

Talking Points...

 Grand Commonwealth and Atteran relationship takes a turn for the worse—traditional Atteran-Babkhan dance anyone?

 Ryan Caruso (aka WarVoid) finds new micronation.
Micronational historians no longer able to keep track of how many RyanNations the latest makes. Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2005



The RIMA Journal explores some of the many covert and clandestine plots in micronational history.

It's Summer and Things are Heating Up! Oh that's Hot Hot! (or Cold?)

Summertime has traditionally been a low point in activity in micronationalism. After all, the anti-socials in the hobby have difficulty resisting the outdoor warmth and the need to climb that lovely birch tree and attract undue attention, while the socials are employed, deciding not to take the summer off of school, or out frolicking in the fields with their friends or companions of the opposite sex. All in all, generally micronationalism is horribly boring during the summer as there's no one around! But alas, with recent tensions developing between the Grand Commonwealth and Attera, with the latter just having formed a considerable alliance to oppose the Commonwealth, there are hopes of an active summer in the hobby. Mind you the socials will still be doing better things, but the anti-socials will now have a reason to sit in front of their computer other than playing games or looking at adult-rated anime on the Internet (when not in that tree mind you).

See "Intermicronational" Page 2

Aerlig Set for Election Amid Constitutional Convention

The Republic of Aerlig is one of the few micronations which adhere to a policy of short legislative sittings. Having adopted parliamentary elections at a frequency of once every six months for the past three years, Aerlig is now gearing up for its twelfth parliamentary election. Unlike the elections that have occurred in this micronation, this month's election represents both a beginning and an end.

As seven candidates prepare for fight for five seats in parliament, one of the highest candidate registrations in Aerlish history, the election in which they fight will be the final under Aerlig's current constitution and the first under since joining the Grand Commonwealth.

See "Aerlig" Page 7

Bored? Don't want to tackle that pile of paper work? Why not funnel your creative energy into an article each month?

For more details on how to write for the RIMA JOURNAL, see page 7.

Board Restorations May Take a Week or More

The Apollo Inquisitor | 01 Jun 2005

Some micronational Ezboards may take a week to restore, following a devastating malicious attach on the Ezboard network yesterday.

The attack resulted in a significant loss of current and backup data, creating severe problems for most of the Ezboard communities, some with only recent posts missing, while others have all posts missing.

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Intermicronational Affairs Increase in Complexity

Attera dumps Babkha after finding Babkha fooling around with four other nations; Babkha glad that it isn't the father of Cranda, mother Attera not entitled to child support rules RAMIC Court of Justice. Attera's secret lover, Cyberia, found Grieveing without purpose; disfiguring Hickey on its neck.

Continued from Front Page

The polarization of the intermicronational scene by the recent creation of the Grand Commonwealth, followed by the founding of the SPEAR alliance, is a return to 2001 and 2002 when suspicions and paranoia were abound in the Anglophone Sector. Of course today's polarization hasn't changed in scope at all since the year 2000. The intermicronational community is still being used today by Attera and Babkha to benefit them in their personal cold war, though that war had a brief hiatus from 2003 to 2004 (so long as Ras Noseworthy was Attera as a general rule of thumb as he was the only Atteran Babkha respected, and probably the only Atteran who really wanted to solve the cold war in the long term).

The abrupt creation of the Grand Commonwealth, perhaps the best kept secret of the year in the Anglophone Sector, took Attera by surprise. In true Atteran fashion, Emperor Tzion took quick advantage of the underlying suspicions surrounding the Commonwealth's creation in order to boost activity at home and bring an actual purpose to the desperate Atteran nation. He used the creation of the Commonwealth as an excuse to restart the old cold war with Babkha in order to make things more interesting. This eventually led to the creation of the SPEAR alliance, which is militarily dominated by Antica, though politically dominated by Attera (much like how the Commonwealth is politically dominated by Babkha).

The creation of SPEAR in itself was a major catalyst for a second breath of life in Shireroth in the latter week of May 2005 as that nation's Minister of the Exterior, Iain de Vembria, a considerable contributor to the creation of the Grand Commonwealth. Vembria is now being targeted as a traitor by certain rogue elements of Shireroth for his support of Babkha and recent attempts to have Attera censured over Atteran Prime Minister Johanns fonn Klosso's recent remarks in Karnali (which weren't polite by any measure). Mind you, the entire explosion of incivility in Shireroth is directly the cause of Mr. Klosso, given that he made a rookie mistake in making Attera look like it was announcing a fantasy alliance with involved Shireroth (he announced the treaty without having any of the other involved nations confirm its existence).

