

The Prussian Hegemony



Nation Gazetteer



The purpose of this book

This source book is a guide for players who are playing TRIAC operatives from the Prussian Hegemony. 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 Prussian Hegemony 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 GLORIOUS AND UNDEFEATED NATION OF
THE PRUSSIAN HEGEMONY

A GAZETTE BY RENOWNED HISTORIAN
DR HERBERT MAITLAND

When I came to write this gazetteer, I felt that it was important to stray from my usual narrative style and add a more living feel to the book. During my time in the lands of the Hegemony, I discovered that such a vibrant and eclectic mix of member states could not be described fairly without using some of their own citizens' words on the subject.

In my travels around the new continent of Europe I have witnessed and experienced many wondrous and sometimes disturbing sights. From the grand architecture of old Prussia that survived the Great war to the city state of Zurich, a community on constant defence against red zones on three fronts. The Prussian Hegemony is a huge collection of disparate states and the remnants of the old countries of Europe. The cultures and customs of each blended into the whole and combined to create a nation that works for the betterment of all.

From the capitol the Prussian Landtag, their form of parliament, runs the day to day affairs of the Hegemony while the grand Prussian military in all its forms looks to the defence of the nation and its member states. Prussia is a land surrounded by enemies on all sides. Huge stretches of red zone cover Europe and the Martian threat is ever present as the legions of the red planet seek to destroy all resistance to their domination of Earth.

Nevertheless, the Prussians persevere in the face of adversity. Their armies are the most impressive that I have ever witnessed, the myriad uniforms of the different member states mixing with the Prussian grey and the Black of the Prussian elite. It is these forces whose ancestors fought in the Great War and they have never stopped fighting. Prussia is truly a nation that stays on a permanent war footing and as such her sons and daughters remain among the most fearsome land forces in the world today.

Wherever you go in the Hegemony there is evidence of the sheer might of the Prussian armies. Squadrons of aether zeppelins patrol the skies, smaller flyers escorting them. On the ground tank platoons guard the boundaries of Hegemony land, ever vigilant of attack from the red zones of Europe. The military have even forged routes through the red zones with the use of the Panzer. These heavily armed and armoured, hermetically sealed land trains plough through

the hostile atmosphere of these areas joining the states of the nation together.

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 fate of mainland Europe and the rise of the Hegemony have been well documented by many of my eminent colleagues over the years. The continent was left as a twisted, scared landscape, politically sundered and economically crippled by the Great Martian War. Things only looked bleaker with the spreading of the red weed and by the power vacuum left by the collapse of the French Empire and Austrian Crown. The military of Western Europe had been decimated. Hope came with the return to power of the Kingdom of Prussia. A significant portion of the Prussian forces were in Eastern Europe, defending their holdings from Russian aggression, before the Martian invasion. These forces swept west and south, bringing order to the chaos across northern and eastern Europe. Unlike the centuries of conquering that came before, this march was different, with a simple offer, join the Prussian Collective and receive its protection, or carry on alone in the scarred wasteland. The offer was hard for all but the most foolhardy or stubborn leader to refuse.

The Prussian Collective, as it was known before 1818, offered its members not only protection, but a say in governance, a historical gesture to bring Europe together. Local leaders (be it a city state or a reclaimed crown or title liberated from the dastardly French) was given the right to govern their areas and to send a noble to hold a seat within the Prussian House of Lords. The common people were also given the right to elect a member of the Landtag. Furthermore, it actively encouraged its new members to raise their own standing armies, (or battalions in the case of the smaller states). Prussia offered them trade and a means to economic recovery. All Prussia asked for in return was a modest share of taxes raised and it's picking of the recruits or conscripts to create a Grand Army to protect all. Military power grew within Europe and the Collective became an incorrect term, with hegemony becoming the preferred and accurate term.

