

# RIMA Journal

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF MICRONATIONAL ANTIQUITIES

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happy new year!

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## Abrupt Removal Causes Controversy

*(Kingdom of Babkha)* The Kingdom of Babkha has had its political stage rocked by a recent decision of Shah Ardashir Khan to sack the micronation's delegates to the Grand Commonwealth's federal legislature, the Majlis-i-Dharma.

The Vizier of Empire and Commonwealth Affairs, Iain de Vembria announced the sacking of delegates Darius Rugahi and Rakesh Ackbar, the latter considered one of the most politically out-spoken Babkhans in that micronation's history, abruptly on 11 January.

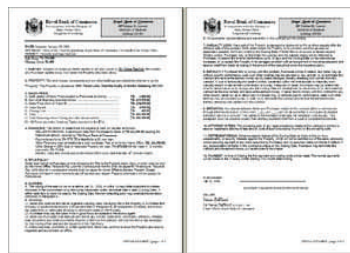
With just one month left to go in the current session of the Dharma, the decision centers on the inactivity of Mr. Ackbar, according to Khan. Ackbar disputes the claim of inactivity, citing his participation in most debates of the Dharma "before [his] sudden removal." Ackbar claims that the removal is largely based on the Babkhan Crown wanting to have a defacto position on the delegation; this, he believes, goes against the original purpose of the Dharma, which was meant to be representative of the peoples of the Grand Commonwealth, not of any particular member micronation's government or monarchy.

See "Ackbar Removed" Page 2

## Real Estate Program Launched

The Gotzborg Home Office has released its long-awaited real estate program, created by Steven DeBlood, that has finally answered the question of how the Royal Government was going to raise income for the treasury.

While Gotzborg's shipbuilding industry has flourished, there were no products in place for the average citizen to purchase; mind you, if raising a fleet of warships was your niche, your life was set! The real estate program has provided a very enticing product for Gotzborg citizens who have been waiting to spend their hard-earned Thalers. Equally, the program also further develops Gotzborg's geography, as duchy holders are finally able to build their manors that will come to symbolize the micronation's landscape.



*A sample mortgage contract, which by pure unadulterated coincidence is for 2001 Forest Lane, Coprieta, a stunning mansion that is "home" to this editor.*

The mortgage system associated with buying a dwelling in Gotzborg is a long-winded, thirty-year process that will, in all likelihood, outlive the micronation itself. While this lengthy period is arguably unrealistic for an Internet microna-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## New History Book

Respected micronational historian Scott Alexander released his latest history book this past Norton Day (Jan 08).

The book, entitled *Microscope*, conveys the history of simulationist micronations in the Anglophone Sector with various special inserts, including analyses by Alexander. Ω

## AQ Ends Operations

The Anthelia Quarterly has ended publication operations, its creator and editor Koen Nevens has confirmed. The news magazine was Anthelia's only domestic news service and was a close partner with the RIMA Journal. The RIMA Journal was endorsed by Anthelia's government as its preferred news service in the absence of the AQ. Ω

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**“We are better than that”**

Several “young” micronations have formed a non-aligned movement.

The nations, which include Natopia, Riponia, and Antica, released a longwinded, and very righteous, statement which essentially states that they vow to rebel against the old ways and attitudes and take their just place as leaders of the community.

Micras, your youngsters just hit puberty. **Ω**

**Atteran Instability**

The Atteran micronation experienced a new bout of instability on 3 January as deposed Emperor Mik'el Tzion seized power once again through a coup.

The seizure has resulted in the three remaining active citizens of Attera, who also were the co-regents (Benjamin Gray, Johanns fonn Klossos, and Charles Beard) to resign their citizenships. Beard was a long-time Atteran, having twice been Prime Minister in its early history as an online micronation. **Ω**

**Cabinet Nixes Treaty**

Following the latest coup in the Solomonian Empire of Attera, the Royal Cabinet of Gotzborg convened to discuss the future of that micronation's relationship with Attera.

Citing over a year and a half of neglect in the relationship on the part of Attera, despite attempts by Gotzborg to return the very close friendship to prosperity, the Cabinet revoked the most favoured status of Attera. **Ω**

**Ackbar Removal Raises Questions**

*Continued from Front Page*

The circumstances surrounding the removal of Rugahi are less clear, with indications from high levels of the Babkhan government that the removal of Rugahi was overzealous on the part of the Vizier of Empire and Commonwealth Affairs. Former Babkhan Shah, and current head of state of the Grand Commonwealth, Tahmesab, agreed with criticism from several Babkhans that there should have been some forewarning of the change in delegation.

Ackbar has introduced legislation in the local Babkhan legislature to regulate the election of delegates to the Grand Commonwealth. The bill, if passed, would prevent the Babkhan government from arbitrarily removing candidates, and in the event of a vacancy require that a by-election fill the position. The Babkhan Grand Vizier, Ghazi al Baqir, voiced opposition to the election of both delegates, citing that the Kingdom is a “symbiotic relationship between the Crown and the people,” and therefore the Crown should be guaranteed a position on the delegation to the Commonwealth.

Despite the ongoing discussions surrounding Ackbar's legislation, an election has been called under existing Babkhan electoral law to choose the second delegate to serve with Khan on the Majlis-i-Dharma. Five candidates announced their intention, including former high-ranking Atteran Benjamin Gray, who applied for political asylum following the counter-coup of Diga Makonnen earlier in the month.

