

The Royal Australian Protectorate



Nation Gazetteer



The purpose of this book

This source book is a guide for players who are playing TRIAC operatives from the Royal Australian Protectorate. 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 Royal Australian Protectorate 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 DISPOSESED?

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN PROTECTORATE

A GAZETTE BY RENOWNED HISTORIAN
DR HERBERT MAITLAND

There are many among you, dear readers, who would think that I, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Britannia would look upon a gazetteer written about the Royal Australian Protectorate as a chance to do damage to their reputation and standing and to ridicule their place on the world stage. Regardless of my own personal feeling on whether or not the Protectorate should be considered traitors or Pioneers, these gazetteers must remain independent of bias and in doing so report the fact of the new nations in a polite and succinct fashion.

In order to understand the Protectorate you must remember that it is the last vestige of an Empire that once spanned the world. The Martian invasion shattered that dream and left Great Britain teetering on the edge of annihilation. The royal family were dead and gone and out of the ashes a new power rose in the Admiralty and all vestiges of a sovereign empire vanished.

Then in 1837 the news arrived that some royal blood still remained and in the colony of Australia a young Queen Victoria still reigned over the continent and held the love and admiration of her people. The Admiralty refuted this claim and refused to recognise the young monarchs' sovereignty. With the depleted forces of both nations in no state to war against one another, an uneasy calm settled on the situation. The only contested land between the two nations was the Island of Madagascar and a treaty was drawn up that separated the Island into two halves, east and west one for each power. It remains today as a point of contention between the two.

Where the Commonwealth is primarily a naval power due to the need to protect its shores, the Protectorate has focused on air power and it's so called air armada is one of the biggest in the world, rivalled only by the federated American Union. Its Victoria class sky fortresses are only matched by the gargantuan Skyjacks of the FAU and the Tsar Class sky ships of the Russian Collective. They fly over the nation's holdings at home and abroad, their bellies filled with smaller craft and sky marines that defend against all enemies both foreign and domestic.

Victoria herself has managed to bring together a nation of colonists, natives and convicts. She has shown herself to be a worthy leader and a loved one at that. Reports are, that her age is not apparent from

her appearance and that she is a vision of youth and strength. She is not afraid of hard work and prefers fashion more applicable to the climate and nature of her country rather than the high fashion of her royal ancestry. From the town of New London north of Sydney, the Queen rules her nation from a small residence which could hardly be called a palace if placed in contrast with those back in England. Her parliament governs the everyday affairs of the Protectorate and the air armada and its Commodores see to the defence of the realm.

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 Mation

Southern and central Australia survived the first war relatively unscathed, with a large majority of the population intact. Although almost all of northern Australia was converted to red zones the area was mostly abandoned anyway. In response to the arrival and coronation of the Queen in their lands the colonists have become incredibly patriotic and hard working. They seem to have an almost pathological desire to please their sovereign, even the natives seeming to accept her as their war chief, as they call her. Whilst it is nothing like the industrialised homeland, its development has continued reasonably uninterrupted. The various Aether ship docks of the great Australian fleet pepper the land and settlements spread out from them.

Australia lacks the naval might of the Commonwealth. Indeed, it barely has enough ships to be called a flotilla. However, what it does have is the great sky armada. A fleet of sky ships lead by the two great twin decked Victoria-class sky fortresses. These ships are a common sight over the lands and patrol the skies, carrying a force of smaller ships within their holds and allowing a mobile response to any threat.

The Queen herself has taken up residence in the city of New London, north of the port of Sydney. This city is growing rapidly and houses both her modest palace and the new parliament building where her government convene regularly.

National Outlook

The Protectorate is the last vestige of the old British Empire as it was. As such the royalist views and opinions of a once majestic and world spanning empire still exist in the nation today. Australian citizens are fiercely proud to be part of the protectorate and both colonist and native have found a middle ground, living side by side to maintain and defend the nation they all call home against the Martian threat

and those more domestic...

The nation sees itself as a power in the world and will not be left in the shadow of the Commonwealth. The politicians and agents of Australia take every opportunity to extoll the virtues of the Australian community and culture, making sure that the barracking and false accusations of the Commonwealth and her allies do not go unopposed. The nation's biggest gripe is the refusal of the Commonwealth to recognise Victoria as their rightful sovereign and will not be truly content until she sits once again on the throne of a united British Empire...

The Commonwealth Home and Abroad

Life in the Protectorate is more of a frontier lifestyle than the industrial community that Great Britain has become. The city of New London is still growing and relatively new and modern in comparison to most Australian communities. All citizens are equal and afforded the same rights by royal decree. National service is mandatory and all men and women above the age of 18 serve in the Protectorate Sky Armada for at least five years. This means either being stationed in a sky fleet at home protecting the borders of the nation against red one incursion or being stationed in one of the sky garrisons in New Zealand or Madagascar. When fighting abroad Australian forces are transported by air and tend to use aether tech to drop into the battle from above, these sky Marines are a welcome sight to beleaguered forces as they fall on the enemy flanks and rear with Gauss carbines blazing.