Adopted states in the Hegemony cannot not gain a majority without the backing of the Kingdom of Prussia (as the seats in both the Upper and Lower Parliaments are based on territories - of which Prussia & it's devoted followers dominate) however this did not deter

them and mostly allowed for continued co-operation, understanding the need of this order for the benefit of all. The coalition officially became hegemony with the foundation of the Grand Prussian Army in 1818, voted in by a majority. The promise was that the grand army would support the defence of all of the Hegemony and needed its size to cover the large area. At this point the leader of the Hegemony became Minister-General Leberecht von Blücher. This position could only be held by someone who had attained the rank of General and was open in principle to all Generals within the Hegemony. Prussia herself maintained her Crown, and controlled the Prussian Kingdom, but not the Hegemony. This was the surviving members of the Hohenzollern family, King Albrecht.

Out of the ashes of Europe, Prussia rose like a phoenix; the cities that had been reduced to rubble were rebuilt in an ordered fashion, with railways from their hearts and hardened regularly with defensible positions. Communication, transport and industry were made more efficient to make the most of the resources available. As other city-states joined, they too were linked in to the rail system and were rebuilt to the Prussian standard where possible. In some cases this meant demolishing surviving areas to conform to the designs of the Hegemony. When the British began investing in their underground railway – at first in the industrial Birkenhead and Liverpool regions, the Prussians met this challenge with their U-Bahn. By the late 1860s, the main states in the Hegemony were all connected up, even through the red zones. These risky routes had engines covered with armour, aether guns and were frequently patrolled by Zeppelin and Panzer.

Prussia dominates the Hegemony in all things, the parliament, military and, indeed, industry. The regions around the Rhine and Ruhr rivers became important for manufacture, as the rivers allowed for transport until the Aether zeppelins were in wide supply. As a result, the Westphalia region of Prussia bloomed and gained a large Reptid population. With the advances in Aether technology, Prussia met the demands of the other states by helping install the relevant infrastructure to have their own aether plants. With the air trade and land routes kept clear, the economy of the Prussian Hegemony bloomed, much to the envy of her rivals.

The “Prussian Standard” is now a phrase used globally, to refer to the best quality and most efficient things.

*With reference to **The Human Phoenix**, an Italian book on Post-War humanity by Antonio Balleti.*

Names and personalities of note

King Albrecht Hohenzollern, King of Prussia

King Albrecht is a stern and serious character. He rose to power in the midst of a nation at war and a continent on the brink of destruction. Since his ascension to the throne he has been instrumental in the reunification of the Prussian state and the creation of the Hegemony. He is viewed as a good ruler and is respected by the Landtag, working with the government rather than against them. It is rumoured that he has an eye to being the ruler of all Europe but any public statement to this fact has never been made. Openly, Albrecht is keen to bring all the peoples of Europe under one banner to make sure all are defended against the Martians, and he truly believes Prussia is the nation to do this.

Minister-General Fredrich Graf von Wrangel (head of the hegemony & the Grand Prussian Army)

The Minister General is as dour and taciturn a soldier as I have ever met in my travels. A veteran of countless years of engagements in the field with the Martian threat, this warrior is a scarred and hardened example of the pride and experience of the Prussian military elite. His position as head of the grand army is well deserved and under his leadership the legions of Prussia and indeed the Hegemony have prospered and been kept safe from attack from the numerous red zones that border the nation. The Minister General rarely leaves the capitol now, his duties demanding his constant presence to collate and coordinate the various forces under his command.

Queen Hilda of Saxony (major figure in the Lords and a strong supporter of Prussia, head of the State of Saxony)

The queen of Saxony is, to my observation, one of the staunchest supporters of the Prussian regime I have ever had the pleasure to meet. In my short time speaking to her majesty, I was amazed by the zeal and praise that she heaped upon the Landtag and the Hegemony. It is not surprising that this should be so however, due to the precarious nature of the location of her kingdom and the reliance on the grand army to keep her borders safe. She is a very vocal personage in the council of lords and speaks in favour of a unified Europe under the control of the Hegemony.