Questions do remain as to the fate of Khan as a delegate for Babkha, as he has announced his intention to run for the position of Taoiseach of the Grand Commonwealth in February, its head of government. Should he win that contest, which is currently against sole opponent Ackbar, Khan would be required to resign his position as a delegate to the Dharma. With this being a well-known requirement of the Taoiseach position, there is suspicion over the true motives of the Babkhan government in removing Ackbar – was it really for the rights of the Crown, or simply a politically motivated attack against an outspoken opponent of Khan's political policies? **Ω**

**Aerlig to Throw in the Towel**

As has been the recent trend with the more senior micronations of the Anglophone simulationist sector, the Republic of Aerlig is preparing to call it quits as an active micronation. Aerlig, founded in 2001 by former micronationalist Mike Phyle, was the first micronation in the sector to popularize the use of non-Ezboard forums (i.e. php forums) as well as micronational football through the English Intermicronational Football Association. It also encouraged the development of academics intermicronationally through various university projects.

While thriving initially in 2001 and into 2002, Aerlig has since become a largely inactive micronation suffering from citizen disinterest, except for the occasional nostalgic interest shown every few months. The primary cause of its downfall was the micronation's original website going offline, causing massive disruptions in the micronation for an extended period. In 2005, Aerlig was a founding member of the Grand Commonwealth - an endeavour by its constituent micronations, all of which were arguably past their prime, to attempt to regain some much needed activity and direction.

On 28 January 2006, veteran micronationalist, and long-time Aerlig citizen, Iain de Vembria tabled a motion in the Statesmen House, the national legislature, to have Aerlig go the way of Treesia. That way being the micronation would effectively become a museum with a governing council providing security over its intellectual property and archives.

De Vembria, a key architect in Treesia's similar fate, has suggested that Aerlig and Treesia combine to form the Sovereign Order of Treesia and Aerlig, with the new union being hosted on new website and forums that would effectively maintain each's national archives. Both micronations currently have membership in the Grand Commonwealth and thus the question of what to do with their voting rights in the Majlis-i-Dharma remains. It can be confidently stated that they would remain in the Grand Commonwealth despite their official museum statuses (Treesia has been in museum mode for its entire membership in the Commonwealth). Aerlig's Protector, Lachlan Powers, has supported the proposal, though it has yet to be finalized. **Ω**



## RIMA's Random Micronational Secrets of Google Series Presents:

# Kryous

Article by Liam Sinclair

In September 2001, a little known micronation formed a relationship with one of the mainstream micronations of the day in the Anglophone Sector – Interland. Albeit, this relationship did not last long as just a month later Interland seceded its sovereignty to the United Republic of Tymaria.

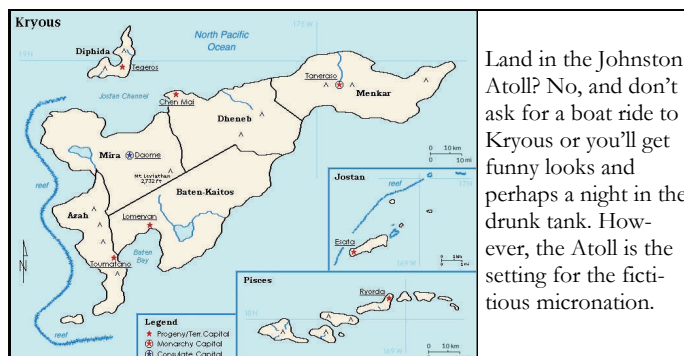
Not to be confused with the Warcraft clan of the same name, the micronation of Kryous was actively engaged from early 2001 to February 2003, when its website received its final update. What drew the attention of this author was that this micronation had faded away into a blissful existence, despite having made contact with the Anglophone Sector and being well developed internally by its architect, Marik Tegeros.

On the main page of the website [<http://kryousisland.tripod.com/>] there is a map of the micronation that initially leads one to believe that it is a secessionist movement. This perception is due to the island micronation being located in the North Pacific Ocean. On closer inspection, we see that the micronation really does not exist and that its location in the North Pacific Ocean was merely a way to lend a sense of realism to it, a common practice in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century for simulationist micronations.

The main attraction of this micronation was its fictional history, which tells the story of the island of “Jostan,” which is located “almost [one thousand] miles” from the closest inhabited islands of the Pacific Ocean. The indigenous Jostan people originated from Southeast Asia in 1500 B.C. and lived in isolation until a visit by the Spanish in 1657 A.D. In 1697, a terrible volcanic eruption forced the Jostans to flee to a new island, Kryous, which was discovered following a 15-year voyage. The literature continues with an interesting synopsis of the fictional development of the micronation up to the 1800s, culminating with a founding of the micronation in 1801.

The fictional history is based in part on natural disasters, from volcanic eruptions to several terrible years for typhoons. These disasters, namely the Typhoons, are tied in very well with the “present-day” structure of the micronation through a government organization known as the “Kryous Typhoon Center.” The service tracked two typhoons during its operation (with the final update being in 2004, unlike the rest of the website), and animated-gif records are provided for each storm’s movement, as well as a detailed intensity scale. The micronation’s weather bureau also utilized Internet real-time weather condition records from macronational cities substituted for the micronation’s major habitations, much like the Republic of Amerada did.