A three year veteran of the hobby making rookie mistakes aside, it seems that the conundrum in Shireroth is deepening as apparently Scott Siskind, who was the Shireroth citizen involved in the SPEAR alliance development may not have had any governmental authority. All in all, the SPEAR alliance currently consists of only Antica and Attera, an alliance which is nothing new, as the other supposed three members have yet to ratify the treaty. The fate of the treaty in Shireroth continues to look dismal as it is not representative of what that nation's citizens want in terms of foreign affairs. Mind you, if Shireroth does sign onto the SPEAR alliance, it would be a considerable move as Shireroth conducts espionage against Attera on a regular basis (despite best efforts in Attera to curb the problem), and Attera hasn't been very kind to Shireroth

in the espionage ring either.

The stabilizing force in the intermicronational scene, the Group of Three (G3) nations, which was formed in late 2004 as a result of Attera-Babkha-Cyberia cooperation against elements in Morovia attempting to usurp Morovian King Vincent III, is no longer effectual causing major concern in Cyberia. That nation, which is going through one of its traditional internal mudslinging matches between Alan Grieve and Peter Hickey, is effectively out of the picture intermicronationally, causing great concern as it chairs the G3 and holds the presidency of the Raspur Intermicronational Community (RAMIC) - two organizations which bring Attera and Babkha together, and could serve a major part in maintaining community security in these newly uncertain times of intermicronational security.

What this all leaves for the summer months is a major strained relationship between the SPEAR alliance nations and the Grand Commonwealth. Keep in mind however that the current situation may not last long depending on who actually joins SPEAR. While the community is well aware of the power of the Grand Commonwealth, the SPEAR alliance only holds military power right now (because of Antica), and little to no political legitimacy (something which Attera has been unable to convey intermicronationally to the major micronations since its national crisis in February of this year). Until the intermicronational community fully knows the political composition of SPEAR, the Grand Commonwealth will easily dominate the community's affairs. Naturally the New Bergl alliance nations of Antica and Attera won't lay down their swords if SPEAR fails to become a considerable power (for which it requires Shireroth, which has political credibility). In fact, the failure of SPEAR to gain the support of Shireroth could make things even more unstable as Attera will still be attempting to climb the slope to being the equal of the Grand Commonwealth. Atteran inferiority at this time is a major security concern for the community, especially since Atteran Emperor Tzion will do whatever is necessary to claw his nation's way into a powerful position.

A general word of advice to the Grand Commonwealth is still prudent for the summer months. Attera is a very weak nation right now, but the key characteristic about Tzion is that he is an effective leader in that he can bring the masses to his cause and control them .He was able to control Politika in 2002/2003 and that nation single-handedly brought several major nations down to earth with their electronic warfare tactics against Shireroth and Baracão. Attera's power rests solely with its influence on others to do its bidding, not with its internal military capabilities; right now, Attera has controlling influence over Antica, by far the military might in the Anglophone Sector right now, through the Crimson Order.

Whatever happens, be prepared for the most interesting summer in micronationalism since...well, recent memory. Competitions affecting community security are usually sick Christmas gifts, not juicy summer steaks.

Comments on what you've read in the RIMA Journal?

Email us at sinclair_liam@yahoo.ca



tion, he expressed reservation at using the

International Brigade to attempt a coup. With

failed in his attempt to destroy the Pacary-

Baração alliance earlier in the month (though

Pacary had recently joined Baração after fold-

ing), Baração was still a fairly strong opponent

to take on. Luckily for Attera, Chairman

Dafydd was losing his grasp on power in

Baração, mainly thanks to a fateful partnership

The sheer number of plots that exist in micronationalism is perhaps the only factor that micronations have been able to successfully mimic with respect to the macro-world. Many of the plots come to light in bad situations, such as the TYSOG Incident, which impacted the Tymarian government more than any other spy scandal in micronational Internet history. Others are shrugged off, and some are never known about until the governments or persons involved finally release relevant information, sometimes years after the plot. Here are just some of those plots that have occurred in the Anglophone Sector—Liam Sinclair

A Coup in Baracão to Irritate the Babkhans?

