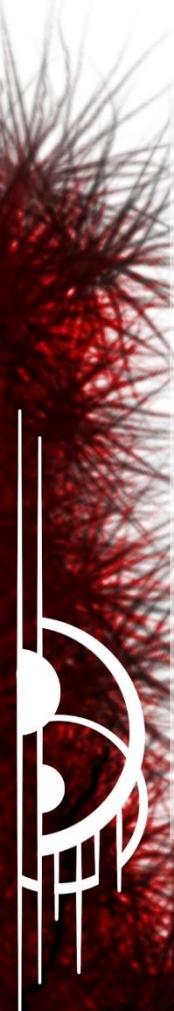


The Reputable Intrepid Adventurers Club



Guide to the New World



The purpose of this book

This source book is for all players and gives an in depth outline of the geography, flora and fauna of post war Earth. The book is set out as a document issued by TRIAC to its members to prepare them for the trials and experiences they will face in their fight against the Martian threat across the globe.

The entries in this pamphlet are listed in a number of sections. They deal with many different environments and speak of the differing geography of all the member nations and also the style and culture of their cities. There is also a section on the emerging nations of the world and brief descriptions of them and their place in the new political climate. It also goes into describing the great wildernesses that now exist where once great nations ruled. It goes into details about the denizens of these vast broken landscapes and discusses the ruined cities of pre-war Earth.

The Pamphlet will also go on to talk about Martian landscapes or Red Zones that now scar the planet and provide a staging point for the Martians to wage their war. From the great fortresses at the centre of these zones of control, to the flora and fauna that inhabit the toxic environment, the paper discusses them all.

As with the nation Gazetteers, after this first section that explains the reason behind the documents the rest of the handbook is an in character (IC) document, written by a foremost scholar of the day and can be downloaded, printed and used as a prop and reminder to help with information in game.

We hope that this handbook will give you a lot more information upon which you can flesh out and expand your characters background and identity and we hope you find it useful.

Happy reading
Macifaria Games

A Note on the World as it is

The nations or this world are very different from the ones you know. This world is like ours in many ways and has a lot of the same history. In our version, however, certain events occurred (or, in some cases, did not) which has shaped the planet in very different ways.

In this world, invaders from Mars landed on earth in the early part of the 19th century. As a result of this, history has been changed and we see the series of events we have laid out in front of us in these books.

Another huge difference is the change in technological advancement that resulted from the Martian invasion. Science moved down different paths leaving no room for technology as we know it to advance. Frankly, in a world with a tech derived from advanced alien thinking and new alien elements and resources, why would you continue to use the mere mundane in the wake of such wonders? Who needs cannons when you could have heat rays?

Ultimately, this world is different. Time scales have altered; things happened or didn't happen according to the forces that affected them. It is this world you need to embrace to fully experience this alternate reality, a world inspired by the writings of H G Wells and other great literary minds.

And with that in mind please read on...



THE REPUTABLE INTREPID ADVENTUERS CLUB

GUIDE TO THE NEW WORLD

A HANDBOOK BY RENOWNED HISTORIAN
DR HERBERT MAITLAND

Welcome once again agent. Thank you for taking the time to read this, the latest of my discourses for TRIAC operatives. In the next few pages you will find a variety of details on the major nations of the world as they stand today. These are based on my observations on the nations and may vary between entries. They are by no means exhaustive. We will also take a look at the emerging, younger nations that are beginning to make their mark on the political stage. You will read a discourse on the nature of the old and broken parts of the planet, now commonly referred to as, the Wilderness Territories, as well as its denizens and a description of the ruined cities of many once mighty nations. Finally we will concern ourselves with the new Martian environments, or, Red Zones that now exist worldwide. We will discuss the mysterious fortresses at the centre of each of these toxic locations and you will see descriptions of some of the alien flora and fauna that now exists in these zones that makes them deadly to the unaware explorer.

It should be said at this point that these notes and documents are born from my own experience across the globe and they are based on my own interpretations of the landscapes, creatures and architecture that I have observed there. In your association or membership with TRIAC I am sure that you will witness other sights and experiences that differ from my own. I hope that some of you will add to the collective experience by going on to write your own papers and I wish you great luck in doing so.

So without further ado let us begin. We will address each section in turn and in good order beginning with and then following the contents below:

1. Discourse on the major nations
 - a. The Commonwealth of Britannia
 - b. The Royal Australian Protectorate
 - c. The Prussian Hegemony
 - d. The Imperial Eastern Union
 - e. The Federated American Union
 - f. The Arctic Concord
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- 2. Emerging Nations
 - a. United American Tribes
 - b. Free Scandinavia
 - c. Iberian Combine
 - d. Ottoman Under Empire
 - e. The African Union
 - f. League of Italian States
 - g. Independent Kandy
 - h. Free French Coalition
- 3. The Wilderness Territories
 - a. The geography of the wilds
 - b. Inhabitants and Flora
 - c. The ruins of a shattered Earth
- 4. The Martian Landscapes
 - a. Red Zones
 - b. Alien life and its dangers
 - c. The Fortresses of the Enemy

DISCOURSE ON THE MAJOR NATIONS

The Commonwealth of Britannia

The war has taken a terrible toll on the countryside of the British Isles. This once green and pleasant land is now scarred with the devastation of war and the toxic Martian Red Zones that cover huge portions of the country.

