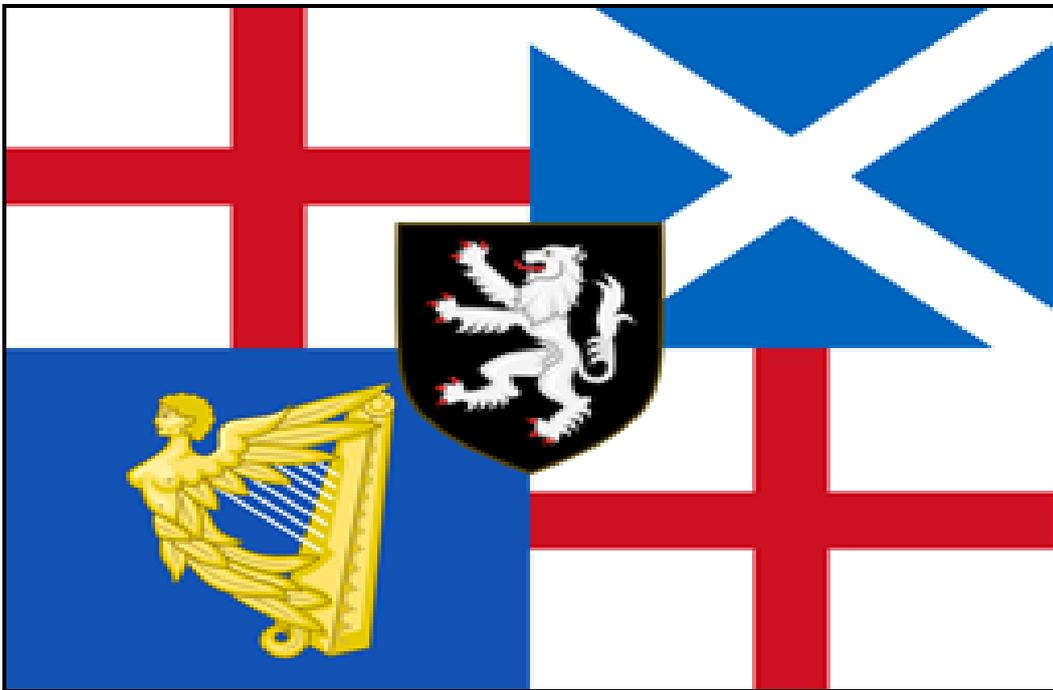


The Commonwealth Of Britannia



Nation Gazetteer



The purpose of this book

This source book is a guide for players who are playing TRIAC operatives from the Commonwealth of Britannia. It contains a number of sections detailing social structure, outlook to other nations and also a costume and roleplaying guide as well as a brief history of the nation.

This may seem a slightly restrictive way of defining your character but the Age of Aether is made up of many distinctive and defining cultures and outlooks and it is this way for a reason. If you find after reading the book that the Commonwealth is not for you then we invite you to look at the gazetteers that detail the six other nations to see if these suit you better.

The seven playable nations are all very different and have their own unique style and quirks. After this first section that explains the reason behind the documents the rest of the gazetteer is an in character (IC) document, written by a foremost scholar of the day and can be downloaded, printed and used as a prop and reminder to help with information in game.

In any case please read through the book and choose your concept carefully. You will enjoy your experience so much more if you choose the right archetype to immerse yourself in and we hope you find your niche in one of the seven.

Happy reading
Macifaria Games

A note on the world as it is

The nations of this world are very different from the ones you know. This world is like ours in many ways and has a lot of the same history. In our version however, certain events happened, or possibly didn't, which have shaped the planet in very different ways.

In this world invaders from Mars landed on earth in the early part of the 19th century. As a result of this, history changed and we see the series of events we have laid out in front of us in these books.

Another huge difference is the change in technological advancement that resulted from the Martian invasion. Science moved down different paths leaving no room for technology as we know it to advance. Frankly, in a world with a tech derived from advanced alien thinking and new alien elements and resources, why would you continue to use the mere mundane in the wake of such wonders? Who needs cannons when you could have heat rays...?

Ultimately, this world is different. Time scales have altered; things happened or didn't happen according to the forces that affected them. It is this world you need to embrace to fully experience this alternate reality, a world inspired, but not copied from the writings of H G Wells and other great literary minds.

