WEARING POWER ARMOR TO A MAGIC SCHOOL

PUBLIC-ACCESS LORE DOCUMENT

THE SURFACE OF EARTH, LOW-EARTH ORBIT, & INTRO TO THE GREATER UNITED NATIONS

V2.0

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(Please also remember that the contents of this document may be subject to change if it is not already present in the written series!)

INTRODUCTION TO THE GREATER UNITED NATIONS



🟦🟨 *Above: The state & civil flag of the Greater United Nations. The design is a result of a series of iterative designs stemming from the original flag of the United Nations, itself still present in the form of the projection of Earth's surface in the center of the design; a projection of Luna, as seen from the surface of Earth, was added as per the agreements that ended the First Intrasolar War. The Oak Leaves of the first iteration has been replaced with five-pointed stars, each point representing a group of space stations and planetary bodies.*

🟦 The **United Nations of Earth and Luna**, colloquially and even politically referred to as the **Greater United Nations (GUN)** or simply as the **United Nations (UN)**, is a Federal Union of States consisting first and foremost of a Bicameral Democratic Parliamentary legislature and secondarily of a technocratic civil service. Founded in the wake of the Second World War on October 24th, 1945, the GUN has since transitioned from an international advisory and peacemaking body to the preeminent representative polity of all Humanity, administering almost the entirety of the 252 billion humans alive as of 3047. The GUN is furthermore an interstellar spacefaring polity, its official territorial claims encompassing a spherical bubble emanating 250 light-years from the Sol System.

🟦 **Nomenclature**

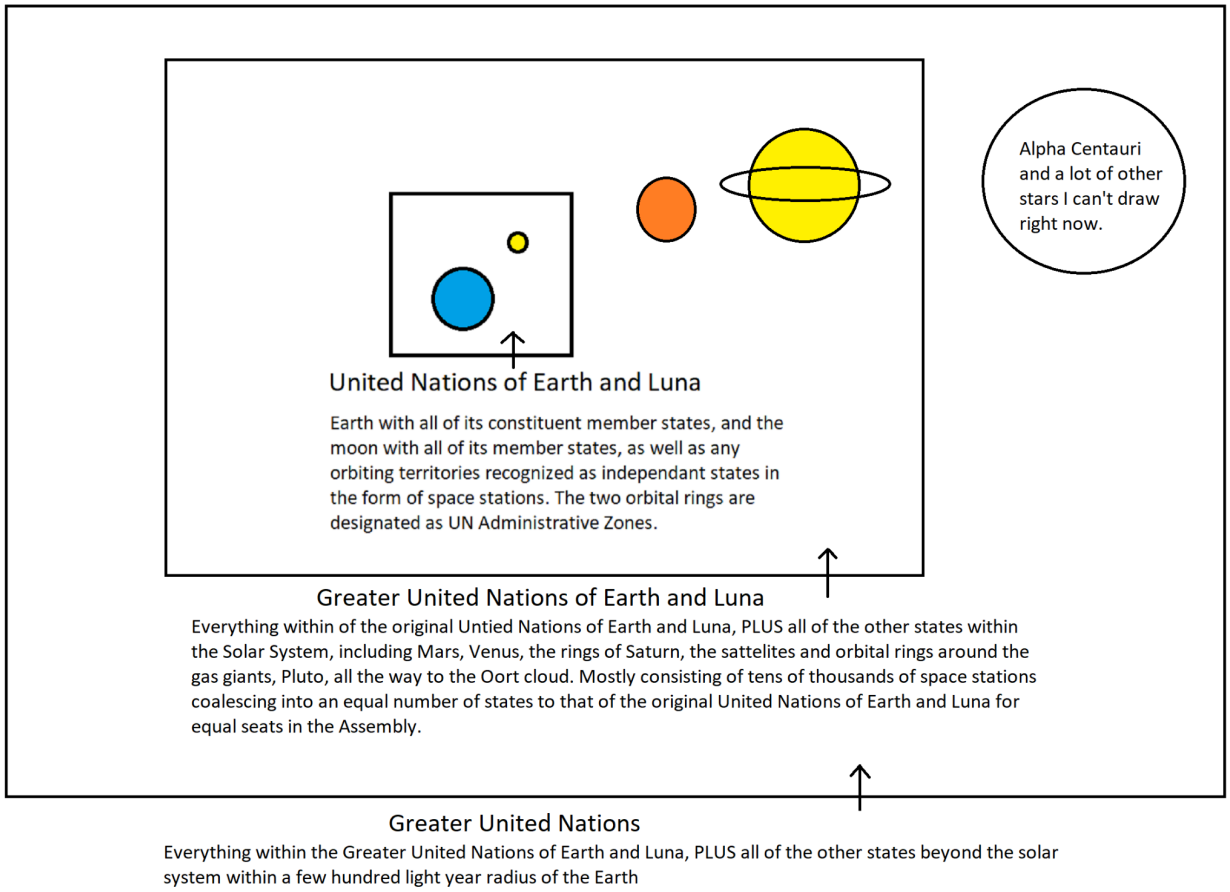
Ordained in 1945 as simply the “United Nations,” that organization’s eventual confederalization and outright federalization would, in the eyes of its lawmakers, warrant a name change. With the signing of the **Planetary Unification Charter** in 2104, The UN’s name was formally changed to the ***“United Nations of Earth.”*** This, however, would last scarcely half a century, as the conclusion of the First Intrasolar War between Earth and Lunarian separatists would see the fledgling state’s name lengthened to the ***United Nations of Earth and Luna***, which remains the formal name of the country nearly a thousand years later.

Although, this is not to say that this is the only name in use. Indeed, in addition to the colloquially used *de-facto* name found in the GUN, there too exists the ***“Greater United Nations of Earth and Luna.”*** The three are most often used as territorial descriptors utilized within the following roles:

- United Nations of Earth and Luna: *“Earth with all of its constituent member states, [Luna] with all of its constituent member states, as well as any orbiting territories recognized as independent states in the form of space stations. [EarthRings 1 and 2, LunaRing] are designated as UN Administrative Zones.”*

- Greater United Nations of Earth and Luna: *“Everything within the original United Nations of Earth and Luna, in addition to all the other states found within the Sol System, including (but not limited to) Venus, Mars, the orbital rings and habitats found around the Gas Giants, the rings of Saturn, Pluto; encompassing all territory out to the Oort Cloud. This designator primarily covers tens of thousands of space stations that coalesce into a number of People’s Assembly and General Assembly seats that equal the original United Nations of Earth and Luna.”*

- Greater United Nations: *“Everything within the Greater United Nations of Earth and Luna, in addition to all other states outside the Sol System within a 250 light-year radius from Earth.”*



🟦 *Above: A diagram provided by Jcb of the nomenclature of the UN. (December 2022)*

🟦 Government

The Government of the United Nations is split into three distinct branches - an executive, legislature, and judiciary - overseen by an appointed *First Secretary* and an elected *First Speaker*, both of the aforementioned roles finding their history of the splitting of the responsibilities of the UN General Secretary following the conclusion of the First Intrasolar War.

Executive

The Executive Branch of the UN's government is noteworthy for the large, robust, and influential civil service that accompanies it. During the First Intrasolar War[1], with the institutions of the UN ill-equipped for the administrative and bureaucratic realities accompanying space-space warfare, the Civil Service effectively seized control of the UN Security Council during the war, supplanting it with its bureaucrats and administrators until such time when the council was outright dissolved at the conclusion of hostilities. The Civil Service continued to serve as the veritable backbone of the UN during the Second Intrasolar War, pitting Earth, Venus, and Mercury against Mars and its accompanying stations in the Asteroid Belt, during which time it fostered an important bilateral working relationship with the UN's Armed Forces.

(In-story, the strong relationship between the Civil Service, of which the IAS is a part of under the United Nations Science Advisory, and the Armed Forces aided greatly in Emma's recruitment as a representative of the LREF.)

The Executive Branch is headed by the UN's Head of State, the **First Secretary**. The First Secretary is responsible for the day-to-day functions of the UN's state apparatus; namely the Civil Service and its associated offices and departments. The position is selected via an appointment by two bodies within the Civil Service: *The Collegiate*, an entity consisting of a rotating committee of the UN's leading academics, and *The Secretariat*, a body consisting of all the UN's incumbent department heads. The position can be held for a maximum of three 7-year terms.

Secretary LI - Founding Father of the GUN

"Rice, Rockets, and Reform.

Rice for the people, Rockets for the future, Reform for the State."

Jacob Li is recognized as the "founder" of the modern GUN, leading the state during the First Intrasolar War and reforming the government into its current iteration - dissolving the UN Security Council that had been dominated by the "Big Five" member states for almost 200 years, replacing it with the current executive branch, additionally adding the People's Assembly as a democratic chamber within the legislature.

Rising from humble beginnings as a mid-ranking bureaucrat, his career would see a meteoric rise after his marriage to one Madeline Rockwell, heir to orbital shipbuilding &

[1] 🟨 In the worldbuilding sessions I gleaned this information from, the crystallization of the UN's civil service has alternated between occurring during the *Second* or *First* Insolar War. I use the First Intrasolar War as that is the most up-to-date interpretation.

infrastructure megalopoly Rockwell International. Seeking to secure inheritance of the company from her father, she sought marriage with Li, whom she saw as "soft-spoken and unassuming," to secure a "pawn" within the UN's bureaucracy. Seeking to further increase her influence in the government, even more so when she became CEO of Rockwell International after her father's death, she "sponsored" Li's eventual rise to Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Li, however, would prove to be anything but what Madeline expected him to be.

Maneuvering to establish his own power base independent of his wife's, his "endgame" would come into effect during the First Intrasolar War. With the United Nations Security Council floundering after repeated defeats to Lunarian rebels, the Secretary-General of the United Nations would seize control of the body from the member states, staffing it with individuals loyal to him and establishing a transitional government with himself as General Secretary. In the resultant drafting of a new constitution, it was stipulated that "Higher-ranked state officials cannot hold, nor through proxies such as their spouses, property or ownership in companies, stocks, or hold executive or managerial positions in multinational and/or public companies."

This clause effectively ripped Madeline's power base out from under her, her only option to preserve the company being pursuit of a divorce - a path that would likely see the courts award Li *half* of all her private assets. It was thus that the CEO of Rockwell International decided to "break" her company down into smaller subsidiary holders, barely skirting the public company rule in the process.

This decision would likewise play straight into Secretary Li's hands, as these new subsidiaries lacked Rockwell's full resources, making them easier to pursue legal action against within the judiciary. By the end of the resultant proceedings, Rockwell International as a coherent, viable entity no longer existed.

Within the UN Security Council, the agreements made to end the First Intrasolar War would see the Li-dominated body vote itself out of existence, allowing for the introduction of the People's Assembly as the primary legislative body of the "Modern" GUN. During his tenure, Li would additionally oversee the creation of large poverty aid programs and pursuit of further unmanned space exploration of the outer Solar System, these two tenants combining with his aforementioned alterations to Humanity's government to give rise to his platform of "Rice, Rockets, Reform."

Legislative

The Legislative branch of the Greater United Nations is a bicameral system consisting of a lower house, the **People's Assembly**, and an upper house, the **General Assembly.** The latter is the very same decision-making institution founded as a core tenant of the UN in 1945, and has largely remained identical to its 21st-century counterpart so far as its internal operations are concerned; delegates selected by the governments of member states draft policy independent of the general public. While its power has been eroded considerably in favor of the People's Assembly[2], it nonetheless remains an important facilitator in giving individual member states sway within the UN, especially those with low populations. The seats in the General Assembly are currently evenly split between the UN member states of the Earth-Luna system and a condensed agglomeration of spacer polities.

The People's Assembly, meanwhile, is a direct product of the UN's transition from a confederal-advisory body to that of a budding federation via the First Intrasolar War. With the General Assembly all but paralyzed over the course of the conflict, in addition to Lunarian demands for representation within the UN's governmental structure, the decision was made by the war's end in 2179 to add a secondary electoral chamber of government. The PA, in stark contrast to the GA's political appointees, has its representatives chosen via direct popular election, filling the role of a popular representative house contemporarily found in many democratic governments. By 3047, this institution had become the primary legislative body of the UN, its electoral nature more directly reflecting the wills and wishes of the populace.

Overseeing the Legislature is the UN's Head of Government, the **First Speaker**. The First Speaker is the highest elected office within the UN and is the democratic counterpart to the committee-appointed First Secretary. This position is held for a maximum of two five-year terms.

Judicial

The Judicial system of the UN *(🟨 While also, undoubtedly, comprising of lower "circuit courts," of which information is unavailable)* is best represented by its highest court of law, the **High Court of the United Nations of Earth and Luna**. The judiciary has the power and responsibility to interpret the law drafted by the legislature and signed into power by the executive. Presiding over the High Court are the **High Justices**,

[2] 🟨 Potentially being an analogous situation to the current power dynamic between the House of Lords and House of Commons in the UK, although the GA, in this case, would still retain considerably more decision-making power

appointed to their positions for ten-year terms by Independent Candidacy Commissions (ICCs).

Independent Candidacy Commissions are established during the final years of a High Justice's tenure, staffed by members of the middle judiciary and senior law academics, supervised by General Assembly and People's Assembly Oversight Committees. Among the litany of requirements to be considered for the position, Independent Candidacy Commissions primarily consider one's experience and prior track record in the judiciary. Once a list of candidates is assembled both by commission and self-applications, the applicant list is next reviewed by another ICC independent of the prior selection process, one of its primary roles being the review of self-directed applications. Upon the completion of the ICC vetting process, additional rounds of auditing are undertaken to further review applicants and prospective nominees, done via back-and-forth communications between the GA and PA oversight advisories, the relevant ICCs, and independent academic committees. With the auditing process then complete, a final nominee is whittled down from the initial list and sent to the offices of the First Secretary and First Speaker, both of whom are required to sign their approval for their candidacy. The final step of the process then sees the nominee sent to the General Assembly and People's Assembly to be properly ratified.

Seat of Government

Previously headquartering the General Assembly and Security Council in the UN General Assembly Building in New York City, the UN's seat of government was relocated following the end of the First Intrasolar War to what is formally known as the **Greater United Nations General Assembly Parliamentary Capitol** and colloquially known as **GovStation**, a large space station situated at Earth-Luna L1 Lagrange point. It currently hosts the General Assembly and People's Assembly, as well as the offices of the First Secretary and First Speaker.

🟦 Military

Finding its first tendril within the coalition forces that fought under its flag during the Korean War of 1950-53, finding firmer roots still within the myriad peacekeeping missions of the 20th century, and an outright *predecessor* with the founding of the United Nations Peace and Stability Force (UNPSF) with the ratification of Resolution 2927, and outright formalized with the confederalization of the UN and conclusion of the First Intrasolar War, the **United Nations Armed Forces** form the martial backbone of

the Greater United Nations, protecting it from threats at home and abroad, boasting a total of **5 billion** service people across the breadth of its branches.

Unified Central Command



🟦 *Above: The emblem of the Unified Central Command. The three triangles found in the center represent the three branches of civilian government, the rays each a respective branch, and the semicircles the operational range of each branch relative to Earth.*

The **Unified Central Command** is the central apparatus of the UN Armed Forces which coordinates actions between all of its component branches. The representatives which coordinates these efforts, the **First Commanders**, are likewise the respective heads of their military branches.

UN Army (UN-A)



🟦 *Above: A reference image for a standard UN & Member State Infantryperson. A suit of the UN's soldierly would however both possess more armor plates and be hermetically sealed.*

Derived directly from the peacekeepers of the 20th century and the UN Peace and Security Force of the 21st, the **United Nations Army** is the primary terrestrial fighting force employed by the UN. The UN-A fields a litany of mechanized infantry, armor, and power-armored units across its various units and force structures. However, a common feature that all share is the widespread proliferation of **Semi-Autonomous Modular Combat Platforms (S-AMCPs)**, robotic drones meant to augment the force projection and reconnaissance capabilities of their operator. S-AMCPs can take various forms, from insect-sized infil-drones to spider-like swarms to humanoid weapons platforms. While theoretically capable of operating independently of human oversight, doing so has long since been declared a war crime by updated Geneva Conventions; at least one human operator needs to be present. S-AMCPs have likewise fundamentally changed the role of the enlisted soldier: Lower enlisted ranks have shifted "up" from what would contemporarily be seen as "grunt work" to that of an NCO - each soldier commanding a

fireteam of drones, covering and supplementing such roles as scouting and direct fire. The UN-A is furthermore a branch that can further call upon the militaries of constituent member states to further reinforce their ranks, fully-compatible combat units belonging to individual states fulfilling a role comparable to the US Army National Guard.

UN Extra-Atmospheric Forces (UN-EAF)

Finding its origins within the ad-hoc agglomeration of fleets during the First Intrasolar War, the **United Nations Extra-Atmospheric Forces** is the arm of the UN's space-faring fleet responsible for the defense of systems within UN-controlled space and is furthermore responsible for the transport of the UN-A and UN-TSEC to theaters of terrestrial war. Fielding 2-3 million personnel, the UN-EAF operates a combined total of 5,000 warships and combat-support craft. The force has, over its nearly one-thousand-year history, fought five major conflicts spanning from the Inner Sol System to the furthest reaches of claimed extrasolar space, in addition to being first on the scene during the comparatively recent Jovian Insurrection (3027). Its present duties are mostly confined to the training and maintenance of its fleet, patrolling trade routes, and transporting other military units to their deployment locations.

UN Long-Range Expeditionary Forces (UN-LREF)

Founded shortly after the invention of FTL technology, the **United Nations Long-Range Expeditionary Forces** is the arm of the UN's space-faring fleet responsible for the scouting, charting, and combat outside of UN-controlled space, effectively serving as the first line of defense against a potentially hostile alien polity. Fielding several thousand ships, the LREF has spent its history on the far periphery of human space, sending out years-long *"Long Patrols"* in an effort to chart star systems thousands of light-years away from Earth. Separated from the robust supply lines of UN space, the LREF's supply chain is likewise entirely self-contained, with logistical craft embedded in exploratory units, ensuring a constant influx of resources and the means by which to process them.