The largest of these Red Zones is located in the South East of England, encompassing the ruins of old London, destroyed in the first Martian war.

The country is now a series of fortified walled cities that are governed from the Admiralty building in New London on the edges of the English Red Zone. From there, this new naval controlled government rules with an iron fist. They ensure that the network of cities work efficiently towards the betterment of the Commonwealth.

The cities are huge, crowded industrial affairs where vast factories churn out war machines and ordinance for the war effort. The small British army man the walls and battlements of the cities making sure intrusions from beyond are met with a concerted defence. As much as these cities are powerhouses of industry, there is a more refined veneer that covers a lot of the less industrial areas of the communities, allowing the higher classes of society to enjoy the good living that their station provides.

The wilderness of the Commonwealth is a small but dangerous region. Bands of dispossessed people from the ruins of the towns of old Britain roam the space between the new walled cities, preying upon the weak and eking out a living as best they can. They are not considered citizens and as such are excluded from the new settlements under Admiralty Law.

Scotland is a desolate place in the new world. The lack of resources and food in the Commonwealth meant that it's farthest flung citizens and communities suffered terribly in the wake of the war and the intervening years. Ireland could only produce so much food and the Scottish towns and cities, being so far away were considered to be a drain on resources. Many Scots were rehomed in the south and what remained was a broken and empty land of ghost towns and small communities fighting to survive in a bleak landscape plagued by disease, bandits and harsh winters.

The largest of the walled strongholds are New London, Birmingham, Manchester and the port towns of Bristol and Southampton. These vast industrial complexes are the engines that drive the nation and provide the equipment that keep the commonwealth great. The city

of Bristol has quite recently been classified as Top Secret with all of its citizens being re tasked to work on a joint Commonwealth/Federated American undertaking known as project Thunderchild.

Life isn't, however, all roses if you live within the walls of one of the cities. The class system is still very much alive in the Commonwealth and unless you have old money or a healthy income of warbonds you are likely to be looked upon as a commoner and treated as such. That being said, there is a lot of opportunity for enterprising individuals and a growing Commonwealth is always looking for talented individuals who are willing to serve the nation's needs.

The Royal Australian Protectorate

In stark contrast to the British Isles and the Commonwealth, the colonies of the RAP are more akin to the image many of the older generation remember the British Empire to have been before the Great War. The Young Queen Victoria has established control of this land and with a loyal following, managed to build a stable and effective colony out of the ashes of the British Empire.

The continent of Australia and surrounding islands were targeted by the Martians during the first invasion. As a result, vast tracts of the northern part of the continent are covered in huge red zones. The central region is a vast dusty wilderness, devoid of most life and acts as a barrier between the Martian held north and the British in the south.

The cities of South Australia are virtually untouched by the war and still have a very old style about them. The frontier towns that border the central wastelands are rugged and harsh. The inhabitants of these settlements are the toughest and most resilient of Victoria's subjects and provide her best soldiers. The small land army that is employed by the RAP is made primarily of elements of regiments that stayed loyal to the crown. Most predominant of these are the Elite regiments of the Black Watch, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the Household Cavalry. The regiments of Queens Guard, the standard soldiery of the RAP, are stationed primarily along a large fortified fence line that spans the continent from east to west. These soldiers patrol the line watching for bandit, Martian and other threats from the wasteland and the red zones of the north.

The cities of the east are a combination of the old pioneer settlements of the early Australian settlers and the newer more permanent structures that have risen in the wake of the forming of the RAP. The towns of New London, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne are the four largest of these cities.

New London was built in the province of Victoria some 100 miles inland of Melbourne. It is the seat of power for Victoria and her government and the main staging point of the Protectorate Sky Armada. There are numerous other, smaller towns and communities in the south, too numerous to mention here but all are clustered around the larger cities and protected by the umbrella that the Armada provides.

The Wasteland is a barren and inhospitable place. It is not, however, uninhabited, and many bandit tribes and dispossessed scavengers live within its boundaries. The land also plays host to a variety of interesting wildlife that is mostly deadly to humans and various more troubling creatures that sometimes emerge from the depths of the northern red zones.

In the far west of the continent, the port town of Perth has been re-tasked as a huge research facility. The latest rumours from contacts that I have in the region suggest that some kind of joint project is being researched. Who the partner nation is, is still subject to conjecture but I consider it a safe wager to bet that the Eastern Union are involved. What the project is, however, is unknown but the level of security involved is unprecedented.

