

Temp.

My crack theory is the FCU or Osea or some conspiracist great power gave Beast the new badass equipment, right down to the ECMs. They sure do emulate Sorcerer and Grabacr Squads in plane and ability

Why would they do that, you ask?

Basically a *****precursor***** of the attempted Wardog assassination at Vladimir 12 years later - albeit less direct and more by proxy, kill the, uh, singularities that'd end the war quick

The Dragonets? Stolen

Those satellite weapons? Also stolen

Hell, ZOE just wandered there to fuck around and find out, quite literally

Which is to say Beast's new stuff was on loan too. There's kinda a pattern we have going here...
End temp.

Formulated this theory with other folks, I put some finishing touches on it
Rather methodical when you look at it; first Belka, then Erusea, then finally the Yukes.
Afterwards comes the space elevator, partly perceived as Osean hegemonial cementing and partly a legitimate attempt to support reconstruction.

Act 1: Usean Coup and after

Key takeaways (long section here):

The Usean Coup happened because the FCU and Osea came up with a treaty that made a buncha ppl in both the FCU and Usean Allies disagree and push harder for a unified entity, which was secretly assisted by the OIA to happen so

- The Erusean-aligned/led Usean alliance is undermined and replaced later by one of Osean bias
- The continent itself and as a side effect the Yuke economy (Usea being a close trade partner) are crippled
- Erusea and Yuktobania are felled in one swoop. As I recall, Osea engaged in some conflict judging by Bristow/Wizard 1's assault record[1] and the war that destroyed the Erusean monarchy happened before Mihaly's 1991 battle retirement,[2] so the implication can be made that Osea was involved in bringing down the crown

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Osean secretary chief

While the Usean Allied Forces' anti-Osean officers were the ones who spearheaded the coup, they still needed the support of the FCU, the most reputed Usean state outside of Erusea, to feed the fire, and probably, there are some internal FCU factions who wanted a truly united Usea by any means necessary, but at the same time, make sure Erusea isn't priority of this alliance - or Yuktobania.

But first priority, a big upset, which began with the FCU factions coordinating an effort to "coup" this current establishment of major Usean power, which from their POV is somewhat Erusean-leaning. Pragmatically, they'd also need Osean assistance to do it, coincide the coup with the day of the treaty's signing, the perfect trap; Ace Combat 2's intro elaborates their leaders were out of country when it happened.

A coup d'état broke out in the military corps "general area code NA-P2700." They saw an opportunity during a time when their leaders were away from the country on a diplomatic mission. After the forces occupied the center of administration, they seized control of important facilities in each district.

It was a David Xanatos gambit, the coup would disaffect people in the alliance even if it failed, allowing future conflicts to shift some of Usea's views to align with Osea, giving them a better shot at influencing things while Usea can grow muscles on its own to try the alliance thing again. **Meaning, the Usean Coup was an OIA inside job to fracture Usea as part of a power play.**

Act 2: Watching Usea from the sidelines before taking over

Observe what the collapse of ISAF caused, is this a more peaceful self-reliant Usea?

- Restart of the Usean refugee crisis that had led to the Continental War
- The prescient energy crisis related to the reopening of power stations across the continent
- International ties between former Continental Nations' Economic Alliance members being cut, leading to their gradual resignations
- Naval transport vessels attempting to support post-war reconstruction efforts becoming eaten up by pirates, leading to the General Resource Guardian Mercenaries (GRGM) stepping up; they even sent air transport escorts
- St. Ark rebuilding faster compared to other regions thanks to corporate investment

Yep, a call for help for none other than Osea.[7] Noteworthy is Fort Grays being GR territory decades from now. Guess the company's in bed with Osea and the FCU

Act 3: Oops! All Oseans and Belkans since '10

Speakin of the Yukes, remember the nonsensical parts of ACE5?

The conveniently missing Dresdene recordings (and later on the Harling ones), the constant (also (in)convenient) ADEZ malfunctions, the obfuscation of the November air raid *despite everything that's happened on national soil the literal same month?*

They can be reconciled as "OIA did it."

The Gray Men being able to magically blindside everyone including them like that would make little sense. The obfuscation parts would be eerily reminiscent of Arsenal Gear's crash eliciting a mere "Oh no, anyway" reaction from NYC in Metal Gear Solid 2.

How'd the OIA pull it? Create forged news footage showing the planes harmlessly colliding and somehow blocking everything catching the battle for earlier reinforcements

Which is to say: THE OIA KILLED CHOPPER, WAKE UP, BELK-PILLS

The OIA and the GM didn't want Wardog ending the thing too early, they wanted to fuel the flames of war, to declaw and cripple the Yukes as much as possible.

But wait, there's more!

Motives for Act 3

- Hamilton's drastic personality shift and assignment to obvious ex-BAF? Him being conditioned (MiG-1.44) + the OIA handwaving away shit like his allegiances as plausible deniability.
- Shepherd and Clemens' little gang of Trigger skeptics? David North knew they had an ulterior motive beyond "aces of Trigger's caliber are dangerous, look what became of Wardog, Palmer, and Bristow."
- That washed-up Hollister order with Nagase's signature[13] and the diabolos ex machina sub sending the Kestrel to the bottom? OIA probably tipped off...assets in one last attempt to kill the Razgriz, and then concocted an unknown backup plan with an onboard deep cover agent forging signatures somehow. For all we know, she's Solidus Snake to their Patriots. Wait a minute...

