

Diplomacy *World*



#128 - Winter 2014

www.diplomacyworld.net



Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the latest issue of **Diplomacy World**, #128. I hope everybody had a safe and happy New Year. May 2015 be filled with good things for you.

In a clumsy segue, I'll ask that you take a peek at the Diplomacy World Staff table on the next page. There are a few positions that need to be **filled** in 2015, hopefully sooner rather than later. If you're interested, drop me a line. Remember, DW Staff are expected to basically do two things: contribute one article every issue in their region of editorship (or three out of four issues at least), and to encourage others to write articles. Sometimes the word encourage gets replaced by bug, badger, harass, beg, trick, or force...whatever it takes! So consider taking charge and filling one of the vacancies.



I know I say this just about every issue, but I'll say it again: **EVERY MAJOR DIPLOMACY EVENT should take the time to get free publicity in Diplomacy World.** It still baffles me why so many tournaments and

conventions can't find somebody to take ten minutes and design a one-page flyer for submission. Articles are good too; you can talk about what you learned from last year, what you hope to change or improve, special plans, why people who haven't considered attending should rethink their plans...humor is a great selling tool too. So many events just skip the whole process, and it makes no sense to me. If you run an event you should also try to get at least one participant to write up an article on what kind of experience they had (after the fact).

Folks...this is **FREE PUBLICITY** to expand knowledge of, and participation in, your event! Each issue of Diplomacy World is downloaded **THOUSANDS** of times before the next quarterly issue is published. I think it is safe to assume that 95% of the people who download an issue of Diplomacy World **PLAY DIPLOMACY!** I leave the last 5% out for those who might accidentally think this zine discusses real-world diplomacy between nations.

I'll also mention in passing that I **HOPE** to do more work on my Postal Diplomacy Zine Archive soon. Yeah, I know...I say that every once in a while, but the results don't seem to change. Well...I hope to do more. And where there is hope, there is, uh, hope. That's a saying, right? No? Okay well, I said it...so now it is.

I'm not sure what else to say at the moment. Maybe too much egg nog and champagne over the holidays. **I'll close by reminding you the next deadline for Diplomacy World submissions is April 1st, 2015.** Remember, besides articles (which are always prized and appreciated), we **LOVE** to get letters, feedback, input, ideas, and suggestions too. So email me at diplomacyworld@yahoo.com! See you in the winter, and happy stabbing!

Selected Upcoming Conventions

Find Conventions All Over the World at <http://diplom.org/Face/cons/index.php>

TempleCon - Friday February 6th 2015 - Sunday February 8th 2015 - Providence, Rhode Island - <http://templecon.org/15>

WDC 2015 (the tournament of style and great food) – Friday May 1st 2015 – Sunday May 3rd 2015 – Milano, Italy - Website: http://www.signoridelgioco.it/index.php?option=com_seminar&Itemid=53

Yorkshire DipCon 2015 – Friday June 19th 2015 – Sunday June 21st 2015 - Ferens Hall, The Lawns Centre, The University of Hull, Northgate, Cottingham, East Yorkshire, HU16 5SQ, United Kingdom - <http://www.ukf2fdip.org>

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Contributions are welcomed and will earn you accolades and infinite thanks. Persons interested in the vacant staff positions may contact the managing editor for details or to submit their candidacy or both. The same goes for anyone interested in becoming a columnist or senior writer. Diplomacy is a game invented by Allan Calhamer. It is currently manufactured by Hasbro and the name is their trademark with all rights reserved.

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The RANKing System

An alternative for scoring tournament Diplomacy

By Zachary Jarvie

Introduction

I couldn't resist the temptation to give my creation an acronym. I assure you that the naming of the system followed its creation and not the other way around. **RANKing** stands for; **Rankings Among Nation-Kind, in numerous games**. No doubt, the detractors of this proposed system will prefer to call it "*RANK*" scoring, but that's just part of the fun. A discussion of the theory behind this system as well as my response to some likely criticisms will follow the presentation of its rules.