The structure of the government of Kryous was defined with fifteen “divisions” (ministries or departments), and many-times



Land in the Johnston Atoll? No, and don’t ask for a boat ride to Kryous or you’ll get funny looks and perhaps a night in the drunk tank. However, the Atoll is the setting for the fictitious micronation.

more bureaus. The Statistics Bureau clearly shows the simulation-focused nature of the micronation, with a population in the millions and a very-detailed construction of the micronation’s geography. Several statistics are noted as “in progress”, such as the length of highways in the micronation, which indicate that similar numbers were not the result of arbitrary thought on the part of the creator. The micronation also lays a territorial claim to the Johnston Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, on which the island group was located.

The micronation was divided into “progenies,” equivalent to provinces, though a quick view of the government job openings, as well as the lack of development of the “tour a progeny” initiative on the site, indicate that there wasn’t much of a population to man the viceroy positions by September 2002. In all likelihood, this lack of a population was perhaps the downfall of Kryous.

It is not a stretch of the mind to imagine the scenario: Mr. Tegeros, after years of hard work in developing the micronation, finally throws in the towel after a lukewarm response by the micronational sector. The lack of evidence of new foreign relations being formed after 2001 (a year which saw Kryous establish relations with heavyweights such as Reunion and Pasargada), further suggests that he did not possess enough spare time to actively advertise the micronation. That assumption can be further supported by the ease with which Kryous passed from the knowledge of Interlandics (based on my personal experience as a member of that micronation in 2001).

These assumptions regarding the fall and decline of Kryous may not be totally accurate, mind you, but it’s the best I can formulate as there is no records of daily community discussions for the micronation. Was it a micronation that suffered the fate of being nothing more than a one-man show? If you can answer that question from experience with Kryous, or you can provide more information on this forgotten micronation, then email the Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities. **Ω**

**Feedback? Email us at [rima@gotzborg.com](mailto:rima@gotzborg.com)**

# Lavalon Considers Land Options

by Max Basil and John Sager

*Note: For those of you using Acrobat 6.0 or above (and perhaps even 5.0), to view a hyperlink associated with a part of the article, simply click on it and it will open in your browser. And certain people dare to say PDFs are inferior to blogs in this regard! - the Editor*

The Independent Republic of [Lavalon](#) has been looking into acquiring land through many different methods.

The original idea for land was spearheaded about six months ago by former President Vasroixie (*editor's note – read Mr. Basil*). During his term in office, extensive research was conducted on the possibility of claiming a portion of the land in West Sahara. According to his research, there are slivers of land in the Western Sahara that are not claimed by any major powers. Vasroixie also attempted to gain international support, but his hopes for an inter-micronational movement to claim Western Sahara never materialized. Now, because of security concerns over the West Saharan (Wahari) separatist movement and possible al-Qaeda operations, Lavalon has ended its idea of promotion of West Sahara as a viable land claim for Lavalon.

The next administration, led by Premier John Sager, also tried to move forward to claim land. He proposed legislation in the Land Act dated Dec 13, 2005: "To reach the goal of sovereign territory, Lavalon shall release publicly their claim to uninhabited islands with the hopes of their claims being recognized by fellow micro nations, fellow macro nations, and the United Nations." The Land Act primarily was aimed towards claiming unoccupied and remote islands claimed by macro national powers. Some suggested islands to claim included Ducie and Henderson Islands (UK) near the Pitcairn Islands, Jarvis Island (US) located between the Cook Islands and Hawaii and only visited once a year, unclaimed Elephant Island in Antarctica, and Atlasov Island (Russia).

This legislation sparked much debate on the subject and renewed interest in acquiring land. However, during this debate, many issues were realized and the Land Act failed to pass through the General Assembly. The most obvious point was made by Chancellor Henzelli: "We can't lay claim on a piece of land currently claimed by a macronational power." Minister of Culture Zac Azillin expressed fear over challenging the great powers, and others shared his perspective as well. Ultimately it was realized that even if we were to claim the land, acquiring an island, many of which feature unique environments, was to be unsuccessful, dangerous, and a waste of time.

However, it was suggested to make a claim just for fun. Legislation was therefore drawn up to establish a recreational land claim. The Land Recreation Act was intended to move forward towards acquiring land by developing a plan on how to choose land, how to acquire it, and how to effectively use the land. With no risks involved, The Land Recreation Act was passed by the General Assembly as an exercise in applying Lavalonian language, culture, and political institutions to a real place in the

macronational word. This would be a purely fictional claim, and the location of the fictional claim has yet to be determined. The Ministry of Culture was given the power to find a suitable place to claim.

While no land has yet to be claimed recreationally, the Ministry of Culture has used its authority to study many different and alternative methods of acquiring land. Max Basil has led the new Land movement. He authored the Pre-Emptive Land Act which stated: All land or man-made ocean-based platforms on the planet Earth that shall not have already been claimed by any other nation shall, on January 28, 2006, be considered hereby claimed for the Independent Democratic Republic of Lavalon. While this act was withdrawn because it was a "vast and far-reaching claim," the idea of claiming man-made platforms has been further researched.