In stark contrast to the secretive research in Perth, the home of the Royal Sky Armada on the outskirts of New London is a matter of some pride for the people of the Protectorate. The base, although surrounded by a fair amount of security, could not by any means be considered as anything but a shining beacon of national achievement. Flags fly on the walls surrounding the base and the royal seal can be seen on every surface. The nation is fiercely proud of its sky armada, and so it should be. Aside from the Federated Americas, their air forces are the largest in the world at present. The Victoria Class aether carrier is a marvel of modern engineering, its cavernous hold and twin flight decks carrying fleets of smaller fighter craft and squadrons of Sky Marines, ready to defend Australia from its enemies both alien and domestic...

The Prussian Hegemony

It is very hard to travel through noble Prussia and its satellite states and not feel the stiff, resolute pride felt throughout this nation at their place in the defence of both Europe as a whole and their history of conflict in the last 70 or so years. From the perspective of an outsider it is hard to believe that this nation is one of the most hard pressed of the major civilisations that exist today. They are surrounded on all sides by Red Zones and stand alone in Europe as the main defender of the old soil that used to

hold so many diverse cultures. Nevertheless, the Prussians endure and thrive in the island of humanity that is the Hegemony.

Prussian lands are a mix of cultures and civilisations that have banded together under one flag to survive and fight back against Martian aggression. Much of the architecture of the old world is gone, having been destroyed in the first war. What stands in its place is a skyline that is both modern, utilising the new materials of the age, and harking back to that bygone era of imperial rule.

Buildings are built to be defensible and the patterns of the streets of these new towns, if seen from above, are built to funnel invaders into bottlenecks and killing zones. The Prussians have learned the art of war against the Martian at close range and at heavy cost.

There is a military feel to all the settlements of the Hegemony and a military presence can be felt in every city. Great land ships and Aether zeppelins patrol the many borders that the nation has with Red Zones, ready to repel any attacks that come from the Martian strongholds.

The Pride of the Hegemony, however, is its standing army. Primarily an infantry force, the grand army is arguably the best trained and best led force in the world. Comprised of many regiments from the different states of the Hegemony and from Prussia itself, the force marches with a variety of uniforms under one banner. The majority of these warriors are veterans of years of fighting and wear their scars and wounds with pride. Prussia recognises strength and courage over all things and decorated and scarred vets are honoured as heroes wherever they travel in the Hegemony. The greatest of these heroes are those who wear the Prussian Black. These veterans of Martian aggression have received the Star of Prussia for their action from the hands of the king himself and have been given leave to wear the black uniform of the most exalted soldiers of the Hegemony. It is no surprise that within the ranks of these soldiers, it is not unusual to see Hyrcanians wearing the Black. Prussia recognises strength and skill in combat and a simple thing such as species does not factor into this. Hyrcanians who are given this honour seem stand head and shoulders above their comrades taking the star as the highest privilege that can be bestowed to them. The most elite of these proud warriors are the Jaeger Corps. These units of highly trained warriors are skilled in the use of heavy suits of enhanced Aetheric assault or Jaeger armour. These hunter squads are sent into red zones to take the fight to the Martians, a task in which they are highly accomplished.

The grand army is moved by the great land ships and gargantuan

Aether Zeppelins that cross the Hegemony, transporting the army where it is needed. These vehicles are the steel skin of the army and the soldiers its beating heart. Never have I seen a more terrifying sight than a Prussian battalion charging at the enemy, not a hint of fear or doubt in their eyes with a single thought in their minds; death to the enemies of Prussia.

The Imperial Eastern Union

It is an undeniable fact that the Eastern Union is a nation that values its diversity and embraces its heritage. The first impression you receive when travelling through the lands of the Empress is of a nation devoted to a supreme ruler. All work is done in her name and not a bad word is heard in tavern or field, barracks or stores. The land within the protection of the Union is fertile and verdant.

There is no hint of Red Weed or Martian taint and at first glance, there is only one word to describe her majesties realm; Paradise. There is, however, if you look closer, a deeper and more insidious side to the nation; the furtive glance from the corner of the eye, the flash of concern when addressed by a foreigner and the whispered conversation that stops as you walk by. It is certain that there is more to the Union than meets the eye and the closer that you come to the gates of the city of Pearls the more this becomes apparent.

As you approach the city, you first step onto the Grand causeway that begins a mile from the city walls. Lining this road of green jade on each side are a uniform line of brass and copper statues, one every 50 yards. To the untrained eye these statues are a curious affectation of the wealth and flamboyance of the Empress. To the more discerning visitor however these statues can be only one thing; Tenko.

These mechanical warriors are the ultimate expression of the Unions skill in defensive armaments and other more secretive science. They wait for a call to war to do their mistresses bidding and fall upon her enemies.

As I walked down that causeway for the first time it is very hard to not believe that these metal warriors are not watching you at every juncture.

As you move closer to the city, the scenery changes to that of a more industrial feel. The rural farmland and rice fields give way to factories and warehouses. The might of the Eastern Union becomes apparent as the vast amount of soldiers that are housed around the palace and city are seen. Only in Russia does an army of rival size

exist, the Collective's religious fervour and fanaticism matched with the ferocious devotion to the Empress and the support of the resilient Tenko.

