The History of the Human World

This document covers an overview of the human world, focusing on the differences from the universe of the players (“our world”). It is provided for informational purposes; your character may or may not much care about its contents.

1 Human Technology

Human technology is roughly equivalent to our world’s – the Internet, cell phones, communication satellites, nuclear weapons, etc.

2 World History

2.1 Americas

Colonists and would-be conquerors from Europe found that the Americas were much more heavily populated than in our world. Colonists had a greater need to get along with the natives; assimilation and integration was much more thorough than in our world. Conquerors had a much harder time of it – in particular, the Aztec and Inca empires survived.

At the end of the American War of Independence, the new United States are not ceded the territories that became Michigan and Mississippi in our world. In 1800, Spain sells the Louisiana territory to Britain (rather than trading it back to France as in our world) along with all of its territory above the 37th parallel (modern Utah, Colorado, Nevada, and half of California)... while it’s in the midst of losing the rest of its North American possessions to the Aztec Empire.

In the early 19th century, Texas revolts against the Aztecs while they’re busy with a Navaho revolt, and joins the United Kingdom. The subsequent Aztec/British war is relatively inconclusive, and a prelude to several later Aztec/Canadia wars. The Aztecs eventually reconquered Texas in the 1870s.

In the United States, without the rivalry over free/slave state status extending into new territories to the west, the tensions over slavery never boil over into civil war. Slavery is eventually abolished in 1881. The United States never purchases Alaska; instead, Russia cedes it to Japan after the war in 1905.

The Incans turn out to be good at trade and quickly pick up the construction and operation of oceangoing vessels. They end up controlling and annexing much of the southwest Pacific.

In 1908, Canada decided to cede from the United Kingdom; Britain decided it would rather have an amicable dissolution of that tie rather than lose a war while tensions were ratcheting up in Europe.

2.2 Notable Events in Modern Human History

Napoleon was assassinated in late 1812 while leading his Grand Armée on its campaign in Russia. His death caused the collapse of that campaign and subsequently France; the Napoleonic Wars ended a few years early.

The Great War lasted from 1914 to 1917, with the Central Powers (Germany, Italy, Austro-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria) winning against the Entente (France, Britain, Belgium, Russia, Rumania, Serbia, Greece).

In the late 1940s, Soviet Premier Trotsky’s fomenting of communist revolutions led to successful coups in Finland, Rumania and Mongolia; civil war in Austro-Hungary, Spain, and China; and an unsuccessful revolt in India. In 1949, the newly-formed
Communist International Front invaded Sweden and Germany, starting the Comintern War. Germany and the Balkan states were overrun, as was northern Italy. France, Britain, and Sweden held off the communist forces, until the Ottomans entered the war on the Anti-Comintern side. The secret Ottoman superweapon – atomic bombs – swiftly brought the war to an end by the end of 1953.

The Pacific War was fought between Japan and the Incans from 1950 through 1954, while Japan battled a communist insurrection in Manchukuo.

With the victory of the Anti-Comintern forces, communist governments were replaced with republican or monarchical governments… though many of the republican governments might more aptly have been described as fascist. A wave of revolts during and after the Comintern War spelled the end of the colonial order in Africa.

In 1973, the power struggles in China between the national Guomintang government and the assorted warlords broke out into civil war. By 1976, after tremendous bloodshed, it looked like the national government was soon going to force the warlords to peace… when a nuclear weapon was detonated in Beijing. No group took responsibility for the attack, but multiple sides quickly began using tactical nuclear weapons, devastating much of China. The Second Chinese Civil War ended in 1979 with the national government finally subjugating the warlords and establishing a more centralized state.

Since then, nuclear weapons haven’t been used. The closest the world has come was in 2006, when an Incan-backed insurgency against an Aztec client state in Kamarun was suddenly upstaged – Germany asserted its right to intervene in its former colony and began airlifting forces into rebel-held areas. Soon, France was landing troops in support of the government, Aztec transports were being sunk by submarines (that the Aztec government claimed were Canadian), and thousands of Russian “advisors” and “volunteers” were showing up in the government’s army. … and then armies were mobilizing in Europe. Only a last-ditch peace conference called by the Caliph prevented what looked to be a situation spiralling out of control – a peace conference that turned out to be a complete disaster for the Aztec/French/Russian coalition.

3 Human Politics

The human world is a multipolar world – there is no superpower. Instead, there are several world powers that compete for prestige, wealth, and power. There are also a fair number of regional powers.

Brush wars are common, as the assorted relevant powers stoke internal conflicts, launch coups, and encourage proxies to make war on each other.

The League of Nations exists, and is one of the avenues of competition for prestige.

Note: There were no Nazis in this world, and no Holocaust. Fascism is not universally reviled.

3.1 World Powers

3.1.1 The Democratic Republic Of Canada

Canada is a major world power, with territory including what in our world would be much of the United States – the Midwest, Louisiana, the northern Rocky Mountain states, and the northern half of the Pacific coast. It has significant natural resources, vast territory, and a population to match.

As its name might imply, Canada is a strongly authoritarian and martial state and is pretty blatant about meddling in unstable and underdeveloped states.

The First Nations are a significant portion of Canada’s population and have corresponding political power – the current
Premier is Jacob Brown Otter.

Canada faces periodic unrest amongst the Cheyenne, whom it conquered from the Aztec Empire in the 1930s.

3.1.2 The Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire is another major world power, with territory encompassing virtually all of the Middle East, plus Egypt and some of the Caucasus.