This idea is based on the premise of turning abandoned oil rigs into fish farms. In the next 10-15 years, thousands of oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico will be unused. The plan, which is in the early stages of development, is to somehow acquire one of the many oil rigs for Lavalon. Lavalon would then build a habitat for fish. The climate is perfect for fish and there are possibilities of great revenue.

The problem is, however, that this is all possible. Even if an oil rig can be claimed and occupied by Lavalonians, a daunting task in the first place, there are no guarantees. There would be up to three years of work to acquire the permits necessary for a fish farm. And there is no way to guarantee profit. The technology exists, but this would require putting a great idea into practice. The legal, not to mention the fiscal, costs of developing a fish farm are incredible. Besides, it would only take one more Katrina to wipe out all our hard work.

Nevertheless, Max Basil has worked out a plan for the acquiring oil rigs and has presented it to the Executive Cabinet. He has also used satellite images to locate oil rigs over 60 miles from the US political border. The next step is to go to an oil rig and begin negotiations with the drilling company who owns it. All in all, the plan ends as a profitable venture with enough money to move on to an even greater step in Lavalon's quest for physical sovereignty.

The next step would be the purchase of an island. While there are obvious reasons that the purchase of an island does not by any international standards mean sovereignty, this would be a step forward and as it would actually be the physical acquisition of land to be governed by the people of Lavalon. Some targeted

*(Continued on page 7)*



## Special Presentation

## 2005 : Through the Heads of State

It's the first New Year for which the RIMA Journal has been in existence to observe. We have decided to try something new as a way to look back at the events of 2005, within the borders of individual micronations, by inviting the Heads of State of the various micronations in the Anglophone Sector to provide some first hand accounts. Each of the following entries summarize briefly the major events for each micronation in the eyes of its leader. Be warned that these are personal accounts of events, so if you don't agree with one of the interpretations presented for an event, feel free to write into us; but don't blame the RIMA Journal as the views presented are not necessarily indicative of the Journal or the Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities.

### Union of Woodstanic Republics *In the words of: Shadow Blade Prime*

"Since Woodstania was only formed in August 2005, there isn't much history in terms of international flavour...I have made many new friends here and [I have] tried to engage in many debates across the micronational boards. The highlight of my short micronational year is the founding of the [Confederacy of Independent States] which [has] bonded together the so-called "Loveley Spin-offs and Breakaways" into one coalition to defend each other from the beast called Loveley.

Woodstania now encompasses many people and other micronations. [It has] united a few of these under the Woodstanic banner despite growing rivalries from Loveley and non-Confederacy Loveley Spin-offs. Although not a powerful nation of Micras, in the eyes of the Loveley Spin-offs, we are a true superpower." Ω

### Middle Korea *In the words of: St. Fenix*

"This was my first year of full-blown micronationalism and leadership [and] it went surprisingly well. I got Middle Korea's name out to the Micronational World as I began to fully explore it. Meanwhile, I gained a domain for [its] site. I found a skin for [the site] and established lasting conversations on [its] forums. It has been a wondrous beginning and hopefully [it] won't end in 06', but instead will continue into the future. I am glad to have met most of the people I have met and live with few regrets. Middle Korea is coming into its own and I'm glad about that." Ω

**Feedback? Email us at [rima@gotzborg.com](mailto:rima@gotzborg.com)**

### The Sovereign Natopian Empire

*In the words of Nathan Shepard*

"Natopia intervened in the territorial expansion of the Grand Commonwealth by annexing by treaty the Principality of Sullifree. This led to the Kingdom of Lovely breaking its treaty with Natopia and threatening to attack to defend the Kingdom of Babkha based on a misunderstanding of intentions." Ω

### The Zatriarchate of Matbaa

*In the words of Mehmet*

"The amount of alliances and help we got from other Micronations during our first month of independence." Ω

### Duchy of Paradisia

*In the words of William Tomsett*

"Abolishing our stupid "Dukedom" title and becoming the only active Duchy Micronation. We also celebrated our 33rd anniversary. Another high point was the opening of our first bank." Ω

### Federal Republic of Cyberia

*In the words of Emperor Jacobus:*

"Shedding our Imperialist past. Just getting going again without an invasion is an achievement." Ω

### The Grand Commonwealth *In the words of: Tahmesab Shah*

"The formation of the Grand Commonwealth saw the coming together of five respected and long-standing micronations. Unlike Tymaria this has been working well and a true sign of this is the inclusion of Karnali later in the year. The Grand Commonwealth is today undoubtedly the major player in Micras and is expected to grow further." Ω

### Grand Duchy of Lac Glacei *In the words of Ryan Caruso*

"Lac Glacei, at one time merely forming a part of a joke, has grown, from its first and albeit cage-rattling beginnings, to a fully-fledged micronation of some repute. After experiencing the initial burst of culture during the 2003 uprising which led to the first restoration, Lac Glacei experienced a lull until the fourth quarter of 2005 when renewed negotiations restored the duchal government and established independence for the country. Since that time, Lac Glacei has gone on to annex a good majority of Cranda, combat Atterans and Flying Os-mans, establish a functioning chivalric order, and begun to develop a unique and in-depth culture. While certainly not a superpower, Lac Glacei has established a name for itself and has lasted two years. A testament to the viability of the small micronation." Ω

Continued on Page 6

*Continued from Page 5***United Counties of Riponia** *In the words of Mr. Iehova*

“2005 was the year of the re-birth of Riponia. The nation that had once solely existed in a bedroom in the North of England was launched into the wider micronational community and caused a stir from the moment it's name was first uttered.