And with that in mind please read on...



A NATION DIVIDED

THE COMMONWEALTH OF BRITANNIA

A GAZETTE BY RENOWNED HISTORIAN
DR HERBERT MAITLAND

The Britannic Commonwealth was born out of the necessity for a nation to survive the loss of the leader or leadership and the destruction of a country. With the royal family supplanted, a new power rose out the darkness. The Admiralty was a beast that grew from the ashes of a broken country and became the new force for progress and control in the new Commonwealth. The current Duke leads the country with honour and courage but always with the agreement of this new governing body. The country is policed by the intelligence services of the Admiralty and the defence and welfare of the population are always their first priority...

Over time the horrors of the war with Mars have taken their toll. With the rise of the Admiralty however, and the steady rule of the Lord Protector, the Commonwealth has survived the tribulations it has faced and stood strong in the face of alien devastation. Senses are dulled to the horrors of war and over the years Commonwealth forces have become adept in dealing with such terrors. They do not shy away from dealing with a race so alien and askew from the norm. Their marines are renowned for their unswerving bravery and natural tenacity when facing forward to the enemy.

The British navy is a powerhouse of mighty ironclad battleships, bristling with weaponry. Designed by master engineer Isembard Kingdom Brunel, these ships are the match for any afloat. The navy is able to function with very small crews that belie their size due to the technology created by chief scientist of the Admiralty, Mr Charles Babbage and his work with automation and the miraculous Intuition engine...

The threat of annihilation by the powers of Mars has prompted the forces of Britannia to hone their skills to deal with this deadly threat. Across the battlefields of Europe, Commonwealth marines assist in the war effort. The Commonwealth, now, as Great Britain before, has once again been called to spearhead an attack against the natural order of the world and the determination of this nation to do so can be seen in the face of every soldier fighting in this second war against the Martian enemy.

There is however, another side to the Commonwealth. From the other

side of the world, the remnants of the royal family led by the young queen Victoria hold sway over the last great colony of the old British Empire. The Royal Australian Protectorate stands away from the home isles. Standing behind their monarch they deny the right of the Lord Protector to rule the nation and a state of uneasy truce is currently in effect in light of the greater threat of the Martian menace. Suffice to say, this scholar sees a time when a reckoning between these two proud factions of the same nation will come to a head and the defeat of the Martians may simply be the end of one war and the beginning of another...

It is a fact of life in this time of war that knowledge is power and the world as a whole must rally together under the flag of humanity if we are to prevail against the invaders. By better understanding our neighbours we will surely have a better understanding of each other and in so doing increase our chances of victory.

The State of the Nation

The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth is a confusing place these days. With the loss of many things that people see as iconic, (the monarchy, London, parliament), many believed that Britain would collapse very quickly. A certain stubborn spirit emerged within them however, and with the right leadership they not only survived, but have begun to grow.

The Development of Martian infused and inspired tech grew quickly but stalled after the departure of Henry Fitzroy Lancing who took many of the greatest British scientific minds with him when he vanished. It has not been a rapid growth but the majority of England is now industrialised and given over to manufacturing. The majority of the working class either mine or manufacture with a much smaller merchant class overseeing it all. The noble class has been all but wiped out and only a few remain, although with a firm grip on power.

The majority of the country is ruled very strictly. The Admiralty, for internal maintenance runs a very tight ship, with the commonwealth now becoming a very authoritarian state. The current lord protector is much more hard line than his father and as a result England itself is almost a police state for the working class.

Life is much better in the military. As Britain no longer has a large standing army, the army as it is, consists of smaller but elite detachments of naval marines and their social status is higher than the common man. The lands of Wales, Scotland and Ireland have been fractured by the huge red zones and what countryside is left has been re-tasked to feed the nation. Ireland is now the

breadbasket of the British Isles providing over 70 percent of its food supply.

Britannia now has the world's largest and by far most powerful navy. Comprised entirely of metal ships, its huge fleet, led by the two dreadnought class warships, the Cromwell and the Cavendish and its 3 nautili class submersible ships, the Commonwealths mastery over the sea is rarely challenged. Now construction of project "Thunderchild" in Bristol means this mastery is unlikely to see any challenges in the near future.