A relatively enlightened power, the Ottoman Empire is scientific center of the world; it was Ottoman scientists who developed the first Atomic Bomb in 1952 for use against the Soviet Union during the Comintern War.

The Ottoman Empire is actually a theocratic federal parliamentary republic. The Sultan (who is also the Caliph) is democratically elected, as is parliament. While all citizens enjoy strong civil rights protections, only Muslims have the right to vote.

Shi'ite discontent with the Sunni Caliphate occasionally boils over, but is comparatively muted. Persia is very cautious about its adversarial relationship with the Ottomans.

3.1.3 The French Republic

The premier European power following the Comintern War, France retains significant political and cultural power on the world stage, especially compared with its economic power. Its territory includes Alsace and Lorraine. Napoleon’s campaign into Russia is still mourned as a “lost victory” that would have changed history had only he not been assassinated.

French influence is strong in its former colonies, and maintained by a willingness and ability to intervene militarily anywhere on the globe... and a willingness to sell arms to anyone. French is the default international language.

In general, France is slowly losing ground to Canada and the Ottomans.

3.2 Regional Powers

3.2.1 The United States of America

The United States is composed of the Thirteen Colonies, plus Florida, Alabama, as well as (smaller versions of) Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio.

The United States is a major economic power, with significant financial and industrial clout. It offsets its lack of natural resources with extensive trade, particularly with Canada.

As much of its trade is seaborne, the United States maintains a large and effective navy. Comparatively good relations with Canada, its only neighbor by land, mean that a strong army is relatively unimportant to its security.

The United States impact on technology has been significant in recent decades as it leads the telecommunication revolution, thanks in large part to research done at the Commonwealth Institute of Technology.

The United States is a federal democratic republic.

3.2.2 The Aztec Empire

The Aztec Empire is an aggressive and totalitarian power. Its territory includes all of Central America, plus most of Texas and much of what is the American Southwest in our world.
While most powers shy away from major military commitments in far-off lands, preferring to use the tools of espionage and covert action, the Aztec Empire is notable for frequently deploying significant military assets in support of its client states. Closer to home, the Aztecs have fought multiple wars with Canada, though none since the onset of the nuclear era.

The Aztec Empire is a theocracy and hereditary monarchy.

### 3.2.3 The Incan Republic

The Incan Republic includes the Pacific coast of South America, and a large number of possessions in the southeast Pacific Ocean, most notably including Conticolla (an Incan state whose territory in our world is Australia and New Zealand).

The Incans are a major economic power, controlling much of the Pacific trade. The Incan Republic operates under a federal parliamentary system.

Surprisingly, the Aztec and Incan nations are not known to have ever been directly at war with each other. However, proxy conflicts between them are common, particularly in the remainder of South America.

### 3.2.4 The Japanese Empire

The Japanese Empire is an aggressive and authoritarian power. Its territory includes the Japanese home islands, much of the islands in the central and northern Pacific, Kamchatka, and Alaska. Korea and Manchukuo are independent states only in theory.

Japan is a major industrial power, and (thanks to Manchukuo and Alaska) has much of the natural resources necessary to support itself.

Japan and the Incans fought a fairly significant war over Pacific possessions at the same time as the Comintern War.

Japan is a constitutional monarchy.

### 3.2.5 The German Reich

While Germany emerged victorious from the Great War, the Comintern War utterly devastated it. Its modern territory includes Prussia and most of what is Poland in our world.

Germany is an industrial and economic powerhouse, having finally recovered from the war, and is starting to flex its muscles as a rising power.

Germany is a constitutional monarchy, with the chancellor serving at the whim of the Kaiser. Under the current monarch, it is moving ever closer to fascism.

### 3.3 Other Countries

China is recovering from its disastrous Second Chinese Civil War in the 1970s, but the nuclear devastation of many of its major population centers during that war and the accompanying fallout means its economy never took off.

Russia has never fully recovered from the devastation, atomic and otherwise, that was the result of coming out very much on the losing side of the Comintern War in the 1950s; corruption and political instability have not helped its situation.

Britain still retains some economic clout as a financial center, but has otherwise largely come to terms with its decline. It retains sufficient military capability to occasionally intervene in far-off lands, but is increasingly unwilling to exercise that power in pursuit of prestige and influence.
Trouble spots: Countries and regions with perennial or current conflict:

- Sub-saharan Africa is a mess, much like in our world.
- South America, outside of the Incan Republic, is usually seeing at least one civil war or border conflict.
- Cuba is currently in a civil war.
- Russia, coincidentally, just annexed Crimea from Ukraine and its perennial border dispute with Kazakhstan may be heating up again.
- Indonesia is in the midst of a civil war.
- Vietnam and Cambodia are at war again.
- The long-running insurgency in India’s muslim-majority regions (which would be Pakistan in our world) continues to be very bloody.

A current map of the world can be found at http://web.mit.edu/munch/upl/Maps/WorldMap.gif.

4 Current Events

Three days ago, Canada used nuclear weapons to shoot down an apparent alien spacecraft that was flying over its territory. The ship crashed into a mysterious city, also in Canadian territory near the Japanese border.

According to world media, there are no previous records of this city (whose population initial reports put at several million) and it has refused to respond to any attempts at contacting it. Canada already has military forces on the scene, and according to media reports, they describe human-like aliens with powers beyond anything Mankind has mastered, who keep humans as slaves and think of us as animals.

Hysteria is spreading over this apparent alien invasion. Governments around the world are mobilizing military forces, and tensions are rising globally.