EAF-LREF Ship Classification System

Utilizing the same categorization system, the UN-EAF and UN-LREF split their ships into various types, subtypes, and classes. Perhaps the largest delineator in this system is **Spinal Cannon Capability** - the ability for a ship to mount a Spinal Cannon, a type of

rail gun that spans the entire length of a vessel's hull. Ships that are spinal cannon capable are automatically considered Heavy Cruisers or above. In contrast, those ships that are SCC-incapable are considered "Multi-Role Vessels" (MRVs) and classified as a Cruiser or below. In lieu of or in addition to Spinal Cannons, a combat vessel can furthermore field many different types of weapon delivery systems: Magnetically-accelerated kinetic projectiles, Plasma weaponry[3], Laser arrays, and missiles, among many others. All UN combat ships at or above the size of a Corvette are furthermore capable of FTL travel via warp drives[4], maximum warp clocking in at 800 times the speed of light.

Combat Ship Classes

Corvette - The Corvette is the smallest category of ship within the UN-EAF and LREF, specializing in niche roles that require speed and agility, such as dedicated anti-drone missions, point defense, and enemy harassing operations. Their size ranges from 50 - 150 meters in length.

Destroyer - Destroyers are most often used in highly specialized roles and contexts, the most common among them being e-warfare. Capable of networking with other friendly Destroyers and vessels of other types, the e-warfare suite of the class is capable enough to interfere with the radio emissions of entire fleets if present in great enough numbers. They are additionally capable of tracking incoming ordinance and deploying supplementary e-warfare drones. Their size ranges from 100 - 225 meters in length.

Frigate - Frigates are considered great "generalist" platforms, in that their modularity allows them to be outfitted for a great number of tasks and niches. A great example of this can be found in Frigate "hedgehog packs," wherein a group of these ships can be outfitted with enough missile launchers to overwhelm the point defense systems of an enemy fleet. However, due to their comparatively small power plants owing to their limited size, they are still put at a disadvantage against cruiser-grade ships, thus preventing their exclusive monopoly of use. Their size ranges from 300 - 500 meters in length.

Light Cruiser - Light Cruisers are considered a step up from Frigates, in that while they retain the latter's hosting of a single weapons system, they have a cruiser-grade power plant to give them a considerable boost in speed and maneuverability, nearly matching

[3] 🟦 Plasma-based weapons systems at this point in time are extremely niche, due to their roles being better achieved by kinetic and laser systems and easy countermeasures being present.
[4] 🟦 Alcubierre drives.

that of the Frigate despite the Light Cruiser's increased size and mass. The Light Cruiser is also the smallest ship capable of deploying plasma weaponry. Their size ranges from 700 - 900 meters in length.

Cruiser - Cruisers are considered the greatest generalists of the EAF and LREF. With a size ranging from 950 - 1,440 meters in length, they are capable of fielding multiple weapons platforms, as opposed to the sole platforms of their smaller contemporaries. Among these available systems are laser focusing arrays, plasma torpedoes, and lances, as well as kinetic batteries. Their larger size allows for increased modularity and the easy introduction of these more advanced systems. This was decided on out of a growing concern from the UN that were they to meet an alien species, said potential adversary may not have specialized in one weapons system exclusively, thus requiring the need for the UN to diversify its available weapons systems in turn.

It is around Cruiser-sized vessels that one starts to see the utilization of spin-gravity ships. While artificial gravity is known of and harnessed for the space-distorting Warp Drives of the UN, the power required to maintain artificial gravity is energy-prohibitive to the point where it can only *be used in Warp Drives. Thus, UN ships below the size of a Light or regular Cruiser will only experience gravity while under acceleration; otherwise being required to use magnetic boots during operations. Larger vessels - Cruisers and above - are large enough to house dedicated habitation ring modules that provide artificial gravity via spin. However, even this is only limited to the spin modules in question.*

Heavy Cruiser - Also called "Pocket Battleships," as they're the smallest possible vessel that a spinal cannon can be affixed to; at the cost of most other systems. Heavy Cruisers are a popular ship-of-choice for the UN during peacetime, as they effectively have the firepower of a Battleship's spinal cannon, with the reduced maintenance cost associated with a cruiser. Their size ranges from 1,500 - 2,000 meters in length, with the spinal cannon taking up a kilometer of that length.

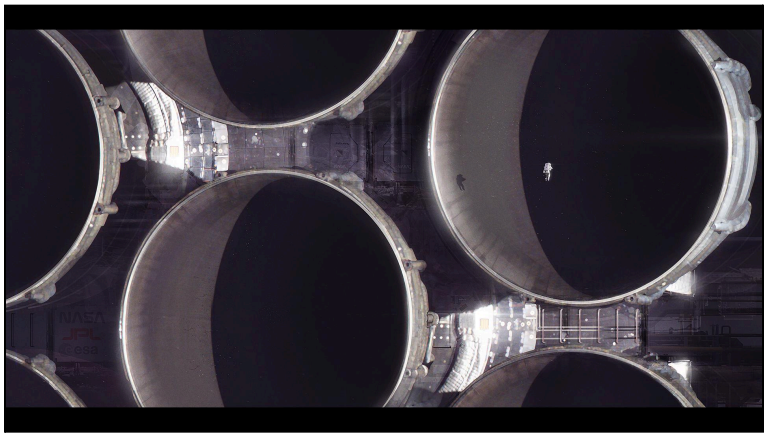
Battlecruiser - A class of ship that is effectively dead; it was envisioned as a mix between a Heavy Cruiser and Battleship, it would keep the spinal gun of the former while introducing additional weapons systems of the latter at the cost of armor and other defense systems - effectively rendering it even more of a "glass cannon" than a Heavy Cruiser. Predictably, the class never took off as more than a working concept. Their size would've ranged from 2,500 - 3,000 meters in length.

Battleship - The backbone of the fleet, and the core component around which a fleet is built, Battleships are the pride of the EAF and LREF. A Battleship is host to a single

spinal cannon, in addition to various secondary kinetic and laser systems, as well as an incredibly formidable point-defense system. Their hull armor is thick enough and their inertial dampeners powerful enough that it takes nothing short of the firepower of a Heavy Cruiser to penetrate it. While predictably slow in sublight operations, their power plant is strong enough to keep its Warp Drive on the same speed as its smaller sisters - 800 times the speed of light. Their sizes range from 3,000 - 4,000 meters in length.

Carrier - Effectively drone-carrying platforms, these ships carry automated strike craft meant to harass an enemy fleet, hitting them with high-yield plasma bombs, and eventually overwhelming their defense screens. Owing to their drone-operating nature, they require strong networking infrastructure to operate effectively and are thus commonly paired with a Destroyer component to act as additional network relays. However, their presence can be nullified by a strong enough electronic counter-warfare suite, and are expensive to maintain. Their sizes range from 500 - 2,500 meters in length, depending on the model.

Dreadnought - Envisioned as the single-strongest ship class within the UN, production of the class was canceled during the construction of its first ship due to public outcry over the prohibitive costs involved. The sole unfinished ship was taken control of by the LREF and repurposed into a mobile command center; It is 10,000 meters in length.



🟦 *Above: A reference image for the engine suite of the LREF's Mobile Command Center. (Image Credit.)*

Additional Information on UN-EAF/LREF Ships, Force Posturing, and Combat

- UN ships are designed to be fully or near-fully modular, allowing for easier maintenance on the hull and weapons systems; if a section is damaged, the module in question can easily be replaced.

- Space Combat in *Wearing Power Armor to a Magic School* is based heavily on the realism-heavy Sci-Fi series *The Expanse*, and thus to a great degree incorporates real-world physics and the doctrines necessary to accommodate it.

- The EAF and LREF operate on the “rule of thirds,” meaning that a third of their forces are on active operational missions, a third is under maintenance, and a third is undergoing training and/or non-combat/patrol missions.

UN Terrestrial and Space Expeditionary Command (UN-TSEC)

The **United Nations Terrestrial and Space Expeditionary Command** is the marine arm of the UN-EAF and LREF, serving as a first-response force before the arrival of the UN Army in theater. Utilizing a similar force structure to the UN-A, TSEC puts special emphasis on the usage of Power Armored units for the majority of its engagements, especially in void warfare. TSEC currently holds the honorific of being the most “combat-experienced” branch, as its forces were the UN’s spearhead for the station-limited armed conflict that was the Jovian Insurgency of 3027. It was during this operation that the most recent Star of Terra - the UN’s highest award for gallantry - was awarded to a certain TSEC operator Sergeant Major **Ran Booker** for her heroic actions during combat, the first to receive the award in over 300 years.

UN Orbital Defense Command (UN-ODC)

The **United Nations Orbital Defense Command** is responsible for the manning and upkeep of planetary defense networks and their associated relay stations. The ODC primarily utilizes de-commissioned ships from the EAF and LREF - some of the former even dating back to the Intrasolar Era - repurposed into *Static Defense Stations*, the spinal cannons of those decommissioned craft still operational and representing a considerable output of firepower. This system ensures that the assets of the branch are in a constant state of growth, the amount of weaponry the branch commands outnumbering the combined assets of the EAF and LREF. In addition to these arrays of Static Defense Stations, the ODC operates large *traditional* space stations 10 to 20 kilometers in length as both military hard points as well as logistical hubs to keep the comparatively small Static Defense Stations supplied.

UN Terrestrial Air and Sea Command (UN-TASC)

The **United Nations Terrestrial Air and Sea Command** is a combined arm representing in-atmosphere air forces and traditional blue-water naval forces. The TASC is primarily responsible for providing atmospheric air support in theaters of war in which the environment allows for such a possibility, while its blue-water arm is primarily confined to Earth, patrolling shipping lanes and operating nuclear-armed submarines. Much like the UN-A, TASC can call upon the navies and air forces of individual member states to further reinforce its units, akin to the contemporary US Air and Navy National Guards. In the realm of public perception, TASC has the poorest reputation of any branch, as it is viewed even by members of other service branches as vestigial - the theaters of *modern* war having long since moved into the realm of space.

🟨 Within the air arm of TASC, amidst cutting-edge aircraft capable of automatically modifying their wing layouts to match atmospheric and operational requirements, the **B-52 Stratofortress** soldiers on as the longest-serving aircraft in human history, its engines and avionics continually replaced with more capable iterations. Its chassis has likewise been replaced piecemeal as older sections are removed after decades of continuous strain, rendering the remaining squadrons of the venerable bomber as veritable “Ships of Theseus.” The B-52, in addition to serving in TASC, likewise serves within the US Air Force.

UN Electronics Warfare and Cybersecurity Command (UN-EWCC)

The **UN Electronics Warfare and Cybersecurity Command** is the electronics and cyber-warfare component of the UN’s military. Lacking space assets of their own, EWCC operators are most commonly found among the ships of the UN-EAF and stations of the UN-ODC. Their service culture is unique within the UN armed forces, as the nature of their jobs does not demand the rigorous physical training commonly associated with the military, bar the branch’s internal security division. The EWCC is furthermore disproportionately protected against social engineering ploys by would-be saboteurs, as the commonly high amounts of introversion found amongst the personnel of the branch effectively prevent any such attempts from taking root.

Personnel Ranking System

Enlisted

With the mass proliferation of S-AMCPs, the ranks of the enlisted have long been truncated in comparison to their 21st-century counterparts as drones took over the “grunt” roles that the lowest-ranked soldiers would otherwise occupy. This has led to the

operating structure of branches being shifted “upwards” as enlisted personnel, commanding S-AMCP fireteams, start as effective Junior NCOs in terms of role and responsibility. **While there are several differences in rank and structure between branches, the enlisted organizational structure of the United Nations Army is shown.**

Enlisted/’Boot-Camp Rank’ (BCRs) - These ranks are provided to individuals who have enlisted and are still undergoing basic training. With the marked increase in the complexity of warfare, basic training has evolved into a system that takes approximately six months, and Advanced Individual Training schools (AITs) take a longer duration of time than even basic training - anywhere from six months to several years, depending on one’s chosen MOS. The three ranks present at this stage are used to determine how far along one is in training, and are never seen in a combat situation.

- E-1 Trainee, Recruit
- E-2 Private

Junior Non-Commissioned Officers (JNCOs) - These are the lowest ranks present in an active service role, filled by those immediately following the *full* completion of their training. The lowest of these ranks command a fireteam of 3-4 S-AMCPs in a typical fireteam configuration, though this number can vary greatly to a maximum of 10 infil-drones in the case of a forward scouting and recon team. JNCOs are most often seen leading fireteam and squad elements, although exceptions do exist, most often in the case of heavy weapons and power armor specialists acting as adjuncts to platoons configured to meet that need.

- E-3 Corporal, Specialist
- E-4 First Corporal
- E-5 Sergeant

Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) - At this level, one starts to see the overlap as well as direct integration and involvement with the commissioned officers within platoon-level organizations.

- E-6 Senior Sergeant
- E-7 Staff Sergeant
- E-8 Senior Staff Sergeant

Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (SNCOs) - These ranks represent senior enlisted leadership positions at company-level organization structures and beyond, as well as the last enlisted ranks one would find deployed on a battlefield.

- E-9 Master Sergeant
- E-10 First Sergeant

Executive Non-Commissioned Officers (ENCOs)

- **E-11 Sergeant Major** - This position is a senior role one would most commonly find within organizational, strategic, logistical, and training roles within back-line installations.
- **E-12 Sergeant Major of the Army** - The holder of this position serves as the representative of enlisted personnel to the Unified Central Command[5].

Officer

In comparison to its enlisted counterpart, the officer and warrant officer ranking structures of the UN Armed Forces have remained relatively unchanged. While there have indeed been additions over the centuries of the UN's existence, it has never been to a paradigm-shifting extent. The reason for the inclusion of additional roles was to add a greater level of role designation and delineation as the ranks of the military grew exponentially larger compared to their pre-intrasolar progenitors. This has led to some concerns amongst the Assemblies and Civil Service that the commissioned officer system had become "top-heavy," especially within the UN-EAF, given its technology-focused nature. Two ranking structures are provided as examples of this system - one from the UN-A and the other from the UN-EAF.

United Nations Army

Junior Officers

- O-1 Second Lieutenant
- O-2 First Lieutenant
- O-3 Captain
- O-4 Staff Captain

Senior Officers

[5] 🟦 Ran Booker served in UN-TSEC's equivalent position for a full year before resigning, although she continued to maintain the pay grade and role in a ceremonial capacity and continued to work in a consultant position.

- O-5 Major
- O-6 Commander
- O-7 Lieutenant Colonel
- O-8 Colonel

General Officers

- O-9 Brigadier General
- O-10 Major General
- O-11 Lieutenant General
- O-12 General

UN Extra-Atmospheric Forces

Junior Officers

- O-1 Ensign
- O-2 Ensign First Class
- O-3 Lieutenant
- O-4 Lieutenant Commander

Senior Officers

- O-5 Commander
- O-6 Wing Commander
- O-7 Captain
- O-8 Group Captain

Geneal Officers

- O-9 Commodore
- O-10 Rear Admiral
- O-11 Vice Admiral
- O-12 Admiral

🟦 Currency

With the economy of the Greater United Nations is best described as “near post-scarcity,” as the mass proliferation of asteroid and planetoid mining has long-since resulted in the cratering of prices on metals and minerals formerly considered precious, gold and platinum among them. The GUN thus, after experimentations with fiat currency, eventually settled on a model of Universal Basic Income wherein citizens are provided “Requisition Units” with which to acquire basic goods. An example of this process could be seen in a family using their allotted Requisition Units to acquire a set a furniture for their home. Citizens are furthermore paid both through work and UBI stipends with **Universal Standard Transaction Units (¤)**, colloquially referred to as “Units.” A rough comparison with contemporary currencies would put the purchasing power of a singular UTSU on-par with that of the Japanese Yen.

🟦🟨 History of the UN (Earth)

The Formation of the UN and its Operations, 1945-2029

While the first tangible and meaningful international peacemaking institution can be traced to the founding of the League of Nations in 1920, it would be that organization’s failure in its primary mission and the subsequent global conflict that followed that would give rise to what would eventually become Humanity’s federal government.

Ratified into existence on the 24th of October, 1945 in the wake of the Second World War by fifty-one states, the **United Nations** was established with the stated intent of *“maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, achieving international cooperation, and serving as a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.”* To this end, throughout the length of its first iteration (1945-2104), the United Nations served as the primary arbiter of international relations, as well as a peacemaker in its own right. This is to not say, however, that the UN solely dealt in the realm of diplomacy; its first military action would be undertaken during the Korean War (1950-1953, 2027-2029), within which the **United Nations Command** would function as both the coalition that came to the aid of the Republic of Korea and the first international unified command in history. It would be this action - taken shortly after the founding of the UN itself - that would prove to be the greatest success in the 20th century.

Throughout the First Cold War (1947-1991), and indeed into the 21st century and subsequent Second Cold War (2013-2027), the UN would frequently find itself in a state of deadlock as its five permanent veto-holding members of the United Nations Security Council in the 20th and early 21st centuries - the United States of America (1945-2175),

the United Kingdom (of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 1945-2034, of England, Wales, and the Overseas Possessions 2034-2175), France (1945-2175), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (1945-1991, Russian Federation 1991-2030, and Republic of China (1945-1971, People's Republic of China 1971-2029) - would find themselves in a near-constant state of contest and competition on account of ideological differences and conflicting geopolitical aims. What few resolutions passed in this environment were accordingly hollow and ceremonial, and what peacekeeping missions were undertaken globally more often than not resulted in tragedy and embarrassment for the organization (Bosnia 1992-1995, South Sudan 2011-2044). While a small rise in productivity was observed in the interlude between the Cold Wars, the Second Cold War, pitting the United States against the People's Republic of China, would once more see the UN ground into relative deadlock. Failing to de-escalate and outright prevent the outbreak of a new wave of conflicts in Ukraine, the Levant, and the South China Sea, one of the few successes the UN would see in this period was the UN's World Health Organization's (WHO) response to the COVID-19 Pandemic (2020-2045), spearheading international efforts of quarantine and immunization against the disease. While this would bring a vitally-needed re-enforcement of the UN's public perception, such successes would be wholly undone by the end of that same decade.

While by 2027 tensions had been rising in the South China Sea for almost fifteen years, the *"Ayungin Incident"* of 16 March 2027 would trigger a diplomatic and military chain reaction that would less than two months later culminate in the People's Republic of China (PRC)'s invasion of the Republic of China (ROC)-controlled island of Taiwan, as well as offensive action in the South China Sea. This would shortly thereafter be followed by the re-ignition of armed conflict on the Korean Peninsula, with the infamously live-streamed *"Scathing of Seoul"* remaining up to 3047 as one of the most lethal WMD attacks in human history. The United States, both entangled in a web of mutual defense agreements with the defender states, and itself a defender state with attacks on Guam and her naval assets, would formally declare war on the PRC, signaling the start of the **Third World War** (2027-2029.)