Air Marshall Brunhilde Von Gruber

When you hear people talk about defiant and imposing women that command respect and in some cases apprehension, you would do well to take Air marshal Von Gruber as a prime example. The first impression of the Air Marshal is of stunning beauty. Even the eye patch that is worn over her ruined left eye does not detract from the overall portrait of Prussian beauty. Very quickly after however, you are made aware of a quick and cutting wit and intelligence that is evident from the moment that you speak to her. She is a

consummate leader and holds the virtues of honour and dedication above all else. There is no one better at aerial tactics and the Aether legions move effortlessly at her command. In all my travels I have never encountered a commander as accomplished in his or her field as the Air Marshal.

Colonel Katherine Falkenburg Head of Security and Intelligence Services

Colonel Falkenburg is the highest ranked intelligence officer in the Hegemony. As personal advisor to both the king and the Minister General, she stands as the most influential member of the military and civilian branches of government. The Colonel herself is a very private person and any efforts at an interview with her have proved fruitless. It is clear however, that the head of Prussian intelligence is a person that one would not like to be at odds with...

Dr Richtig von Sheißkerl, Aether Scientist and TRIAC Ambassador

There is often a fine line between genius and insanity. Dr Sheißkerl walks this line like a tightrope. He is extremely talented in the field of Aether science and has many patents under his belt. He is very loud and very talkative when it comes to his chosen field. That said, he is still very cautious when talking to people outside of his team. I got the impression from talking with him that he has been burned before.

National outlook

In this authors opinion there is nothing that explains the national outlook of this great nation better than the words of one of its leaders, and I quote.

“Order. Efficiency. Discipline. These are the three key ideals the Hegemony values above all else. Through them, central Europe, a once fractal and divided group of nations has been unified and lead to greatness. Without them, Europe would have descended into a chaotic and bloody ruin, no doubt to eventually fall to Martian or Russian tyranny.

Working together has lifted all out of the gutter and into a palace, well-guarded and well fed. Those that choose to leave the protection would no doubt follow in the footsteps of Katowice – overrun by the strange creatures of the ‘Red Zones’ and left devoid of life.

Through the unity of Order, with the power of efficiency and with a Disciplined heart, the Prussian Hegemony will lead Europe, and indeed humanity, to a grand new age.”

From Minister-General Fredrich Graf von Wrangel's inauguration speech.

I feel that little more needs to be said about the way that this

nation sees itself in the world. Truly the Hegemony is the new power in Europe and will continue to be for years to come...

A note on current weaponry and defences

In order to control the armies in an efficient and fair manner to all member states, the Hegemony's military is split into three branches, or the KreigDreizack (War Trident)

- The Grand Prussian Army - answering directly to the Minister-General's Staff
- State Armies - These answer to the Landtag when ordered in times of crisis, whilst otherwise, they are under the control of their respective local governments. This also included the Royal Prussian Army, which is the Prussian state's army, answering to the King.
- The Aether Legions - The naval, air and panzer legions answer to the Landtag & Lords as well. The coastal states that desired their own small fleets were allowed, but were given the same command as their state armies.

The Grand Prussian Army is the largest army in Europe and has the most elite troops, maintaining the same regiments that first united Europe after the Great War. As proposed, they maintained the routes through Europe and provided any assistance required to the smaller states if any strange things were to crawl out of the red zones.

The State Armies vary in skill, size and renown. Some of those renowned legions are worthy of note; the Baden Jägers, who kept strange things from the Black forest away from their people, the Danzig Hussars, excelling in horsemanship, and the Landsknecht of Tyrol, who were one of the largest state armies. All command respect across the whole of the Hegemony.

The Navy of Prussia began to recover quickly following the use of Aether in Prussian industry. This alarmed the Commonwealth of Britannia who proposed the Treaty of Hanover 1837 to limit the growth of Prussia's fleet at sea. Britannic spies also used this opportunity to steal copies of Aether blueprints from the University of Hanover, which came to light just after the treaty limiting Prussia's sea power had been signed. Minister-General Gustav von Thile appeared weak to his Landtag and to Britannia; however his plans were already in effect. Despite a vote of no confidence by the Landtag, the Lords rallied and vetoed their move to remove him from power. By the end of the year, faith in him was restored by the unveiling of the first aether air ships and the formation of the Ätherluftlegionen - unlimited by the Treaty of Hanover 1837 as they were not bound to the Sea. When the British Commonwealth began the construction of airships, the 1837 treaty was brought into

question, forcing the British to limit their own Air legions in a manner similar to the Prussian navy, further testing relations between the two countries. The Ätherluftlegionen became invaluable to supporting the links of the Hegemony as well as trade, spreading the influence of the Hegemony and adding three more states, (as well as expanding Prussia's own borders in 'unclaimed' territory, a move mostly done to keep the majority in parliament).

