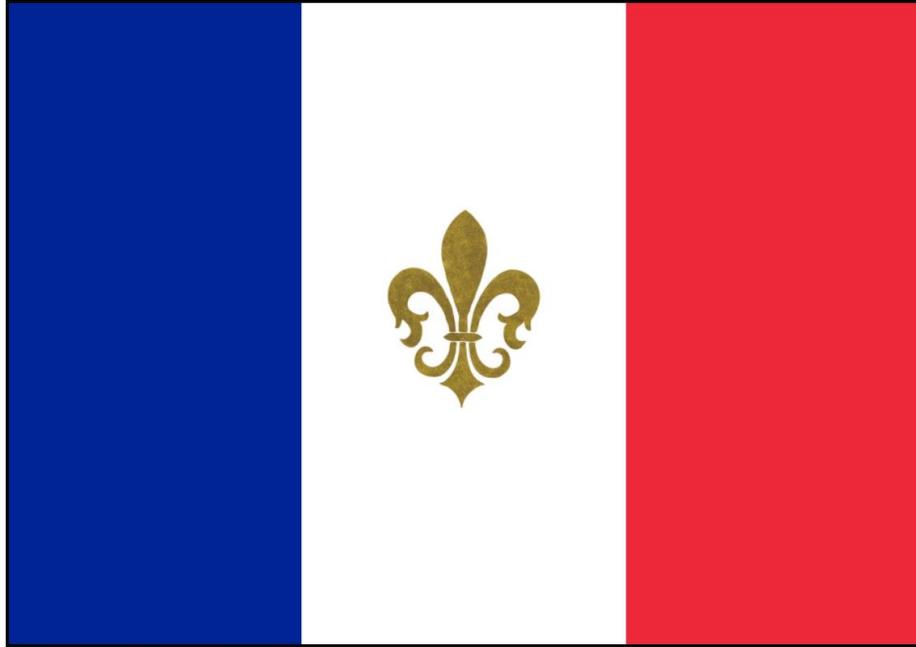


The Victorious Republic of France



Nation gazetteer

The purpose of this book

This source book is a guide for players who are playing TRIAC operatives from the Victorious Republic of France. It contains a number of sections detailing social structure, outlook to other nations and also a costume and roleplaying guide as well as a brief history of the nation.

This may seem a slightly restrictive way of defining your character but the Age of Aether is made up of many distinctive and defining cultures and outlooks and it is this way for a reason. If you find after reading the book that the Republic is not for you then we invite you to look at the gazetteers that detail the five other nations to see if these suit you better.

The playable nations are all very different and have their own unique style and quirks. After this first section that explains the reason behind the documents the rest of the gazetteer 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.

In any case please read through the book and choose your concept carefully. You will enjoy your experience so much more if you choose the right archetype to immerse yourself in and we hope you find your niche in one of the six.

Happy reading
Macifaria Games

A note on the world as it is

The nations of 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 happened, or possibly didn't, which have 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 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, but not copied from the writings of H G Wells and other great literary minds.

And with that in mind please read on...

THE GLORIOUS AND LIBITARIAN NATION OF THE
VICTORIOUS REPUBLIC OF FRANCE
A GAZETTE BY RENOWNED HISTORIAN
DR HERBERT MAITLAND

The Victorious Republic of France was a nation born out of survival. In the year 1796 a strange alloy was discovered by Monsieur Robert Herald in his native homeland. After a duel with his brother for control of the then Raven Herald Trading Consortium, Robert took the small arms company to a whole new level. Using the strange alloy he had found, he managed to make great leaps and bounds in the area of ammunition. The technology of musket and cannon ball ammunition rose significantly, allowing advances in the power and force of these still primitive weapons.

When the Martians invaded, in the year 1809, the nation and the world, although woefully outgunned and underpowered, were still able to use the advances to hold their own for a long and painful six-year war before finally falling to the invaders. It was as if the nation had known the attack would come and the world was made at least able to defend itself for a brief time before being swept away in a tide of red.

The Emperor Napoléon made his last stand at Waterloo alongside the combined armies of what was left of humanity, holding off the Martian foe at bay in a last desperate stand that was ultimately to be the site of a god honest miracle when the Martian invaders were found dead on the dawn of the last day of the battle. Laid low by disease and sickness.

Robert Herald used the distraction of the battle to flee south to the Mediterranean coast of France with the survivors of the nation. The long march for life across a battle scarred old France by the remnants of the nation, saw thousands of French men and women fleeing to the relative safety of a part of the world not yet touched by red zone or war. Napoleon's stand bought enough time not only for humanity to survive, but also to save his nation and preserve their way of life. It was a stand that would be recorded in French history, as the actions of the nations true hero.

