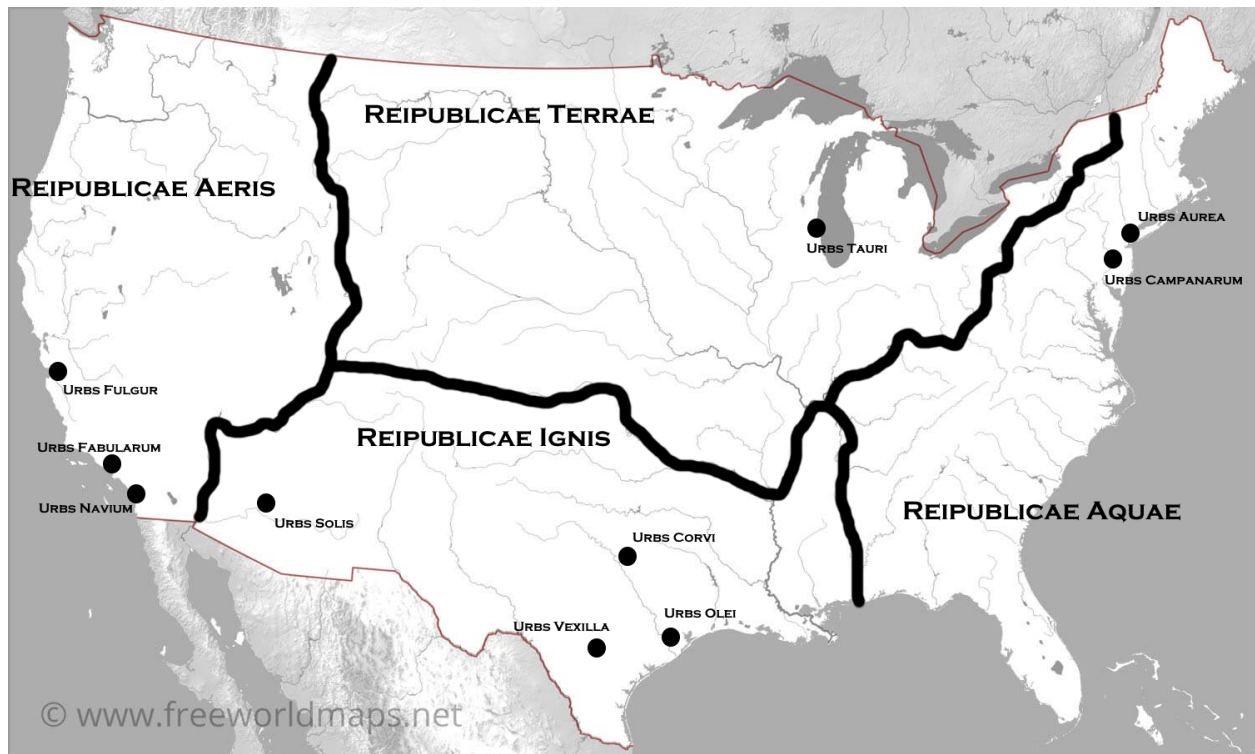


The Civitas Map

Let's get this established for the record, straight off: there is no reason why twenty-three people should have died over this map.



That's twenty-three *so far*, by the way. And that we *know of*, since we've only been aware of the existence of this map for the past week. All of the victims are civil servants, each with at least a decade's worth of government service and a GS-14 rating. That's what actually got our attention,

in fact. When that many career bureaucrats violently die that closely together, we start looking for terrorist cells.

Instead we found... this. Obviously, it's a map that breaks up the continental United States into four 'Republics,' each named after a classical element. Equally obviously, it shows the ten largest American cities by population, each given a descriptive name in Latin. We're pretty sure this is a new map, as while San Jose was the tenth largest city as of the 2020 Census, it's currently (2024 AD) somewhere around twelfth. There's no notes on the Map, no key, and no documentation. There's also nothing obviously arcane about it, although what experts we have in those fields are doing some careful testing. It's just, you know, a map.

But again, it's a map that's killed twenty-three people. Mostly they were killing each other. Sometimes knives were involved, the kind of knives that are made out of meteoric iron and covered in odd runes. That alone would be enough to authorize a team to check all of this out. The usual parameters apply here. Discover the origins, determine whether or not specialized reaction is warranted, and do whatever ad hoc field expedients are required to keep the whole thing from blowing up in somebody's faces.

Try to save the receipts, though. And be careful about what you buy; a few of the dead bureaucrats were in the GAO. This is probably not a good time for suspicious expenditures on government credit cards. Lastly, I'm sorry to say that we have no idea what's really going on here. If we did, we wouldn't be authorizing a team. Or at least we wouldn't be authorizing an *investigation* team.

Good luck! As always, if you or your team are discovered or compromised, the Agency will spring you out as soon as we can. That'll go a whole heck of a lot easier if you don't shoot first, so don't.

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