Since those fateful first few days in mid-July, Riponia has been blessed with a seemingly un-stoppable momentum and growth, and things look even rosier for the future.

All of us at Riponia wish our fellow micronationalists a prosperous and successful coming year.” Ω

**Imperial Republic of Shireroth***In the words of Fax Celestis*

“The past year has been a year of innovation, including two separate successful advertising campaigns, a revolutionary internal structuring, the creation of the Micronational Astronomy Society, deliberation on a post-based economy, and a move from Ezboard to phpBoard. We have also fine-tuned our government, seated power in the hands of new citizens, sponsored the MicroWiki, attempted to make the Micras Sectors' existence known in Wikipedia, and worked to better the Micras Sector as a whole.” Ω

**Soviet Republic of Novaya Zemlya** *In the words of Vladimir Alexi*

**Cultural:** The February Renaissance, when Zemlyan art came to its peak, with all comrades submitting in some form or another, their own creations, as well as Zemlya hosting a rather successful intermicronational competition.

**Political:** The transition to Communism and subsequent retreat, a time when all comrades took stock of Zemlya's good points and bad points and pushed to support the structure that worked. Zemlya's death after the Ezboard disaster and subsequent rebirth - gaining independence from the Grand Commonwealth in a bloodless Revolution.

**Journalistic:** Gazeta (newspaper publication), State Journal (weblog) and RFZ (radio broadcast) being run simultaneously by our dedicated comrades, and getting the FNORD for Excellence in the Field of Journalism.” Ω

**Barbarica***In the words of William Bardos Conan*

“High points in 2005.- Victory over Picuda's secessionists, union with Siluria, William Bardos resigns the throne, and Alvaro I is elected king democratically by himself. 2005 was a real strange year for barbarians.” Ω

**The Kingdom of Vallicoria***In the words of King Cameron I*

“The year 2005 was important as it marked the founding of the Kingdom. We're a relatively new micronation, and as of now do not have a completely formal structure, but we're working on it. We hope to prosper in 2006.” Ω

**Republic of Anthelia***In the words of Koen Nevens*

“In the very first year of existence of this micronation several crucial steps were taken. Legally speaking the adoption of a Constitution on 4 may 2005 was important. For the community in its entirety the creation of a website (www.anthelia.net) and the setting up of php forums, which allowed the moving away from yahoo groups, was equally important for the development of the micronation. Politically speaking the importance of the Nevens Communiqué should be pointed out. That statement, made on 10/11 April 2005, sparked a revival without which the former steps would not have been achieved. Finally, on the intermicronational scene, the leading role played by Anthelia in the Novasolum movement, which has already led to the signing of the Novasolum and the Novapol Treaty is also worth mentioning.” Ω

*(Continued from page 1)*

tion to conduct a program, it brings a sense of macronational realism to the real estate program, with mortgages combining everything from sales and utility taxes to legal fees associated with closing the contract.

The program has also spawned a secondary industry as DeBlood has opened up a construction firm to build custom dwellings for those who are not interested in vacant properties available. King August Charles has also opened up a lumber production company to provide the building materials, and Liam Sinclair, a student of civil engineering macronationally, has created an engineering firm to develop municipal and transportation infrastructure within Gotzborg. Ω

## From the Archives

*For those who frequent the Micro-Net forums setup late last year, you might have noticed the re-emergence of Toaka after relative intermicronational silence for the last couple of years. This month's archive article was in the concerns upheaval in the well-established online micronation. It remains the micronation with the best website to this day, even though that site changes every few months - a habit which has left the Toaka website all but bare in terms of content since the late 1990s. - Editor*

### KATO FACES TURMOIL, UNCERTAINTY

Jan 05/2003 - Micronational Free Press

KATO, a nation famous for its excellent websites, and its neutrality, is facing a crisis – one which will decide the fate of the nation.

An official within KATO said that the nation has become factionalized and that negotiations between the factions to resolve the situation have so far proved useless. The official went on to say that because of the infighting, the government has collapsed. Two of the major issues are the role of the Monarchy and currency. Many of the factions see the monarchy as not being interested in the nation. The common ground between the factions is unacceptable to many of them, as [it] would send KATO to the grave.

In order to save the nation, some citizens are planning a radical restructuring that would make KATO into a republic, getting rid of the Emperor. Some have suggested that KATO, which is mainly a community of people in British Columbia, become a more online nation and attempt to find new blood. Becoming a more online nation would also allow the many citizens who are not in the British Columbia area to participate more in KATO affairs. However, many of the nobles are reserved to the idea of an online government and legislative system that is common to micronations in this sector. Ω

## This Month in History

**January 2005:** Emperor Jacobus, long known for his threats to Cyberian national security, is convicted of aiding a foreign government in attempting to overthrow the Atteran Imperial Government. He is banned from Attera for 90 days following a plea bargain agreement between Crown Counsel Ras Noseworthy and Public Defender Ras Beard.

Also in January 2005, Robert Davis received the Odium Award for Overall Achievement, becoming the only micronationalist to receive the sector's most prestigious award after less than a year of participation.