Walking through the gates of the City of Pearls, you become aware of the shimmering field that surrounds the palace. This energy field is the signature of Eastern Technology and provides a near impenetrable barrier which protects the Empress and her consort. Truly this is the heart of an Empire ready to expand. I suspect that it is only the Martians which stop the inevitable expansion of the Union and the resulting political upheaval it would bring.

The nation as a whole is a very rural one. It has many people living under one empire. Mongols traverse the vast plains while Japanese descendants practice their trades in the cities and the tradition of the Samurai is still strong. Many other smaller cultures still exist within the melting pot of the Eastern union and all work towards the goals and pleasures of her imperial majesty. The rumours of the Empress having a secret police force that are always watching for treachery may be the reason for the suspicion in the population. I can say with some certainty that, other than the Russian Collective, I have not encountered a culture that values its secrets and privacy more.

The majority of the Imperial Army is situated along the borders of the land facing out towards the various Red Zones. A large line of troops faces north towards the Russian Coalition more, it seems, as a show of force than for any real defensive need. The rest of the army is situated around the City of Pearls with the elite legions of the Samurai guard and Mongol blood riders being the only troops allowed within its walls.

This nation is poised to strike at the world stage like a cobra and the nation that takes its eyes off it for just a moment it may be the one whose skin is pierced by eastern fangs...

The Federated American Union

With the destruction of the old United States and the fall of the North during the first war, the American continent changed drastically in the following 60 years. With the rise of the South to government, the nation changed both politically and geographically. Richmond, Virginia became the central seat of government and the southern states became the powerbase of the new federated states.

In time Martian technology allowed the creation of the jewel of the new American union; the floating city of New Richmond. This marvel of modern engineering was made possible by the use of technology

retro engineered from Martian Propulsion systems salvaged intact from the battlefields of the North. There is nothing quite like the feeling of flying into New Richmond for the first time as this island city in the sky reveals its wonders. Out of the clouds, towering skyscrapers appear, their tops wreathed in wispy cloud. Smaller aether vessels move between buildings carrying citizens to and from their daily jobs and businesses. In the centre of the city is the huge capitol building, the seat of FAU government for the last 40 or so years. This political hub is a stunning building that is reminiscent of the old white house in Washington DC. It is larger however and sports twin domes with the FAU flag flying atop both.

The city and indeed the entire nation is protected by the FAU Skyjack fleet. These huge Aether ships patrol the borders of the wastelands and guard against intrusion from the three large Red Zones that exist within the FAU's borders. Only rivalled in size by the Russian Tsar-class and RAP Victoria-class Aether vessels, the Skyjacks are the pride of the nation and the source of its defensive strength.

The majority of the new American nation has been transformed into a collection of states focused on one goal; the utilisation of alien technology to advance their civilisation and strike back at the Martians with their own weapons and inventions. In the heartlands of Virginia, the businessmen and politicians drive commerce and economy both in New Richmond above and in the terrestrial towns below. In stark contrast, other states such as Texas have more of a frontier feel with tech being used to defend against the harsh lifestyles and environment. The state of Nevada holds the largest research and development facility in the nation. It is here that the anti-gravity technology was created to raise New Richmond from the earth and where the first retro-engineered heat rays were produced. In the far west, the pioneers push ever onwards to re-establish the old towns and communities after the Martian devastation. Life is hard and it breeds tough and resilient souls with the wherewithal to persevere.

To the North there is now only wasteland where the old states used to be. It is constantly guarded by the skyjack fleets and ranger battalions, but the sheer distance needing to be covered along the new border means that frequent incursions by bandits and other more unsavoury elements is common. Combine this with the red zone activity that needs to be constantly monitored and it is obvious to any tactically minded individual, that the states are a nation up against it. Nevertheless, its people defend their lands, remaining strong and independent. They bend in the wind and bounce back stronger, taking any hardship or adversity in their stride.

The giant Red Zone in the north that has engulfed much of Canada and the northern states is a constant concern for the FAU. The Fortress at the centre of the zone is one of the largest ever catalogued and activity from this base has always been of primary concern for the Americans.

The Arctic Concord

With the arrival of the Concord onto the political scene the world stood up and took notice of a new power and drew numerous different conclusion as to their motives. Truth be told, in the thirty or so years that the Concord has existed very few who are not citizens have entered its borders. I am fortunate enough to be one of those few and from my brief observations I will expand on the work from my gazetteer and speak more about the geography and structure of the nation as a whole.