Contained in the Atteran National Archives are dozens of transcripts of Atteran government discussions, most of which are off limits to the general public. One such transcript covers a meeting of Rases Noseworthy, Makonnen, Harmagedon, and Anderson, which occurred on 14 Oct 2002. In this discussion, the transcript of which spans nearly twelve pages, the four most influential nobles in the Atteran micronation discussed plans to create a coup in the Republic of Baração, a micronation soon to be allied with the Kingdom of Babkha, the historic enemy of Attera.

The basis of this proposed covert operation was that with upcoming elections in Baracão, there existed a prime opportunity to bring that nation into the sphere of influence of the Atteran Federation, away from Babkhan manipulation. With Ras Noseworthy being in command of the Baracão military's International Brigade (much like the French Foreign Legion system), and with Attera's main operative in Baração, Robert Silby, beginning to fail in his mission to destabilize the government, it was vital that moves be taken to secure the Atteran goal. Given Noseworthy's loose relationship with the International Brigade, the command position being allocated solely due to his standing in Pacary, Baracao's allied microna-

Attera as his predecessor. Despite the opportunity facing Attera, the operation was never carried out as Dafydd

won support in the chairman elections and the coup plan developed by Guimont was exposed. All was not lost for Attera however; the secondary fall-back plan was initiated when Dafydd regained the support of his nation. This plan was the direct action which created the famed Republic of Politika, the only micronation in the Anglophone Sector which can rightly hold the title of terrorist state for its electronic warfare against other micronations in late 2002 and early 2003 (under the guise of Anarchy 21). Ω RIMA JOURNAL

Friendly Espionage: Attera and Shireroth

When many think of competing micronations which are always attempting to discover the inner workings of each other, Attera and Babkha come to mind. In reality, the most active espionage competition in micronationalism since 2003 has been between the Atteran Empire and the Imperial Republic of Shireroth.

The unique relationship between these two nations, which are officially at peace and friendly, creates an atmosphere of friendly espionage between the two. That is, neither is spying on the other for malicious reasons (such as to undermine the other's government). The Atteran Empire first became aware of Shireroth penetration into its secure forums when Shireroth's Intelligence Officer, Scott Siskind, told the Atteran government in 2003 that he had access to its private forum. The Atteran authorities secretly revoked the citi- bi-polar [scenario]" in the Anglophone sector (read: zenship of Atteran noble Fax Nemesis, who the Babkha-Baracão and Attera-Politika-Puritania was a dual citizen with Shireroth, on the basis camps). that he was the leak. However, the banning of The offer coincided with fears in Attera that staunch Nemesis did not shore up Shireroth's access -Shireroth still has access to Attera's secure forums to this day, likely through a high ranking and highly respected Atteran noble.

As for Attera's espionage against Shireroth, the most recent being attempted in January of this year, none of the missions have ever been successful. Shireroth 1, Attera 0, mainly thanks nothing came of the offer, simply because Tahemsab, to the sneaky Mr. Siskind and Attera's lack of personnel resources. Ω RIMA JOURNAL

Striking Plots

TYSOG Anyone?

An incident rather forgot

In late 2001, it was discovered that the Kingdom of Babkha was actively attempting to influence proceedings in the former-Kingdom, now Republic, of Morovia.

Given the strong suspicion surrounding the motives of Babkha at the time, the government of the United Republic of Tymaria, authorized its military to begin an infiltration of Morovia with the aims of restoring Atteran operative Sirithil nos Feanor having its former monarch to the throne to curb Babkhan influence. This was just one of the many steps taken by Tymaria against Babkha in the all-but-rotten relationship between the two in late 2001 and early 2002.

The operation was considered immoral by several Tymarian military officers and was eventually exposed by Edward Conway, the Tymarian military operative spying on Babkha. The exposure led to charges of treason against Conway and his gang in the Tymarian between Silby and a Baracãoan named Edward military, as well as calls for impeachment against Guimont, the latter who was attempting to government officials who authorized and planned the grab power, but was as unfriendly towards operations, leading to the most turbulent time in Tymaria's short history.

