

The Imperial Eastern Union



Nation Gazetteer



The purpose of this book

This source book is a guide for players who are playing TRIAC operatives from the Imperial Eastern Union. 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 Imperial Eastern Union 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...



THE HONOURABLE AND ETERNAL NATION OF

THE IMPERIAL EASTERN UNION

A GAZETTE BY RENOWNED HISTORIAN
DR HERBERT MAITLAND

In my travels around the new nations of the world, apart from my journey to the Russian collective, I have never felt more out of place than I did when I was granted passage through the Imperial Eastern Union. As I approached the gates of one of the great walls that mark the boundaries of the nation, I could not help but be reminded of that great book Journey to the centre of the Earth by the Great Jules Verne. In his book a band of explorers pass through the Earth's crust and enter a strange subterranean world that defies belief and opens their eyes to great wonders and terrible peril. I tell you gentle reader, I have never felt so much like those explorers than I did when I passed through those gates and entered another world myself.

The Eastern Union is a land of different peoples and cultures, crammed in to a safe place where all around them is fraught with peril. Chinese, Japanese and Mongol nomads all pushed together in a new culture that exhibits the strength and weaknesses of all three with many smaller civilisations absorbed as well.

At the heart of this melting pot of cultures is the City of Pearls. A city that used to be known as Shanghai. As you approach it you see firstly the vast shimmering Aetheric golden dome that surrounds it. This huge Aether Shield protect the inhabitants from harm and is a shining beacon that represents the height of Eastern technology. As you travel through this shield and through the Great gates of the city you notice the many brass and copper statues that line the streets leading to the palace. At least you believe they are statues until one steps out of line. These are the Tenko. Mechanical warriors that are the design of the famous scientist master Wu Ling. It is these and other defensive marvels that single this empire out as a unique and strange place to visit.

It is hard to explain in words the feeling one gets when moving through union lands. Suffice to say from the interviews and observations that I have taken down I have, I hope been able to provide at least a sample of what life is like beyond the walls of the Empresses' domain...

The State of the Nation

The Union as it stands today is an oasis of civilisation surrounded on almost all sides by the devastation of the old homelands of many

dispossessed peoples. Red zones cover the borders on many sides and wasteland is all that separates them from the Russian Collective. Their borders extend to a small holding at the tip of Canada which was not tended to by the treaty between the Commonwealth and the FAU, a sore point to this day between the Union and the Americans. Life in the Imperial Union is one of dedication and service to their Imperial majesties and the defence of the new homeland. At the centre of the vast fertile plains that are free of red weed and Martian influence is the City of Pearls. From here, the Empress and her consort rule over a people cut from the cloth of every race in Asia. The descendants of the first Japanese and Mongol settlers along with Chinese, Korean and nomadic peoples, all dispossessed by the destruction of their homes, have become one people under one ruler.

The great armies of the Union rely on the power of infantry over naval or air power. Their specialisation in defensive technology and the creation of the mechanical Tenko foot soldier allow them to traverse and fight in the red zones more effectively than any other nation on Earth.

Names and personalities of note

Empress Mara Sakuramachi

The eighty one year old ruler of the nation was young and vibrant when she ascended to the throne of the Union. Now old but still sharp of wit with a mind like a steel trap Empress Mara sits in her seat of power with total control of her growing empire. Surrounded on all sides by enemies both alien and domestic she does not look to be ready to step down any time soon.

Empress Consort Ubashi Khan

The son of the Great Khan who first married the Empress, Ubashi sits at the right hand of the Empress and commands great respect from the people. Much of the population of the nation is descended from Mongol stock and look to the consort for guidance and inspiration.

Ubashi feels that a more aggressive footing should be taken with America and is only kept in check by the will of his wife Empress.

Shogun Hiru Kentosani, 1st Lord of the grand imperial army

The current shogun is a handpicked supporter of Empress Mara. A veteran of the Great War, General Kentosani was a Samurai under the late Shogun Katsomoto when he travelled with the Empress from Japan many years ago. He is a serious and stern man with the mind of a brilliant tactician. He exemplifies the Bushido code, leading the

armies of the East against all foes that would attempt to destroy the City of Pearls and his beloved Empress.

Master Wu Ling, Grand Minister of Science

Master Ling rose to the position of grand minister after his many advances in the field of Aether shielding allowed the creation of the golden dome that now protects the City of Pearls. This vast Aether shield, whilst expensive to maintain, is the most powerful example of its kind and has been tested against all but the most powerful of weapons.

Akiko Tomonaga, Mistress of Tenko

Akiko Tomonaga is a resonant of remarkable power. She discovered early on in her life that she was able to manipulate the power of Aether by channelling it through implants. When the technology to create the Tenko warriors was discovered, the means to best control these mechanical constructs was also found. Resonants. By accessing the specific resonant frequencies that the Tenko responded to, a resonant could control these golems through an implant and coordinate whole squads of them. Akiko was particularly gifted at this and was soon recruited into the Tenko program. Within a few short years she was in charge of whole regiments and was given the name Mistress of Tenko, being the only resonant strong enough to control so many on her own.