It is very hard to define the city of Concordia as you would a normal nation. The city state is in itself the only real population centre in a vast ocean of ice and snow. Approaching the city is only possible by ship or specially modified Aether Gliders, able to deal with the extreme conditions at the pole. I was surprised and awed when I first spotted the spires of Concordia appearing out of the mist. To see a full grown city in the middle of the Arctic Ocean is a sight to behold and I suppose that I was prepared for the existence of the place. What I was not prepared for was the scale and sheer beauty of the place. The docking spires shoot some 500 feet into the sky. Aether gliders are tethered to each, ready to defend the city at a moment's notice. Around the city, the Concord fleets sits at anchor, ships that protect the waters around the city and keep its secrets safe. Once your eyes are accustomed to the size of the city you begin to comprehend the rest of the features that meet your gaze. The city itself is surrounded by a vast outer wall that seems to be constructed primarily of Red Steel. Huge sea gates prove the only entrance to the inner city and as you move closer you become aware of the strange gun emplacements that top the walls. It is very disconcerting to be targeted by weapons that seem to be of a design not seen before, not knowing what damage they can do to man or ship.

Around the city, within a radius of approximately 3 miles can be seen a number of smaller structures. These, I am reliably informed have a number of uses and functions. The exact nature of these facilities is not disclosed but I surmise that they must be for storage, defence or more volatile research purposes. I am unfortunately stopped from asking more questions about these and we soon pass out of view as our ship passes through the sea gate

and into the Concordia itself.

The main city is a vast collection of floating platforms that radiate out from a central hub. The city is design around a strict security clearance system of colours that denote you access to certain levels and areas of the complex. I was only allowed to see the first two levels and denied further exploration. What I was able to see however, can only be described as a modern miracle of engineering. Only the city of New Richmond has excited me more upon first inspection.

Like the many icebergs that surround Concordia, the city itself hides most of its mass and indeed its secrets below the surface. It is unknown how far down the city reaches but I can only guess that the deepest levels house the most enticing secrets and mysteries of this enigma of a community.

The inhabitants of the Concord are a mixed and eclectic group of seemingly likeminded individuals. The majority of the community are academically inclined and work in the lower levels at a variety of security clearances. The military of the nation are mostly stationed in garrisons on the walls and in the ships stationed outside, with only a small defence force housed within the main hub.

With little more to report it would be folly to make too many assumptions about this new nation but I believe it will not be long until Concordia and its secrets are revealed. Whether this is for good or ill however, has yet to be decided.

The Russian Collective

The Russians as a race are, in my experience, the most secretive and paranoid nation on the planet to date. It has been my good fortune to visit the Collective and travel across the wall to view the nation for myself. As you will already know from reading my Gazetteer on the nation, I was unable to land and experience the culture first hand, so the majority of my knowledge comes from interviews and observations from my time floating above the area they call "Sector One" at the centre of the Collective.

The nation as a whole is a vast area of old Russia. It rivals the size of the Imperial Eastern Union but the actual land within its protective wall of Iron is a much smaller portion of the whole. The six sectors of the Collective are separated by interconnecting inner walls and assigned various tasks and specialities by control in sector one. The religion known as the Doctrine is a way of life for the Russian people. The spires of the Doctrine cathedrals and churches dot the skyline of every sector and the paladins and priests are

present on the streets to ensure that the word of doctrine is heard by all.

The Collective military is focused on defending the wall of iron. This huge, primarily infantry force is stretched over the hundreds of miles of iron fortifications that surround the collective. They look out onto a vast northern border with the largest area of red zone on the planet and a southern line looking out across a wasteland and beyond that, the Eastern Union. The Russian army has only once ventured forth from the Collective. It descended upon the land south of the wall and annexed hundreds of square miles of territory. Seeing this act of aggression the Eastern Union reacted and sent troops marching towards the wall. Only the timely intervention of TRIAC at the eleventh hour stopped full scale war between the two largest land forces on the planet.

Since that time, the Russians have been quiet. They patrol the Collective land beyond the wall keeping wasteland outlaws and incursions from Martian forces at a minimum. It is my estimation that to effectively police the land that is claimed by the Collective, the nation must employ at least fifty percent of its population in a military capacity. I cannot comprehend how that is possible given the way that the Collective is organised and it would be a study into their manpower and resources that I would be very interested in reading.

The majority of Collective land beyond the wall is harsh and unforgiving. Deep, cold forests give way to barren steppes and arid plains. Winters are punishing and other seasons not much better. There are those who live in these lands and forge an existence, however. These scavengers have formed their own communities and often resist the Collectives efforts to bring them in to the fold. These independent groups do not want to be a part of the Collective and have fought hard to stay free of their influence. Why this is, is a mystery known only to the tribes in question. Called outsiders by Collective citizens, these free peoples seem to defend their right to live the way they wish and fight hard to preserve that way of life.

The Collective is a strange nation and has many secrets to be discovered by those brave and resourceful enough to try. I for one would be interested in any agents or independent explorers who have information on these people or their nation and would very much like to exchange notes for the betterment of human understanding...

DISCOURSE ON THE EMERGING NATIONS

It is with some regret that I have to admit that much of my experience of the Emerging Nations is second hand and, whilst it is still my intention to visit each of them more thoroughly, this has been difficult to achieve due to fewer transport links to these areas. Due to this, not all of the information below will be as impartial as it is above.