However this growth and recovery hides one major issue which no one has been able to solve; De-population. The devastation caused by the first invasion has never truly healed and the Commonwealth as a country is much quieter than people realise. Babbage's intuition engine is one of the only things that allows the nation to run its vast Navy at such a small cost of manpower. Nevertheless, its people will not give up. The introduction of the alien races has given a slim hope, and the determination and grit of the British people will see them through, of that I have no doubt.

Names and Personalities of Note

Lord Protector Duke Henry Cavendish IV

The current duke and leader of the commonwealth is the only son of the first lord protector and still a young man. With a fierce determination and a strong belief that the end justifies the means, he has poured every resource available into making the commonwealth a great superpower both politically and in military might. He is however, still young and can at times be rash, however his heritage keeps him popular with the people.

Sea Lord Charles Wellesley II

Lord Wellesley is an iron rod of a man. The second son of the iron duke inherited his father's views on the lower classes and is a staunch supporter of the Admiralty. His responsibility is running the nations' internal affairs, which he governs with an iron fist. The Admiralties secret police are in his jurisdiction. They monitor internal activity and "manage" issues with quiet force and efficiency. He is in all matters a man both feared and respected.

Sea Lord Jennifer Haig

Haig is Admiral in charge of the navy. A military woman born and bred, she has been brought up a naval commander under the new regime and has enjoyed major success leading land missions as well as sea. This success has brought her to her current position where she treats her crew well and makes sure they are taken care of. Haig is a prominent supporter of the current automation movement

that is in the process of revolutionising the Commonwealths naval forces. She is personally overseeing the secret build at Bristol docks, codenamed Project "Thunderchild". She has made it her life's goal to ensure that Britannia truly rules the waves...

Isembard Kingdom Brunel

Master Engineer and man responsible for construction of all train lines linking Britain together, Brunel has been in his current position for some years now. His skill and vision has saved the nation from losing contact and once again allowed safe travel and lines of supply across the country. He is also the mastermind behind the giant steel warships that make up the Commonwealth navy. The construction and design of these behemoths of the sea make it unlikely that the nation will lose control of the oceans and puts her at the top of maritime power.

Charlotte Babbage

Chief Scientist and daughter of the great Charles Babbage. Charlotte was conscripted into the Admiralty early on. It was her continuation of her fathers work on the difference engine that lead to her creating the Martian technology inspired Intuition engine. This closely guarded secret is the salvation of a nation low on manpower and needing to man a vast navy. The automation project has allowed the engine to drastically reduce the manpower necessary to crew the ships and freed up large numbers to be tasked to other areas of military and civilian projects.

Commonwealth Ambassador Captain Marcus Alexander, TRIAC Ambassador and attaché to the Admiralty

Captain Marcus is a proud commonwealth officer with strong ties to the Admiralty. He was chosen for his role as ambassador for his loyalty and ability to remain calm under pressure. A veteran of many engagements with Martian forces, the captain has a firm hatred of the invader and is relatively distrustful of any of the alien species that now inhabit the Earth. He is a strong voice in the commonwealth that condemns the acts of the Australian protectorate as treasonous and nothing more than a child's dream that should be put down and returned to its rightful owners. In public however he is the height of etiquette and plays his role of ambassador to perfection.

Commonwealth Ambassador Sir Edmond Wigglesworth III, TRIAC Ambassador

Edmund spent most of his youth going around the world with his father on the ambassadorial circuit, a bit of a gambler in his youth he has contacts both in the diplomatic and underworld circles.

Absolutely useless with weapons he grew up surrounded by aides and personal guards so he tends to come over a bit entitled. The exact scope of the Martian resurgence is no mystery to him however and his contacts in the international community are second to none. If you want something talked about at the highest level it's a good bet that Sir Edmund is involved somewhere along the line. His current posting as TRIAC Ambassador has been requested by the Admiralty as a joint posting to support TRIAC, and Captain Alexander.

National Outlook

The main outlook of the Commonwealth is one of stoicism and determination. The nature of the countries growth in recent years however, has meant that an element of subtle fear has crept in; fear of their own government. The Admiralty governs with a watchful eye and is mindful of attacks from within as well as from without. A level of paranoia exists within the nation and they might be very right about the feeling of being watched.