Princess Sakura Akita, Imperial Ambassador to TRIAC

The only child of the Empress, princess Akiko is young but eager to please her mother and prove that she is worthy to be her voice in the world. Sakura is wise beyond her years and she has a need to make her mark in the world. Her underlying agenda, is yet to be determined however, if she is anything like her mother you can be sure that it will not be long before it will emerge...

National outlook

The Union has, for many years considered itself to be superior in its culture and way of life to many of the nations that exist in the world today. Empress Sakuramachi is now eighty one years old and still a vibrant and cunning ruler. Her current consort, the son of her first husband the Great Khan Jenghir is a strong and imposing man of approximately 40 years and both command great respect and fear in the Union.

The armies of the east are comprised almost entirely of infantry. Vast battalions of imperial Guard protect the borders of the nation. Elite units of Samurai and Mongol warriors carry the honour of their Empress and Consort to battle with them against Martian aggressors and the mechanical Tenko go where humans cannot and fill the role of tanks and heavy war engines.

The Eastern Union is a force to be reckoned with and they strive to expand their territory. To the North the Russian Collective are looked upon with derision. The secrecy and subterfuge that enshrouds them, concerns the nation and their loss of face after being shunned by the Russians in trade negotiations has never been forgotten.

In the West, the Federated American Union is threatened by the gains that the East have in Canada. They have never forgotten the alleged theft of technology by Imperial agents and as such an animosity still exists between them. Closer to home, allies are found in Royal Australia and joint ventures are potentially on the cards...

A note on current weaponry and defences

The Eastern union is a nation that has built its economy and defence on the back of its people, something they have an abundance of. The use of Aether tech is the chosen focus for them and particularly in the area of defensive and protective applications.

Eastern Union armour and shielding technology is the best in the world and affords protection against bullets and the environment alike. At its best a soldier can use special apparatus to survive indefinitely in red zones and the more advanced armours worn by elite samurai and Mongol divisions is strong enough in some instances to turn aside or absorb direct hits from Martian weapons.

The nadir of Eastern tech however is the mechanical wonder that is the Tenko soldier. Created with the use of Aether power and Martian engineering the Tenko is the ultimate creation of the Eastern union and the most closely guarded secret...

The Union Home and Abroad

At home the Union is a sanctuary in amongst a sea of Martian territory. Society is ordered and strictly governed and at its centre is the City of Pearls and the Empress herself. All things stem from her and her gaze and influence are everywhere. Her imperial Guard keep order and her network of Yakuza Spies keep her informed of

all potential problems. Nothing transpires without her knowledge and her wizened eyes are aware of all.

Beyond the walls of the Union agents and diplomats are open to honourable talks with any and all. The armies of the East are always on the battlefields alongside other nations and fight against the Martians where many cannot go, providing a means to take the fight to the enemy in their own environment.

The east is active in TRIAC and has embraced the idea of a shared defence against the Martians. Whether this is more to do with the Empress being able to glean more information on the other nations or not is yet to be determined...

Politics

It has been commonly noted that TRIAC operatives from the Eastern union tend, on the whole, to have the following views towards the allied nations:

The Commonwealth of Britannia

As staunch allies of the Federated American Union, the Commonwealth are looked upon with a degree of mistrust. They are a powerful force however and should be considered carefully.

Royal Australian Protectorate

This nation with its Royal heritage is a natural ally for the East based on its location and understanding of Imperial rule. It is rumoured that The Queen and the Empress have met and agreed to work together on a special project. No proof of this exists however and currently this remains conjecture...

Russian Collective

The Russians will never be close to the Union. They rejected their offers of trade and shunned all contact with them. This loss of face was inexcusable to the Empress and a state of cold silence has existed ever since.

The Federated American Union

These two nations will never see eye to eye. The rumours that Eastern Union agents stole technology from them, whether true or not is a massive insult and the mutual hatred between the two nations has only not ended in escalation due to the Martian threat. If that threat ends...

Prussian Hegemony

The Prussians have little to do with the Union and Vice Versa. They both understand the need for discipline but their cultures are very different and maybe a little too different to ever really be allies.

The Arctic Concord

The Empress is very sure that the secrets that the Concord possess are worth the effort that is necessary to continue to be civil to them. Relations with the nation are cordial and any request for aid is met with a quid pro quo understanding. To seem too eager is to seem weak and the last thing that the ruler of the Asian nation wants is to look weak...

Roleplaying notes

Roleplaying an Imperial Eastern Union TRIAC Operative

To roleplay an Imperial Eastern Union operative you need to remember the following things:

- The Empress is your ruler and your honour is tied to her. Serve her well and you will be rewarded
- Your service is to your nation and your honour is everything.
- To lose face is to lose everything. Never let yourself be dishonoured by another's actions.
- The American devils are never to be trusted and the Russians wish only to take what is yours. Do not let them.

Costume and kit guidelines

The Eastern Union is a nation comprised of many disparate cultures from across Asia. The kit possibilities for this nation are huge, ranging from classical Chinese and Japanese formal dress to peasant garb. There is the option for a Mongol style or Samurai armour for those more inclined for the martial look. The Indian subcontinent was totally overrun by the Martians and its people expelled or killed from their country. It is possible that some of them made their way to the Union.

Remember as always that an element of steampunk science fantasy exists so mixing this with the above will make for some excellent costume ideas and concepts.