Robert wanted to go back to aid the Emperor and his forces, but was cut off by the fast growing Red Zones and instead, he travelled with a large part of the surviving population to their island colony of Madagascar. The survivors of France fortified the island and eventually after some years, whilst other nations were fighting the resource wars, and the Island was as defended as it could be, branched back out to the southern coast of France to what now were its satellite states, The new Duchies of a new Republic.

Five keeps were raised from the ashes of war and became the new regions or as they had come to be known during the Madagascans absence, Duchy's. These vast coastal fortress cities had become a new naval power in the Mediterranean, all linked by underground roads which eventually, in time were replaced by the monorails that connect the fortresses today. Each city took its name from one of the Duchies of old France. Corbeaux, Dome, Monte Carlo, Bordeaux and Carcassonne rose from the coast of old France. When the Madagascans with Herald leading them returned they saw the need to keep their most defended and valuable jewel as their capital and so Madagascar became the shining capital of the New French Republic or VRF as it became known.

The Duchy's were ruled by the oldest surviving families to make the journey south. It was these who ploughed their wealth into the raising of the Duchies and these influential names that rose to rule in the fortresses of New France. They met in regularly to govern the nations ideals and future.

In the year 1833 the council of Duchies met and decided that the nation needed a face and a single leader. It was Robert Herald, now more of Madagascar than any of the old French regions, who was first elected as the nations' president. It was decided that he would serve for a term of twenty years, and the title of President would stay with him after his term was finished as a sign of respect.

Over the course of the next twenty years, the VRF became a hub of weapons and defence armour technology. The red tiled wattle and daub buildings of the region, mixed with the industrial furnaces and stone keeps of the city. Raven Herald Industries was separated from the French nation and moved its headquarters to the Island of Madagascar where it spread and branched out to become the vast behemoth of industry that it is today. So long as the secrets of the Aetheric Complier invented by the young Herald in 1812 stayed in the now fortified port and capital, the power of the company would be tied to the nation but remain a source of power for Herald, president or not.

In 1849, the VRF were brought into TRIAC and supplied agents alongside the other major nations. The VRF'S navy increased in size, dominating the southern seas and opening trade links with the League of Italian states and the Iberian Combine. As the Red Zone's on land separated the three nations, they grew to be a force in the Mediterranean and carved up the sea between them in mutual friendship and trade.

In 1853 Robert became sick with polio, and his prodigal son returned home, after travelling the world helping other nations in their advancement. Not much is known about Roberts passing, as it was a very private affair between father and son. His body was entombed in the catacombs below Madagascar beside Emperor Napoleon's in the Tomb of Heroes after it had been recovered from the field of Waterloo by patriots of old France. Ethan, his son personally entombed his father, refusing aide from anyone, and the great Black metal coffin was carried to the Tomb of Heroes, with a great ceremony in honour of the nation's founding father.

The council of Duchies met once more in the winter of 1853 and with a unanimous vote, elected Ethan Herald the new duke of Corbeaux to take his fathers place as the new President. During Ethan's twenty years of office, he was instrumental in strengthening the relations between the Mediterranean nations and trade links with the IEU. He also raised The Halls of Justice. This spawned the founding of the Musketeers, heroes of the VRF, who would enforce the law and act as Judge, Jury and even executioners in the streets. The rule of law became central to the Nations values. He also brought in the act of Family Rule, stating that the five noble families had an obligation to serve the nation and the elected president, and that the president must serve their nation as much as their nation serves them. The nation truly became the Republic that it strived to be under the rule of Napoleon many years ago.

In 1870 the rebel Admiral, Mad Dog Maddicks, the self-proclaimed pirate king of the South Seas carried out his first attack on the VRF, raiding the five keeps along the coast. Realising that the nations coastal fortresses, combined with their fleets and allies were far too strong, he broke off his assaults and fled the Mediterranean. He flew the flags of the commonwealth however, the council being unaware of his split from the admiralty. Herald saw this as an act of war and in a rage ordered the fleets of France to take position off the coast of Brittany. For two nights and two days the French bombarded the coast line and the military emplacements of the Commonwealth expeditionary forces. Enraged, the Admiralty sent Commonwealth forces to intercept the French and full scale war was avoided only by the intervention of TRIAC who invoked the Accords and threatened the full might of the club and its major members if the nations did not stand down. As a result of the actions of the French it was decided that the VRF would be suspended from the accords until further notice and with no action to be taken against them by and member nation. President Herald was forced to step down due to his role in the

attack regardless of the evidence he presented. The plea falling on deaf ears, he is recorded to have said that,

“One day you will come crawling back to us and beg us to join your pompous club. You must hope I am not the president when this happens, for you shall not find any forgiveness from me.”

