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BEFORE CONTACTS WITH THE OTHERS

A new stage of development of the Earth's civilization started after the Helsinki bombardment. Muscowa's missile and bombing strikes against Finland ruined the fragile status quo. On the edge of a nuclear Apocalypse, humanity mobilized and united to finally solve the Moscow regime problem. We know these events as the Two-week War.



However, this was only the beginning. China that waited very long to reshape the world, prepared to launch its own offensive. Chinese revanchists decided that it was the right time to take what's theirs and the United States stepped forward to tame the dragon. The planet that watched rapid and merciless shock and awe operations for two weeks, froze on the verge of a full-scale conflict between China and the western civilization. At the last moment young powers on both sides of the Pacific managed to prevent the full-out war. This was the dawn of a new world order.

Professor Higgins and his daughter, Oksana Randall-Higgins, gave humanity a way to reach the stars. A technological revolution followed, and together with it – the first wave of colonization. As the Earth's political structures globalized more and more, new colonies rejected this vector trying to preserve their national and cultural identity. All of those who refused to globalize sought a new life in distant colonies.

This voluntary exile laid a foundation for many problems in the future.

Within the next hundred years humanity colonized a lot of worlds and gradually they started consolidating into larger clusters. Great distances complicated any unification efforts.

Delays in communication between colonies made decision making and centralized control ineffective. As a response to this problem a neo-feudal model started to develop, and nobility was reborn. This caused civil unrest and armed conflicts. The Earth wanted to stay in control and create a united confederate state. Certain powerful colonies had intents of becoming metropolises themselves instead of remaining under the Earth's rule. And there also were whole factions of revanchists like the "Novaya Rodina" that mostly consisted of

Muscovites who were willing to avenge their defeat in the Two-week War. Despite strong opposition, the Earth managed to quickly achieve several major victories and the conflict devolved into a passive phase, with active engagements persisting only on Weishnoria.



Sporadic conflicts between individual colonies were also far from uncommon. Not all planets were situated on equally good Hyperspace routes or had equally plentiful resources, and the good old right of the powerful came into effect. Even the worlds that already were formally under the Earth's control could fight with each other.

During the Colonial Wars the Empire of the Earth started to be referred as such, being in fact a confederacy where the Emperor was elected by the House of Lords, constituted by representatives of the most powerful noble houses.

AFTER CONTACTS WITH THE OTHERS

For a long time, our civilization has been developing in isolation. In fact, we were separated from the rest of the galactic races, and therefore the discovery of their existence has become a complete

surprise for mankind. Especially the fact of existence of so many alien species.

It all began with a sudden contact with the so-called Triclon Dream Singer, a religious and political leader of the Tricolons, who asked us to protect her from the Seit persecution, and suddenly the human civilization got drawn into a conflict. Now we stand on the verge of a big war against the Seit, and our closest neighbors, Eltofa and Kja are just waiting for its start to strike us when we will be most vulnerable.

The first clashes did not have any consistent results or lasting consequences. At Outpost 30005 we managed to defend against the Seit fleet due to the invaluable intelligence, but our positions on Griffon were lost, although according to our data, currently the Pirates control the planet, not the Seit.



Therefore, now humanity should limit dynamic actions and instead watch and listen carefully. We need to collect intelligence about races, their relationships and the Galaxy itself. There are races that envy us. Having met the enemy, now we need to find the right friends. Also, one should not forget about the intensification of technological development, in order to maximize its

existing advantage. The first encounters showed superiority of our combat forces over the enemy, both in arms and in training. This seems to be a big problem because the first victories have been achieved too easily.

Presence of the Galactic League is worth noting separately.



This structure is very similar to the old UN – an institution with wide nominal power and complete lack of real power and leverage of influence on its members. In the past, the power and influence of the Galactic League was determined by the Asgar Hegemony, but the Asgars have departed from galactic affairs. Today, the Galactic League has no real power or influence. This is a club where

representatives of various races express concerns and make allegations. But this club is still a convenient place to look for allies and situational alliances. It is a political platform where we can promote our interests and establish dialogue with other strong players.

GREAT HOUSES AND THEIR INFLUENCE

RAROG

The Emperor's house. This dynasty has lost a lot of power and popularity within the last years. The ruling Emperor ensured significant cultural and scientific progress, but the Empire needs a new sovereign. Both chambers of the Senate agree on that: the Chamber of Lords and the Chamber of Representatives. Svyatoslav Rarog is a promising candidate: an ambitious and energetic nobleman that runs a grand-scale electoral campaign.

RANDALL-HIGGINS

The house originates from the couple that led mankind to the stars. Patrons of sciences. Duke Randall strengthened his positions significantly and prepares to make a nomination for emperorship at the next Senate hearing. He is an ambitious and strong person, and many are ready to support him.

CHO LO

A powerful Chinese dynasty. Heads of this house are unofficially called "Lesser Emperor". For many years Cho Lo dukes have been building alliances to have proper support to nominate a member of their house for emperorship when the moment comes. Until now House Cho Lo did not need this. The Emperor's

responsibility lies mainly in the Earth's external policy, and Emperors did not have so much real weight as the position of a Prime Minister, traditionally occupied by a Cho Lo representative. After contacts with alien races the balance of power changed drastically.

VISIONER

The house of steadfast tin soldiers that supports the Crown. Visioners traditionally have no political ambitions but play an important role in the Earth's army and navy. Currently Duke Visioner is extremely popular in the armed forces, but he continues to fulfil his duty of an admiral: all he cares about is protection of humanity and does not participate in political struggle.

ALVAREZ

There is no hard evidence, but a lot of conflicts, investigations and scandals indicate that House Alvarez has strong connection of the Earth's criminal world. Journalists call Duke Alvarez the "King of criminals"

KAMLAN

Another house with no political ambitions. However, Kamlans have a significant influence on traditions and culture of the nobility. Their custom of Tameless Hunt has become increasingly popular among young nobles. Especially now, when conflicts at the borders started to grow in scale and number.

ORDER OF THE IMPERIAL CROSS

Not a house, but an order, created to control lesser noble houses. This is one of the orders that inherited heraldry and traditions of the old Christian knightly orders. The Order of the Imperial Cross is a reincarnation of the Order of Malta. It

has recently received a new vigorous Grand Master that strengthened its positions and ensured a leading status among other orders.