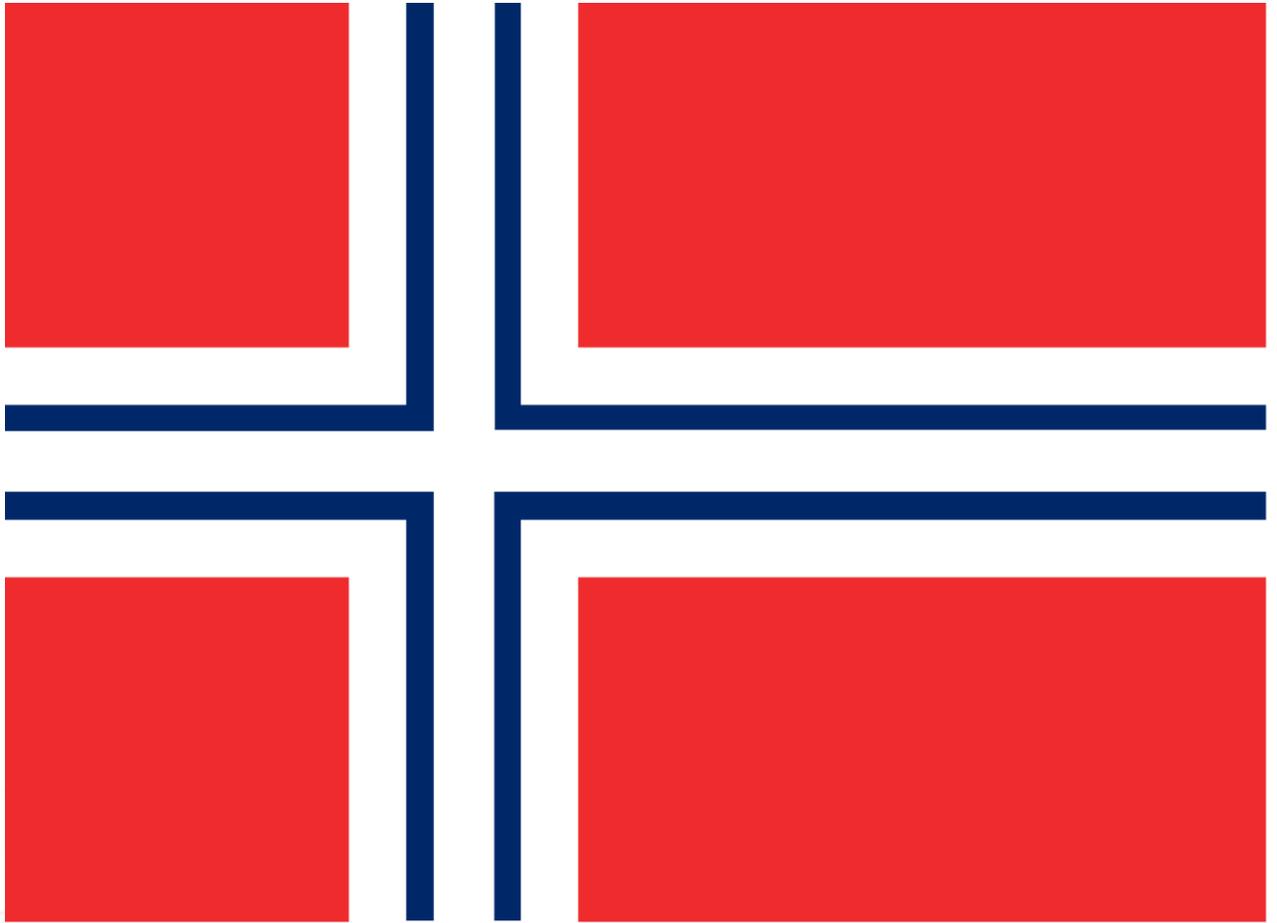


# Free Scandinavia



Nation Gazetteer



## The purpose of this book

This source book is a guide for players who are playing TRIAC operatives from Free Scandinavia. 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 Free Scandinavia 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 eight 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 BORN FROM CONFLICT

# FREE SCANDINAVIA

A GAZETTE BY RENOWNED HISTORIAN  
DR HERBERT MAITLAND

I had the pleasure of visiting Free Scandinavia in 1871 and experienced the warm hospitality of the Norwegians during a freezing cold winter. The history of this part of the world over the last 70 years has been turbulent to say the least but the nation has endured through all the trials that have beset it. It started when Sweden decided to join the Prussian Hegemony. Some of the former Danish kingdom decided to mark their independence. Norway had been on the brink of leaving the Danish crown and a decision was made for the Danes and Norwegians to form an alliance. Whilst an invitation to the Hegemony has been made, the Free Scandinavians rejected this and now rely on trade with the British and Americans. They believe that through Prussian intervention, the rest of Scandinavia had been annexed in a hostile takeover, the Prussian Landtag however, would argue differently. Their old enemy, Russia appears to have retreated behind their great iron walls and so poses less of a direct threat and, therefore not perceived as a problem in current political climes.