Names and personalities of note

Queen Victoria

A young steely eyed woman, not afraid of work and masterful at the political game. Her silver tongue has swayed convicts, criminals and natives alike into believing wholeheartedly in her. It may be noted that some remaining records indicate that Victoria should be well into her 50s by now, yet she retains the appearance youth and vigour of a much younger woman.

Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli

An experienced statesman who is devoted to his queen and dedicated to her cause. His assistance has been invaluable in growing the country and he remains a popular leader of parliament. Wise and kind, he always views matters thoughtfully and never causes offence if he can otherwise avoid it.

Sky Commodore Sir Lawrence Athbridge

Commander of her majesties sky armada and a resolute soldier. He is a determined and unsubtle man, who expects the same of his men. A son of one of the officers stranded here by the first war he has grown

up to love this country and will fight to the death to protect it. His flagship, "Resolution" is a vast fortress of Gauss cannons and the twin hulled behemoth holds a myriad of smaller attack craft and transports that are ready to strike at a moment's notice.

Doctor James Rigston-Carter

A charming if slightly oily man, Doctor Rigston-Carter deals with the maintenance and building of the sky armada. Rumours abound about Dr Rigston-Carter's qualifications and his suitability to head the engineering projects for the protectorate. He is however, a favourite of the Queen and as such these rumours generally fall on deaf ears. Rigston-Carter is a simple man and not one for standing on ceremony, treating everyone as an equal.

Michelle Camberthorne, MPP (Member of the Protectorate Parliament)

A dedicated member of the Protectorate parliament, Miss Camberthorne is a strong and independent politician who is very forthright in her views regarding the state of the nation. She is a strong proponent of independence from the Commonwealth, believing that the protectorate should not strive to re-join the rest of the old empire but rather create their own and stop harking back to a bygone age of glory. Her views make her somewhat of a radical in parliament but her opinion is considered valid by many and as such her popularity is becoming stronger...

Princess Katherine, Sister to the Queen and TRIAC Ambassador

Princess Katherine is the younger sister of the Queen and a proud and headstrong woman. Being born some years after her sister, in Australia, Katherine is loved by the populace and is looked upon as one of their own. She is proud of her nation and what it has achieved and is determined to make it clear that the Protectorate can stand on its own without the help of the Commonwealth. At the age of 18 she joined the Royal air armada and served on the Resolution under Sky Commodore Athbridge. Now, at the age of twenty three Katherine has been appointed to the position of TRIAC ambassador and attends to the Protectorates needs regarding that most reputable of organisations. The suggestion that appointing a member of the royal household to ambassador to cause offence to the Commonwealth is an idea that is widely denied in all levels of government.

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 Protectorate has always been her air force. This has by no means changed today and the vast, Victoria Class Sky Fortresses still command the skies over the nation's holdings. The ships patrol her majesties domain keeping it safe from Martian aggression and taking her troops into battle against the foe.

Gauss cannons, rifles and pistols are the mainstay of both powers with the R.A.P's friendly ties with the Eastern Union making interesting inroads with combined ventures...

Politics

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

Commonwealth of Britannia

Relations between these two disparate halves of the same old empire are about as bad as it is possible to be without actual fighting. They are on the brink of civil war over who should control these last two bastions of a once mighty nation with neither side look to back down any time soon.

Russian Collective

The Protectorate has had very little contact with the Russians and as such the feeling is one of apathy if anything. The Russians dislike of the Eastern Union may affect this in time if the two nations continue to move towards alliance...

Prussian Hegemony

Very good relations exist between these two nations. Her majesty is distantly related to their ruling family and as such they are on very civil terms. However, there is not much discourse as the distance between them precludes it. It may be that the Commonwealths hatred of the Prussians is another factor of the good relations between the nations but this is obviously simply conjecture on my part...

Federated American Union

The diplomatic situation between these two is considered to be very poor. The Commonwealths' major trading ally has sided with them against the protectorate. Given the links between Victoria and her grandfather George III, who was reviled throughout America, the relationship will never be good.

Imperial Eastern Union

As the only nearby power, the two have had regular meetings and have developed a good trade relationship. Their monarchical and imperial

structures complement each other and allow the two nations to gain common ground. It can be said with some surety that soon without external interference an alliance could soon be on the cards...

Artic Concord

Relations with the new nation remain cordial. The Australians have no real grudge against Lancing for his actions and it did not really affect them. The situation as it is at the time of writing is a “don’t bother us and we won’t bother you” approach...

Roleplaying notes

Roleplaying a Royal Australian Protectorate TRIAC Operative

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

- The RAP is the last vestige of Great Britain that was. It is under her majesty, Queen Victoria that we will rebuild the great empire we once had.
- Life is hard but there are no hand outs in the Protectorate. Your worth is provided and your status earned.
- Be proud of your nation and your Queen, she will lead you to Victory.
- There is something wrong with the Admiralty and how they run the British Isles and its Commonwealth. This is not the Britain that it should be.

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 uniformed 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.*