The RANKing system dispenses with conventional methods of scoring and instead weighs a player's game result against that of players who played the same country rather than against just those who shared the same board. Bonuses are awarded for in game achievements such as soloing or topping the board. However, the player's primary objective will be geared toward achieving a result that is comparably superior to that of other players who have played, or will play, the same county at the tournament.

Behold, I have legitimized the "Best Country" awards and have brought them into their rightful inheritance.

RANKing System Rules

The Overall Structure

The player with the highest Tournament Score at the end of the event is the tournament winner. A player's **Tournament Score** is equal to the sum of his or her **Game Scores**, not including any dropped rounds. **Game Scores** are calculated by adding **Ranking Points** to any **Bonus Points** earned from the game.

Games can only end with a solo victory or in a draw that includes all surviving players (DIAS).

Ranking Points

Ranking Points are awarded based on how ones game result compares to that of other players who play the same country. The tournament director creates seven different ranking tables, one for each county. He then ranks each players game result according to the criteria contained within this system.

Players are given points based on their position on each countries individual ranking table. The points that are awarded are the inverse of the player's position on the table. If a player plays the same country more than once, he or she will have more than one place on that countries ranking table.

As the examples provided below demonstrate, the system naturally scales with the size of the tournament. The more boards that are played, over the course of the tournament, the more a player will score for a high ranking result.

EXAMPLE: This ranking table for England represents a tournament in which a total of nine boards are played.

Ranking/ Place	English Players	Points Scored
1st		9
2nd		8
3rd		7
4th		6
5th		5
6th		4
7th		3
8th		2
9th		1

EXAMPLE: This second table, for Germany, represents a larger tournament in which fourteen boards are played.

Ranking/ Place	German Players	Points Scored
1st		14
2nd		13
3rd		12
4th		11
5th		10
6th		9
7th		8
8th		7
9th		6
10th		5
11th		4
12th		3
13th		2
14th		1

As you can see the top ranked player for each country scores a number of ranking points equal to the total number of boards played at the tournament. If we had a tournament in which 21 boards were played then 21 ranking points would be awarded for each countries best result. If the tournament allows players to drop one or more rounds, players will not lose their position on the ranking table, they simply do not count any of the points earned from a dropped game in their final tournament score.

The process of ranking players is done by comparing the outcomes of each game. Players who win with a solo are ranked first and placed at the top (in the 1st place position) of their countries ranking table. We then follow with players who ended the game in a draw. Lastly players who were eliminated from the game, or who lost to a solo, will fill out the bottom of each ranking table. Players will be ranked within each of the aforementioned groups as follows.

Solo Results

Players who solo are placed at the top of their nations ranking table. A solo is defined as achieving 18 or more supply centers, or having the victory conceded to a single player by the remaining players on the board.

If there are multiple solo results for the same country, then each player's ranking is based on the year the game ended. Players who have an earlier solo date will rank higher than those who won their game at a later date.

EXAMPLE: A solo in 1907 beats a 1908 solo, which beats a 1909 solo, ext. It does not matter if the solo came about from acquiring 18 supply centers or was the result of a concession.

If two or more soloing players tie for a ranking position, because they soloed with the same country in the same year, then they will each score the average of the points from the contested ranking positions.

EXAMPLE: If two players tie for first place on a nations ranking table, in a fourteen board tournament, each will score 13.5 ranking points.

Draw Results

After the soloists have been placed at the top of the rankings, those who ended the game with a draw are ranked. The best draw result will be in 1st place if there was no solo for that country.

Players with a draw result are ranked by their final supply center count. Players with more supply centers will rank higher than players with fewer supply centers.

If two or more draw results tie for a ranking position, each player will score the average of the points from the contested ranking positions.

EXAMPLE: If three players tie for second place, in a nine board tournament, each will score 7 points.

Eliminated Players

Lastly players who lost to a solo or who were eliminated before the end of the game are ranked and fill out the bottom of each country's table.