United American Tribes

My interaction with the resourceful and talented aboriginal peoples of America has been somewhat limited. I was however, fortunate enough to engage with several agreeable Cherokee people when I was in the Federated States of America. They too were beset upon by the Martian menace, with predominantly the South Eastern and Great Basin tribes bearing the brunt of the Martian assault. The various tribes of these areas were able to use their knowledge of their lands to their advantage, preventing many of the casualties that were sustained in urban populations. Whilst I am told some of the lands surrounding this area are still inhabited by some tribes, the majority have formed a coalition within the centre of the North American continent, with the Plains nations as the powerhouses of their society.

As with previous invasions, by Europeans rather than Martians, these native folk prove highly adaptable and have developed a simple lighter version of Martian technology from recovered resources. Interestingly, I have learned that there have been a high number of Resonants within their population, complimenting their favour for light technology and weaponry. Hyrcanians and Reptids have been accepted by the majority of the coalition and have found roles complimentary to their skill sets.

The vast majority of the coalition treats both their neighbours & European nations with suspicion, which I will admit was earned over the past few centuries, so the tribes keep them at arm's length. Sometimes there are small border disputes between individual tribes and the FAU but nothing, from discussions with both nations, to warrant all out conflict. However, non-European emerging nations and the Imperial Eastern Union have been found to be good trade partners and alliances may be forged over the years to come if relations continue to improve.

Free Scandinavia

I had the pleasure of visiting Free Scandinavia in 1871 and had the warm hospitality of the Norwegians during a freezing cold winter. Whilst Sweden decided to join the Prussian Hegemony, some of the former Danish kingdom decided to mark their independence. Norway

had been on the brink of leaving the Danish crown and a decision was made for the Danes and Norwegians to form an alliance. Whilst an invitation to the Hegemony has been made, the Free Scandinavians rejected this and now rely on trade with the British and Americans. They believe that the rest of Scandinavia has been annexed in a hostile takeover, whilst the Prussian Landtag would argue differently. Their old enemy, Russia appears to have retreated behind their great iron walls and so poses less of a direct threat than their southern neighbours.

Iberian Combine

The remains of the Spanish, Portuguese and Moroccan people set aside their differences after the war. The British garrison at Gibraltar was left deserted during the first war. Feeling abandoned by the Commonwealth they joined with the other smaller nations and began to rebuild their fractured lands. Gibraltar became the nation's capital, being both central and one of the most defensive. The Saharan desert offers some protection from the Red Zones of Africa, whilst the Straits of Gibraltar gives the Combine an ideal position to trade with other Mediterranean nations as well as those in the world at large.

The Iberian Combine has a mix of Moroccan and Iberian cultures, with varying styles of fashions. They rely predominantly on traditional ships, though their good trade links with the Prussian Hegemony have helped them develop aetherships. This deal also has pushed up taxes on Commonwealth ships passing through the Straits and thus ensuring Britain does not challenge the Prussian dominance of the Mediterranean economy. The Combine generally has good relations with all of the other emerging nations currently, though the United American Tribes still treat them with distrust, preferring to deal with those of Moroccan origin than Spanish or Portuguese.

Ottoman Under-Empire

Under the ruins of the Eastern Mediterranean, in the many catacombs and cities built on cities, there was a safe haven during the Martian war. The old corps of Janissaries had been decimated by the war, and following the previous coups by them, they were thoroughly disbanded by Mahmud II. In response, and to keep order within the surviving population, Mahmud then reorganised his population. Engineers were given higher positions in government and the under-expansion began. Due to initial population constraints, many people were conscripted into either engineering (digging) or military (enforcement) regiments. The former would shore up and expand existing under cities, whilst the others would reclaim what territory they could at night, going to ground during the day.

Undercity life was not for everyone and not everyone met the Sultan's requirements for the military regiments – Mahmud recognised this and allowed for people to live in the desert above, using them as eyes and ears. They were told to be nomadic and use ruins of the over-world for shelter and to relay information back to the military regiments at night. This allowed the Empire to observe above and below.

Over the next thirty years, they developed a form of aether technology on their own and kept out of sight of the other nations whilst making efforts to penetrate some of the Red Zones of Arabia. Due to their different outlook on the world, rather than building air ships, they developed aether ships to run below the sea. These submarine fleets would explore the world and relay back information.

With the death of Sultan Mahmud II, his son, Abdulmecid took the throne and brought new policies to the nation. He decided trade with the other nations they had covertly discovered would be beneficial to the civilisation. This would lead to the skiffs of the desert traders.

Due to their careful approach to technology, focusing much less on the science of weapons, they are one of the few nations to gain good relations with the Artic Concord, with many a rumour of trade being heard. They have also fostered good diplomatic ties with the Iberian Combine, sometimes even surfacing to pay tax as they pass through the Straits of Gibraltar. Their other main trade partner is the African Union, it being the obvious neighbour to mutually benefit from such an agreement. Abdulmecid died in 1861 and his son, Abdulaziz is a popular ruler, after introducing democracy and further expanding the Ottoman's trade partners, while still maintaining a policy of discretion regarding home affairs to foreigners.