While military actions would be undertaken on every continent with the exceptions of Europe and Antarctica, the better-coordinated and better-equipped militaries of the Washington-led **Allied** Coalition would ultimately win out over the Beijing-controlled **Accord**, the PRC itself being put under naval blockade by the latter half of 2028. While a UN resolution - one of the few passed during the conflict - would provide for the maritime import of oil for civilian energy needs, The PRC's People's Liberation Army would ultimately, starved of fuel to such an extent that not even Russian imports could make up the deficit, commandeered said imports for its own needs, namely the hard-fought Korean front. This decision would prove in short order to be the first nail in

the coffin for the PRC, as on the intended list of use for the confiscated fuel resources was the industrial production of fertilizer necessary to feed half of the Chinese population.

🟨 *The Cascade Collapse, 2029-2040*

Already facing food riots by 2029, the final death blow to both Beijing's government and war effort would come with the *"May Day Earthquake"* of that same year. Already under tremendous strain by both shoddy workmanship during its construction and the weight of its torrential rain-engorged reservoir, the magnitude 7.9 earthquake that struck Hubei province would be the straw that broke the camel's back, collapsing the Three Gorges Dam and subsequently causing the single-deadliest disaster in human history; 88 million were killed in the ensuing floodwaters and 400 million people - a combined 5.7% of the entire human population at the time - would be forced from their homes. Unable to cope with both the economic loss posed by the practical destruction of the entire Yangtze River Valley, as well as the sudden inundation of the rest of the food-stricken country with what was already the single-worst refugee crisis in human history, the government of the PRC would collapse a mere month later, its territories either becoming the dominion of warlords, occupied by Allied forces, or, overwhelmingly, falling into unmitigated anarchy.

While millions would hastily take refuge in UN "safe zones," the most notable of which being in the Pearl River Delta, tens of millions more, lacking the resources and safety required to reach said zones, would instead opt for a perilous crossing across international borders, fleeing into neighboring countries. Already destabilized by the ongoing conflict, these states would buckle under the unprecedented strain of millions of new arrivals, their governments collapsing in the process, likewise sending their respective populations into flight in a "cascade" of state collapses for which the **Cascade Collapse** is named. Over the remainder of 2029 and into the early 2030s, the vast majority of Asia (outside of India and a handful of coastal pockets), large swathes of Africa, and sizeable portions of Latin America would fall into outright anarchy, while the remainder of the planet would be destabilized to various degrees; the best-insulated states (The United States, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia) falling into a deep recession, while those directly bordering affected areas would see their very societies pushed to the metaphorical brink.

It is in this environment that - coupled with the ousting of the PRC and voluntary departure of Russia from the UN respectively[6] - the UN, for the first time since its inception, found its decision-making bodies united without hindrance. With the end of the Third World War and the Cascade Collapse rapidly lighting the planet aflame, the UN Security Council passed **Resolution 2927** on 6 September 2031. 2927 would effectively serve as the impetus behind the UN's long process of confederalization and eventual outright federalization, imbuing the organization, among other points, to govern failed states of its own volition, arbitrate peace as an entity with tangible power, independent of its member states, as well as maintain a permanent standing military.

With the administrative deadlock broken and the organization itself politically supercharged, the United Nations and its remaining intact constituent states embarked on a series of coordinated efforts planet-wide to reverse the damages of the Cascade Collapse and reinstate global order. Such measures ranged from the provision of necessities such as food and water to refugee resettlement, economic aid for floundering states, and even such means as multi-year military campaigns and occupations. Through these means, after eleven years of constant strife, the Cascade Collapse came to its conclusion in 2040 with UN peacekeepers suppressing the last vestiges of unrest.

While it would take decades to realize the true extent of the damages, it is estimated that over the eleven year-span of the Collapse, 563 million humans lay dead - primarily from starvation, thirst, and disease - tens of millions more lay wounded, and a further three billion people globally found themselves internally or externally displaced. The human population had likewise entered a tailspin, spurred on by both the extreme death toll and the global drop in fertility rates by almost one-third. In addition to the already gargantuan statistic of the Collapse directly affecting over 40% of the human population, and *indirectly* affecting what can easily be argued to be every human alive during that era, perhaps equally or even more disturbing was the Collapse's ability to overcome what had before that point been a near-exponential growth in the human population, Earth's total populace contracting by 2.45% during the cataclysm. The Cascade Collapse would also serve to irreversibly alter the makeup of Earth's international community; with regimes having been toppled and established, states having unified and splintered, and borders redrawn all across the planet.

[6] 🟨 The PRC's seat in the UN Security Council would be returned to the ROC, while Russia's seat would be given to India.

🟦🟨 *The Formation of Spacefaring Regional Blocs & Global Unification, 2040-2104*

With decades of unrest now in the past, a newly-emboldened UN maintaining order and painstakingly reconstructing entire continents, those states that could afford to do so gradually began to turn their eyes skyward towards a heaven that had been neglected in favor of more dire terrestrial matters. While humanity *had* possessed a permanent presence both in low orbit via the *International Space Station* as well as Lunar Orbit via the multinational *Gateway* station, and finally on the Lunar surface through the American *Plymouth Base*, established in 2026, further aims at the continued development of Humanity's in-space presence had been truncated into non-existence with required funding being desperately needed elsewhere during the 2030s - the financial strain on several spacefaring bodies being so severe as to cut spending on their space programs to the degree that mere satellite launches became few and far between, the most egregious example being every space agency sans NASA and JAXA pulling participation in the Lunar Gateway project.

The near and often outright disassembly and dissolution of almost every other space program on the planet would see the United States, itself having confederated with its neighboring countries into the North American Union by 2031, and to a lesser degree Japan, as the only two states with any meaningful spacefaring capabilities - capabilities further bolstered by the eventual mass production of the private corporation SpaceX's *Starship*, itself the first human-rated spacecraft to be assembled in space. With the kilogram-to-orbit cost at an all-time low, and pre-existing infrastructure already in place, the NAU's NASA and Japan's JAXA would in effect have a twenty-year head start in the earliest stages of space colonization. While a large portion of this would manifest in exploratory and settlement achievements - the NAU and Japan basing in the most water-rich areas of Luna and being the first to send humans to Mars in the 2050s - the greatest boon of these ventures were to be found on Luna, wherein the shipment of Helium-3 via the first Earth-Luna supply chains directly coincided with the invention of the first commercially-viable fusion reactors, supercharging the economies of the planet. Unwilling to remain reliant on North American and Japanese energy imports, the formerly defunct space agencies of Europe and Asia were brought back online at a blistering pace.

In the European Federation, the ESA, having previously launched what astronauts they could afford aboard North American and Japanese launch vehicles, now re-activated mothballed spaceports both in French Guiana and on the continent itself, establishing its first Lunar outpost by the 2050s and importing its first shipments of Helium-3 by the next decade. Furthermore, in the Asia-Pacific region, a joint venture between Korea,

Australia, along with additional neighboring states and private investors saw the creation of the bloc's Lunar colonization venture: the Asia-Pacific Space Development Corporation (APSDC), achieving much of the same goals as their contemporaries.

However, such successes were far from universal. Perhaps the most infamous example of a failed Lunar venture during the 21st century came in the form of the International Lunar Development and Management Corporation (ILDMC), a collective effort by a myriad of disparate states and private equities that had been "left behind" in the early rush for Lunar settlements. The litany of competing national and private interests would nearly see the program not leave its terrestrial confines, its near-miraculous arrival on Luna likewise quickly undone as the effort all but imploded on itself.

Nonetheless, as mid-century gave way to late-century, Humanity's cumulative presence in space only grew, the boons of which rehabilitated what devastated sections of the planet remained and outright skyrocketed the economic output of the spacefaring regional blocs. While in times past, such a state of affairs would've all but guaranteed the proliferation of a multipolar political order and its expansion into the Sol System, the events of previous decades not only served to keep that Collapse-era UN in its heightened state of power but to continue further strengthening it as those who grew up or fought during the turmoil of the 2030s now themselves came into positions of political power, determined to never allow the follies of their youths to come to pass again. Such was it, then, that the UN was imbued with greater powers still into the late 21st century, with outright confederalization becoming a metaphorical light at the end of the tunnel. This political climate would rather ironically see the final outbreak of inter-state conflicts on Earth, as states attempted to better their respective geopolitical standings before the crystallization of the planet's political structures[7].

The drive towards confederalization would be achieved outright in 2104 with the signing of the **Planetary Unification Charter** (PUC) by every state on the planet with the sole exception of Switzerland, themselves having left the UN decades prior as its authority grew. The signing of this document would furthermore serve as the dividing point between what would be known as the *first iteration* of the United Nations - an advisory body not intended for global governance - and the *second iteration* of the UN, a proper confederal state now known as the **United Nations of Earth**, itself lasting until 2175, eventually proving itself to be the shortest-lived iteration of the newly-minted global state.

[7] 🟨All force-induced border changes during the late 21st century would eventually be undone by the UN after confederalization.

🟦 *The Twenty-Second Century and The First Intrasolar War, 2157-2175*

Having been a settled body for decades, it was inevitable that a distinctly “Lunarian” culture would be born on the ever-expanding “spoke-and-wheel” bases that slinked across the Lunar landscape. These first generations of self-minted Lunarians would grow up watching their homes mined and exploited for Helium-3, the vital energy resource being shipped back to the states - indeed, the *planet* - to which the Lunarian bases belonged. Such was it, then, that the increasingly socially and culturally independent Lunarians would begin to lobby for their political representation independent of their Earth-based counterparts.

Viewing the increasing calls for Lunarian independence as a threat, owing to the energy stranglehold such Lunarian polities would hold over Earth, the states of the fledgling intrasolar UN sought to diversify their supply chains, sourcing Helium-3 from further afield in the Asteroid Belt concurrently with the first serious asteroid-mining efforts. Large in-space processing plants for the processing of Helium-3 and lucrative rare earth metals would likewise be constructed separate from Earth-Luna supply lines. Seeing these developments and their eventual end-state, namely the side-lining of their calls for representation with Earth’s imminent energy independence, the colonies of Luna would declare their secession from their host states and the UN itself in 2157, beginning the **First Intrasolar War**, the first human conflict fought entirely in-space**.**

The opening stage of the conflict would see the rapid takeover of Luna by the separatists, quickly seizing remaining pro-UN sections of their bases in addition to more isolated research outposts disconnected from the Lunarian movement, their staffs in most cases being allowed to safely return to Earth, though in some cases having their transports shot down or kept in a de-facto “hostage state” for the duration of the conflict. The UN’s response would be uncoordinated and ineffective, the various fleets of its member states, while theoretically under a joint command, operating as independent entities. In stark contrast, the Lunarian fleet was organized into a single whole, the Lunar Central Command, allowing it to score an impressive series of early victories over its disorganized UN counterparts.

The UN responded rapidly and forcefully, its newly minted civil service ejecting the five then-permanent members of the Security Council, having failed to effectively address the Lunarian situation, and staffing it with its personnel. The combined fleets of its member states were likewise commandeered, their commands amalgamated into the United Nations Armed Forces, the direct predecessor to the UN Extra-Atmospheric forces. While this decision was successful in halting the UN’s early string of defeats, it failed to reverse the tide of the war, instead forcing a stalemate.

The eighteen-year span of the war would likewise prove a confusing slog for both sides, as the intricacies of “void warfare” were learned by trial and error; everything was thrown at the wall and tested, the result being many instances where ships on both sides simply lacked the means to engage each other, whether that be through faulty weapons systems or malfunctioning communications. This astropolitical mire would see its eventual conclusion come to pass in 2175 with the negotiated re-entry of Luna into the UN, the primary concessions to do so being the outright disbandment of the UN Security Council[8], the creation of the People’s Assembly, the representation of Luna thereof in addition to the General Assembly, as well as the eventual construction of GovStation as a means of removing the UN’s seat of government from Earth. Thus, having been pushed from a confederal entity into a federal system, the UN would enter its third iteration, the **United Nations of Earth and Luna**, a period lasting from 2175 to 2275.

🟦 *Developments on and around Earth, 2175-3047*

Owing to the nature of this document as pertaining to Earth and Earth-adjacent information and events, the scope of the UN’s history beyond this point moves past the bounds of Earth, save for a handful of relevant events.

Martian Kinetic Strike on Rotterdam, 22nd August 2267

[8] 🟦 The UNSC, still run by the Civil Service, would unanimously pass a resolution to disband itself.



🟨 *Above: A map of the Martian Kinetic Strike on Rotterdam.*

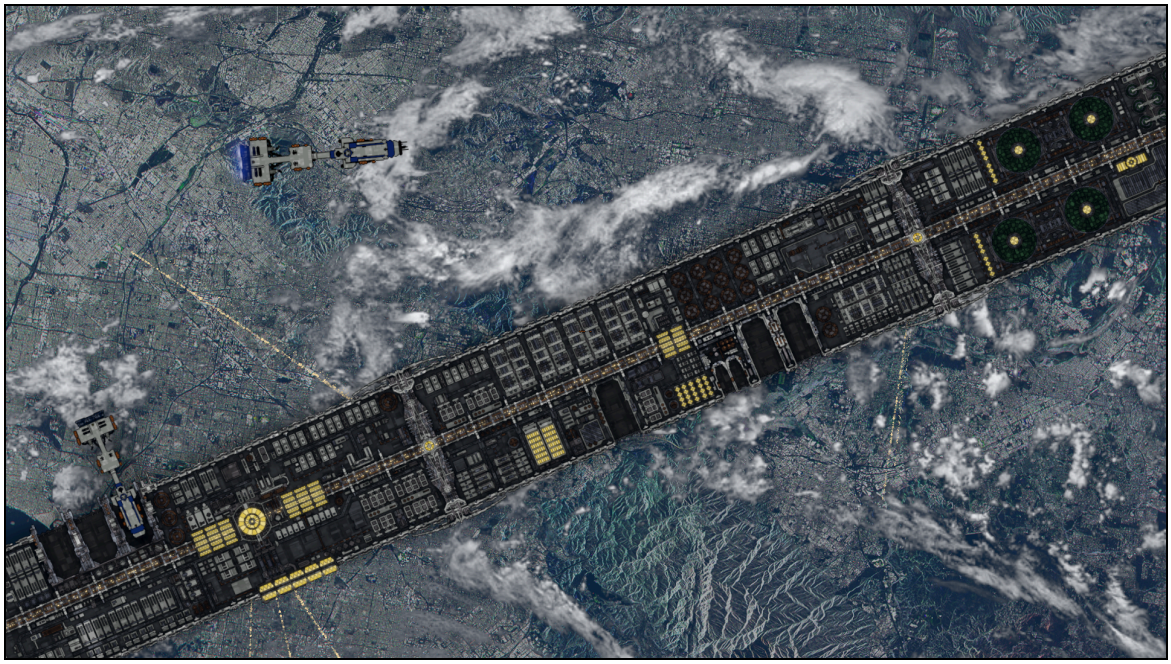
During the waning days of the **Second Intrasolar War** (2253-2275), the alliance of the **Union of Martian Democratic States** and **The Belt** (*Sovereign Solar Republics, League of Independent Stellar States, The Incorporated States of Farrim, The Farrim*

Free Accords, The Free Trade Accord Emergency Coalition) found themselves at an increasing disadvantage against the combined forces of the UN: Earth, Luna, Venus, and Mercury. Desperate for both a morale boost and a tangible victory against the very heart of their enemy, the Martians and Belters elected to use their ace-in-the-hole, Earth-based sleeper cells, to disable the planet's formidable orbital defense network and subsequently allow a sub-light Kinetic Kill Weapon to impact the surface. Only having one chance at success, and wanting to eliminate a large historic population center that simultaneously served as an important logistical hub, the Dutch city of Rotterdam was ear-marked for obliteration.

On the 22nd of August, 1:53 P.M GMT, coinciding with an engagement in the Earth-Luna system, the section of Earth's orbital defense network overlooking Europe was taken offline by Martian saboteurs for sixty seconds, allowing a kinetic impactor to slam into the city of Rotterdam. Millions would perish in an instant, millions more wounded, and the entire Dutch state would be brought to its knees. The force of the blast furthermore managed to destroy the North Sea dikes, inundating an already blast-damaged Hague, host of a litany of UN institutions, as well as most low-lying portions of the country - displacing tens of millions more. It would ultimately take the work of decades to reverse the damages, with the sole consolation of the entire affair being the birth of the "Hyper-revivalist" architectural trend during the reconstruction of Rotterdam.

<u>Development of EarthRings 1 and 2, ~2500s-3047</u>

With the mass proliferation and commercialization of the 21st century eventually evolving into the outright bedrock underpinning human society by the end of the Intrasolar Era, the need arose to both offload what heavy industries remained on Earth and address the problem that was the planet's large gravity-well increasing shipping costs off-world to a large degree. Moving swiftly to remedy these issues, the UN would initiate the construction of **EarthRing** in an equatorial low-orbit position, along with ten space elevators spread roughly equidistant across the planet below the burgeoning ring, becoming floating cities amidst Earth's oceans. The completion of EarthRing would likewise see the final offloading of Earth's remaining heavy industries off-planet, allowing Environmental Protection measures to flourish as a result. With the success of EarthRing and the subsequent spike in traffic, demand naturally accrued for extension projects to the orbital ring, eventually culminating in the construction of **EarthRing 2**, which is still under construction as of 3047.



🟦 *Above: A visual representation of EarthRing as seen from Low Earth Orbit.*

Development of Global Climate Control initiatives, ~2200s-3047

While the worst effects of global warming had been averted over the 21st century, its effects still necessitated the construction of great civil works to keep the rising tides at bay; the Northeast American Seawalls, the Northern European Enclosure Dam, as well as many others. By the 23rd century, however, technology had sufficiently advanced such that the effects of climate change could slowly but steadily be undone, thus leading to the construction of the **Weather Grid**, a globe-encompassing series of weather-monitoring and carbon-scrubbing stations. Over the course of centuries, and with the process of iterated design maximizing the efficiency of such stations, Earth's climate and sea levels eventually reverted to their pre-industrial levels. The Weather Grid is currently used to prevent the development of severe life-threatening weather patterns.

