

Crossroads of the Commonwealth

#4: Minor Players

These are not the only groups and organizations and governments that have an opinion on the current situation in NYC. They are, however, the groups most likely to do something that will impact the PCs' lives. Surprisingly, most of those impacts will end up being negative ones.

The State of New York. This is one place where the timeline has significantly changed from our own: while the Republican party did make large gains in 1994, Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo won re-election to a fourth term. The state government has been trying to muscle in on NYC's turf ever since. They've largely failed to gain much in the way of traction, because while it may be an article of faith in Albany that NYC is under its control they're about the only ones who think that. Simply put: Mayor Giuliani routinely refuses to enforce any new state directive that he doesn't care for, and President Clinton generally doesn't even bother to complain about it. On the other hand, tax revenue from the city is pouring into state coffers.

The State of New Jersey. In contrast, New Jersey under Republican Governor Christine Todd Whitman is perfectly happy with the status quo. Everyone who can't afford to live, work, and/or operate businesses in NYC itself instead works in Northern New Jersey: Newark and Hoboken seem both to be in a constant state of rebuilding. The problem in all of this? New Jersey is also becoming a hotbed of corruption, nepotism, and truly staggering displays of bad taste.

The United Nations. It is the position of the UN that it is the only organization that can legitimately negotiate with the Traders on things involving Earth as a whole. It is the position of the Traders that anything the United Nations says, claims, or argues must be affirmatively signed off on

by both Mayor Giuliani and President Clinton before the Traders will take it seriously. And it is the position of Clinton and Giuliani to make sympathetic noises towards the UN while doing absolutely nothing at all to make the Traders change their position. In other words: the UN itself seethes quite impotently at the USA, which means that its bureaucrats are becoming more and more willing to look the other way when would-be rivals to the USA wish to use the United Nations as cover.

Organized Crime. The Mob has a complicated relationship with Rudy Giuliani, in that he has been aggressively going after organized crime in NYC and that makes life difficult for the Mob. More and more organized crime involving NYC ends up happening outside of NYC these days, but prostitution and gambling still exist inside the borders, and probably always will. And then there's smuggling: the Traders will happily buy stuff that fell off the back of a truck, just as long as it's still in good condition.

The Federal Government. Possibly an odd addition, considering that the Federal government is being run by President Clinton, but then Clinton does not have perfect oversight over 'his' bureaucrats. There are quite a few federal agencies that do not like being told that they don't have jurisdiction over the most valuable territory on the planet; and some of the people in those agencies are not above trying to even the score a little. There's also a fairly solid rumor that a high-placed official in the Executive Branch is providing certain Federal bureaucrats with some quiet assistance.

Friends of This Earth, League for American Freedom, Committee for the Protection of the Faiths, Direct Action Network, Brotherhood of Human Labor, etc. There is no lack of groups and organizations that oppose the Traders, the Two Houses, the way that American laws and/or international treaties are being casually ignored, the way invasive species are popping to and fro across the Portal, the way that various subversive substances and ideas are now readily available, the current state of

women's hemlines, you name it: every crank on the political spectrum has an vehement opinion on the current situation, and that very much includes the cranks who are nominally on the side of the reader. So far the protests have not gotten above the level of demonstrations and other nuisances, but things aren't likely to get any less tense, any time soon.

- © Moe Lane. All rights reserved.
- <http://www.moelane.com>
- <https://www.patreon.com/MoeLane?ty=h>