The African Union

The Solomonic Dynasty of Ethiopia long endured the constant threats from Europe and Asia, outlasting invaders despite internal struggles. The Martian invasion would be no different. The end of the reign of Emperor Egwale Seyon was defiant in the face of the Martians. From my studies with their Consul in Makaresh, I am led to believe that an uneasy truce stands between Ethiopia and the neighbouring Sudanese, who are working together to recover from the devastation of the first war.

The information I was able to glean from this, and another contact in Prussia, was there would be other tribes and states opening trade routes through the remaining areas that were not infested with red weed. Without a shadow of a doubt, there is mistrust and as a result, a complex electoral system was set up to embrace the

different cultures. This was not enough and eventually lead to a civil war when Egwale Anbesa, Gabra Krestos, Sahla Dengel and John III vied for control of the country.

The civil war was a set back to pre-Martian times, however, under the rules of Tewodros, the union entered the global domain following the capture of Commonwealth forces on a reconnaissance mission.

This is documented in the archives on Madagascar rather well as the 'first' major interaction since before 1814, however it was not to be pleasant. The capture entered the two into a minor conflict, which when brought to Prussian attention, ended with the British withdrawing and Tekle Giyorgis II taking control of the Union. It is now clear that the union has developed Aether technology from the Martian wrecks and later the arms left by the British. They have since opened relations with several of the other emerging nations and have been developing defensive technology to prevent any other nation or species with colonial ideas.

League of Italian States

The area surrounding Northern Italy was utterly destroyed when the Martians focused their attacks on Europe. As a result the people of these northern regions fled south into the southern states of Italy where they hunkered down to endure and survive through the war.

When the invaders were defeated, the Italians realised that they had a long way to go before they could call themselves a nation again but over time they used their position in the south to slowly rebuild. With their lands being virtually untouched by Martian influence they found that they were able to farm almost all of the countryside and are fast becoming one of the main food producers of the world. This is pushing them to the front of the world's economy and it looks like the league will soon rise as a nation in its own right. The leaders of the nation are intelligent and knowledgeable merchant princes who value skill in trade and finance. They are set to make waves on the world stage and have the capital to back up their claims. If there is any "emerging" nation that is ready to fight for a place alongside the seven major nations it is this small and independently rich state.

Independent Kandy

The colonial struggles in Ceylon were going poorly for Sri Vikrama Rajasinha and his native forces when the Martians struck. Through familiar with terrain and clever tactics, the British forces in the area suffered the brunt of the Martian assault, preventing them from annexing the island. Neighbouring India did not fare so well, falling foul of the red weed. This peaceful period that followed led to the

development of aether technology and some salvage expeditions into the Indian subcontinent. The Kandyans also invested heavily in the sea, their ships reaching out to find goods or trading partners, of which they found several. Unfortunately these were British and Australian outposts on the Indian Ocean. This caused some minor turmoil, but nothing the British actively saw as a significant threat to bring more of their navy to the region. They have remained inherently untrusting of Europeans, though have very good relations with the United American Tribes and the African Union.

Free French Coalition

Following Napoleon's victory of 1815, it seemed that though the Martians were defeated, the French were destroyed. However, this was not the case. Napoleon Bonaparte was a skilled and charismatic leader, retreating to Marseille with many of the French forces, leaving Paris and much of the north a smouldering hole in the ground. From the port town, the French would slowly begin to recover, slowly spreading inland, working around the red zones. They engaged in Mediterranean trade and in that area of the world, they became well known. Napoleon and indeed the French, received a reputation as saviours and their ships were welcome in every port – this is clear from my travels in the area. The French are looked up to and honoured as the brave soldiers who refused to surrender in the face of the vilest and most powerful enemy, as well as their fondness for strong smelling cheese.

When the Free French made it to the northern coast, they found that, to their horror, the British Commonwealth had claimed much of the area. It was also clear that they did not have the military might to reclaim it, nor the political power, though it is my understanding that the threat of a trade embargo against the British is not a hollow one. It is possible that the Prussians may consider championing their cause, but most likely they would like the French to join them, especially after the Napoleonic Guard units were kept and remain an elite, although diminished fighting force.

THE WASTELAND TERRITORIES

The Ruins of a Shattered Earth

The wasteland is not simply a flat plain devoid of feature. Sat amongst the devastation can be seen the jagged ruins of the old cities of the world that were not lucky enough to avoid destruction at the hands of the invading aliens. These cities are home to tribes of wasteland scavengers, mutated hybrid beasts and other more mind bending denizens that, according to popular rumour, defy belief...