> It wasn't until almost two years later that Babkha revealed its official involvement in Morovia as being existent to irritate Edward Guimont (Kuralyov), who was largely considered (by the Tymarian government) to be the prime Tymarian target of Babkhan aggression in 2001. Ω RIMA JOURNAL

The Cromien Offer

In bed with Babkha's enemy

On January 7, 2003, Babkhan Conrad Cromien approached Emperor Mik'el Tzion of Attera with an offer that would cause shockwaves throughout the Atteran leadership.

Cromien, a member of the 'Cabal' (an organization led by famed communist micronationalist Yuri V. Andropov, aka Sean Walker), informed Tzion that Yuri had "fallen of out Babkha and Baracão", two nations allied against the Atteran Empire. Being a loyal Yuriist, Cromien approached Attera with an offer to utilize his administrative powers over the forums of both Babkha and Baração however Tzion directed. The goal of Cromien in making this offer was to "allow for a definite shift in power from the

anti-Atteran Baharm Gul Khuradmin, a high ranking Babkhan government minister, was on the verge of becoming the next Shah. The fear that Babkha's moderate government, which had prevealed since the fall of its first Shah, was in jeopardy meant that Attera had to be prepared to utilize Cromien's offer against Babkha. Especially given a top-level order in Attera which stated that if Kuradmin became Shah, Attera was to immediately go to a war footing. In the end, a moderate Babkhan, became Shah, and Tzion went off to war in Iraq. Ω RIMA JOURNAL

Historical Reflection: The Creation and Controversy of the Atteran Empire

There was a recent attempt at the University of Gotzborg to offer a course in modern Atteran history. This attempt was unsuccessful due to low interest on the part of students to take the class. As a result, the course's architect, Liam Sinclair, offered the completed lecture material in the course to the Royal Institute of Micro-Antiquities. The RIMA JOURNAL will be featuring edited versions of those lectures in our upcoming issues. This month Sinclair discusses the formation of the Solomonic Empire of Attera, which occurred on 01 Dec 2002.

...the Grand

Executive

Council and its

members...now

had their rights

under threat...



The basis of the creation of the Solomonic Empire was that, in the minds of some Atterans, absolute monarchy would be the best way to help the nation recover from the pains incurred following the TYSOG incident of late 2001/early 2002 as well as the ill effects of the Total Isolation Act, an Act which effectively cut Attera off from the outside world.

It was largely the work of former Prime Minister Ras Oscar Anderson that brought about the Third Crimson Constitution. The Third Crimson Constitution declared Ras Diga Makonnen IV (now known as Mik'el Tzion) to be the hereditary absolute ruler of Attera (replacing the constitutional monarchy headed by his daughter, Jihan), and the Constitution also practically removed all the rights of the legislature and Prime Minister as being the major decision makers of government – though the Prime Minister continued to yield a lot of power due to tradition.

We must remember the significance of the declaration of an absolute ruler over Attera who had the power to overturn the will of the Yezawd Derg (Parliament) without having to provide explanation and who could dismiss and appoint the Prime Minister of the nation as he saw fit. Attera was built on a system meant to provide fair and equal representation between its constituent regions, with the Grand Executive Council consisting of one member per Imperial Region. The Council was the decision making body

(i.e. the defacto ruling body of Attera in place of Empress Jihan I who was not of the age of majority during her reign), of the Atteran State for the better part of 3 years, since the nation came online in 1999. All of a sudden, in the space of four weeks, the Grand Executive Council and its members who were appointed with the promise of being given serious power in the decision making of the nation, now had their rights under threat by a decision by Ras Makonnen and Ras Anderson to move Attera towards an absolute monarchy.

The Grand Executive Council, at this time, consisted of four members – Ras Dabe Harmagedon I, Ras Scott Noseworthy, L'eul Ras Daniel Dreesbach, and finally, Ras Oscar Anderson. Naturally Ras Anderson was for the constitution, and Ras Dreesbach supported the con-

stitution once he was informed that his royal grip over Interland was secure. Of the remaining two members, Ras Noseworthy, now in line to become the first Prime Minister of the Atteran "Empire" due to his close relationship with Ras Makonnen, supported the measure after being convinced that his talents would be of value to the Empire in that role. Ras Harmagedon was the sole member of the Council to vote against the adoption of the Third Crimson Constitution citing that his rights were being violated and that Attera was being turned into a dictatorship. In a conversation between Noseworthy and Harmagedon, Noseworthy agreed that Attera was indeed being turned into a dictatorship, but also stated that it was best to work through the new system to change the system of government to a better balance, something that Noseworthy's government would do over the course of its 19 month reign, eventually culminating in the form of the Fourth Crimson Constitution.

