

## TRAVELLER: The Adventure

This is the age of the Third Imperium. In the year 1100, the Emperor Strephon rules over an empire of eleven thousand worlds. On the far reaches of the empire lies the Spinward Marches, the frontier of the Third Imperium. A crossroads for humans and aliens it is a dangerous place, but for those who dare to cross the abyss between stars, fame and fortune waits.

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### The Third Imperium

Founded One Thousand and One Hundred and ago by the Emperor Cleon I, the Third Imperium has expanded to encompass over 11,000 worlds. The Emperor Strephon currently rules the Third Imperium. The Emperor has appointed nobles to aid his rule of the Imperium. Dukes, Counts, Barons, and Knight go forth among the worlds of the Imperium to bring the Emperor's words and enforce the Emperor's law.

The Imperium is not an oppressive empire crushing all dissent before it. It is a grand confederation to provide for the common defense of its member worlds; to ensure that commerce and trade flows freely among the stars. Other than regulating trade and providing military forces the Imperium does little to interfere with the internal affairs of its members.

### The Spinward Marches

The Imperium's farthest frontier sector, containing 437 star systems divided along a coreward to rimward line by the Imperial border. The region is dominated by two major powers: the Imperial Spinward Marches sector and the frontier provinces of the Zhodani Consulate. In the independent territory between the two powers lie three small states: the Federation of Arden, the Sword Worlds Confederation, and the Darrian Confederation. Each follows its own diplomatic line designed to maintain independence from both the Zhodani and the Imperium.

The Spinward Marches has been settled since the 400s and is still a frontier sector. High-tech worlds are scattered among empty, fallow worlds; there is potential for exploration, exploitation, and development for centuries to come.

### A Short History

In -3224 (earth year 2092) humanity reached the stars only to find... humans. For hundreds of parsecs to the galactic core there was a multitude of worlds inhabited by humans. There were alien races and alien ecologies but humanity dominated.

These worlds were united under the rule of the Vilani in the Ziru Sirka. This translates to the Grand Imperium of the Stars. By the time humans from Terra made contact the Ziru Sirka was over 1,500 years old.

However this 1,500-year-old rule had a price in cultural rigidity and stagnation. The dynamic Terrans exploited this in a series of interstellar wars that brought down the Ziru Sirka. In its place the Terrans erected the Rule of Man uniting Vilani and Terrans under a single rule.

But the dynamism of the Terrans (now known as Solomani) could not arrest the decline of Vilani culture. Within 400 years; civil wars and economic upheavals caused the collapse of the Rule of Man. With the collapse, both Vilani and Solomani worlds slide into the 1,500 year Long Night.

After 1,500 years the Long Night was beginning to recede and many worlds started reaching out to the stars again. On the world of Sylea a man named Cleon Zhunastu had a dream of restoring the glory of the Ziru Sirka and the Rule of Man. In a thirty-year campaign he transformed the Sylean Federation into the basis for the Third Imperium. In the 654<sup>th</sup> year of the Sylean Federation; Cleon and the Grand Senate of the Federation proclaimed the Third Imperium with Cleon Zhunastu as Emperor Cleon the first.

### The Human Question

Throughout all of history one question remained; from where did humanity come from? Who placed us among the stars? And why did they do this? As the years of Third Imperium rolled on, archeologists found out several things: first genetic analysis indicates that humanity was scattered around 300,000 years ago. Second there are many sites around the Imperium on the various human homeworlds and other world that were built by a non-human race over 300,000 years ago. Third that in a 10,000 year long war this race destroyed itself in leaving humanity to fend for itself. Last the best candidate for the original human homeworld is Terra the homeworld of the Solomani. The race that scattered humanity was dubbed the Ancients. In addition to humanity it is believed that ancients took members of the canis (dogs, wolves, etc) genus and uplifted them to sentience as the Vargr.

No one knows why the Ancients choose humanity to scatter among the stars. There are no answers for the reason why the ancients destroyed themselves in a great war. These questions remain and more are needed to be answered.

### Aliens

In addition to the scattered descendents of humanity, alien races are found throughout the stars. There are two traditional categories that alien races have fallen into. Major races that have discovered the jump drive on their own and minor races that have learned the secret of the jump drive from another race. The major race includes Humanity, the Aslan, the Vargr, the Hiver, the K'Kree, and the Droyne.

The Ancients placed humanity on many worlds. Only three of them discovered Jump Drive on their own; Solomani of Terra, Vilani of Vland, and the Zhodani of Zhdant.

The Zhodani, the Aslan, and the Vargr are all present in the Spinward marches.

### Regina Subsector

The Regina subsector is a diverse, developing subsector on the very fringes of the Imperium. The Imperial frontier runs along its coreward edge and portions of its spinward edge. Its major xboat routes connect it with Jewell subsector to spinward and with Lanth subsector to rimward, providing major trade channels which roughly parallel the Spinward Main, a well-used natural jump-I trade route.

The hub of new development in the Spinward Marches Sector is the Regina subsector. Located at the very edge of the Imperium, it serves as a contact point with the Vargr to coreward and the Zhodani to spinward; the result is considerable trade activity through the Starports of the region.

The Regina Subsector contains 32 worlds with a total population of 165.6 billion. The highest population is 26 billion, at Rethe; the highest tech level is 13, at Efate, Uakye, Pixie, Boughene, and Yori, although some of these worlds have achieved tech level 15 in some fields.

All worlds in the Regina subsector are members of the Imperium with the technical exception of Ruie; however several important nations on Ruie have recently become members in their own right.

The fleet assigned to the subsector is the 213th Fleet, headquartered at Efate Naval Base, with elements deployed at Efate, Regina and Pixie. General Shipyards, a subsidiary of General Products maintain major shipyards at Efate, Regina and Pixie.