Geography of the Wastelands

Since the first war, the world has changed a great deal. The red zones have encompassed huge tracts of land and the nations have claimed their territory and defend it with gusto. There is another area of the world that has now become a de-facto natural barrier between the nations; the Wastelands. These barren and desolate regions of the planet are the parts of the world forgotten by the new nations. Broken and twisted ruins and dense overgrown forests are interspersed with arid plains and desert, treacherous Rocky Mountains and hills. Survival is possible in the wastes but it could scarcely be described as living. The inhabitants of this dangerous and harsh environment seldom choose to live there and competition for resources and sustenance are fierce.

With the coming of the Martians, a number of other alien lifeforms inevitably arrived with them in the form of bacteria. In most civilised and populated areas, these organisms were unable to take hold and spread. In the wastelands, however, where the population was small and widespread they were able to thrive and mutate. They took hold and latched on to many common earth species and over the intervening sixty or so years many strange and dangerous forms of new life emerged....

Flora and Fauna

For 60 years the wastelands of the planet have been left shattered and broken by Martian and Human civilisation. In that time, many new hybrid creatures and flora have evolved and mutated after being exposed to alien bacteria brought to earth by the invaders. Most of these are harmless new species of plant and microscopic life. A small portion of these new creatures, however, are larger, more dangerous breeds and worthy of note.

A number of carnivore species were highly susceptible to the Martian bacterial strains and the resultant hybrids became stronger and larger than the original species. Monstrous wolves and bears stalk the barrens alongside the descendants of lions and other big cats. These alien hybrids have become the new apex predators of the planet.

Alongside these numerous monstrosities are the human denizens of the wastelands. These wretched specimens are the dispossessed and forgotten people of the Earth. Many have clung to the ruins of the old cities or have banded together in new tribes to survive in the harsh landscape. The new nations generally feign ignorance and sit behind their walls and protections, safe in the knowledge that they are very much someone else's problem. For the most part, these tribes and communities are benign, but there are some groups who are quite malignant indeed. There are even rumours of groups that have taken to living on the outskirts of red zones and have adapted to using Red weed as a food source. These rumours have never been corroborated and it is this scholars' opinion that the reality is highly unlikely.

THE MARTIAN LANDSCAPES

Red Zones

A very large part of our planet is no longer hospitable to us due to the infestation of the alien plant life known commonly as Red Weed. This fauna seems to change the environment it grows in, releasing toxins and gases into the atmosphere that create a region that is sympathetic to the invaders physiology, allowing them to breath without their suits or masks. It has been observed that Martians in their native environment are physically more resilient and the powers that they are seen to exhibit are heightened in this red miasma.

The Plant, as discussed in many eminent journals seems to have a number of very interesting properties. It has a very similar resonant frequency to the humans that have exhibited an affinity to the Aether. Due to this, the environment inside a red zone, as well as being highly toxic is charged with Aetheric energy and as such, creates a biological hazard never before seen on Earth. At the centre of each zone there are one or more Martian fortresses. From here, the enemy mounts its attacks against the nations of the world and draws its plans against us.

Even after over fifty years, we are still compiling data on these regions and any information on these Martian zones of control is very valuable to the war effort...

Alien life and its dangers

With the red weed and the Martians, came a new collection of dangers for humanity. Since the first war, the red zones have been churning out hybrid and mutated monstrosities that have plagued the wastelands and the new nations for many years. The biggest danger in this authors' opinion, however, is ignorance. Many of the people of the world are unaware of the perils that are abroad in the world, content to believe that the only threat to them is the Martians themselves. But in the wake of the invasion the flora and fauna of the world has, in some cases become as much of a threat to life as the invaders themselves. The planet has become a hostile place and only in the territories controlled directly by the nations of the world is there a safe haven for humanity.

To list the various mutated flora and fauna here would require a whole new book which I may write if I have the time at some other juncture. Suffice to say, at this point it is enough to say to be on your guard and always expect the unexpected when carrying out your duties as you never know what is waiting for you in the more uncivilised parts of the planet.

The Fortresses of the Enemy

Finally, we come to the most dangerous and inhospitable areas of the planet; The Martian Fortresses. Little is known about these huge red steel citadels. They appeared at the beginning of the second invasion as the Martian craft once again began to descend on the planet. High altitude passes by specially modified Aether ships have concluded after numerous missions that these vast complexes are the command bases of the Martian onslaught and have been constructed from both alien and Earth materials. We have not seen any more Martian space craft and data collated by resonant specific equipment suggests that the Martians are utilising Aether gate technology to traverse between citadels, thus explaining the reason that we do not encounter them on a regular basis.

It is certain that more study on these structures must be carried out if we are to be victorious.

Conclusion

The world is a much different place to the one that our forefathers grew and created before we realised that we were not alone in the universe. We have become a species fighting for our very survival and as such the power and gift of knowledge should never be one that is overlooked as a weapon in the war that we find ourselves in. I urge you all as agents to not simply take my works as the definitive description of the new geography, culture and inhabitants of this new world. I would push you to draw your own conclusions, find your own evidence and uncover your own secrets. Only with your extraordinary minds and skills will we persevere and win through in this new age of war and once and for all throw the Martian threat from our world once and for all.

Kind regards

Dr Herbert Maitland