Let's take a minute to focus on Harmagedon's opposition to the adoption of the Third Crimson Constitution. On 26 Nov 2002 the Ras made an address to the Atteran public to voice his concerns with the new plan. The address started out with the famous line "I despise Anderson, he fell in love with someone and left a dictatorship," a reference to Ras Oscar

Anderson who was the main proponent of making Ras Makonnen the absolute ruler of Attera. Harmagedon felt that he had been "walked over" by everyone in the Attera nation and that Ras Makonnen had "[forgotten] his promises" that all three Imperial Rases would be equal rulers in the Atteran State.

Harmagedon went on to criticize the entire legislative structure of Attera, which permitted any citizen to write bills, the faults of which became very evident during the early months of the Ninth Imperial Government when the GEC was swamped with one-line bills and multi-line ones which were just as poorly written (this would lead Prime Minister Noseworthy to create a guide for writing effective legislation, a guide which to this day seems to still be largely ignored!). Ras Dabe mocked the legislative process further by saying that he should let his "little sister come write something, I'm sure it will pass as well."

Makonnen's response was equally critical of Ras Dabe, citing that the GEC had become an ineffective legislative body since Ras Dabe and Ras Charles had both failed to introduce new legislation on their own accord, thus forcing the process to be opened up to all citizens. He also accused Ras Dabe, and once again Ras Charles, of not putting "quality time" into their jobs for quite some time leading up to the development of the Third

Crimson Constitution. Makonnen's famous statement "Our Grand Executive Council must be one that has active citizens that can get the job done, not Imperial Rases who decide that Attera isn't worth a simple 30 minutes out of their busy schedules," formed the basis for a new age Grand Executive Council which saw the introduction of lower ranked nobles onto the legislative body over the course of the Third Crimson Constitution in order to reward those who were active and had a lively vision for legislation in Attera.

But what of the issue of Makonnen becoming the absolute ruler of Attera? Makonnen stated that this plan was necessary to place him, as the most active Imperial Ras (and at many points in time, the only active one), at a high enough authority point to ensure that Attera could face challenges coming to it in the future with strong leadership, instead of hoping that regularly inactive Imperial Rases would be able to be recalled on short notice to deal with important

issues. Makonnen disputed the "dictatorship" tag in his rebuke of Ras Dabe as he pointed out that he intended to use very little of his powers under the Third Crimson Constitution, instead allowing his prime minister to run the show for the most part. Makonnen also dismissed the claim that Ras Dabe had been promised any guarantee of power upon his immigration to Attera.

With the Grand Executive Council passing the Third Crimson Constitution Bill on 07 Nov 2002, a coronation date for the Atteran Emperor Mik'el Tzion I was set for 01 Dec of that year. It was on that day that the Ninth Imperial Government under Noseworthy came to power, and that period of Attera's history is without doubt the most important in the nation's modern history.

Continued next page

REFLECTIONS' continued

With Tzion coming to power, and the dictator view fresh in the public mind, the Emperor promised to let the government and the prime minister run the majority of the state affairs with minimal interference from himself. As the Emperor would soon discover that he would be deployed to Iraq for the better part of the next year, he appointed Prime Minister Noseworthy as the Crown Regent and left the affairs of the state to him.

Needless to say, when the Emperor returned, the Third Constitution had received serious amendments and the Emperor's right to veto the Grand Executive Council revoked. The Emperor had, by all rights, become less powerful in the nation as Noseworthy had promised to Harmagedon. Ω RIMA JOURNAL

Editor's Note: Despite recent events in Attera's history which showed the more dictator-like side of Mik'el Tzion, it is prudent to note that such incidents are rare in the course of his reign. While Tzion holds vast powers, more than may be comfortable to many of Attera's citizens, he generally does use them sparingly, leaving the day-to-day administration of the nation to the Prime Minister. In recent months, since the February 2005 national cribin Attera, the Emperor has been forced to utilize more absolute traits of his powers than normal due to the Yezand Derg, the parliament, no longer being confident that it can do its duties without the type of interference shown by the Crown in February [the Crown dissolved the Derg when it tried to legislate the dissolution of the Commonwealth].