**January 2002:** The United Republic of Tymaria and Republic of Amerada bring resolution to a land dispute over Interland and that Tymarian state's participation in the Micro Monde world map project. Fallout of the incident includes Tymarian officials making the Micronational Cartography Society world map the exclusive fictional map on which Tymaria operates.

*(Continued from page 4)*

islands were found for sale. The most notable include a small [island](#) off the coast of Japan (\$300,000) and [another](#) off the coast of Chile (\$195,000).

Ultimately, the final stages of the plan were deemed unrealistic. Even if Lavalon was able to pay hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars to buy a natural island that is already within some other nation or nations' borders, and can successfully secede the island from the other nation or nations, it is still doubtful that a natural island will be fully under Lavalonian sovereignty.

In conclusion, the claiming of abandoned oilrigs is the most realistic method to gain land according to the Ministry of Culture. Building a platform for Lavalon would be too expensive, as would acquiring real land. More research will be made on the subject in the coming months when Max Basil will be visiting the Gulf Coast. Currently, he plans a visit to the US Coast Guard and a deep sea fishing excursion in order to evaluate the situation in person. The government has yet to officially accept the Ministry of Culture's proposal, as the Executive Cabinet is still discussing the issue, however many possibilities have been exhausted and some sort of man-made platform has emerged as the most viable option. Regardless, Lavalon has been looking into all possible methods of land claim objectively and will always stay true to the notion that there ARE possibilities for Lavalonian sovereignty. Ω

For further information:

[Microsanity Episode 1: Lavalonian Land Claims](#)  
[Turning Oil Rigs into Fish Farms](#)

## Institute News

The Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities has contracted Olive Branch Services, controlled by micronationalist Carson Smith, to perform public consultations on methods to improve the distribution of the RIMA Journal as well as to profile our general audience. The study is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2006.

RIMA and Micronations.net are currently testing a new website presentation program. It is hoped that the new interface will allow for both organizations to communicate better with their audiences, as well as provide easy access to resources such as RIMA's Robert Davis Library, which holds publications concerning micronational history.

## WANTED

The Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities is currently looking for persons who are willing to contribute a regular or irregular article to the RIMA Journal for its monthly issues. Articles can be on any subject, provided they're within the realm of reason, as we're trying to expand our coverage.

## Editor's Column -- *There is such thing as being excessive in micronationalism*

Ask any micronationalist why they first joined the hobby, or movement – whichever purpose suits you – and the general answer will be that they wanted to participate in nation building. More concisely, each and every one of us who participate in this hobby do so as we want to change our macronation but are either too young, too shy, or otherwise preoccupied, to join the macronational establishment and try to implement those changes.

So, we join a hobby where we can be our own kings and queens, or contribute to an established micronation where the population is so small that there's less chance of our more questionable ideas being rejected as foolish. It is simple human nature – to get our way – at the basis of our micronational participation, whether we realize it at a conscious level or not. There is a time to realize, however, that the pursuit of that fundamental purpose of our being becomes dangerous, and we have seen repeatedly the consequences of the lack of such realization throughout the world.

One way which is dangerous, in the micronational realm, is when an overzealous (among other traits) micronationalist attempts to impose his/her view on others with micronational law that conflicts with the law of reality. Whether your micronation exists on the Internet, or you claim your backyard in Texas as a sovereign nation, the fact of the matter is that your micronation and its laws are superseded by those of the macronation in which you reside.

This ignorance of macronational law's supremacy is found largely in the secessionist micronational movement, moreso than on the hobby side of things. A good example of dangerous ideas can be seen in Ascalon just last month where the legislature of that micronation, which exists mainly in an offline community sense, attempted to impose restrictions on abortion. To attempt to remove what has become a fundamental human right of a woman in the Western world, a right protected by United States law (as Ascalon operates in that macronation), simply because the woman decides to participate in what is – in reality - nothing more than a “club” is outrageous and excessive.

Thankfully, the Ascalonian government was defeated on the measure, but for almost a dozen legislators in that micronation to think that they can impose restrictions on what are macronational legal rights of an individual is what smacks micronationalism in the face. Moreover, unfortunately, that was not the only extent of Ascalon's falling out with the realities of the limitations of micronationalism – they even tried to legislate against anti-social behaviour.

Wow. I guess we should all be happy that such neo-conservatives join micronationalism because the real world has no time for their beliefs. Never lose track of reality or your place in the world. Ω



## Freddy Warren's Alternative Views

*Freddy Warren, also known as Koen Nevens, is a macronational legal expert and current president of Anthelia. He is a member of the Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities and writer of the Alternative Views column featured in the RIMA Journal.*

***Are territorial shifts on the continent of Novasolum a threat to or a positive turn-out for the so called “Novasolan movement”?***

The foreign relations amongst Alexandria, Anthelia, Gotzborg and Natopia definitely deserve more publicity. Between 13 and 24 December, those micronations signed a second noteworthy international agreement, named the Novapol Convention. That convention is not yet another treaty of mutual recognition and friendship. On the contrary, the agreement is particularly ambitious as it sets up a continental criminal intelligence organisation (Novapol). It will be the organisation's prime task to create and maintain a database with information on criminal investigations and criminal offences conducted and/or committed in one of the Novasolan micronations. The Novapol Convention is actually an execution of the first international agreement that the aforementioned micronations signed and ratified, namely the Novasolum Treaty. That agreement did indeed provide that the signatory nations would strive for closer cooperation in policing and judicial matters.