🟦🟨 Low Earth Orbit (LEO)

Low Earth Orbit (LEO), for as long as Humanity has mastered the ability of spaceflight, has been a hotbed for in-space development. From early archaic satellites to the megastructures straddling LEO in 3047, activity in and near Low Earth Orbit has been

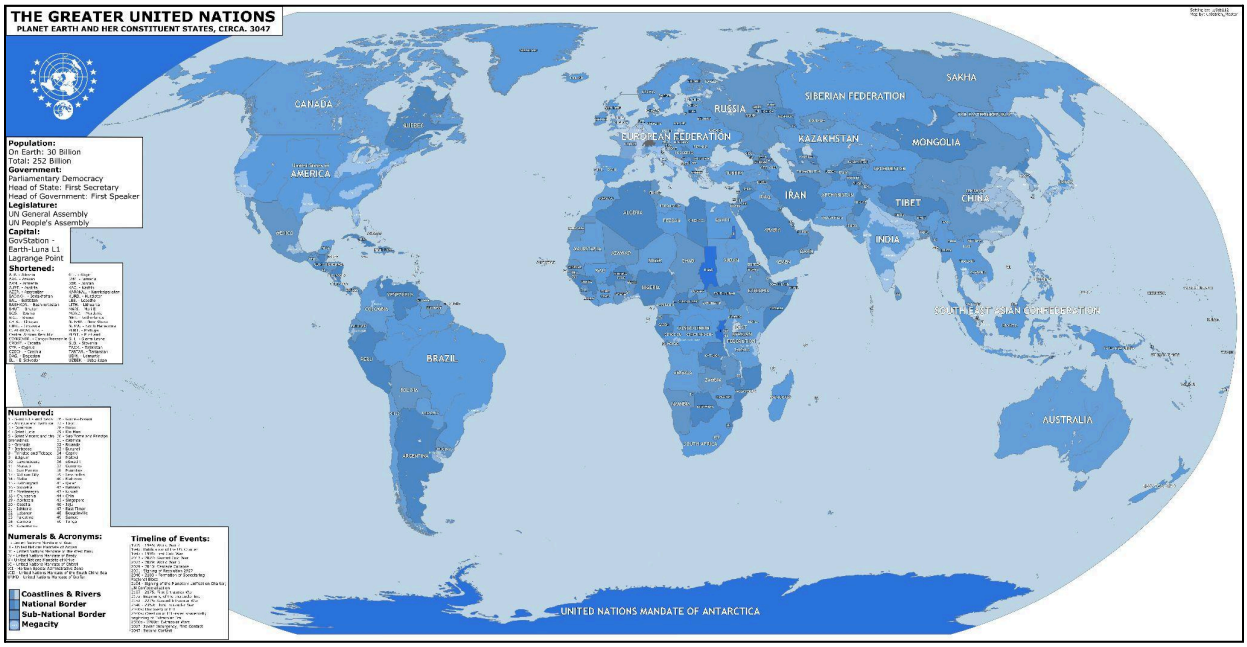
constant. However, within the last few centuries, the construction of **EarthRing** and the ongoing construction of **EarthRing 2** have seen the environment of LEO change immensely.

As of 3047, Low Earth Orbit is dominated by the twin **EarthRings**, the former, *EarthRing*, orbiting the planet in an equatorial orbit while its in-construction counterpart occupies a polar orbit around the planet. Both rings are hundreds of meters in width, fulfilling a variety of functions ranging from the primary thoroughfare to Earth's surface and vice versa to the relocated hub of Earth's heavy industries, culminating in the **EarthRing Mega-forges**, one of the most potent industrial centers in all of human space. A total of ten Space Elevators connect the equatorial EarthRing with the planet's surface[9].

Another point of interest found within Low Earth Orbit is the *working heritage site* of the **International Space Station**, the longest continually-manned space-based installation within the entire breadth of human space. Its first module propelled into orbit in 1998 and continuously occupied since 2000, the ISS has served in many different roles across its over one-thousand-year history: A Space Hotel, an orbital manufacturing hub, a ship re-fuelling station, an orbital defense installation, although throughout its centuries of service, it has always returned to its primary function: that of a zero-gravity research laboratory. As of 3047, the ISS fulfills the latter role, though still hosts one of the most exclusive and sought-after space hotels in the entirety of the UN. The station furthermore represents a "Ship of Theseus" many times over - its original components painfully reconstructed time and time again. However, several "artifacts" from the ISS's original "iteration" are kept on board as a tangible link to the beginning of its operations.

🟦🟨 Surface of Earth: Member States, Megacities, & SAZs

[9] 🟨 The existence of any space elevators servicing EarthRing 2 has not yet been confirmed.



🟨 *Above: A political map of Earth's constituent states, megacities, and UN-administered zones, circa. 3047. The full-resolution map can be found here.*

The **Surface of Earth** is host to hundreds of independent states, ranging from outright digitized polities such as Tuvalu to continent-spanning colossus such as the United States and European Federation. Prior to confederalization, indeed, from the very beginning of human civilization, the nations and civilizations of Humanity were in a constant state of change. Borders waxed and waned, empires rose and fell, and thousands of wars were fought over an equal amount of years. Nonetheless, this trend of constant warfare would find itself changing with the onset of the Industrial Revolution; Where before nations would go to war over perceived minor provocations, diplomatic outreach and bilateral dialogue started to become the international norm. This new precedent of international diplomacy would be made all but permanent with the centralization of the UN, the result of which being a veritable crystallization of Earth's geopolitical atmosphere as it was by the year 2104, further changes being few and far between. It must still be affirmed, though, that even as the third millennium gives way to the fourth, the United Nations is not the sole governing body of Earth - the **Swiss Confederation**, having withdrawn its membership of the UN in the late 21st century, remains as the sole national entity outside of the UN, bringing the total of independent human polities to two.

🟦 *Rights and Responsibilities of UN Member States*

While ultimately beholden to the Federal Government of the United Nations, her constituent states still maintain a litany of rights and responsibilities, including but not limited to:

- **The legislation of laws.** UN Member States maintain a comparable level of autonomy within the UN to that of contemporary states within the United States, and are thus provided with a considerable degree of self-governance as opposed to a solely unitary system. Thus it is allowed for any law to be drafted and ratified by a constituent state so long as it does not contradict or otherwise impact the principles set forth with UN charters and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- **The maintenance of civil authorities.** Police and emergency response forces, bar those in UN Special Administrative Zones, are beholden to their localities and states respectively. Should any civil agency fail to meet the UN's Federal performance standards, however, the UN reserves the right to assist and/or subsidize the ailing agency in question until it can properly fulfill its duties.

- **Free and fair elections.** At both a local and state level, the electoral system of almost every UN constituent state has persisted over the course of centuries to become fundamental cornerstones of the myriad of democracies within the UN's umbrella. Almost all elections furthermore utilize a ranked-choice voting system for their candidates.

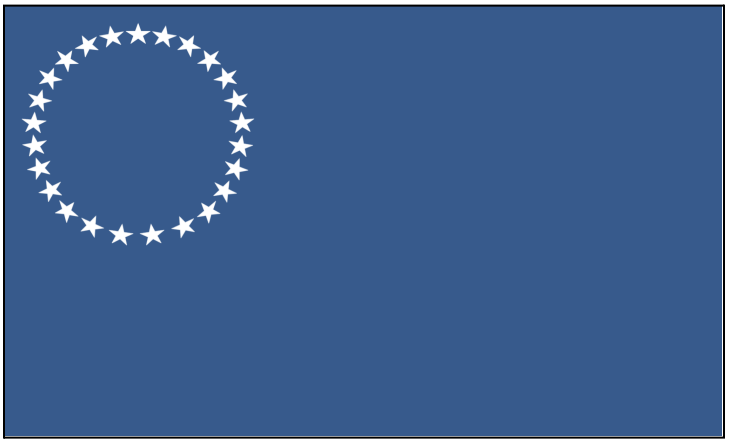
- **The maintenance of military forces.** While mileage varies, from singular ceremonial units to combat-experienced corps, the states of the UN are permitted to maintain their own standing armed forces - in the case of Earth, this is overwhelmingly seen in the continued existence of pre-unification militaries. These forces are universally compatible with their UN counterparts, and are able to be called into active service akin to contemporary US National Guard units. In the special case of the pre-unification nuclear-armed powers, such states are permitted to maintain their nuclear arsenals and triads.

- **Conduct diplomatic relations.** While all remain a constituency of the Greater United Nations, individual member states still retain the ability to enter into diplomatic relations with other governments, both within and without the UN (Switzerland.) Permanent embassies remain a common fixture among the major states of Earth.

🟦🟨 Major Regional Blocs

🟦🟨 *North American Union (NAU)*

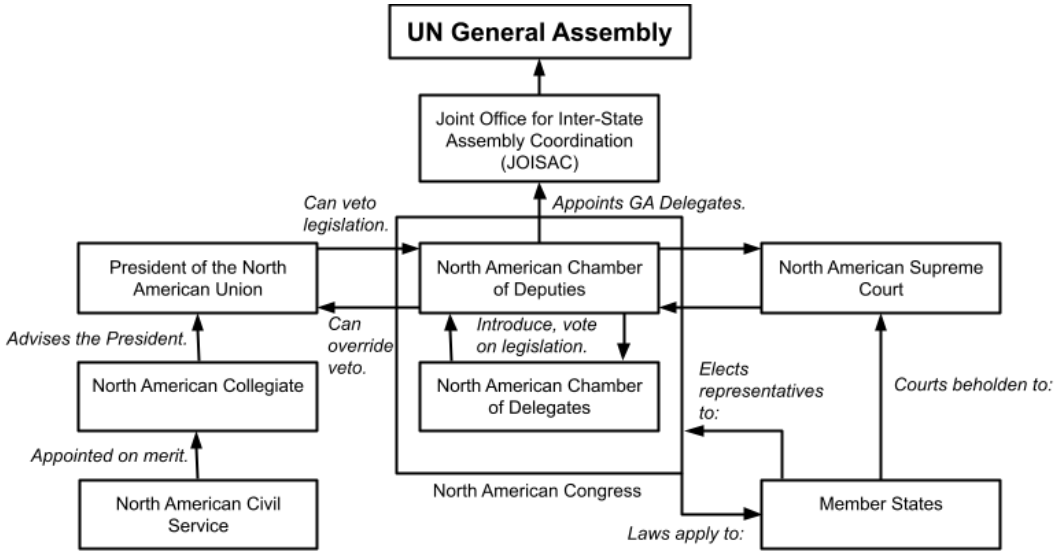
[NOTE: Due to recent real-life geopolitical events, this section is being reworked. Canada and Mexico have been restored to its former borders (sans Quebec, Yucatan & Chiapas). These changes can be viewed in the World Map.]



🟨 *Above: The flag of the North American Union.*

The **North American Union**, commonly referred to as the **NAU**, is a loose confederal entity to which every state on the North American continent belongs with the sole exception of Greenland. The NAU additionally counts several Pacific Islander states within its ranks. Founded in 2032 and headquartered in Philadelphia, the NAU and its constituents were the single-most powerful regional bloc of the 21st century, the majority of the continent isolated from the worst of the turmoil of the 2030s. The bloc would subsequently become an early leader of space colonization during the twilight days of the Pre-Intrasolar Era, a position it would hold until the outbreak of the First Intrasolar War.

🟨 *Government of the NAU*



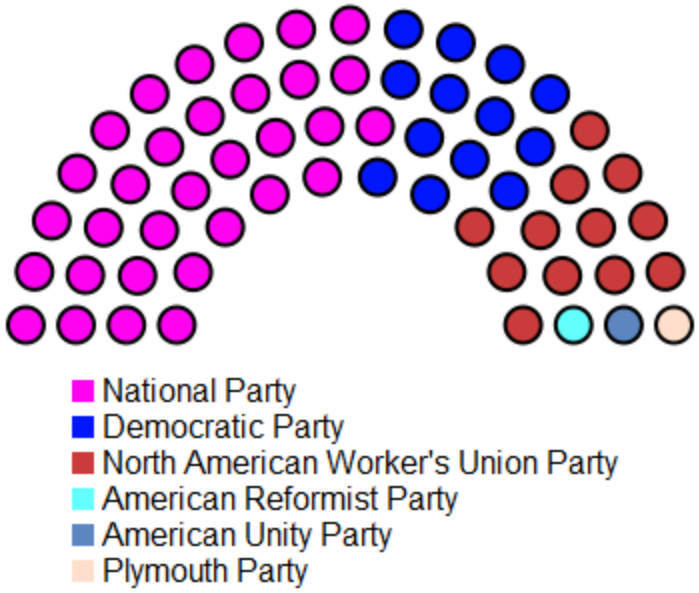
🟨 *Above: The basic workings of the NAU's government.*

The **Government of the North American Union** is split into three distinct branches - an executive, legislature, and judiciary. The government at-large is overseen by an elected *President*, although proper decision-making is handled by the *North American Congress* and both remain under the scrutiny of the *North American Supreme Court.*

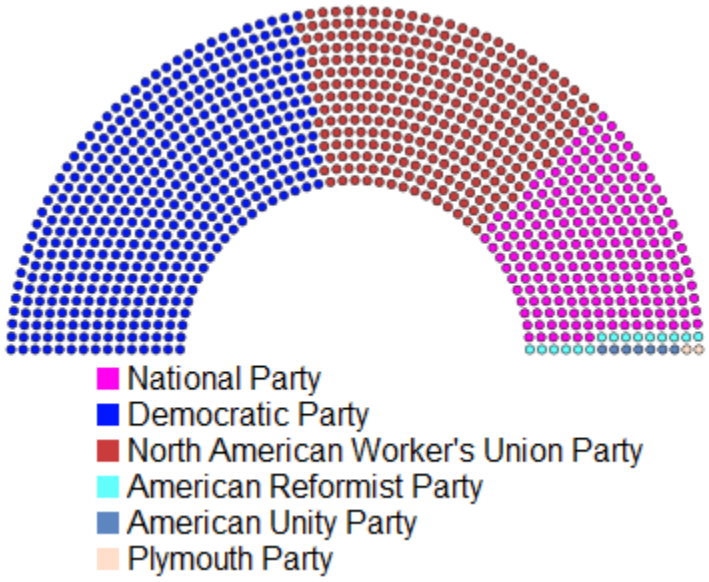
Executive

The Executive branch of the NAU is headed by the **President of the North American Union (POTNAU).** The President oversees the continued functions of the NAU's executive bureaucracy - namely the Civil Service. From that civil service they furthermore appoint department heads and cabinet positions - combined into an office known as the *North American Collegiate* - with candidates for any given position being taken from a shortlist pre-vetted by the civil service and determined by individual merit.

Legislative



🟨 *Above: A party chart of the Chamber of Deputies.*
Below: A party chart of the Chamber of Delegates.



The legislature of the NAU, the **North American Congress**, is a bicameral system consisting of an upper house, the *North American Chamber of Deputies*, and a lower house, the *North American Chamber of Delegates*. The Chamber of Deputies serves in a role akin to the US Senate, wherein each state is provided two deputies, while the Chamber of Delegates operates akin to the House of Representatives - delegates being split in accordance with population. Office-holders of both chambers are decided via direct popular ranked-choice elections - once every two years for the Delegates and

every four years for the Deputies - although the NAU's delegates to the UN General Assembly are most often appointed from within the Chamber of Deputies.

Appointing General Assembly Representatives

Per agreements between its constituent states, the Chamber of Deputies is responsible for the appointment of the Union's representatives to the UN. While serving deputies are barred from nominating themselves until the end of their maximum two-term tenures, former deputies, delegates, and various high-ranking personnel from the NAU's member states represent the vast majority of nominees. Once in office, NAU delegates further coordinate their votes on UN resolutions with Union and its member states through the *Joint Office for Inter-State Assembly Cooperation* (JOISAC).

Process of Ratifying Legislation

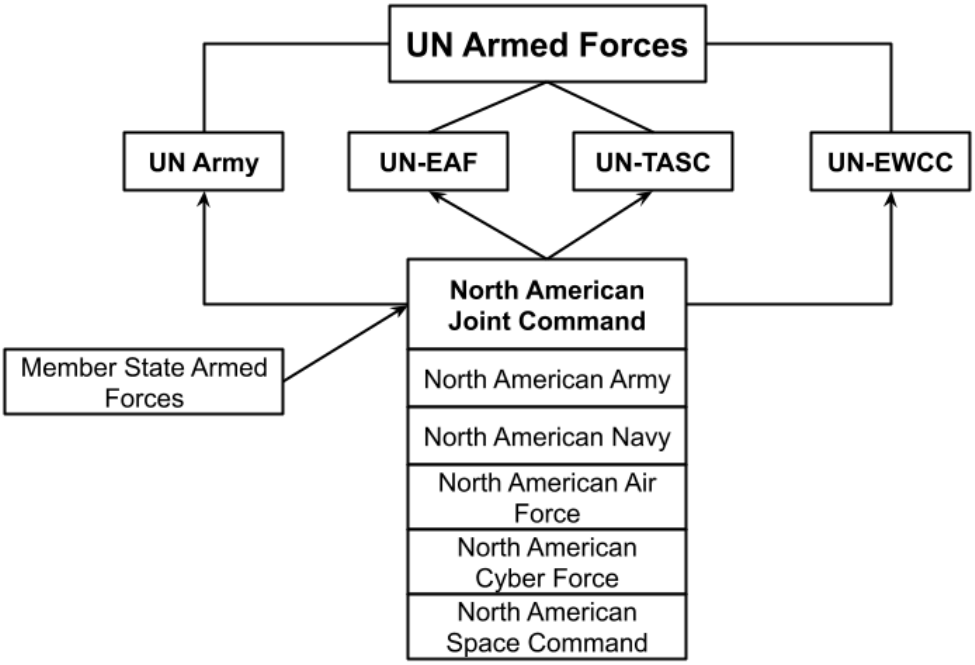
Bills can be introduced into Congress in both the Chamber of Delegates and Deputies, and should it make out of its relevant committee, said bill will then come to its first vote on that chamber's floor. Should it pass with a simple majority, the bill is then sent to a general vote in the second chamber, wherein the same process repeats itself. Should the bill pass in both the Chamber of Delegates and the Chamber of Deputies, it is then sent to the President of the NAU for ratification. The President has the option to either sign off on the legislation or veto it, the latter requiring a 2/3rds majority from both houses to override. Finally, should the bill pass the executive hurdle, it must then be ratified by 2/3rds of all member state legislatures before being passed into law - a measure stipulated within the NAU's founding charter with the express purpose of limiting what would otherwise be an overwhelmingly dominant position of the United States within the union. It would be this same stipulation, however, that would ultimately see the NAU never fully federalize, as it has oftentimes proved difficult to secure a passing majority within such a high number of individual state legislatures.