Alongside the development of the trains in Prussia, a new weapon of war was built, the Panzer. Originally designed as a heavily armoured train, these steel and brass machines would allow a crew, (often Reptid) to clear the tracks for the trains to travel between cities. It wasn't long before the idea of allowing the Panzer off the rails by giving them independent 'tracks.' Whilst the Prussian Hegemony had no domination of the seas, the air and land were being brought in line with Prussian Standards with good time.

I would like to thank my esteemed colleague Gertrude Frikk for allowing me to access her work, "*A brief history of the Hegemony*" to collate this section of the gazetteer. Her knowledge is far greater than mine when it comes to the military structure of the nation and has allowed me to better explain its intricacies.

A note on Aether Implants

Aether implant technology was initially kept within military control, meaning only Resonants in the Grand Prussian Army had access to it for a decade, after which, it was decided it was safe for lesser individuals to use it. It is common in the Aether Legions, but outside of the military it is hard to access – those with them tend to have friends in the Landstag or Lords, or have proven themselves to be worthy. Aether implants are used to improve efficiency and effectiveness above normal levels and the technology is still closely guarded.

Prussians Abroad

Visiting another of the Great Nations is always a strange and uncomfortable experience. The British like everything on time, but don't have unified clocks, so nothing ever is. The Americans are friendly, loud and messy. The Eastern Imperials eat food with chopsticks, which are difficult to master and seem inefficient when compared with normal cutlery. As far as the Hegemony is concerned there is civilisation beyond its borders, but primitive compared to the grandness of Prussia.

To quote another of my learned colleagues...

"From my experience as a diplomat, I would advise that when travelling, always ensure your luggage is well secured and well

equipped. Prepare as you would to go into a red zone, only with less obvious weapons. Take at least two towels. Take several good books and items to keep yourself amused as you inevitably wait for the late carriage or smoky train that will arrive or leave at a seemingly random time.”

Foreword by Dr. Johann Gottfried Wetzstein to “The New World’s Travel Compendium (Prussian edition)”

From Refugees to Citizens, the Integration of the Alien

The adoption of Hyrcanians and Reptids into Prussia was a widely supported move throughout the Landtag. Though not human, their willingness to regain their identities and strengthen themselves and the natives of Earth has done them great justice throughout the Hegemony. There have been petitions to form a Hyrcanian state; however these have been turned down due to the animosity the different groups show to each other. As a compromise to the 1858 petition, the Landtag proposed that if the Hyrcanians could work together in a unified and ordered manner, it would be considered in 15 years’ time. Reptids mostly adopted the regions where Aether industry was flourishing, which meant that Prussia herself would have the largest population. Bold Reptids found they could also make a name for themselves within the Legions of Prussia, many of which decided to join the Ätherluftlegionen, excelling at the tasks demanded on them. Hyrcanians however, had to be split up due to their disagreements based on their markings. The more accepting states of the Hegemony received the largest populations of the Hyrcanians, many of whom would join the state armies, especially the units’ with a reputation – the Baden Jägers have benefited greatly from the Hyrcanian bolstering. Otherwise, they would find themselves in a variety of roles, particularly sought after by the noble courts.