In the wider micronational community the “Novasolan movement”, as some already call it, receives little attention. For instance, in one of the latest works on intermicronational politics and history – we are referring to *Microscope*, written by Scott Alexander – no mention is made of the prodigious developments amongst the Novasolan micronations. The reason is clear: political analysts and historians tend to focus on diplomatic disputes and other kinds of turmoil, while the Novasolan movement is inhales and exhales a desire for peace, cooperation and friendship. In that sense it contrasts with the relations which the micronations situated on the neighbouring continent of Cibolenland had during and shortly after the collapse of the micronation of San Martin.

This article is not only intended to applaud the achievements of the Novasolan micronations. A closer look should also be taken

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at some recent territorial developments on the continent of Novasolum and what the impact those events might have on the future of Novasolan cooperation.

### The Treaty of Loredo: Rio Grande annexed

On 2 November, a treaty was signed between the Empire of Alexandria and the Confederate States of Rio Grande, which stipulated the annexation of the latter by the Empire. Rio Grande was party to the Novasolum Treaty and was of all Novasolan micronations probably the one struggling the most with the inactivity of its citizens. President Benavides made several statements soliciting the citizens of the Rio Grande to give shape to their nation, but without real success. It can therefore not be considered a surprise that the existence of Rio Grande, as a sovereign micronation, ended.

The consequences (in a negative sense) of this political event have been limited, not to say inexistent, for the 'Novasolan movement'. While it is true that the number of participatory micronations decreased, it was a very sensible move from the Rio Grandan President to seek annexation by Alexandria. Since that micronation was also party to the Novasolum Treaty, continuity – both in a legal and in a political sense – was preserved. As expressed by Anthelian Executive Councillor Nevens: *“Regarding the annexation of Rio Grande, I see no real problem. Whether Alexandria honours the established treaty obligation of Rio Grande or not, Alexandria itself is bound by the Novasolum Treaty and since the Alexandrian territory is now expanded, the territorial scope of application of the treaty vis à vis Alexandria is also expanded. In other words, the Rio Grande territory is still covered.”*

### Territorial claims by Gotzborg and Anthelia: the “unclaimed expanse” issue

It was in the aftermath of the Treaty of Loredo that President Darcy of Anthelia suggested to Alexandria and Gotzborg to *“put in a joint submission to the MCS to divide up vacant land [on the Novasolan continent] amongst the three of our micronations”*. The territory to be claimed was *“an expanse of unclaimed land surrounded by Alexandria, Gotzborg, Anthelia and Rio Grandé”*. John Darcy argued that the already existing Novasolan micronations *“cannot be sure that a new micronation laying claim to that land would respect our earlier agreements”*. While Alexandria was in favour of that proposal, King August Charles II of Gotzborg seemed more reluctant.

It can therefore be considered a surprise that, on 29 November 2005, Gotzborg claimed half of the unclaimed land as described above. John Darcy immediately expressed concern on behalf of Anthelia. He wondered *“from a regional diplomacy point of view”* whether *“this expansion should not have been discussed in our [Novasolan] Conference in Alexandria?”* and said not to be expecting a pre-emptive move by any one of the Novasolan micronations. The Gotzborg government replied, *“The early drive was*

*more because of the eventual and at the time impending request for land by another nation which since chose to claim land on another continent”*. Seemingly, Gotzborg had acted in a spirit of preserving the continent to micronations who stand behind the movement in favour of close cooperation. Gotzborg nonetheless admitted that the claim was also driven by the need of resources for the country's industrial capacity. One could argue that such reasoning barely meets the standards of a cooperative diplomatic policy.

While – at first – Anthelia seemed to be satisfied with the answers provided by the Gotzborg government, a few days later the Republic claimed the other part of the expanse and in one area (around Mount Dracon) even contested the Gotzborg claim. However, this caused no diplomatic incident. The MCS, after receiving the Kingdom's approval, granted the contested land to Anthelia.

It can be said that the “issues” caused by these claims and which could have started a disintegration of the Novasolan movement, were defused at the right time in the right manner, not by declaring war but conducting fashionable diplomacy. Clearly, the bond which had already been formed between Gotzborg and Anthelia in the past, appeared more than resilient enough to keep the Novasolan spirit afloat.

### The non-involvement of Lavalon

The non-involvement of the Republic of Lavalon has always been a shadow over the success of Novasolan cooperation. During the negotiation of the Novasolum Treaty Lavalon was not involved, as Natopia was representing that micronation in accordance with the VUAS Treaty. Yet, when the Lavalonian Supreme Court declared that treaty unconstitutional and Lavalon's relationship with Natopia cooled down, none of the other Novasolan micronations undertook the initiative to involve Lavalon in the negotiations. Actually, it can be doubted whether Lavalon would have accepted the invitation at that time. On 4 November 2005, Carson Smith did say on behalf of Lavalon that that micronation *“would be interested in a treaty with Anthelia and possibly also in the Novasolum group”*, but added to it that *“at present we have some interior reorganization going on and all foreign relations are put on hold”*.