The Commonwealth Home and Abroad

At home, society is quiet organised and strictly monitored, people go about their work quietly and efficiently. The nations' industrialisation continues rapidly though their population is still far below average. Abroad, only their agents or military are generally seen. British expeditionary forces and east India company employees ply their trade across the world. Marines are the basic soldiering class, their colours proudly displayed for all to see. They are well trained and well equipped before being sent out to represent. The Commonwealth navy also features a large number of the alien races due in large part to the lack of manpower available.

A Note on Current Weaponry and Defences

Gauss technology is the mainstay of Commonwealth and Protectorate engineering and science. A strange mix of Earth science and Martian technology and resources provides a simple and easy to use matrix of "gauss" powered items that allow the nation to mass produce cheaply and equip their soldiers and civilian support with a wide array of technology to fight and defend their respective borders. The might of the Commonwealth has always been her navy. This has by no means changed today and the vast, semi-automated metal dreadnoughts of the Commonwealth forces still rule the waves. This is in stark contrast to the Royal Australian Protectorate who favours aerial power over naval strength.

Gauss cannons, rifles and pistols are the mainstay of the Commonwealth and R.A.P weaponry and their alliance with the American Union is making interesting inroads into Martian tech in a joint venture in Bristol named project Thunderchild.

Politics

TRIAC operatives from the Commonwealth have the following views towards the allied nations:

Russian Collective

The Commonwealth exhibits a general disinterest in this direction. The Collective don't want much to do with the world and the Commonwealth isn't that interested in them. That is so long as they don't try and challenge the naval supremacy that they currently enjoy.

Prussian Hegemony

Distrust and hostility exists between these two nations. Ever since the incidents with alleged stolen tech, the two nations have mistrusted each other and it has simmered into almost outright hatred. Coupled with the Prussians reminding them of their royal past, it makes for an awkward detente.

Federated American Union

The relationship between these two nations couldn't be much better. Several profitable trading deals followed by the treaty of Canada which gifted the whole country to the F.A.U, has meant relations are high and trading is good.

Imperial Eastern Union

With no real contact and no major issues existing between the two countries, little hostility exists. The Empresses acknowledgement of the Royal Australian Protectorate has become a major sticking point however...

Arctic Concord

Relation will remain antagonistic as long as Lancing is in charge. The Commonwealth consider him a traitor and will only cooperate as long as the situation is this dire. They have no issue with the idea of the concord, their issue being purely with Lancing and his perceived betrayal...

The Royal Australian Protectorate

Relations between the two halves of the once great empire are frosty at best and hostile at worst. The admiralty no longer respect the entitlement of Victoria to the Great British throne, there are many who believe her to be an outright imposter. Only the onset of the Martian war has prevented an all-out civil war. They should be treated politely in accordance with TRIAC rule however.

Roleplaying notes

Roleplaying a Commonwealth TRIAC Operative

To roleplay a Commonwealth operative you need to remember the following things:

- The Commonwealth is a nation returning from the brink of destruction and experiencing a new era of prosperity under new stricter ruler ship.
- The Monarchy is no more and your loyalty now lies with the Admiralty who look after the needs of the country and its people.
- The Commonwealth is the newest incarnation of the great British Empire and they will rise again to the glory they once commanded.
- The Prussians are not to be trusted.

General Costume and Kit Guidelines

There are many different military units within the Commonwealth and RAP. Marines from both sides wear predominantly red apparel but there are also green and blue regiments as well. In the Commonwealth, Naval uniform is Blue and in the RAP the predominant uniform is air force grey. Traditional dress in the Commonwealth ranges from high 19th century fashion to industrial wear and common garb. The Protectorate has a more rustic feel with a large proportion of the citizens being native or convicts. The high fashion styles of the Commonwealth are less prevalent here and even Her Majesty is seen in more sensible garb when she travels.

Note: Of all the nations in the world The Commonwealth and Protectorate are the most "Steampunk" oriented of the nations in AOA. That is not to say that the rest of the world has elements of this genre but the nature of the Gauss tech lends itself more to the style.