Judicial

Overseeing and reviewing the actions of both the executive and legislature is the **North American Supreme Court.** The NASC is the senior most court of law in the NAU bar the High Court of the United Nations of Earth and Luna with the supreme courts of individual member states being unable to override its rulings, although they are given the option to escalate cases from their own courts to the NASC for deliberation should that court decide to accept them. Staffing the highest judicial office in the Union are the **High Justices**, nominated to their position both by the President and civil service and confirmed by the Chamber of Deputies. The fixed number of nine High Justices

maintain a one-term tenure of ten years before being made to retire in an effort to maintain a permanent air of fluidity within the court necessary to rapidly adapt to changing socio-political climates - an utter necessity during the time of its founding in the 21st century.

🟨 *NAU Armed Forces*



🟨 *Above: The basic workings of the NAU's armed forces.*

The **Armed Forces of the North American Union** consist both of the myriad of historically storied armed forces of each individual member state, in addition to the **North American Joint Command (NAJC)**, itself functioning as the military apparatus of the NAU as a whole. While still capable of functioning as their own independent units, the militaries of NAU constituent states are ultimately both fully cross-compatible with and beholden to North American Joint Command, serving both as a source of soldierly via loaned or permanently-embedded units and as a complimentary force that regularly exercises alongside their counterparts in NAJC. North American Joint Command is also responsible for coordination of its own units, or those of its member state sub-commands, with the UN Armed Forces in such instances where those forces are called into active duty in service of the UN; Were a unit of the Canadian Army, for example, to called into service by the UN-A, the NAJC would be ultimately responsible

for coordinating its deployment with that UN branch. The forces of NAJC itself are split into five branches: The **North American Army, North American Navy, North American Air Force, North American Cyber Force,** and **North American Space Command** - the latter of which is unique sofar as it is the only remaining pre-intrasolar state-level space force in active operation.

🟨 *History of the NAU*

The first concrete pillars of North American unification can be found in the 1992 signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), intertwining the economies of Canada, the United States, and Mexico. While purely economic in scope and later replaced with the United States-Mexico-Canada agreement, such efforts would nonetheless lay the groundwork for further political union. The impetus for such a union would be unwittingly found in the waning days of the Third World War, as the crashing waves of the Cascade Collapse, radiating out from its Indo-Pacific epicenter, crashed upon the North American coast.

Even years after the outbreak of hostilities, the total severing of trade with their Chinese counterparts continued to represent a monumental shock to the continent's economies to varying degrees - the United States "merely" falling into recession as it re-tooled into a war economy, while many of its neighbors, either neutral in the conflict or unwitting battlefields themselves, found themselves in the midst of severe depressions by mid-2029. It would be in this already-bleak climate that the global panic that accompanied the rapid dismemberment of human society in East Asia found fertile ground in the minds of millions, leading to a self-fulfilling prophecy of socio-economic death spirals. In Canada, its economy rapidly contracting amidst a spree of panic-selling, an explosion of reactionary secessionist movements would see the domino-like exit of Quebec, Alberta, and, British Columbia from the state, the bankruptcy of Ottawa shortly thereafter in the resulting economic freefall causing the effective dissolution of the country as individual provinces either declared their independence or applied for statehood in an America already struggling to keep its own head above water in a desperate effort to prevent localized ruination. Meanwhile, Mexico, already rocked by the eruption of CCP-backed insurgencies, would see the gradual breakdown of social order to such an extent that an already universally unpopular American intervention in the north of the country would be expanded southward to the tune of protest and riot.

Seeing the collapse of their two largest remaining trade partners and themselves only retaining order via a propagandized sense of national unity and a more tangible

nationwide martial law and hastily-enforced draft[10], the United States Government moved feverishly to restore social and societal order on its continent, assembling the **Second Philadelphia Convention** in 2032 with the surviving governing bodies of North America in an effort to craft a supranational organization capable of dealing with the ongoing crisis. After months of negotiations, much of it closed-door, the **Proclamation of the North American Union** would be signed by all assembled delegates on 12 May 2032. With the disparate states of the continent now inexorably linked together, the newly-minted North American Joint Command would undertake its first operations in Central America and the Caribbean, re-establishing order after a year of coordinated efforts and amidst the functional establishment of NAJC's command structure. By the end of 2033, the full military and economic might of the NAU would be exported abroad, reinforcing overwhelmed US and Canadian units overseas, delivering food to famine-stricken areas, and playing a vital role in the UN's global initiative to restore global order, especially within South America and the Asia-Pacific.

With the end of the anarchy of the Cascade Collapse by 2040, the NAU, now the single-strongest regional bloc on the planet, turned its attention skywards. While the Union already possessed a permanent extraterrestrial presence in the form of the American *Plymouth Base*, having been established prior to the outbreak of the Third World War in 2026, as well as the five-strong *First Star Flotilla*, Humanity's first militarized space-based unit, the renewed liberation of capital and resources from the war effort would see a complete re-invigoration of the bloc's space industry, a major facilitator of said resource availability being the outstanding demand for deuterium and Helium-3 as high-efficiency fuel for the first commercially viable fusion reactors. Plymouth Base, whilst continuously manned and supplied throughout the 2020s and 2030s, the onset of the 2040s would see the base transformed from a scientific outpost to a burgeoning hub of industry as a continuous stream of habitation, research, and manufacturing stations were either built up on the surface or drilled into the Lunar regolith.

The additional construction of the *Armstrong Center*, a high capacity launch complex adjoining Plymouth, cemented the budding Lunar metropolis at the first major hub for interplanetary transportation. Armstrong would quickly see the NASA[11]-JAXA *Ares-Hachiman* Program's Earth-orbit and Luna assembled *Ares-Hachiman II* spacecraft lifting off of its launch pads to become among the first manned spacecraft[12] to leave the Earth-Luna system on December 25th, 2049. The fifteen-strong fleet would

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[10] Itself only partially effective, as in a repeat of the Vietnam War many elected to burn their draft cards.
[11] The "North American Space Administration," formed out of the US National and Aeronautics and Space Agency on the founding of the NAU.
[12] *Ares I* was the first manned mission to reach Mars, but the crew did not land on the surface; instead reconnoitering a future landing zone and dropping off cargo for *Ares II*.

arrive at its destination almost eight months later, touching down on the Martian surface on July 14th, 2050 - the very first humans to ever step foot on another planet. The first Martian researchers and settlers would duly establish the first permanent human base on Mars, *Underhill*[13]. While Plymouth and Underhill continued to develop, in addition to several newly founded government and corporate bases on Luna, the NAU would by the late 2050s continue to push forward the agenda of space exploration and exploitation.

On 4 October 2057, 100 years to the day from the launch of Humanity's first artificial satellite, the first solar sail probes of *Breakthrough Starshot* would be propelled out of the Sol System at relativistic speeds on high-powered laser arrays, kickstarting Humanity's first attempt at interstellar space exploration. While its originators would not live to see the culmination of its results, Humanity would receive its first images transmitted from another star system in 2157, 200 years after the launch of Sputnik 1, from the first batch of solar probes to survive the perilous journey to another star - Proxima Centauri. Concurrent to this project, the 2060s and onward would see the first instances of asteroid mining by both NASA and private corporations, setting the standard for what would ultimately become nearly a thousand years of mining in the Asteroid Belt and beyond, the harvested metals from these first ventures slowly decoupling the NAU from Earth-based resource constraints.

As mid-century gave way into late-century, the NAU would prove the greatest proponent of "Global Confederalism" under the leadership of the United Nations, those decades seeing a change of the global geopolitical climate wherein political power became more centralized within the UN itself. This gradual trend would eventually manifest in its entirety with the signing of the Planetary Unification Charter, of which the delegates of the NAU member states would be the very first to sign. This event, however, would mark the beginning of the end of the NAU's actions as an independent entity. The NAU's independent autonomy would ultimately be eroded outside the realm of privilege over the course of and after the First Intrasolar War, during which the North American Space Command, unable to mobilize enough assets and properly coordinate them with its allies in the EF, SEAC, and UN Command, suffered a series of cataclysmic setbacks on Luna and the space surrounding it. Following similar performances from other member states, all military space assets controlled by individual UN member states were stripped from their hosts and merged into the UN-controlled United Nations Armed Forces. The capstone to end the NAU's outsized autonomy would come with the end of the conflict, as the UN Security Council, of which the NAU's United States was a permanent member, was abolished by the United Nations as part of the peace process, thus removing the strongest means by which the NAU could dictate UN policy.

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[13] 🟨 In reference to the book *Red Mars*.

As of 3047, the NAU remains one of, if not the greatest culture and economic hubs in the entire human sphere, leading the entire GUN in entertainment, information technology, tourism, and heritage products; it likewise remains a politically influential force within the UN, representing a substantial voting bloc in the GA and PA, in addition to having members of its citizenry frequently occupying the positions of First Speaker and First Secretary within the UN's governmental apparatus. The bloc furthermore holds the distinction of hosting the most megacities of any regional entity, touting eight from coast to coast. Although, in spite of these economic and federal successes, the NAU does not experience the levels of political unification found within the EF or SEAC, the stipulations of its founding charter deliberately made such that no one country can dictate policy alone - a decision that, when combined with competing domestic interests and state-level independently-minded governments, has kept it functionally as the loose confederation it was founded as in all matters bar economics, foreign policy, and defense.

🟨 ***NAU - Areas of Interest***

🟨 ***“The Beaches”***



🟨 *Above: A map of “The Beaches.”*

The Lesser Antilles, coloquially referred to within the NAU as **“The Beaches”** both in reference to to their tropical nature and an unsavory name uttered behind closed doors when referring to its voting bloc within the union, is one of the least populous regions of the Union yet conversely holds the greatest amount of voting power per capita among any grouping of states within the NAU. The political stronghold of the pro-state **National Party**, The Beaches often supplement their own votes in the Chamber of Deputies with those in Carribean states and the former constituencies of Canada. As of the 3044 Deputy Election, The Beaches and their allies in the National Party control 32 of the 60 seats in the chamber. The Beaches furthermore serve as a legal expressway for groups

aiming to have a case brought before the North American Supreme Court, the small constituencies the Lesser Antillean courts represent allowing for a comparatively low bar of entry when compared to the likes of the US and Mexico.

🟨 *United States of America*

The **United States of America** is the single-largest polity on Earth's surface, encompassing the majority of the North American landmass in addition to various holdings in the Pacific. The state is furthermore the fourth-most populous on the planet short of only the metropoli of China, India, and the SEAC - hosting if not the largest then the most numerous megacities, harboring seven total. While not the political juggernaut it was in the UN's early history, debatably up to the Second Intrasolar War, it nonetheless remains the figurehead of a voting bloc in the UN and one of the largest economic hubs in the entirety of human space.

Government of the United States

While the government of the United States has scarcely changed from the perspective of a 21st-century onlooker - the executive, legislature, and judiciary, in addition to their checks and balances remain relatively unchanged - there nonetheless remains several palpable changes to the makeup of the state as a result of several constitutional amendments. The **Twenty-Eighth Amendment**, rapidly passed by 2032 in conjunction with the Proclamation of the North American Union, affirmed the ability of the state to operate beneath a higher-level organization, thus tethering the US government and its institutions to the North American Union. Soon following was the near-run 2046 adoption of the **Twenty-Ninth Amendment**, which both abolished the electoral college for presidential elections and replaced first-past-the-post voting with ranked-choice voting for all levels of state. This decision would, in less than a decade, completely dissolve what had been prior to that point been two-party rule stretching back over 250 years.

History of the United States, 2027-3047

The Third World War, 2027-2029

The United States in the last days of the Second Cold War were marked by socio-political turmoil at home and a gradually deteriorating security situation abroad. Domestic politics, the most volatile it had been in sixty years, had only just started to

temper off as an increasingly volatile global climate drew attention away from domestic arguments. Globally, the US Armed Forces, while the most technologically and financially potent military in existence, had nonetheless come under increasing strain in the face of manpower shortages, an insufficient mass production base, and emboldened powers abroad - seen in such events as the failure of Operation Prosperity Guardian and increasingly hostile PLAN posturing in the South China Sea. While foreign affairs had genrally ceased to be at the forefront of the average American's mind for over a decade by the spring of 2027, it would quickly be upended by the latter with the ***"Ayungin Incident"*** of that same year.

Having signed a mutual defense treaty with the country, the US found itself rapidly drawn into a hot war with the People's Republic of China after a Chinese Coast Guard vessel rammed and sank a Philippine vessel on a resupply mission to the *BRP Sierra Madre*, killing dozens of sailors in the process. The resulting diplomatic crisis would fail to be resolved in time, American naval forces being attacked in a pre-emptive strike that would mark the opening hostilities of the **Third World War.** Over several months of continuous engagements in and around the Taiwan Strait as well as the South China, East China, and Philippine Seas, the US, in addition to the ships damages in the PRC's pre-emptive strike would lose two aircraft carriers on that front alone, severely damaging American morale as the first ships of that type to be sunk in combat since World War 2. The US Navy would struggle to replace its losses with the quick opening of additional theaters of war, vital resources being drawn off to conflict zones in Korea and the Middle East, the latter seeing more humiliation for the force as the US failed to gain naval supremacy over the conventionally inferior forces of the Iranians and Houthis.

Closer to home, rouge elements within armed commercial rebel groups based in the north of the US neighbor of Mexico, financed and supported by the PRC would engage in cross-border raids into American territory in an escalatory move not seen since the early 20th century. The American response came in the form of the military occupation of key border crossings within the Mexican state itself, a decision that both diverted resources from other fronts and alienated the United States on the global stage, critics both within and without the country decrying the measure as an invasion of a sovereign state. The eventual expansion of these measures both during and after the war would furthermore prove to be one of the largest sources of social unrest within the US, even the partial occupation of such a closely-linked country to the US in both economics and culture fuelling widespread protests and discontent.

By 2029, the social fabric of the United States was threatening to unravel. While victory had eventually been achieved in the naval theaters of the Middle East and Asia-Pacific,

China and Iran under blockade respectively, it had come at great material and human cost. Ground invasions of both had likewise been ruled out as a possibility, a lack of resources and public will preventing any such effort from materializing. Ground combat had thus been limited to operations in Korea, the Kim Regime and PLA gradually pushed back ever-closer towards the Yalu River and a brutal intervention in Houthi-controlled Yemen. With no boots on the ground on any of the primary combatants of the conflict, a favorable peace seemed impossible to achieve, the states of China and Iran opting to wait for public opinion to turn decisively against the conflict. Indeed, social unrest had already manifested to such a degree that martial law had been enacted in several states, nationwide martial law being enforced by the end of 2029. The wartime pressures on the country would however come to pass with the collapse of the Chinese state after the 2029 May Day Earthquake and subsequent fallout, instead replaced with that of armageddon.

The Cascade Collapse, 2029-2040

As it became clear that the total collapse of society on the Chinese mainland would not be limited to that state, neighboring states falling to the wave of anarchy in short order, the US would find itself both as one of the greatest recipients of the glocal socio-economic shock that followed in addition to one of the best-positioned states to undo the worst of the damage wrought. On the coast of mainland China, and eventually even Iran, beachheads were quickly established, entire regions feverishly turned into sprawling tent cities as millions fled into the militarily-occupied “safe zones” encompassing the Pearl River Delta, Shandong and Liaodong Peninsulas, Yalu River, Far Eastern Russia, Basra, Khuzestan, and Hormuz. Remaining PLA forces had already surrendered on 29 June 2029, effectively ending the Third World War and lending their remaining organized units to the stabilization effort in addition to the already potent forces of participating US allies. These safe zones would unfortunately quickly prove hard-pressed to reach inland owing to continued manpower shortages and logistical difficulties.

On the home front, the first national draft since 1973 was enforced to much consternation in tandem with the declaration of national law, the Draft Riots of 2029 and 2030 ranking as among the most damaging civil disturbances in US history. Ultimately, the American decision to enact martial law, while damned by the public, proved successful in averting catastrophic collapse seen in other states, the brunt of damage to the country once the initial social shock had worn off being economic, growth in that sector flatlining and only avoiding contraction by the sole reality that the United States retained one of the few remaining functional economic sectors in the planet. Rapid and unprecedented policy changes would likewise be enacted in a bid to lessen

rapidly-increasing financial strain on the American populace, such as an artificial and forceful reduction in housing prices and the eventual rollout of universal healthcare.

While the United States would avert collapse, its neighbors to both the north and south would prove less fortunate. The state of Canada, finding itself in economic and social turmoil, would meet its end as a united polity amidst a rapid uptick in local separatist movements, the secession of Quebec triggering a knock-on effect in other regions that would see British Columbia and Alberta attempt to secede from the country. To the American South, a Mexico already rocked by internal conflicts would see its situation worsen; its government weakening to such an extent that it found itself unable to project power beyond its capital. In absence of any other viable authority and now more willing to take more drastic measures with the global geopolitical situation unraveling at the seams, the US occupation within the country was expanded to encompass the entirety of the Mexican states directly adjacent to American territories.

With the country having averted total collapse of its own, the US by 2031 now found itself ready to assert itself on the world stage. In concert with surviving national governments, the United States and its international partners met in the **Second Dumbarton Oaks Conference** from June to September 2031 wherein the post-Collapse global framework was discussed and the points of UN Resolution 2927 agreed upon before being drafted. Shortly thereafter, even as the first American GIs were shipped off to staging areas in the Pacific, American diplomatic focus pivoted back towards its home continent, congregating the remaining functional governments of North America to partake in the **Second Philadelphia Convention** over the spring of 2032, negotiating the framework of the North American Union in addition to resolving any and all outstanding territorial disputes on the continent. Such efforts would come to fruition with the **Proclamation of the North American Union** on 12 May 2032, US forces under the newly-ordained North American Joint Command sweeping into the Caribbean and Central America, restoring stability and starting reconstruction efforts in those regions by the end of that year.