During the first Martian War, the armed forces of the countries that would yet become the Free Scandinavian alliance were joined closely to the forces lead by General Bonaparte and as such they were present at the final battle at Waterloo in 1815. This left a much reduced and battle worn armed force who, when they returned to their homes, found a land devastated by Martian incursions. While the royal family had survived, much of the government was lost, as rampaging Martian war machines targeted cities and towns.

The rise of the Prussian Hegemony and the subsequent refusal to join the leadership of the alliance, drew the country back within itself, bar the construction of trade links to the redeveloping British and American nations. With every facet of the country racked by war the country began a programme of reconstruction. The old Denmark-Norwegian kingdom was torn down and its cities built into fortified enclaves with which to harbour the survivors of the Martian destruction. With the land spilt by the emerging red zones, the task of securing the land and safeguarding its people fell to the surviving military forces such as the Elverumske Skiløbercompagnie. These elite

troops spread themselves throughout the land acting as roving bands of warrior protectors, connecting the various city enclaves to each other and bringing the survivors of the war together.

### State of the nation

Today Free Scandinavia stands as a land of contrasts. Within its city enclaves, life continues much as before the Martian invasion. Trade prospers and people are free from danger to work and grow as individuals within this new nation. However, one only has to approach the city limits and gaze upon the towering city walls with their redoubts and continued patrols to give testament to this false illusion. Outside these mountainous holds, the land is one cast back into ancient times warped with the fusion of the alien and modern. This is a land of monsters, trolls and beasts where only the strongest and desperate tread. The Red weed zones have warped the land creating monsters from the wildlife and snow. Passage is only viable between the cities due to armoured trains reminiscent of the Nordic long-ships of old, and by the constant patrols of the military that fight to keep these metal ships moving with the supplies, people and trade that keep this nation of freedom alive and progressing.

From the capital of Copenhagen, the Government of free Scandinavia is led by Christian IX of Denmark, who rules through a constitutional monarchy supported by the Folketing, (comprising members elected by the general population), with a member from each community. Each community holds responsibility for the regulation of law and trade within their own confines, with food and military governed as an overarching element of the nation's leadership.

While much of the land is either covered in small red zones or abandoned in favour of the city holds, you can still find isolated communities of native people such as the Sami indigenous people living here and there, amongst the ancient lands that they see as their birth right. Far from being seen as outcast, these isolated settlements are welcomed by the Free Scandinavian government and particularly the military as vital connections and supply points. This fact is further enhanced by their popularity with the Hyrcanians that have moved to this isolated part of the world, finding much demand and respect for their abilities to survive in all areas of this new world. This feeling is not much shared in regard to Reptids, who tend to stick to the cities and in limited numbers at that.

With the recent short lived invasion by the Prussian Hegemony and subsequent damage caused by the fierce fighting, much of the Southern region of Free Scandinavia is currently struggling to rebuild and claim areas back lost in the fighting. They are hampered by the lack of resources enjoyed by this nation when compared to others. What the joining of TRIAC membership will bring for the small but determined nation has yet to be determined, but no doubt it will be met with determination and pride by these stalwart folk.

### **National Outlook**

The main outlook for Free Scandinavia is one of Individuality and freedom over-laid with a great respect for ancient beliefs and traditions. With its new found influence in the wider world, a hope of greater opportunities to come prevails. This is tempered by the origin of its new power and the brutal reminder that not all sees them as equal but simply as a resource to conquer.

### **Names and Personalities of Note.**

#### **Christian IX of Denmark**

Seen by his people as a protector of their individual rights and a mediator between the different voices of the Folketing. He is as much a king as a juggling diplomat, balancing the need for decisive action with the need for the political leadership to have its say. A path difficult to walk but one in which, he has earned the respect of his people.

#### **Jarl Frida Solveg Eide**

Jarl Eide is a force to be reckoned with in the military of the nation. A former Huscarl in direct service of the king, she has been active in every major military conflict that the nation has been involved in over the last 30 years. She most recently led the defence of Free Scandinavia in the short lived invasion by the Prussians that led to many major skirmishes along the southern borders. She is a resolute and pragmatic leader that respects strength and loyalty. She has no time for politics and pomposity and her contempt for both is obvious to any who talk to her.

### **Admiral Bjorn Halvardson**

The larger than life Admiral Halvardson is like a modern day version of his Viking ancestors. Born to the fjords and seas he has commanded the fleets of the nation for over 20 years. His imposing size and dominating personality is the heart and soul of the navy. The captains who command the ships follow him with a fierce loyalty born from the knowledge that the admiral will be the first into battle and the last to leave. His reputation is one of a veteran seaman who has lived his life on the keel and has no need for dry land. His Vikings love him and will die at his word if he asked it.