Vital Evidence and Motives

- The territory of the southern Usean states which defected to Osea include Zapland, whose soil Osea brokered to have a base built on,[3] and a petrochemical complex sharing Zapland's country
- They pulled this with the Great Lakes scheme,[4] infiltrate the target and point them to an acceptable, seemingly noble objective that will certainly fail, but the real win is weakening their seams enough for the rewards to be reaped later

- AHL's intro didn't highlight the FCU's territory (Roca Roja and Los Canas) as taking a stance against the secession of the five states
- It'd explain how **North Osea** Gründer Industries' ZOE planes could make the trip to the Usean continent and the company could have all those facilities there: Osea had them built and the unification of the continent risked the Osean MIC being pushed out. Not to mention how'd EASA/Gründer and their flying gizmos got to the FCU and so close to Osean territory in eastern Usea in the Lighthouse War[5]
- The FCU started making and selling the X-02 post-Continental War to a lotta people, including Grunder. The X-02S was built in guess where? The FCU.[14]
- It would also explain why the rebels picked **the Yukes**, the Oseans' direct rival, rather than the literal nation who was the source of their troubles, to nuke with Fortress Intolerance. The pro-Osean factions, again from the coup forces and the FCU in cooperation, wanted:
 1. Usea to be bogged down by proxy by potential Yuke retaliation, then Osea after being on its haunches swoops in and saves the day
 2. Erusea to lose a critical trade partner[6]

Potential Objections

- "But Ulysses!"

Exactly the point, leave Usea and Anea by potential extension crippled so that Osea can exploit the chaos and carnage of the asteroid.

The Spring Sea Treaty and the post-Belkan War rebuilding were just convenient feints for them to deny help to Stonehenge. Think about it, both superpowers, especially Osea, are huge countries with lots of resources, couldn't they have spared some, not to mention how small Belka and its neighbors are really in the long run?

If Usea took too much damage and Osea had to step in, it being the biggest safe zone country and really big (Oured and Gracemeria took the most refugees)[10], the rep would be enormous.

- "Why sabotage the one organization responsible for unifying Usea, then?"

Just because people like Harling want Usea to be independent doesn't automatically mean it can't be strong **for Osean interests**. In their mindset, some sacrifices have to be made. Plus, a year ago, they just came out of a standoff at Erusean territory (namely the Ugellas autonomous region)[11] and Albireo being a big part of the Allied Forces

- "Osea and Erusea just hate each other for good reasons, which one of them is a conquering state?"

Using bullish past behavior as an excuse for your own ain't any better, hell, Osea only recently went "let's be friends" w/ Erusea in that Arkbird summit after they got assblasted more than

twice. Need it be reminded that Osea has its conquering streak too starting w/ the Osean War?[12]

Conclusion

This is the OIA/Osea's endgame, win the Cold War post facto as decisively and as silently as possible and eliminate every potential threat through subterfuge.

We got Strangereal's Majestic 12 on the horizon here.

Inb4 their next step is tarnishing Usea's reputation by revealing the IUN's attempt to take down/disable the space elevator, giving the world more reasons to follow Osea.

...THIS ASIDE, there's no salvaging/handwaving Wardog's poor and belated communication at November lol

Ooof.

Anyway, I'm pushing this theory in part to connect as many dots and make sense of every faux/real deal retcon they made, hell, redeem [ACE5's crash land of a plot](#) (check the last section) as good as possible even if time's way past that.

References

1. Famitsu. (2006). *Ace Combat Zero: The Belkan War Perfect Guide Book*. Tokyo: Enterbrain. Ace Pilot Profile: Wizard 1 p.187
2. Project ACES. (2019). *Ace Combat 7: Skies Unknown* [Video game]. Tokyo: Bandai Namco Entertainment Incorporated. Cutscene 6: The Rose Emblem
3. Bandai Namco Entertainment Incorporated. (2019). *Aces at War: A History 2019*. Section #05 "Lighthouse War," p. 98
4. https://acecombat.wiki.gg/wiki/New_Submarine
5. <https://1999.co.jp/10651210>

The ADF was developed at an EASA experimental base in the eastern part of the Usean continent as a testbed for unmanned aircraft armament and detachable equipment for the large wing unit [RAW-F]. A few were manufactured.

6. https://acecombat.wiki.gg/wiki/ISAF_Bulletin
7. https://acecombat.wiki.gg/wiki/Usea_Reconstruction:_Space_Elevator_Nearing_Completion
8. <https://acecombat.wiki.gg/wiki/War%3F>
9. Bandai Namco Entertainment Incorporated. (2019). *Aces at War: A History 2019*. Section #05: "Lighthouse War," p. 76; 98
10. https://acecombat.wiki.gg/wiki/Last_Christmas
11. https://acecombat.wiki.gg/wiki/Asteroid_On_Collision_Course_With_Earth
12. Namco Bandai Entertainment Incorporated. (2011). *Aces at War: A History*. Section #05 "Flags & Insignias, etc.," p.112

13. Namco Bandai Entertainment Incorporated. (2011). *Aces at War: A History*. p. 5
14. Mediaworks Incorporated. (2007). *Ace Combat X: Skies of Deception The Complete Guide*. Act 03: Database p. 208