It was likewise by 2032 that the United States, in spite of rampant economic hardship, completed a program of rapid re-industrialization that it had begun in 2027. The factories of the Rust Belt were painstakingly brought back online, as were the myriad of decommissioned shipyards dotting the nation. New high-end technology and machine factories were likewise established, the tech giants of the Asia-Pacific having relocated their operations to the US en masse with the destruction of their home economic centers. With the addition of newfound access to the entire continent's resources through both direct territorial annexation and the formation of the NAU, the US would find itself in a production boom not observed since the Second World War. The

beleaguered forces of the US and UN already present in the Asia-Pacific would find themselves reinvigorated as supply lines once more stabilized, the rapid influx of arms, ammunition, and personnel now allowing for the reconquest of the Asian interior from their disparate exclaves on the coast. Furthermore, American food aid was likewise quick to flow out of the breadbasket of the Great Plains, the American Government buying as much produce as could be grown while forcibly culling livestock populations, allowing alfalfa farms to be repurposed into growing human-edible crops. By 2040, American food production would feed 900 million people at home and abroad.

Now able to support a long-term offensive war effort on multiple fronts, the US military under the North American Joint Command would prove instrumental in efforts on the Asia-Pacific and South American fronts. Within the former, American forces would be quick to occupy the Russian Far East, allowing the establishment of the Far Eastern Republic while other army groups rallied with their counterparts in Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia to push into a warlord-divided China, securing most of the Chinese interior from their initial coastal holdings over the course of several years. Within the latter South American effort, American forces were made to navigate the geographic and logistical nightmares of the Amazon Rainforest and Andes Mountains, counter-insurgency operations lasting decades and requiring UN intervention even long-after major population centers were secured by air and sea.

Throughout all of these endeavors, immigration to the US reached historic highs as the country accepted wave after wave of refugees from every inhabited continent on the planet. From 2027 to 2047, the American population increased from 341.69 million to 428 million, a majority of that growth coming from immigration. Much of this population influx would settle within the rejuvenated cities of the West Coast, Southeast, Sun Belt, and Rust Belt, the re-industrialization of the country creating a wealth of jobs within these areas. American culture would thus shift as a new influx of Asian-Pacific, Latin American, and African traditions found fertile ground in the country, shaping popular media for decades to come. Immigration would continue at higher levels than pre-war averages, Korea being the single-greatest contributor as working-age people fled the increasingly gerontocratic country.

By 2040, the Cascade Collapse was finally declared “over” with final victories of UN forces in Central Asia and Africa. Across all fronts, US forces sustained 565,454 casualties, 47,233 of which were deaths - the deadliest conflict since the Vietnam War. The American public, while faring better than almost every other region on the planet, nonetheless found themselves traumatized en masse having lived through what many viewed as an “apocalypse.” Religious turnout spiked across the nation during the duration of the war and Collapse, not returning to pre-war levels for decades afterwards.

Mental health likewise became one of the greatest issues for Washington to tackle, as by the height of the worst mental health crisis in human history, spurred on by the Cascade Collapse, an astonishing 75% of Americans reported having a mental illness of some degree. The American economy, likewise, while still managing to grow during 13 years of constant warfare - one of the only to do so - still found itself firmly within the breath of recession as international markets found themselves either heavily damaged, reduced, or erased outright. While total reconstruction of these markets was slated to take decades, the country nonetheless tapped into a different sorely-needed economic boon: the development of fusion energy and in-space industries.

American Undertakings in Space, 2024-2040

Even before the outbreak of the Third World War, the United States benefited from being the first country on the planet to reap the benefits of fully commercialized space enterprises. Entering the spaceflight domain, private entities such as SpaceX and Blue Origin proved successful in drastically lowering a pound-to-orbit cost that had previously been insurmountable to all but national governments and the largest of corporations. As the 2010s bled into the 2020s, these entities among many other newcomers, having now built themselves up into reputable partners would now reap the benefits of governmental interest as several were brought into the fold of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Lunar *Artemis* Program. With corporate assistance, NASA's *Artemis III* mission would on 21 September 2026 land humans on the moon for the first time in half a century, establishing *Plymouth Base* within Shackleton Crater on the Lunar south pole. Even the outbreak of the Third World War failed to halt Lunar ventures, as both the international nature of the *Artemis* Program and the EU's relative neutrality in the conflict ensured the continuation of the venture.

While ordinarily terrestrial matters on the scale of the Third World War would cause space-based functions to be relegated to the political backburner, the decreased cost-to-orbit precipitated by the fielding and eventual mass production of the SpaceX *Starship* allowed to space-based missions to be undertaken at a fraction of the cost of those in decades prior and for durations previously reserved for those occupying space stations. This newfound reduced construction and operating cost for exo-atmospheric missions likewise piqued the interest of the US Space Force, who duly founded the five-strong **US First Orbital Flotilla** in 2028 - Humanity's first exo-atmospheric military force. This action would furthermore constitute a functional nullification of the Outer Space Treaty which had previously banned the militarization of space, the results of its undoing being the first stage setter for the UN's exo-atmospheric conflicts. Over the course of its existence, US-FOF would conduct in-orbit and orbit-surface electronic

warfare missions, ballistic missile interceptions, and occasional supply escorts to *Plymouth Base.*

Now in possession of a greatly-expanded presence in orbit and a permanent outpost on Luna, the end of the Cascade Collapse in 2040 would usher in an unprecedented influx of resources into the American space effort. The newfound outpouring of resources would be spurred on in part by the invention of commercially-viable fusion energy within that decade, for which there became an outstanding demand for Helium-3 with which to fuel those first reactors. *Plymouth Base* would thus see its rapid expansion from a scientific research outpost to a fully-fledged settlement - a “Lunar Boom Town” - as facilities were constructed for the processing and shipment of Helium-3. The facilities for the shipment of Helium 3 would quickly be christened as *Armstrong Complex*, Luna’s first true logistical hub which oversaw the inflow of personnel and equipment and the outflow of Helium 3 and other rare minerals. The newly-renamed *Plymouth City* would additionally experience the development of a domestic industrial base outside of resource extraction, diversifying into the fields of shipbuilding, arms manufacturing, as well as within its initial role of science and technology. By the 2060s, the Helium output of Plymouth City would see the complete elimination of fossil fuels from the American energy sector in favor of fusion energy and other renewables.

Developments on Earth and in Space, 2040-2104

With a robust Lunar supply chain now secured, the long-shelved plans of NASA - Now the NAU’s *North American Space Administration* - for a manned Mars mission were finally revived and revised under the *Ares-Hachiman* Program in collaboration with JAXA. Fifteen ships were constructed for the venture, touching down on the Martian surface in July 2050 and establishing the settlement of *Underhill*. Collaboration between NASA and JAXA could continue with the successful construction of Earth’s first operational orbital shipyard in the 2080s, further decreasing construction costs for American and Japanese spacecraft. Mid-century would also see NASA in collaboration with private investors complete *Breakthrough Starshot*, which would achieve its goal of sending an unmanned probe to another star system by 2157. The US during the mid 21st to early 22nd century would also begin to expend considerable effort to diversify their resource extraction centers away from the Lunar surface, taking note of the monopoly Plymouth possessed over American energy imports. The first tentative resource-gathering forays were made into the Asteroid Belt, and space-based refineries established to process their resources.

While a space-based economy was brought to fruition, Earthly American efforts were focused on global reconstruction efforts and sponsorship of global confederalism under

the United Nations. The former was achieved by the mid-2050s, the boons of the budding intrasolar economy directly contributing to the acceleration of a global rebuilding program that would've otherwise taken decades. The latter, in concert with international partners, would ultimately culminate with the drafting, signing, and ratification of the **Planetary Unification Charter** in 2104, solidifying the United States' position as a member of a polity encompassing humankind in near-totality. The US would nonetheless enjoy a near-hegemonic position within the "second iteration" of the UN, itself and its ideological allies retaining their permanent seats within the UN Security Council and thus able to dictate policy to the remainder of the planet effectively unchallenged.

The United States in the First Intrasolar War, 2157-2175

American political primacy within the governmental framework of the United Nations would ultimately meet its end in 2157 with the outbreak of the First Intrasolar War. The growing industrial hubs of Luna, devoid of political representation within the UN's framework - in the case of American holdings, being administered by NASA without proper governmental representation - had over the past century come to possess a culturally independent "Lunarian" identity. Seeing the diversification of energy imports as a threat to what monopolies on geopolitical influence they possessed, the Lunarian colonies would secede from the UN and its member states, Plymouth joining in seceding from the United States. While the outer rungs of the city remained with the US, having had the least time to accrue a Lunarian identity, they were quickly overcome, the void combat-unproven US Space Force likewise suffering debilitating defeats within cislunar space. With similar setbacks encountered by US partners, the UN itself would intervene, wrestling control of member state militarized space assets to form a single unified command, American forces included. The failure of the United States and allies to crush the Lunarian uprising would furthermore see them removed from their positions within the United Nations Security Council, their now-vacant seats replaced with UN administrators to streamline the war effort. The eventual negotiations that would see an end to the conflict by 2175 would additionally see the UNSC abolished, thus ensuring that there would be no possible recourse for the regaining of individual political control by the United States nor any singular UN member state to chart the course of the entirety of the UN.

Developments after the First Intrasolar War, 2175-3047

Second & Third Intrasolar Wars, Extrasolar Wars

Across the breadth of the remaining major conflicts to wrack the Sol System, the US military, operating under the framework of the North American Joint Command, would play instrumental roles within terrestrial campaigns against adversaries ranging from Mars to extrasolar corpo-states. In a tragic fit of irony, many of these enemies consisted of culturally American settlers, the combination of an initial monopoly on space settlement and historical frontiership within the American cultural zeitgeist contributing to an outsized American presence within intrasolar and extrasolar colonies.

Creation of Megacities

Beginning in the mid-23rd century, the American megacity of **Acela** would become the first of its type to be founded within the western hemisphere, soon followed by six more within the United States. These megacities would harkon the completion of a state of American hyper-urbanity, a trend that had been ongoing for centuries.

Creation of Reconstituted Protected Ecosystems

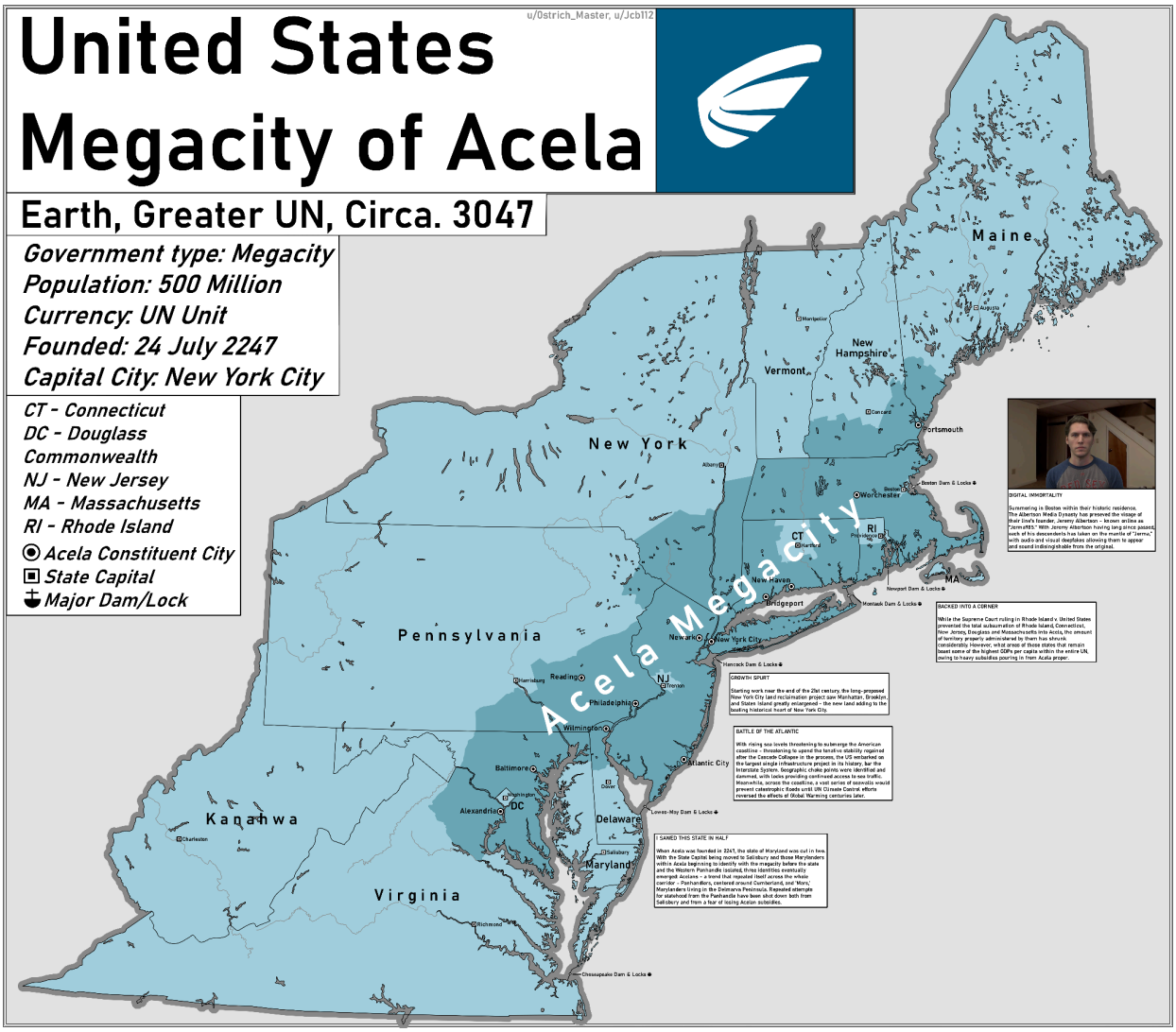
With a newfound state of hyper-urbanity permeating American society, large swathes of the US countryside found itself depopulated and rewilded - a perfect stage for the UN-wide creation of **Reconstituted Protected Ecosystems (RPEs)**, ceding large swathes of Appalachia, the Rockies, and the Arctic back to nature.

<u>The United States of America, Circa. 3047</u>

The United States by 3047 is the single-largest polity on Earth and constitutes the largest share of population within the NAU. Across varying industrial sectors, the US enjoys an outsized influence in agriculture, being the single-largest producer of foodstuffs in human space, as well as playing leading roles in Information Technology and Entertainment. There likewise exists a litany of heritage industries, producing a constant stream of venerable works. The United States also possesses the single-largest national military of any UN member state, operating in conjunction with its NAU contemporaries under the North American Joint Command.

<u>Within the United States - Places of interest:</u>

Megacity of Acela



🟨 *Above: A map of the Megacity of Acela. The full-resolution image can be found here.*

Founded out of the various towns and cities of the American Northeast, the **Megacity of Acela**, named after the contemporary Acela Express which serves the region, stands as one of the most notable centers of culture within the UN, built on over a millennium of pre-existing cultural trends. Incorporated in 2247 - the first to do so in the Western Hemisphere - Acela (and its enclave counties) contains within it the cities of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, and Boston. Acela also boasts a population of 500 million, spread across the megacity in a density comparable to the modern-day New York Metro Area.

The Acela Corridor - also known as the Northwest Corridor - saw its first large towns arise with the arrival of European settlers in the 17th Century. From there, by virtue of

trade, war, and time, these towns grew into their own respective urban centers, which were promptly and swiftly interconnected by the technological advances of the Industrial Revolution. Over the course of centuries, these urban cores became so internavigable that they eventually started to blend into each other; creating an unbroken chain of urban and suburban developments across the American Northeast. This state of affairs would be formalized in the 2247 *Northeastern Integration Act*, passed by the United States Congress.

Shortly thereafter, a case would be brought to the US, and later NAU Supreme Court against the Megacity by the states of New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts; under the NAU Megacity Administration Act (2246), Megacities were to be treated as an administrative unit onto themselves - *above states*, to prevent inter-state disputes from affecting the smooth and efficient administration of any given Megacity. This would culminate in the ruling of *Rhode Island v. United States* that “The practical or full undermining of a state’s territory” was unconstitutional, thus carving out several state-run enclaves within Acela itself. These enclaves, owing to their *de-jure* separation from Acela proper, also benefit heavily from the Megacity Administration Act, which also stipulates that as compensation for the de-facto loss of the territories the megacity encompasses, subsidies are to be paid to the affected states in question, proportional to the percentage of land taken. These states, with the vast majority of their land masses commandeered, have become some of the most economically prosperous areas in the Acela Corridor owing to the vast subsidies flowing into their treasuries. Many noteworthy companies are also headquartered in these enclaves, owing to generous corporate tax rates, thus attracting more revenue.

With regard to culture, Acela is a melting pot not just within North America, or Earth, but the entire Human Sphere, with elements ranging from as close by as the surrounding countryside to areas as far afield as the most distant Extrasolar Colonies. One of the shining examples of this can be seen in the fashion scene of Acela, which can be read about in detail here.

STATE OF NEVADA

LAS VEGAS

THE ALBERTSON DYNASTY (f. *Elbertson*)

- A prestigious lineage of V-tubers originating from Jeremy Elbertson (*b.1985, d. 2077 via car explosion*) that continue to livestream under the alias and persona of “Jerma” up to 3047, utilizing advanced deep fakes and voice synthesizers to perfectly replicate his appearance during the 2020s. Every time the “actor”

behind Jerma is replaced by the newest member of the family to take on the role, one number is added to the “1985” section of the username. As of 3047, the Albertson Family is currently on “Jerma2036.”

- The family uses the same streaming setup as “the original” Jerma.

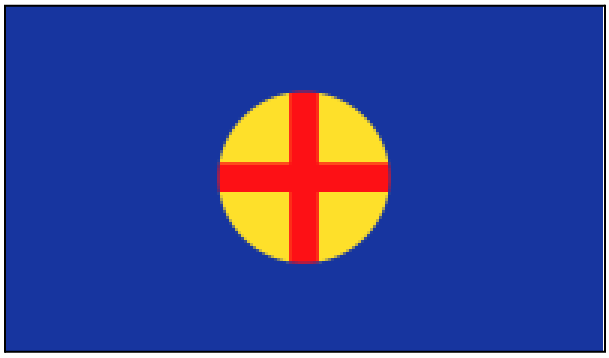
- The family bought Jeremy Elbertson’s prior Boston residence and holds it in addition to his Las Vegas residence.