Herald is removed from the Presidency with full honours in 1870, three years before the end of his term. All VRF TRIAC agents are recalled to the nation to assist in its defence.

In 1872, the Martians attack Madagascar, but under the leadership of the council and a new president, they repelled the Martian forces proving that the VRF could stand on its own. As the war continues to rage around them the French look inward to their own survival and retreat from the outside world. RHI continues to be a force in the world and its strength is felt across the globe with Herald still at its head.

In 1873, Felicity Winters, Duchess of Dome an influential shareholder and driving force behind RHI, makes a play for, and succeeds in taking over RHI and in a very heated debate between her and Ethan gains full control of the company. Ethan, by this time engrossed in his quest for the so called Da Vinci Vaults cedes the victory to Winters and throws himself into his obsession. It is at this point that he founds a new rising of the old Templar order who become a very public face for his new project and make their base on Oak Island in Nova Scotia.

Later that year, Alexander “Mad Dog” Maddicks, launches his second attack, this time on the nations capital of Madagascar. He uses stolen RHI Jericho Missiles and begun to bombard the port city, throwing up controversy as to a collusion between the two which is vehemently denied. With a mighty effort the VRF manage to drive Maddicks off. In the process, the Northern tip of the Island is destroyed allowing Red weed to gain a foothold. The Weed is contained but the technology does not exist to truly destroy it and it becomes a no-mans land. Forces from the RAP who are on manoeuvres in the area detect the distress calls and fly to the rescue, saving thousands of French lives. This one act of bravery and honour begins a strong alliance between the two nations.

This conflict remains to this day the biggest source of national hatred for the VRF aside from the old enmities that linger towards the Commonwealth and its English roots. Maddicks, who now controls most of the Islands in the South Seas, continues to covet Madagascar and to this day he continues to prosecute a war against the Republic.

The great Martian offensive of 1873 begins and in an act of unity, in the need for a combined world offensive, the TRIAC Council declares Frances suspension to the Accords null and void and welcomes them back to the club. How France feels about this is immaterial as the current President accepts, citing the need for a combined offensive rather than petty enmity to continue. France reenters the accords in late December 1873.

In the early months of 1874, a team of agents led by Jock McGullan go to the Madagascar red zone to investigate some strange distress signals from the Northern Red zone. They rescue a Commonwealth Scientist who promptly claims sanctuary with the Vatican League.

National outlook

The VRF are very determined in their independence. They have a strong loyalty to each of their countrymen. They have a lot of distrust of many of the foreign nations and even though they are now back in the accords, TRIAC itself to some extent. The people trust in the families as it was them that gave them a new lease of life, protecting them from the Martians. They have begun to branch out again but still see their nation as one that can survive without the Club and its protection. Arrogant or confident? That is a matter of opinion and perspective...

Names and Personalities of Note

Felicity Winters, Duchess of Dome and CEO of Raven Herald Industries.

Duchess Winters holds the seat of Trade Delegate and she over sees all trade routes and the countries Productions. Winters is a woman very much of numbers and calculations but also a student of the Martial disciplines. She has over seen some of the most influential trade deals since the nations expulsion from TRIAC. And believes that strength is through trade. As the current CEO of RHI after wresting control from Herald a few years ago she is in an unrivalled position of influence on the world stage.

President Ethan.R. Herald Duke of Corbeaux

The now Ex-President and ex-owner of RHI, Holds the Seat of Ambassador, and is very distrustful of people who are from foreign nations. But even he can see that they still need their allies. The current President believes his work in the world and relationship with other nations is a key to their future, even if he has the strong belief from his father that the nation needs no help. Since leaving office during the Maddicks Incident, and most recently becoming ambassador, he has founded the Templar Order, and also re settled old territory in Nova Scotia, being Oak Island, under Corbeaux's banner while he continues his quest for the so called Da Vinci Vaults.

Jean-Baptiste Castex Duke of Monte Carlo

Jean-Baptiste is a stern man, and holds the seat of Military Consult, commanding the armed forces of the VRF both Naval and ground. He has become a hero himself and guaranteed his place beside the nations founding fathers in the Tomb of Heroes. He fully believes if the council calls for his support then he will stamp out any of the nations enemies with brutal efficiency. He has also sworn to bring in Alexander Mad Dog Maddicks to justice and hunt him down to the ends of the earth, bringing him to the musketeer's justice for the wrongs done to his people.

