

War of the Mountain King

A alternate-history RPG fantasy campaign setting

#2 World of Pasales

The world of Pasales fits any number of standard fantasy tropes: it is a place where magic functions, but is not ubiquitous enough to replace technology. The various nations of Pasales are largely absolute monarchies or oligarchies ruling over a largely agrarian, and almost universally poor, population. Before the Americans showed up: technology was barely up to Imperial Roman standards, except for medicine... which was largely nonexistent. There's plenty of slavery, war, pestilence, and other unpleasantness.

Oddly - or not so oddly, actually - the default nation-state on Pasales is rather large, because while magic is not common it is still capable of sustaining lives of relative comfort among the local elites. So said elites have access to healing spells, communications networks, fireballs; combine that with an ingrained ruthlessness that has gone past 'institutionalized' and is now considered 'traditional' and you end up with groups that are capable of keeping quite large sections of territory under heel.

What follows is a list of the largest states, listed by continent: note that most of them had their start as provinces of the now-vanished True Empire. Certainly their rulers remember this. And equally certainly their rulers wish to bring back those days again.

One final note: the True Empire imposed one language on the entire world, and managed to more or less eradicate most of the others. Eradicating *cultures* was a bit harder, but the True Emperor made an excellent (and often literal) stab at it. As a result: while languages have of course drifted in the last three millennia, they are all from the same parent language...

which, much to the shock of American linguists, was demonstrably what they called 'Indo-European.'

Namo (Europe): the birthplace of the True Empire is a snakepit of disorganized and aggressive states that are constantly searching out each other for weakness. Berijos and Gal fight each other in the west while Lenkja and Achaja squabble over what the Americans call 'Italy;' the Siauric and Saksonijos petty-kingdoms of the north and the islands provide mercenaries for both. Sometimes those mercenaries are even reliable.

Pietu (Africa): the largest nation on Pietu is Giptas (Egypt, Levant). It considers itself the most civilized and advanced of the True Empire's successor states, not entirely without reason. It is perennially involved in at least a proxy war with Bant (sub-Saharan Africa), which has been supplementing its armies with magic since the Only Emperor first conquered them with it four thousand years ago. The northwest part of Pietu is a notorious pirate's paradise; since the appearance of the Americans the concept of 'privateering' has caught on like wildfire. So has gunpowder.

Rytus (Asia): The Mountain King looms over this region both figuratively and literally; his realm of Strana (Russia, more or less) is openly opposed by the oligarchs of Dija (India, Southeast Asia) and military castes of Kinija (China, Japan, Siberia). The former province of Babil (Fertile Crescent, Anatolia) was the death-place of the True Emperor: most Pasalans believe that the land itself was cursed by him to never know peace, and history since then certainly seems to bear that out. And what Americans call 'Arabia' is home to the wandering tribes of Zydas, who manage to survive mostly because they have nothing that anybody else wants.

Sodas (Australia): Sodas is ruled by the Taryba Vergai, a group of mages that can trace its descent from the time of the True Emperor. Sodas is ruled by mages for mages; it is also noteworthy in Pasalan history as being

one of the few places where the True Emperor simply destroyed the indigenous population instead of conquering it. Nobody ever dared ask why.

Vakarus (South America): the nations of Pasales used Vakarus to mean the entire super-continent, but now only use it to refer to the southern half. The major realms of this continent consist of the Muisca autocracy in the north, the Nazca and Chimu military states in the south - and the universal slave state Tupi in the middle, which was in the process of conquering all of Vakarus before the Americans arrived. And that is why there will probably be a war between Tupi and the USA in the very near future.

And then there is...

Pragaras (North America): Most of the continent is ruled by the Americans, of course. After the Second War the USA controlled all of its old territory, what little remained of the Irokezu realm that survived after the initial summoning of the Americans, and about half of the territories of the Olmekai Domination (southern Mexico and the rest of South America). Most of the rest of Pasales considers Pragaras to be more or less literally damned.

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