NEW MEXICO

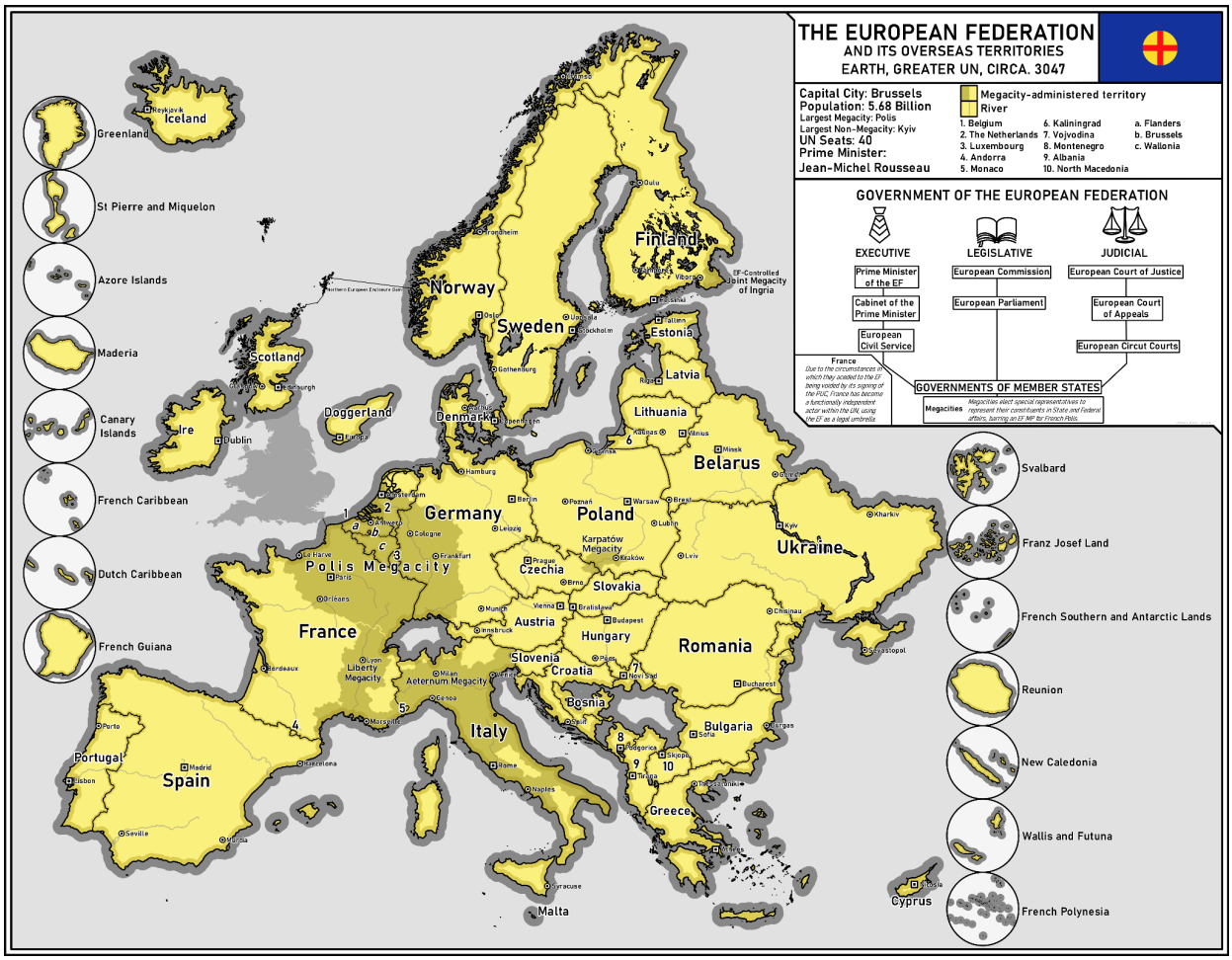
ALBUQUERQUE

- The statues of Walter White and Jesse Pinkman, having been put into deep storage at an indeterminate point, are re-discovered by New Mexico archivists in the year 2776. With all prior knowledge of *Breaking Bad* having since been lost to time, it is now theorized that the statues were meant to represent and commemorate essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic - as they had been dated to that era.

🟦🟨 *European Federation (EF)*



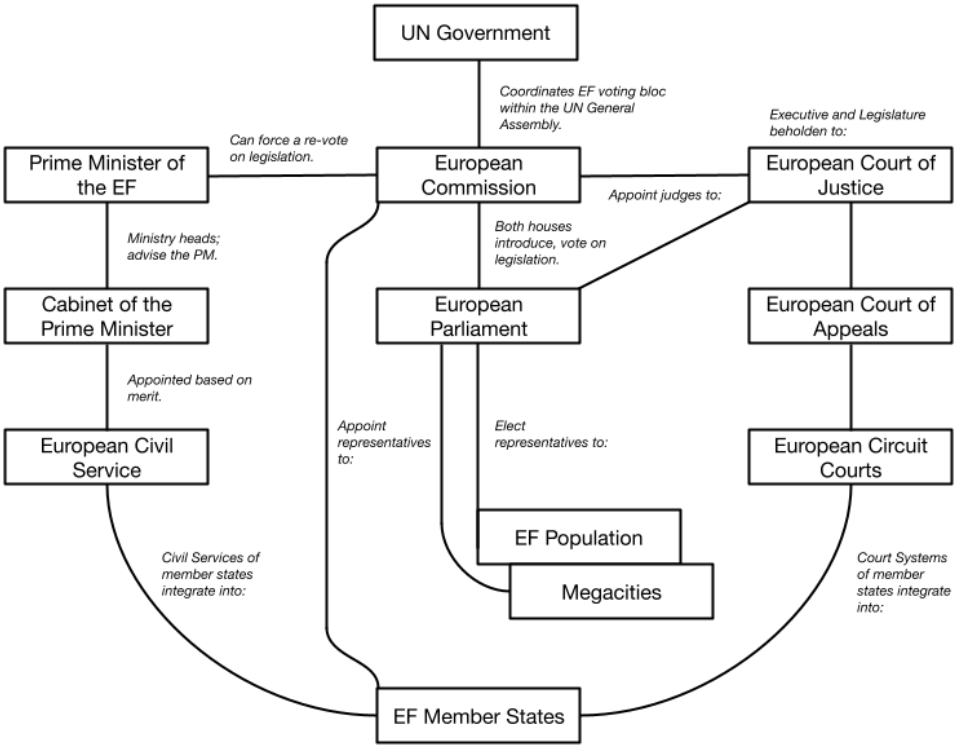
🟨 *Above: The flag of the European Federation.*



🟨 *Above: A map of the European Federation. (**NOTE:** This map is outdated, lacking **Lusitania Megacity** and different borders with Serbia.)*

The **European Federation**, commonly referred to as the **EF**, is a Federal Union of States composed of the members of the 21st Century European Union, in addition to various other European states on the continent. Centralized out of a desperate need to marshall the continent's combined resources, the EF has regardless managed to assert itself as an influential region within the Greater United Nations; a beacon of history and culture.

🟨 *Government of the EF*



The Government of the EF consists of a Federal Union of States under a democratic legislature, democratic-technocratic Executive and Civil Service, as well as a strong judiciary. The legislature of the UN is split under a bicameral system, with the lower-house European Parliament, the same institution under the EU, and the upper-house European Commission, repurposed from its original role as an executive office. The MPs of the European Parliament are elected by direct popular election within the EF (With special representatives for Megacities, owing to their transnational nature), while the upper house Commissioners are representatives directly appointed by the EF's member states. Each chamber has the right to introduce, debate, and vote on legislation as it sees fit. It requires the ratification of both chambers for a bill to pass, and in to addition to this, the **Prime Minister of the European Federation** - the head of both State and Government - can send any legislation they deem unfit for approval back to the Legislature for another round of votes, should which the bill again pass, it becomes law.

The Legislature, more specifically, the European Commission, is also responsible for the coordination of the EF's representatives within the UN General Assembly, of which it is

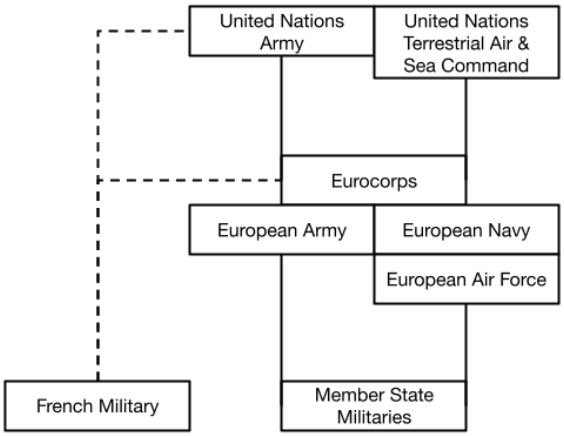
represented as a sizable voting bloc via its individual member states. Special offices and lines of communication exist to facilitate everything from the EF's governmental stance on proposed UN laws to the appointment of GA Delegates with regard to party lines.

The EF's Executive branch is composed of the Prime Minister of the EF, serving a maximum of two five-year terms, in addition to their office, cabinet, as well as the European Civil Service. Within the executive, the heads of the various European Ministries and offices are chosen offices within the Civil Service itself, based on various merit-based criteria. Technocratic elements within the Civil Service are also present, primarily for expert consultation, but also play an instrumental role in many sectors, such as energy management. Many of the ministries from the EU have also made their way into the EF's government.

The European Judiciary, likewise, is a system primarily carried over from the European Union. With the courts of its member states acting as the first level of the EF's judiciary, cases can be raised or initiated to a purpose-made series of European Circuit courts, itself below the European Court of Appeals and the venerable European Court of Justice. Within the EF's Federal Court system, judges are appointed by a joint committee of the Parliament and Commission for a twenty-year term before a mandated retirement from their positions.

Relationship with the UN:
The EF is unique among Earth's regional blocs in that it, along with the East African Federation, is one of the only supranational Federal Unions on the planet. Thus, while the EF's constituent states still remain as voting members of the UN, the EF is the primary vector by which administrative affairs and bilateral relations between the UN and Europe are routed.

🟨 *EF Armed Forces*



Numbering 33 million across all branches, the Eurocorps remains the backbone of the EF's military, bolstered by what EF member states still maintain their own standing armies. The EF, both for the sake of practicality and for operational fluidity with the UN Armed Forces, utilizes S-AMCPs in combat much like their UN counterpart. European land combat units are also organized such that many possess considerable heavy armor contingents; making the Eurocorps one of the most called upon military organizations from the UN's member states, especially in environments in which mobile armored warfare is preferable.

The Eurocorps is split into three separate branches: The European Army, European Navy, and European Air Force. While all three are capable, and indeed, do operate under their own joint command as it pertains to local military exercises, as of 3047 they are primarily subservient to their respective UN branches; The European Army operates under the command of the UN Army, while the European Navy and Air Force fall under the jurisdiction of UN-TASC.

While the military command of individual member states is expected to fall under the operational command of the Eurocorps, there is an exception to this rule in the form of France, and her armed forces. In accordance with the concessions made to France for that country's accession to the European Federation, the French Military, while operationally compatible with the Eurocorps, retained its independence as an institution. Furthermore, with the *"linkage clause"* of said concessions stating that *"In the event of the absolute subservience or undermining of the independent European Armed Forces to a higher authority, the French Republic would assert its strategic independence and autonomy*," the French Military Command structure became functionally divorced from the EF's and UN's as a whole, being a constant source of uncertainty within the otherwise robust European Military structure.

The European Federation also operates a sizable nuclear arsenal, courtesy of France's carefully-maintained Pre-Unification stockpile.

🟨 *History of the EF*

The beginnings of the European Federation are rooted in the idea of European Unity itself. While numerous philosophers and politicians had proposed the idea across history, the first to properly cement itself as a movement was the Paneuropean Union in 1922, after the wake of the First World War and its disastrous effects on the people of the continent. It is from this movement that the EF takes its flag.

In part thanks to the efforts of the Paneuropean movement, and to prevent a repeat of the quick-to-follow Second World War via economic integration, the European Coal and Steel Community was founded in 1952, with the successful goal of integrating the economy of Western Europe. This served as the precipice by which further economic and political integration of the continent would be achieved, with the European Economic Community being established shortly thereafter, and the **European Union** - the direct predecessor to the EF - being founded before the end of the 20th century.

The EU (1993-2035) would serve as a *sui generis* government across the breadth of its life, combining federal and confederal governing characteristics into a government without a clear precedent. The EU would oversee the monetary integration of Europe under the *Euro*, the full opening of European borders to trade and travel under the Schengen Agreement, in addition to the creation of a common European legal framework. It would also introduce the first widespread, mainstream idea of a common European identity to come into the public consciousness.

The early 21st century, however, would see the EU presented with a series of increasingly challenging problems, both at home and abroad. The 2008 *Global Financial Crisis* saw many European economies thrown into recession, a state which many still would remain in for decades to come. Additionally, the dual crises of *Brexit* and the *Syrian Refugee Crisis* tested the binds of European Unity, and, in the case of the former, seeing the United Kingdom - an EU member state - leave the union entirely.

The EU would be presented with its greatest challenges during the 40-year span of the 2020s and 2030s. Immediately within the first months of the 2020s, the COVID-19 Pandemic would strain European financial and aid systems to meet the needs of its member states, in addition to causing further economic downturn. This was immediately compounded with the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine - the first European land war in

30 years, and the most destructive since the Second World War. The EU - in spite of internal challenges, most notably objections from Hungary - would rise to the challenge, preventing the total conquest of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, and inducting Ukraine into the European Union as a member state.

The EU would scarcely have time to recover, however, as 2027 would see the outbreak of the Third World War from the Asia-Pacific Region. Although initially neutral, as European defense commitments did not cover that section of the globe, the notion that European peace could be maintained would be shattered with the *Second Kosovo War* of 2028. Under a populist government unwilling to listen to reason, and under the notion that their neighbors were too distracted by events further afield, military forces under the Republic of Serbia marched into Kosovo - still declared by the Serbian Government to be under their control - quickly triggering the geopolitical tripwire that was the NATO mission within that country.

The war, while brief in nature, would serve as a further catalyst for a phenomenon that was already starting to make itself known in Europe: The formation of a common European Military. While strides had been made previously, namely the integration of the Dutch and German militaries, and the formation of a Nordic Air Force, the brief conventional invasion of Serbia and the more-prolonged military actions in Bosnia[14] would see the Eurocorps, a EU-controlled military unit, transformed from a sidelined force to a growing fully-fledged fighting force. While intended for use in combat, it would quickly find itself being used in a more domestic capacity: Refugee Relief. Scarcely a year after the capitulation of the Serbian Government, and in the midst of the conflict in Bosnia, 2029 would quickly see the throes of the Cascade Collapse reach Europe's doorstep. Although the EU could see the writing on the wall, and indeed, had several months to prepare owing to the Collapse's epicenter being in China, the continent immediately found itself under immense strain.

Owing to their position bordering China and extreme domestic instability following their stalemate and extreme military losses in Ukraine mere years previously, Russia almost immediately folded under the strain of the influx of millions of refugees; first with civil authority in Siberia breaking down, quickly followed by separatist and pro-democracy groups entrenching themselves in combat with the struggling central government. The decade-long *Russian Warlord Era* would see millions of Russians flee or displaced into

[14]🟨 The Second Bosnian War was a direct spillover from the Second Kosovo War, and after a prolonged state of insurgency and small-unit actions would see the country split along its ethnic lines; Republika Srpska was annexed by Serbia, in what many saw as a controversial move, while Croatia annexed majority-Croat speaking territories. A UN administration was established in Sarajevo, which eventually became permanent.

the EU, in addition to hundreds of thousands more pouring in from Africa and the Middle East.

The European Union was immediately thrown into the single-largest crisis of its history, as national governments struggled and buckled under the immense strain of the need to accommodate and provide for millions of people fleeing what was rapidly becoming a global-scale event. Furthermore, the European economy went into a veritable freefall as global trade ground to a halt, preventing the import of vital energy resources - most notably natural gas. Martial Law was eventually declared within the entirety of the Union, and the Eurocorps was pulled out of Bosnia and re-assigned to policing actions by member states who requested it.

After a year of this increasingly degrading status quo, it eventually dawned on the EU and its constituents that more needed to be done to evade what was then seen as a near-inevitable civil collapse within its territory. It was in these conditions that, in spite of *rampant* regional nationalism, separatism, and Euro-Skepticism, the governments of the EU acted to give the EU emergency powers; imbuing it with the acting powers of a full Federal state, with the purpose of marshaling the full might of Europe in a way that it simply could not before, whether that be from the vetoes of individual states or a lack of governmental reach. Acting under these emergency powers, the EU drastically re-organized its institutions to streamline the bureaucratic process, as well as massively increasing the size of the Eurocorps, in some cases outright integrating the militaries of smaller member states[15]. Through these efforts, in addition to a renewed commitment and approach to the refugee influx, the EU, while bruised, battered, and in a state of economic ruin, managed to weather the Cascade Collapse with itself and its member states intact. Additionally, after UN Resolution 2927, the Eurocorps would be deployed abroad, most notably in its peacekeeping missions in European Russia in support of the newly-minted Russian Republic and the Sahel in support of local governments.

With the Cascade Collapse effectively over for Europe, a decision had to be made regarding the continued usage of emergency powers by the EU. In the *First Pan-European Convention*, hosted in Brussels, it was postulated and eventually agreed upon that, after decades of economic stagnation, and outright economic *collapse*, that the economy of any individual member state was, at that time, not capable of supporting itself under the pre-Collapse EU system; that being a semi-independent system of regional economies, while the newly-galvanized EU had joined its regional systems into a single, cohesive whole (bar France). It was thus decided, in the apparent inability for its member states to reclaim their former levels of economic and military autonomy, to

[15]🟨 In these cases, the member state in question would retain a ceremonial independent unit; itself fully compatible with joint operations with the Eurocorps and NATO as a whole.

officially turn the EU into a Federal state. This was ratified at the Geneva-held *Second Pan-European Convention* on March 14th, 2033, with the signing of the *European Constitution*, formalizing the emergency powers held by the EU, firmly cementing and re-asserting the other branches of the European Government, and finally renaming the *European Union* to the ***European Federation***.