Marie-Antoine Nansouty Duchess of Bordeaux

Marie holds the council seat of Justicar, and trains each generation of the Musketeers. She fully believes in the law, and its enforcement in society, it was her who initially convinced Ethan, whilst President to form a law enforcement who could act as Judge, Jury and Executioner in the streets. It is her firm believe that without order, chaos will prevail, and that a firm hand is needed for the populace to feel safe in the families that govern them. She spends most of her time in the halls of Justice located in her Duchy, making sure all those from high to low born that wish to become musketeers, hold the same ideology about law and order as she does.

Sabine Beaumont, Duchess of Carcassonne and current President of the Republic

President Beaumont is a strong and determined individual, who sometimes struggles between her friendships and her duties. She is a diplomat, and fully believes in strengthening ties with other nations. It is her who accepted TRIACs offer to return to the accords and strongly believes that the way forward for the nation is unity and a more outward looking Republic. Not everyone agrees with this however and there is still some resentment towards TRIAC for the actions of 1870...

VRF Home and Aboard:

Most VRF citizens are either serving in merchant or naval fleets or the production plants. Some go for the position of Musketeers, becoming the law enforcers across the colonies and five duchies. Yet most are just patriotic people, making sure that the world does not forget the nations great achievements and that they have stood without TRIACS support before and even when abandoned by other nations at its founding, can rely on their own leaders to protect them.

A note on current weaponry and defences

The primary focus for the nation, is aetheric advancement, which is natural considering it is the birth place of the Aetheric complier, Boffins from the VRF guard their secrets with the utmost secrecy. But even with its connection to the Renaissance era, the nation mainly specialises in aetheric armour, believing that the best offense is a better defence.

Politics

TRIAC operatives from the Republic have the following views towards the allied nations:

Russian Collective:

Members of the VRF are very distrustful towards the Russian Collective, believing they keep great secrets behind their wall of iron. VRF agents will be very wary what they say in the presence of their Russian comrades.

Prussian Hegemony:

There has been some good ground work between the two nations, and citizens of the VRF admire the martial prowess of Prussia. It seems that bonds of war can be strengthened fighting shoulder to shoulder.

Federated American Union:

Relations between the two nations are strong as each have benefited from one another in trade over the years. There are still some tensions between the two however, due to the FAU still having very close links with the Commonwealth.

Imperial Eastern Union:

The current relations between these two nations are very strong, as the VRF aided a lot with the IEUS recent civil war, helping them overthrow the previous brutal regime. The IEU were also one of the first nations to accept trade negotiations with the VRF.

Antarctic Concord:

Not much in way of relations currently exists between the two powers, but lancing has continued negotiations with the council, as he moves his own nation south, believing that the two would become very strong allies in the future. The council have not yet responded to his words, but they have noted how much hate the Commonwealth have for him and admire the AC for staying independent.

Royal Australian Protectorate:

The strongest of the VRF's allies, the two nations ties could not be stronger currently. Victoria constantly praises the nation, as does the council in return. They have seen that together they stand strong, and with Madagascar under French control, they in fact control the entire southern seas and skies of the globe, apart from those claimed by the mutually hated, self-proclaimed pirate king, Alexander "Mad Dog" Maddicks.

Commonwealth of Britannia:

These two nations have become bitter rivals and there is no love lost. The VRF blame the

Commonwealth for a great deal of things, including the abandonment at their founding and the destruction and then, re-settling of their ancestral lands post war. They also blame them for the plague that is the self-proclaimed Pirate King Alexander Maddicks. The council and its people keep finding more and more reasons not to trust their ancient enemy.

Roleplaying a French Republic TRIAC Agent

To Roleplay a French Republic TRIAC Associate you need to remember the following things:

- The VRF is a strong and independent nation, that has been a true story of survival, when little aide would come from foreigners.
- The people of the VRF are fiercely loyal to the five ruling families. They are very content on how they have shaped and governed the nations
- People of the VRF are not only stoic people but have faith in the law and most of all order, and hold such high respect for the musketeers
- The VRF have no respect for the commonwealth, and see them as selfish traitors to the cause. They can never forget the actions of Alexander Maddicks or the settling of old parts of France, when it was nothing but waste land.

General Costume and Kit Guidelines.

The VRF is a very steam punk renaissance look, sporting colours such as reds, blues and whites. They are also about practical wear, such as brown tanned leather, and hero pants. Some even wear heavy metal armour as tribute to the nations heritage. Some carry fine rapier swords and flintlock pistols and wear wide brim hats with feathers with one side clipped up as tribute to the musketeers, as well as sporting the nations symbol of the Fleur de Lis.