This Month in Micronational History

JUNE 2003:

- 1) Historic rivals Attera and Babkha issue their first joint statement pledging cooperation towards resolving their three year long conflict.
- 2) The Republic of Politika seizes control of the Apollo Skyline, the popular Siskind news service of the day. The Micronational Free Press rumored to have ordered several bottles of champagne to celebrate the occasion. Editor

JUNE 2004: Anti-Cyberia micronationalist Emperor Jacobus issues 'letters of marque' calling for attacks against Cyberia, Attera, Babkha, and other Scheheradze Convention Council members. *Those nations heard to say "will this guy ever get a life?"* - Editor (being very kind to Jacobus)

RIMA Bulletins

- Membership in the Institute has grown to five persons, with Mr. Koen Nevens being the latest to join the pursuit to contribute towards the documentation and discussion of micronational history.
- Member admission guidelines are now in effect at the Royal Institute. For more information on membership, email sinclair_liam@yahoo.ca

From the Micronational Free Press Archives

This month I chose an article dealing with the Republic of Amerada and its problematic levels of activity in the government. What catches the eye in this article, in my opinion, is the unique aspect of Amerada which was the norm for much of its history while Washburn was President - the opposition generally had far more active people than the actual government (which, more times than naught, had only President Washburn active). It's amazing how, being outnumbered almost 4 to 1 at times, Washburn was able to hold onto power and rule with an iron hand until the Amerada opposition outdid Washburn's camp in vote-rigging to oust him in December 2002.

President discusses plans for Amerada

MFP | Republic of Amerada | August 17, 2002

Tonight in a chat with Editor in Chief, Scott Noseworthy, Amerada President Earl Washburn discussed his plans for the nation this fall. The main focus of his plans were various elections and rekindling the interest in the nation which has been lost in many of the citizens.

This Monday, August 19, 2002, President Washburn will close the Amerada Legislature for a period of two weeks. This will be in preparation for the upcoming by-election to fill the newly created legislative seat in Electoral District 11. Parties will have to announce their candidate within the coming weeks as the by-election will take place starting on August 24, 2002 (12:00 PM EST) until August 31, 2002 (12:00 PM EST). Parties will have until midnight (EST) on the 23rd of August to announce their candidates.

The upcoming election is just one of three major elections that will be held in Amerada by the end of this year. In October, the election for Prime Minister of Amerada will take place, with likely contenders, incumbent Derek McCullough and deputy-Prime Minister, Matt McIvor going face to face for the job as leader of the government. With less of a chance in the polls will be Chris Donle who has voiced his intent to run for the PM job. An election debate will be held on October 01, 2002 for the Prime Ministerial candidates at the Amerada website chat. The election season will be capped off with the first Presidential elections since the creation of Amerada in 2001 taking place. These elections will decide if President Washburn, the only unelected President in Amerada history, will remain in that position.

The lack of interest that has become indicative in many citizens of Amerada regarding federal affairs is a major problem that the President must combat. However, despite the inefficiency of the federal government due to this activity, the President hopes that by adding a new portfolio to Cabinet, a ministry of colonial affairs, some more activity will be made. Unfortunately, there is no member of the government, except for Mr. Washburn, who actually does something regularly in their departments.

A more plausible way to fight this governmental inactivity is an "Amerada Club". The vast majority of Ameradians attend the same high school as President Washburn in Ottawa, Canada. The President hopes that, by creating this "club", he will re-kindle the interest in the members of government. Another minor change in the school meetings of the Amerada government which take place throughout the school year will be a new name for those meetings, possibly known as the "President's Privy Council".

The President will round out the year with just one more new piece of legislation that will create a twelfth seat in the Amerada legislature. He said that, "I don't feel the need to make anymore legislation." As the year rounds out in Amerada, we can expect mass elections, followed by calm legislative proceedings and many days of nothing to do in the federal scene of the nation.

The Editor's Column

Editor: Sir Liam Sinclair, K.S.G

Recreational Warfare: Ludicrous, whatever way you justify it!