The path to economic and societal recovery for the newly-minted Federation would be long and arduous - the economy of the EF and its member states would only return to pre-Collapse levels after twenty years of careful restructuring and management, while societal pressures would slowly be alleviated with the re-assertion of global stability allowing for the willing repatriation of refugees, in addition to the integration of those who chose to stay in the EF; an example of which being the integration of a sizeable Russian refugee population into the Netherlands, giving that country a productive and distinct Russo-Dutch cultural group.

The European Economy would once more be able to pick up its pace in the late 2050s with the establishment of a permanent EF presence on the surface of the Moon, allowing for the export of Helium-3 back to Europe, drastically increasing European energy availability and kickstarting an economy which had only reached a level of parity comparable to its 2010s-era stature. This saw the re-establishment of Europe as an economic powerhouse, second only to their allies in the NAU, specializing in service industries, high-end manufacturing, and food production.

The latter half of the 21st century would see the start of the EF's effort to directly combat the effects of climate change, with the construction of seawalls and levees across vulnerable sections of coastline - especially around coastal cities - as sea levels continued to rise globally. These projects would come to a head into the early 22nd century, as flooding in the relatively unprotected Baltic region, in addition to more severe natural disasters testing pre-existing flood defenses coincided with the infrastructural proof-of-concept that was the New York - New Jersey Enclosure Dam. With the coming of the age of terrestrial megaprojects, the European Federation, with support from the UN, would construct over thirty years the **Northern European Enclosure Dam**, one of the largest terrestrial megaprojects undertaken in human history. Penning in the entirety of the North Sea, the NEED protected the entirety of the EF's population-dense core from the wrath of the ocean, in addition to creating the largest freshwater basin on Earth - a move that ecologists debate the ethics of almost a millennium later. Meanwhile, in Mediterranean Europe, sophisticated enclosure dams were constructed to protect the sinking cities of that region, most notably Venice.

The late 22nd century, however, would see the outbreak of the First Intrasolar War, as European colonies on the moon would join their Lunarian brethren in seceding from their terrestrial counterparts. The ESF and FSF - European and French Space Forces - failed to regain control of their colonies, and were eventually commandeered by the UN for inclusion in the early UN-EAF. This, combined with the seizure and abolition of the UN Security Council from its permanent member states, of which the EF was represented via France, saw the EF's power projection decrease - a trend that repeated itself globally as the UN transitioned from a confederal to a federal entity. It was in the throes of this war, though, that the EF would formally establish its first Megacity: The neutrally-named *Polis Megacity*, stretching across the EF's population centers along the Rhine, Low Countries, and Seine. Tragedy would, regrettably, be quick to strike this Megacity, mere decades after its founding.

On August 13th, 2267, over a decade into the Second Intrasolar War - a fight for the reins of Humanity - a Martian Kinetic Kill Weapon, with the aid of an activated sleeper cell, would slip through Earth's orbital defense grid during a single minute of inaction gained by sabotage. The KKW, with a yield comparable to the highest-yield nuclear bombs, destroyed the city of Rotterdam, in addition to destroying the now-neglected dams and dikes of the Netherlands, allowing for much of the country to be inundated. The Martian Kinetic Strike on Rotterdam would see approximately 6.5 million Europeans dead or wounded, in addition to trillions in damages, owing both to the destruction of infrastructure itself and the destruction of the EF's primary port of entry. The resulting reconstruction effort, especially in the city center, would see the rise of the *Hyper-revivalist* architectural trend, wherein the medieval and renaissance cathedrals of old were paired with modern construction materials and techniques to reconstruct titanically-sized version of cathedrals and other monuments that had been lost. This trend, while primarily localized to Europe, would become a primary fixture of the entire region, with Rotterdam at its center.

The last notable development in the EF's history came a century after the strike on Rotterdam, where, as an effort to both ease population strain on Polis and its surrounding regions, create a Federal territory beyond the confines of Brussels - giving the EF's government more "breathing room," create more arable land, and out of a simple desire to push the limits of human ingenuity, the EF embarked on *the* largest and most ambitious terrestrial megaproject in the history of mankind: The *Doggerland Revival Initiative*. Over the course of fifty years, the EF, with UN help, much like the NEED, forever altered the face of the Earth as the island once lost to the sea once more rose from the depths. On the island now resides a great number of government agencies and offices, as well as pristine nature reserves.

As of 3047, the European Federation is a leader in the Greater UN in entertainment, software development, and service-based jobs. It is also home to the largest number of “Heritage” jobs on Earth, with substantial cottage industries rooted in history providing incredible allure for those who want to join them. The EF also boasts the headquarters of several reputable shipbuilding and stellar engineering companies, who make use of EarthRing-based factories for their products.

🟨 *EF - Areas of Interest*

🟨 *Republic of France*

One of the oldest continuously-existing states in the entire Human Sphere, the Republic of France is nothing if not prideful in itself. This fact can be seen time and time again throughout French history, with the country being a hotbed for and exporter of revolutions and democratic liberal ideals. Indeed, the pride of the French people carved its country a powerful - and ultimately, detrimental - niche within the Greater United Nations.

Within the European Union, there was perhaps no other country greater-affected by the wave of regional nationalism and Euro-Skepticism from the Cascade Collapse than France. Across the whole of the country, an ideological shift which had been in effect even *before* the Collapse was heavily reinforced, that being a shift back towards neo-imperialism and neo-colonialism. It was under this change of beliefs that France advocated and led the Eurocorps intervention into the Sahel. While ostensibly to prop up and re-establish the governments of the region, France used the opportunity to reverse what up to that point had been a gradual backslide of influence in the region to re-assert its hegemony in its former Western African colonial possessions[16], overseeing the creation of the West African Federation and Central African Union out of the West and Central African CFA Franc financial blocs.

During the Pan-European Conventions, France, still in the sway of Euro-Skepticism, used its position as a core member of the EU to carve for itself an extreme degree of autonomy within the future EF; the ability to choose and conduct its own foreign policy, strategic autonomy, and an extreme degree of self-governance within the EF itself - a state of affairs not too dissimilar to its position under the EU. In spite of this, France would still be given full voting power in the EF, with no bars held on the French staffing of any political office. Even with all of these concessions, however, the primary reason for France’s agreement to join the EF stemmed from the simple continent-wide reality

[16]🟨 Opportunistic land-grabs and plays for influence were common in the near-anarchy of this era; as the UN, desperate to re-enforce global stability, turned a blind eye to many such stunts, should they, above all else, bring stability back to a region.

that the country was economically damaged to the point of being unable to function independently.

Rather counter-intuitively, The French during the 21st century in spite of their own nationalism, would be one of the strongest proponents for *Global Confederalism* owing to its permanent spot on the UN Security Council and the increasing amount of worldwide influence that it garnered. This, in addition to its role as the leader of two separate regional blocs saw an oversized amount of French influence during the latter half of the century, with an exceedingly large voting bloc in the UN.

🟨 *East African Federation (EAF)*



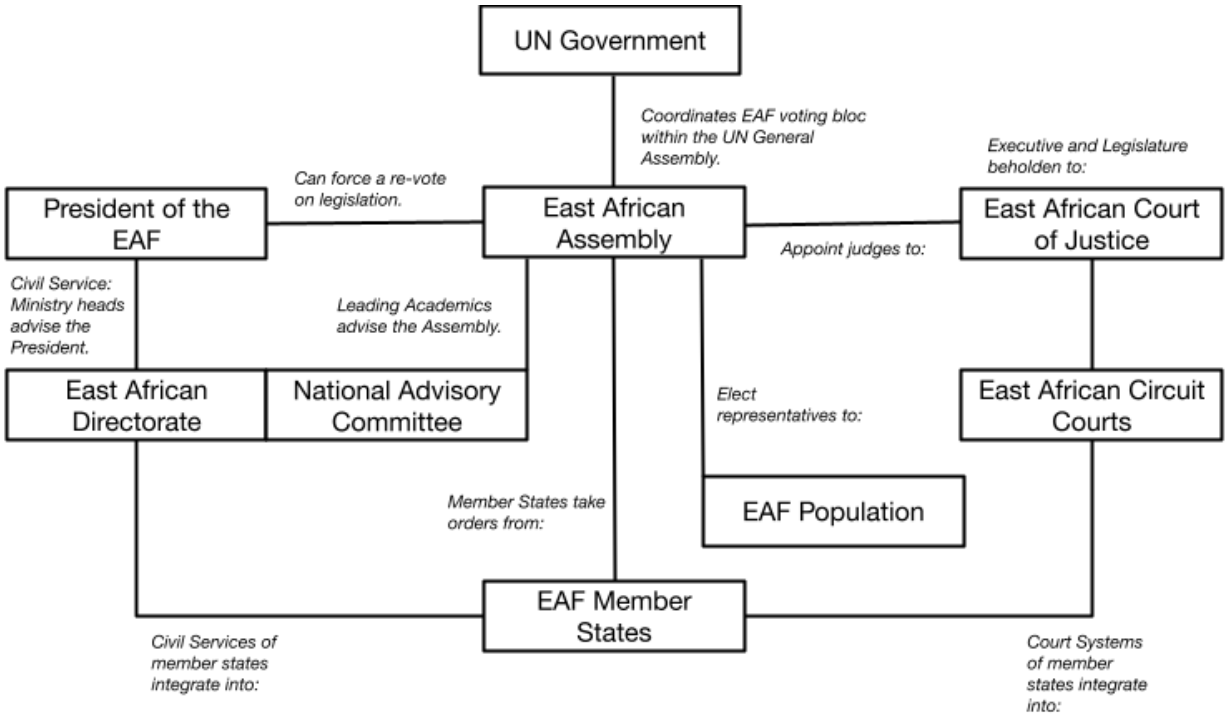
🟨 *Above: The flag of the East African Federation.*



🟨 *Above: A (Placeholder) map of East African Federation. Megacities are designated in lighter shades and italics.*

The **East African Federation (EAF**) is a supranational Federal Union of States comprising the 8 East African states of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. With a population of 4.65 billion people, the EAF is the most populous country on the African continent, and one of the most heavily populated worldwide.

🟨 *Government of the EAF*



Due to the circumstances in which the modern EAF was born - that being, out of a provisional government in an anarchic climate - the *Federation* is more akin to a Unitary Republic than a true Union of States. With the corruption of old local powers still fresh in the minds of the EAF's provisional regime, the *restructuring* of the East African Federation's government saw the Federal Government given near-unilateral authority over its constituent states, with the most measurable display of autonomy for said states having been relegated to their seats in the UN General Assembly.

The East African Federation is also unique in that it is one of the only Unicameral states within the entire Human Sphere. The East African Assembly, consisting of representatives directly elected from the EAF's member states, is the sole legislative entity within the country. The legislators of the Assembly are advised on certain matters

of government, most often those pertaining to the scientific and technological fields, by the National Advisory Committee - a panel of academics drawn from the East African Directorate, the Federation's Civil Service apparatus. Within the Judiciary, the pre-existing legal systems of the EAF's member states seamlessly integrate into the system of Federation-wide circuit courts, with the highest judicial authority within the EAF being the East African Court of Justice.

🟨 *History of the EAF*

With proposals dating back to the very independence of the United Kingdom's East African colonies, there had always been a strong aspirational goal for regional unity. These aspirations would serve to pave the way for the founding and re-founding of the East African Community - the direct predecessor to the EAF - in 1967 and 2000 respectively, the latter eventually leading to an interconnected economic and monetary union. This, in turn, would lead to the slow but steady consolidation of power within the East African Community, with plans for a regional constitution being drafted by the 2020s. Events globally, however, would serve to speed up what had up to that point been a gradual leadup to unification.

Although initially delayed for several years by the COVID-19 pandemic, the outbreak of World War Three scarcely six years after the world had returned to a sense of normality would see the geopolitical demand for a United East Africa, capable of resisting foreign influence, rise drastically. Thus, in spite of rampant domestic issues, the drafting and approval of the East African Constitution was completed, ratified, and signed by the member states of the East African Community by 2028, celebrating September 17th as its unification day. While pursuing a stance of neutrality during the conflict, in spite of prior Chinese economic investments, the fledgling EAF would nonetheless conduct a military intervention in Somalia, at the request of that country's government, in an effort to combat terrorist groups in the region and fully integrate Somalia into the EAF, per its own request.

The initial year of warfare in Somalia, in addition to domestic issues at home, would prove disastrous for the EAF. The East African Military, still composed of the armed forces of its member states operating under a loose central command, faced severe setbacks, including outright defeats in the country as the largely untested force struggled to carry out effective operations. Concurrently to the Somali intervention, rebel groups in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo would increase their own activity, necessitating a redeployment of forces away from the Somali front. These strenuous military operations, likewise, occurred in the midst of severe political

instability; local autocrats refused to give up power, whilst simultaneously sabotaging efforts to combat corruption within their respective sections of the EAF. Both of these factors would leave the EAF, not even a year after its founding, as a highly unstable entity - an entity which would be made to face a *trial by fire* in the face of the Cascade Collapse.

While many had initially hoped that the distance of the EAF from the Collapse's epicenter in East Asia would insulate it from the worst of its effect, events much closer to its borders would prove otherwise. Over the course of the World War, the Sudanese front would see the China-aligned Sudanese and Ethiopian governments clash against the US/Coalition-backed Republic of Egypt. One of the first opening moves undertaken within this regional theater was Ethiopia's decision to almost completely halt the flow of the Blue Nile through the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. An action had been countered - albeit, temporarily - with the Coalition's rapid import of drinking water for the Egyptian populace. By the end of the war, Ethiopian control of the Nile had effectively left a large portion of Egypt's population without a reliable supply of fresh water. The throes of the Collapse would in turn serve to send first the entire region - later, the entire continent - into anarchy. The collapse of the Global Economy as a direct result of the Cascade Collapse would see water shipments to Egypt largely dry up, as Coalition powers moved to fend for themselves. The cutting off of Egypt's final lifeline would serve as a death blow to the country, with the Egyptian government practically dissolving over the course of several weeks as a mass exodus from the country ensued. Much like the initial East Asian epicenter, the collapse of Egypt would in turn cause neighboring governments to fall, thus sending a tidal wave of refugees across the African continent - a shockwave that quickly reached the EAF.

Already buckling under the pressure of various internal and external conflicts, in addition to the collapse of the Global Economy, the Collapse-induced refugee crisis would prove to be the straw that broke the camel's back. Much like their neighboring states up north, one by one the constituent states of the EAF, unable to marshal the resources necessary to combat both their prior domestic issues and the sudden refugee influx, collapsed. Across the whole of the Federation, tentative government control gave way to the unrestricted airs of anarchy, banditry, and rebel hegemony. What remained of the EAF's military eventually pulled back to the country's Eastern Seaboard, centered around zones of control in Mombasa, Zanzibar, and Dar es Salaam, with a provisional government being re-established in the latter.

It was in the vice grip of continent-wide anarchy that the EAF finally emerged as the state those who envisioned it wanted to be. With the regional despots that had plagued the EAF since its inception having since been swept away as their nations crumpled,

and with a military too disorganized to establish a Junta, the leaders and civil servants managed to effectively root out what corrupt officials remained within the East African Provisional Government. In addition to the reformation of what surviving units remained under East African control into a force *firmly* loyal to its civilian government, the EAF's provisional government managed to cement itself as a bastion of stability in a region that had effectively no other standing authorities. With a newly re-organized fighting force, and international forces poised for support under a newly galvanized UN, the East African military would embark on a series of campaigns to reassert control over its territories over an eight-year period, starting with the initial push outside of its coastal strongholds in 2032 and ending with the defeat of Congolese and Sudanese insurgents in 2040 - one of the last military operations before the era of the Cascade Collapse was declared "over."

Even so, the East African Federation was still plagued by hardship. In the west of the country, French-backed separatists secured independence from themselves before adequate armed force could be brought up, forming the states of Kongo and Katanga respectively - and in the case of the former, depriving the EAF access to the Atlantic Ocean. The remaining territory the EAF was left in control following this was left in tatters, its infrastructure all but destroyed after a decade of constant warfare and neglect. Reconstruction efforts in the EAF's territory would last decades, during which the Federation would be largely reliant on UN and IMF financial aid, profiting little from the early Intrasolar mining boom of the 2050s and 60s, which disproportionately benefited the global north. The East African Reconstruction era would last until 2062, being among the first in Sub-Saharan Africa to fully complete their recovery.

Regrettably, the EAF's attempts at early intrasolar colonization would come crumbling down with the failure of the International Lunar Development and Management Corporation (ILDMC), the combined effort of dozens of small and regional powers - the EAF included - as well as a litany of private enterprises to establish a jointly-operated moon base. Beset from its inception with various national and private interests clashing with one another, this trend of infighting would be carried all the way through to the eventual establishment and short-lived operation of the base, before the resultant interior pressure saw the corporation collapse and its presence on Luna abandoned. Further ventures into space, beyond the insertion of satellites, would eventually prove a moot point, as the signing of the Planetary Unification Charter would give the citizens of the East African Federation access to pre-existing space-based infrastructure.

In the centuries since the EAF's signing of the UN Planetary Unification Charter, the East African Federation has enjoyed steady economic growth and social prosperity, with the former only ever being interrupted by the three Intrasolar Wars in the 22nd, 23d, and

24th centuries respectively. As of 3047, the EAF stands as the most economically and militarily powerful constituent state on the African continent and Earth at large, with several from the Federation having previously held the positions of First Speaker and First Secretary respectively.

🟦🟨 *South East Asian Confederation (SEAC)*



🟨 *Above: The flag of the South East Asian Confederation.*



🟨 *Above: A (placeholder) map of the South East Asian Confederation and its member states. Megacities are denoted in lighter shades.*

The **South East Asian Confederation,** commonly abbreviated as **SEAC**, is a unified agglomeration of states belonging to the Southeast Asian region, stretching from the state of Kachin in the northwest to Papua New Guinea in the southeast. Founded out of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** as societal and political strife engulfed its constitiencies in mainland Asia, the confederation would play an

instrumental role in the return of order to the continent, additionally becoming a major spacefaring polity by the end of the century. The SEAC by 3047 is the 3rd-most populous polity on the planet, second only to India and China.

== *Thank you for reading this far! More content is on the way, so stay tuned!* ==