as Achia and the Huave declared independence. Of the attacking forces there were only minor casualties as their sheer numbers overwhelmed the Nicaraons.

Leaving Quezon in charge of the Nicayo garrison, Ponche-vocha returned to Chanchan with the tide. Pocomoc's victory party culminated in his declaration that his daughter, Tintinini would henceforth be heir the Moon-Pie and quickly set her about the affairs of state.

THE CHIMU KINGDOM OF CHANCHAN

Viracocha, The Young Sun
(South Amerind

DIPLOMACY Nazca(f), Ataura(nt), Huari(fa)

War! The great nation of Chanchan was called upon to aid their Moche allies in subjugating the upstart Nicoyans. Every able-bodied man was pressed into service in a large and well-equipped fleet of over 30 vessels (although the Chanchan's were not noted for their seamanship there was not much in the way of threat from the enemy).

Varna-voche was chosen to lead the expedition, despite a hacking cough developed during a hunting trip in the mountains. The fleet was loaded with eager spearman (numbering four thousand or so) and roughly six hundred sappers. At least as many again were left waiting on the docks.

Having dispatched Varna-voche and the fleet, Viracocha travelled south to Nazca with his eldest daughter. The girl was well past her prime but her father thought she would still have some benefit in the delicate negotiations with the Nazcan ally. Events turned out in Viracocha's favour when the Nazcan graciously accepted the offer of marriage and pledged his support to the Chanchan cause. Vengi-Guay was not so fortunate. His attempts to persuade the ruling class of Chimu met with disaster as a mob of outraged Moon Cultists tore him apart during his carefully practiced sermon.

Far Atuara and the fabled mountain fastness of Huari were wooed by the able Akkha-Nitak and swore allegiance to the Chanchans. Their accessibility was greatly enhanced by a new road that enabled Viracocha's runners to reach between Maranga and Huari. The Snake God was pleased. Viracocha's priests had toiled hard for some time but now their power was growing in the kingdom. As Viracocha returned without his daughter, no longer an aging spinster but the wife of a Prince!, he spent lavishly on a grand feast for his young son who had so recently appoint heir.

TIAHUANAKO

Amehu the Family-Man, Lord of the City of Seven Walls
(South Amerind

DIPLOMACY Moqueque(f)

Amehu was happy to leave the running of the kingdom in the able hands of his brother Cupator. Indeed, Cupator had reached the finals of the nation canoe races and it would be a petty injustice to deny him his anticipated rewards. So, Amehu, accompanied by Prince Atonal and the redoubtable Heitoqal, crossed the mountains to Moqueque and set upon the bewildered lord until, tired of the arguments, threw in his lot with Tiahuanako. During these years a subtle shift in the very fabric of Tiahuanako society occurred with the break up of more ancient family ties to ones based on fealty to the their local lord.

THE ARAUCANIA WARRIOR-TRIBES

Tiku, Master of Swords, Lord of Mapuch, the Uniter, The Potent
(South Amerind

DIPLOMACY Pichuanche(f)

Extensive progress was made in converting the landscape of Mapuche. New farms and irrigation schemes were set in place and Tiku started a program of allowing slaves more freedom (that is as long as they remained working on their farms). Pichunche benefit from an intensive royal visit by Tiku and his two advisors, Sacha'lo and Nantai, and was persuaded to fully join the growing Araucania nation.

(end)