I had a co-worker once who was a rather wise woman. Her famous saying in the office was "What's it all about?" (in reference to the wonderful world of civil service work—repetitive, though well paid!). It seems that regularly in micronationalism this question is asked, not just by those who wish to know more before beginning participation in the hobby but more and more by those who are veterans of this unusual past-time.

This past month saw a discussion at Micronations.net regarding the legitimacy of recreational warfare as part of the micronation hobby. There is perhaps no other single issue in micronationalism more divisive than that of the concept of warfare in the online Internet micronational community. Many micronations and micronationalists fervently state that there is no such thing as micronational warfare; others agree that micronational warfare does not exist in the macronational sense but that it is an important and real part of the hobby, just as it is between states macronationally. There are even some micronations and micronationalists that take both sides of the argument-stating that the concept of micronational warfare is illegitimate, yet a very real issue affecting the community.

Is micronational warfare a legitimate concept? The answer, in the real sense of the definition, is that micronational warfare is not legitimate in nature. Nobody dies in micronational wars, in essence making the concept of micronational warfare a very juvenile mockery of the real deal. For this simple reason, it is always prudent for micronationalists to develop the habit of biting their tongues when about to say "warfare" in the micronational sense; "conflict" would be a more practical classification.

Yet, despite its illegitimacy, micronational 'conflict' is a very real issue which affects the community. It would be nonsense to deny its existence as an issue. Micronational conflict, in the Internet sense, exists on the basis of using electronic measures to defeat, or seriously cripple, a rival micronation. This method of conflict involves the utilization of viruses, Trojans, and other malicious scripts. One of the more popular measures used in micronational conflict is spamming. And why not? Everyone loves to have their emails used at dozens of Internet pornographic email sites (or if there's really an atmosphere of lovin' between the parties, it'll be hundreds of emailer signups). Spamming is juvenile and easily defended against, but it offers

perhaps the most efficient and respectable way to conduct conflict between micronational parties.

Recreational warfare, on the other hand, cannot even be classified as legitimate conflict between two parties, let alone as a form of warfare. Glossy it up with whatever terminology you want, recreational warfare is the worse mockery of the concept of warfare and conflict in the human sense; it's also a painfully insulting concept to those who have served in wars and conflicts to protect the very participants in micronationalism (in the macronational world of course). Only recreational warring micronations would actually think of warfare in the macronational sense as they see fictitious soldiers as somehow being the real deal...well okay, that's a pretty broad stereotype, so let me narrow it more so. Only immature, armchair generals, who have no sense of social interaction macronationally and have delusions of grandeur would think that way...at least until they get out of their puberty years (well, we have to hope that'll be the case). Not the choice words, but I think that accurately conveys a fair interpretation of the more infatuated participants in recreational

Don't get me wrong now, there are some decent people who participate in recreational warfare. They use the basis that "oh it's a great method by which to make the fictitious Micronational Cartography Society world map more realistic." Don't hold such odd-ball thinking against them; they'll learn the error of their ways eventually and finally grow past the fictitious maps and warfare that plague micronationalism. In the mean time, if you want to have a better experience in fictitious wars, I suggest you go play a video game—you'll have far better competition than what the community can offer right now in that area.

The recreational warfare infestation is now solely to blame on the twisted imaginations of a few micronationalists. The overall community must take some part of the blame for fuelling such a stupid method of entertainment. After all, with measures such as the Scheheradze Convention on Micronational Warfare, the community has severely limited the ability for proper conflict to occur between micronations. Furthermore very few participants in the micronational hobby are actually training in the art of hacking and malicious acts via the Internet. I won't complain about the latter as the less hackers there are, the fewer headaches we must all suffer through.

It's been more than three years since any decent micronational conflict, either via electronic measures or through covert operations that go awry. Perhaps what the community needs is for the current Grand Commonwealth/Attera spat, over some unimportant one man successor state to San Martin, to balloon into an actual micro-

national conflict. At least then, by witnessing the destruction that can be caused by such conflicts, the many new micronationalists who have yet to see such conflict will gain a greater respect and appreciation and recreational warfare will go back into the pit where it belongs.