### **Sophie Horton**

Sophie Horton has grown over the last few years from an enterprising journalist the one of the most well-known exports of Free Scandinavia. Since her assignment to TRIAC as official correspondent and reporter, she has grown in wealth and renown in both her home nation and abroad. She has become a hero of sorts to the people of Free Scandinavia due to her actions in stopping the recent invasion by Prussia and subsequent inclusion of the nation into the TRIAC accords.

### **Ambassador Mikkel Solleiv Madsen**

A former Explorer turned Politian; Mikkel has been given the dubious honour of becoming his nation's official representative to TRIAC. This is in part due to his understanding of the wider world from his past activities, but also in respect to providing a liberal and strong face to the world in the face of recent aggression.

### **A note on current weaponry and Defences**

With the Prussian Hemogony taking much of the Martian technology to be found on mainland Europe, Scandinavian tech has lagged far behind that of its closest neighbours. A remedy to this was found with an increase in trade to the British Commonwealth and further development was made with treaties to the FAU. Due to this, most of the Free Scandinavian science and technology is Gauss based. Melee and black powered weapons are still much in evidence across all areas of the military with Huscarl and other elite regiments favouring close combat over projectile weapons. With recent acquisition of Martian defensive technology and discoveries of their own, advancements are expected soon.

The land and weather conditions of Scandinavia have forced the nation to, in the main adopt a Light mobile military force. The decedents of the Elverumske Skiløbercompagnie regiments have become the main bulk of the military with heavy regiments known as Huscarls formed to Guard the holds and outposts across the nation. The soldiers of Free Scandinavia are recognised as skilful mountain and arctic fighters able to move quickly and strike without notice.

With the recent conflict with the Prussians, The small aetherfleet of the Free Scandinavians has been very much reduced. The same cannot be said of the nation's nautical fleet which while not the size of the Commonwealth is still a strong force having been untouched by the incursion. Indeed, many ideas and influences of the Commonwealth can be seen in the various warships construction. But as always, the main strength lies within its quick moving infantry backed-up by heavily armoured trains.

### **Politics**

TRIAC operatives from Free Scandinavians have the following views towards the allied nations:

#### **British Commonwealth**

With many treaties and sharing of technology and ideas with free Scandinavia, there should be much willingness to forged new friendships and stronger bonds with this nation in particular a mutual position against Prussian aggression should be sought.

#### **Russian Collective**

Formerly an old enemy not much has been seen of them since the first Martian war, as long as they keep their military gaze away from home then mutual disinterest is expected.

#### **Prussian Hegemony**

They started with Sweden and have come again to claim the rest of Scandinavia. They cannot seem to accept that all do not wish to join them and what they would call order, others call oppression. Their fighting qualities call for respect but mistrust their words. We have long been in the shadow of their Jaegers but now we have our own armour and our Huscarls will match them!

### **Federated American Union**

While far away, treaties have been struck and trade flows between the lands. Long may these times continue.

### **Imperial Eastern Union**

With the distant length between the two nations, mutual disinterest is the order of the day.

### **Arctic Concord**

This hitherto unknown nations appearance is a cause for concern but also an opportunity, as they seem to understand the exploration of new ideas and freedom of thought

### **Royal Australian Protectorate**

A country to far and to different in climate for interest beyond light reading, but a cause of concern to allies so people to watch and judge on their deeds.

## Roleplaying notes

### Roleplaying a Free Scandinavian TRIAC Operative

To Roleplay a Free Scandinavian operative you need to remember the following things:

- Free Scandinavia is a harsh but enlightened nation. Individuality is encouraged and respected with this nation. The land itself forces the need for toughness and strength.
- The Nation is one that respects ancient customs and traditions finding them fitting to the new world they live in but, at the same time open to new ideas and views.
- Do not wander alone without cause. The outside is a dark and terrible place full of monsters returned, go armed and in numbers.
- Respect is earned not given upon demand but even the greatest fail at times. It is how they move past their mistakes that make them worthy.
- Do not follow the herd mindlessly. Speak your mind freely and know that all are equal in this world. Those with titles and position are there because they have been called upon to face a heavy duty but in the end we are all of the same being.

What the Free Scandinavians are not

- **Vikings/raiders/savages.** While much of their past is reflected and has influenced them they have not regressed back to a medieval point in terms of culture and attitudes. Use the mythology and history of the land but do not yearn for its time to return.
- **Odin worshippers.** Like much of world at this time the people of Scandinavia were Christians and this has been retained. Feel free to show great respect and venerate the battle fallen but do not cry out for the old gods.

### Costume and kit guidelines

- Main trade partners are Commonwealth and America. The class of Commonwealth but the more loose style of America, so smart military style jacket, but not having buttons done all the way; trousers and boots.
- In Free Scandinavia, they'd prize individuality in dress code, to be as opposite from the more military and uniformed look in Prussia.
- The embroidery style was also inspired by Grimm's Fairy-tale and Scandinavian supernatural lore.
- Be little in the way of constraining gear for freedom of movement, like the Artistic Dress movement.
- Fur is worn but not to the excesses of the Russians, trimming rather than full clothing.