About a month later, Lavalon was invited to participate in a conference amongst the Novasolan micronations, held in Geneva, Alexandria. Still, Lavalon's involvement could be described as ‘observatory’. When Anthelia suggested that Lavalon should sign the Novasolum Treaty, [the Lavalonian government conveyed a short message] that it would not sign that treaty. No reason was given. Although none of the other Novasolan micronations reacted to this announcement, it is clear that Lavalon's decision did form a painful incident. Could the closer cooperation amongst Alexandria, Anthelia, Gotzborg and Natopia still be called Novasolan if one of the micronations on the continent refused to participate? Of course one could argue that Talamthom and Treesia also have land on that continent and

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that those micronations aren't involved either. Still, the small islands occupied by those two micronations can or could hardly be compared to the vast landmass occupied by Lavalon.

It must have come as a relief to Alexandria, Anthelia, Gotzborg and Natopia when John Sager, the Lavalonian prime minister, announced in the beginning of 2006 that his micronation ceded back its land to the MCS, with the exception of the province of Klaasiya. That province was handed over to Natopia, a transition that turned out in favour of the Novasolan movement, just as Rio Grande's annexation by Alexandria. The words of Natopia's King in *Anthelia Quarterly* no.2 now seem prophetic. On the question: "Do you think Lavalon should be invited to join the Novasolum Treaty?" he replied: "I am not sure of Lavalon's official stance on the MCS. When the claim was lodged several Lavalonians did not want to be on the MCS map. With that sort of attitude toward the one thing that binds the Novasolan nations together, that is geographic location, I am not sure they would be a wise addition to the Novasolum Treaty."

An empty space on the continent: Paulovia claims territory on Novasolum

With Lavalon being slated from the map, the question remained which new micronation would claim the vacated land. We have already explained that most Novasolan micronations find it important that new micronations who settle on the continent are willing to adhere to the movement and would subsequently sign both the Novasolum Treaty and the Novapol Convention. One of the Novasolan micronations could of course have lodged a new claim at the MCS for the remaining territory or those nations could again have considered a joint claim. Given the recent expansions of all those micronations such claims could however not be backed by serious motives, such as an increase in the number of citizens.

Finally, [the Principality of Paulovia] claimed the former Lavalonian territory in its entirety. That micronation has been able to create a good image for itself in the intermicronational community. Not only does the Paulovian website look great, the manner in which Paulovia conducts diplomacy has been much appreciated too by most micronations. As for the position of the Novasolan micronations vis à vis Paulovia: Gotzborg and Natopia have already signed a treaty of mutual recognition with the Principality, while Anthelia has unilaterally recognized the micronation's sovereign existence.

Supporters of the Novasolan movement therefore hope that Paulovia's claim will be granted and that the Principality will indeed sign the Novasolum Treaty and the Novapol Convention. All signs indicate that Paulovia would constitute an added value to one of the more inspiring intermicronational movements since the turmoil on Cibolenland. Ω

**FJ Warren**

*Editor's Note: The ~30 footnotes didn't want to make the jump to Publisher.*

Questions? Comments? Submission? To contact the RIMA Journal, email:

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## Micronational Militaries and Conflict

*Part 1 of a 4 part series*

*I wrote a paper in late 2002 on this subject and in place of finishing it to look like a formal paper, I will instead release the important parts of it to over the next four issues of the RIMA Journal. - Liam Sinclair*

Being a small peaceable community, why do micronations, or more accurately, their governments, feel the need to have militaries, and to engage in conflict with each other? Furthermore, how exactly do these militaries conduct "warfare"? Warfare on a micronational level is nothing like what it is macronationally; however, the reasons why governments go to war macronationally tend to be seen on the micronational scene as well.

### Micronational War – Does it exist?

The simple definition of war is a *state of hostility or fighting between nations*. However, when we think of war, we think of tanks, planes, and ships, all engaged in a terrible and bloody battle. No such battles take place micronationally (Internet wise), so can we really say that there is such a thing as micronational war?

A good reference as to what real soldiers think about the concept of micronational war comes from the Atteran Empire. Many Atterans are members of the United States Army and have been engaged in conflict many times over the years. To them, micronational war is ridiculous, understandable since they have experienced the real thing. They're quite right to think that way about micronational warfare, mainly since micronational warfare has no physical casualties, so fighting, in the common sense interpretation of the word, isn't really occurring.

We must also consider that macronationally governments are the sole organizations in a state which have the legal right to use force, including going to war (though internationally war is frowned upon and called illegal sometimes). Micronationally, governments do not have that right at all since we are outranked by macronational laws. Quite frankly, if micronation A attacked micronation B with something like low-level hacking, there would be no warfare happening in essence, only a federal crime in most macronations. The authority to go to war just simply does not exist at a micronational level, so any warfare is really nothing more than a conflict which uses spamming or hacking – the latter if you want to find yourself in a macronational court, and the former if you want to get your ISP to cut you off!

So, what is micronational conflict? I define it as a hostile nature between micronations which may escalate into spamming, or macronationally illegal tactics, in order to create a favourable outcome to an argument. Most often, sadly, these conflicts are started for the most immature of reasons or because egos are being attacked. The micronation of first strike generally fits the immature, egotistic, description (at least the leadership of the nation does). Ω

*Next Month: Why do Micronational Gov'ts resort to military conflict?*