Letters to the Editor

[In response to your column on the Grand Commonwealth, May 2005]:

Well - tossing sovereign and defence capabilities down the drain? LOL hardly :p more like pooling sovereignties such that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. ---- Treesia dead for a year - where have you been? oh studying or drinking :p - Treesia is essentially a library with sports teams and plotting and achieving world domination:) ---- yes to Treesia's intents and persuading Lemuria to get involved - although for Treesia it was also a case of getting the deleted Apollo foundation lands back on the map and having a final go at building a viable empire, this time consisting of living nations, and partly based on much earlier but rejected ideas ---- an inflated Babkhan regime? not a chance - the number of legal delegates gives equality amongst all members (and the ease with which a member can leave means everyone has to be kept happy the whole time - quite a challenge), and on the basis of the number of different nationals, we have 4 Babkhans, 4 Treesians, 4 Aerlish, 2 Alterians, 1 Lemurian - hardly a Babkhan regime ---- I have no idea why Chas liked the GC idea and wanted Alteria to join, but it has three reasonably active citizens, although it works on a slower timescale generally that most other nations. ----You need to reanalyze the make-up.;)

Sir Iain de Vembria

Chairman, Sovereign Order of Treesia and Secretariat, Grand Commonwealth

The context in which the dominance of Babkha was made was overall populations of the micronations involved in the Grand Commonwealth. In this context, Babkha's large population dominates all others and thus it is clear that in the end, due to population distributions, Babkha will always hold an advantage in the sway of politics within the Commonwealth.—The Editor

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TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

Disputes with other nations; if any:

Ongoing dispute with Attera for reasons forgotten by most.

- Babkhan Foreign Vizier Abbas Namvari to Atteran Prime Minister Ras Noseworthy, conveying the latest official update in his ministry's documentation, and reflecting upon the lack of knowledge in both governments as to why Attera and Babkha hate each other, 14 Mar 2003.

AERLIG continued from front page

Quotable Quote

All but one of the candidates running in the election belong to a political party with four candidates associating with the Expansionist Party, the political party of Aerlig Protector (head of state), Lachlan Powers. Another Expansionist government, which has been the norm in Aerlig for the recent past, is expected to be the result when polls close on June 09.

Another first is being made in Aerlig with respect to elections this month as well. Auelrict, which recently passed its local constitution, is holding the first election for a governor of an Aerlish state. The competition is between Lachlan Powers, who was the founder of the state, and upstart micronationalist Carson Smith. There is no word on when the results for that election will be released. Ω RIMA JOURNAL

"Restorations" continued from front page

Rob Labatt, Ezboard CEO, said: "We are taking the fastest route to restore data, but it may take up to 48 hours to get data back to approximately 9,000 boards. A more manual method requiring upwards of seven to ten days is required to restore data to the other boards that lost data. Regrettably we may not be able to restore data to all boards that lost data."

Ezboard staff have requested that requests for board restorals and notices of individual board problems are not submitted as all boards will be restored (where possible).

All Ezboard users are advised to regularly check 'All the News You Need to Know' for updates regarding the latest situation.

They are also advised not to post new messages on affected boards as there is a risk that they may be overwritten during the restoration process.

A Proper Death for Morovia

In May 2005, longtime monarch of the Kingdom of Morovia, Vincent III, abdicated the throne citing his inability to dedicate the time required of him in Morovia. Prominent Morovian, Adam Graham, ascended the throne with the popular support of the nation to become Morovia's second monarch.

Suffering from a chronic shortage of activity since well before the TYSOG Incident of 2001, Morovia was to be given new life by the change of head of state. Unfortunately, as things always tend to go in Morovia, this hope was dashed when the active citizens began to be drawn away by other commitments. By 10 May, only two elected officials remained in Morovia, the People's Representative (the equivalent of a Prime Minister), Michael Fors, and longtime Morovian iron man Bill Bekkenhuis. Much like was witnessed in Attera just months prior, the Morovian community soon came to the realization that their constitution was too large to be supported by the active population.

King Adam took measures to dissolve the constitution so that a new, reinvigorated Morovia could be created. Now, over three weeks since this announcement, it seems that the hopes for a renewed Morovia have gone the traditional route in that nation. Morovia, without any activity since the 10 May address by King Adam, has finally died a proper death, with no plans in sight to see an incident similar to TYSOG aimed to force it back to a uninteresting, unwanted life. Ω RIMA JOURNAL