State relations within the Hegemony

The greatest and most powerful state within the Prussian Hegemony is the Kingdom of Prussia. This does not mean however, that it is the only state of note. Saxony was one of the first to join the coalition after the war and as a result has had a great deal of investment. The Finnish nation has benefited the most out of the Scandinavian states that have joined, not least because the Finnish people have been treated fairly for the first time in centuries, after long periods of Finnish and Russian mistreatment, as well as avoiding a lot of the Martian onslaught. Zurich holds a prominent position, considered the leader in the south, holding sway over many of the southern states. Zurich is surrounded on 3 sides by red zones and would have been destroyed in time, were it not for petitioning to join the Hegemony, which has resulted in it being a firm supporter of the Prussian majority.

Politics

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

The Commonwealth of Britannia and the Royal Australian Protectorate

Britannia is a relic of the old world and lumbers on refusing to adapt or die. They must beg, borrow and steal their technology after their experts abandoned them for the Artic Concord – clearly a sign of the bloated and inefficient systems in place there.

The forces of the Commonwealth have proven to be effective and thus must be treated with caution. They prefer pomp and ceremony which hinders their efficiency and means one should always watch their own backs, lest it be unwatched by either devilishness or distraction.

The Royal Australian protectorate are even less trustworthy, on account of the high number of convicts from Britannia that make up the populous. However, they are innovative and more effective when under pressure.

Russian Coalition

The Russians are xenophobic and self-centred but don't appear to have any animosity towards the Prussians. They should be treated with indifference for the most part.

Operatives from Russia are no doubt loyal and are efficient fighters but may leave you to follow their own agendas.

The Federated American Union

Across the Atlantic, the aggressive Federation have proven their mastery of larger and more devastating technology. Whilst they have a formidable air force and powerful weaponry, they lack the discipline and military order to be as efficient as Prussia and their states are far more divided than our own.

Their agents are impetuous and inefficient, but are very reliable in a fight, especially if a charge is needed.

The Imperial Eastern Union

At the other end of Asia, these people are highly innovative and motivated. They have proven their mettle and ingenuity in Red Zone exploration and adaptation of items found. The only things they lack are Prussian Hardiness and Prussian Efficiency. Their utilisation of defensive Aether tech to create the metal men known as Tenkos is

impressive, however to rely too heavily on machines rather than living soldiers will be their undoing. These agents are very effective and can be relied on in the field almost as much as a member of the Hegemony.

The Arctic Concord

The best minds left much of the world, including Prussia. There is much wisdom and information locked away beneath the ice. However, by leaving the rest of humanity to suffer and struggle on their own, the Concord has shown that they view their own lives above others. Their agents should be worked with closely; any information obtained would be valued highly, though understand you are viewed as a lesser being and are perhaps disposable.

The Royal Australian Protectorate

The Royal Australian protectorate are even less trustworthy than the Commonwealth, on account of the high number of convicts from Britannia that make up the populous. However, they are innovative and more effective when under pressure.

Editor's note: In contrast with my other gazettes, the above quotes are from numerous sources within the Hegemony and based on their views. Some of them have been adjusted for the sake of decency but I felt it necessary to portray the real feelings of this proud and forthright people.

Roleplaying notes

Roleplaying a Prussian TRIAC Operative

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

- The Hegemony has risen from discipline, efficiency and order. It preaches unity but punishes disloyalty harshly
- Everyone has potential, not everyone reaches it and not everyone deserves it.
- People must prove their worth to gain something. Services should be traded fairly, as trade helped lift Prussia out of the post-war slump. Things are earned not given.
- There is cultural diversity within the Hegemony and regional pride is encouraged, as well as overall loyalty to the Prussian government.
- Much of the Hegemony is surrounded by Red Zones & the Military regularly sends out patrols. Many veterans of these patrols join the hegemony and have seen many disturbing sights. As a result there is often a grim mind-set or dark humour among them.

Costume and kit guidelines

There are many different military units within the hegemony, only the National Army wears the grey uniform. Elite Veterans who have been awarded the Star of Prussia are able to wear the Prussian Black, a uniform reserved for only the most honoured soldiers.

The Hegemony spreads from Belgium to Latvia, through central Europe and to northern Italy. Traditional dress from these areas is common in non-military personnel.

Clothing tends to be practical and neat. Even the nobles stray away from anything too extravagant.