These players are ranked based on an *Elimination Value*. For players who were reduced to zero supply centers this value is equal to the year in which they lost their last supply center. For players who lose, or concede, to a solo this value is found by subtracting the player's final supply center count from the year that the game ended.

EXAMPLE: If a player, with 12 supply centers loses to a solo in 1907 then that player will have an elimination value of 1895. Another player with 3 supply centers, who also lost to a 1907 solo, would have an elimination value of 1904, the same as if they had been eliminated in 1904.

Players with higher elimination values rank higher than players with a lower elimination values.

EXAMPLE: An elimination value of 1907, beats a 1906, which beats a 1905, ext.

If there is a tie, each player will score the average of the points from the contested ranking positions.

EXAMPLE: If two players of the same country each have an elimination value of 1904 and tie for last place. Both of these players will score 1.5 ranking points.

Bonus Points

Bonus Points are earned for either Soloing or for Topping the Board. If a player chooses to drop the results of a round then he loses not only the ranking points for that round but also any bonus points that might have been earned in that game as well.

Solo Bonus

A player who wins his game earns a number of Bonus Points equal to twice the number of Ranking Points that he or she earned for that game.

EXAMPLE: In an 9 board tournament two German players solo, one in 1908 and the other in 1910. The player with the 1908 solo will receive 9 Ranking Points plus 18 Bonus Points for a total Game Score of 27. The player with the 1910 solo will receive 8 Ranking Points plus 16 Bonus Points for a total Game Score of 24.

Bonus for Topping the Board

A player who ends a game with more supply centers than any other player on that board receives a bonus equal to one half his or her Ranking Score earned for that game.

EXAMPLE: If a player earns 7 Ranking Points for a game in which they top the board they receive a bonus of 3.5 additional points for a total Game Score of 10.5.

The bonus for topping the board is only awarded in games that end in a draw. If a player wins with a solo

then they do not receive this bonus. If two or more players tie for the highest supply center count then no bonus for topping the board is awarded.

Theory and Discussion

Most if not all other scoring systems used in tournament Diplomacy base their approach on the idea that each game should divide a pool of points amongst the seven players at the end of each game. Whether the scoring system is center based, draw based, or of another kind such as C-Diplo or Sum of Squares each will have a different "math" to determine how the available points will be distributed amongst the seven players. This all seems very logical.

However, there is a common understanding that the selection of countries you are given to play can have a significant impact your final score and tournament result. No doubt, the chief factor in success is not the country you play but your own skill and the relative skill of the players you encounter on a board. But, all things being equal, some countries still consistently do better than others. This is due to the purposefully imbalanced design of Diplomacy which we normally consider to be one of the games positive selling points. This imbalance in play can be exacerbated under certain scoring systems. Some countries have a greater potential for early and rapid growth and so do very well under center based scoring systems. Others are more defensible and therefore more likely to avoid elimination giving them an advantage in draw based scoring systems.

The intention behind the RANKing system is to normalize results such that playing any given country will no longer be considered an advantage or a disadvantage. Other scoring systems cause players to despair when drawing Austria and to likewise rejoice when drawing France. But if the tournament is being run using the RANKing system this perceived iniquity is eliminated and each player need only be concerned with being the best France or the best Austria that they can possibly be.

Critics will point out that this system has profound meta-gaming or meta-tournament implications. They are right to do so. It is possible that some players will choose to attack specific countries simply because they happened to have played as that same country in a previous game. However, this "carry over" strategy that tries to prevent a

player from getting a better result than your previous game strikes me as shortsighted and highly inefficient. The potential scoring benefit (only 1 ranking point) is much less than what you risk losing by not pursuing the best possible course of action for your present country. Also, we should not pretend that tournaments run under other scoring systems are free from cross board influences. Setting out to tank another player's game so as to remove them as a threat is nothing new in tournament Diplomacy. The meta-aspect of the RANKing system only appears more prominent than it will actually prove to be.

The primary goal in any Diplomacy game should always be that of achieving a solo victory. To account for this I have incorporated a bonus for solo results that is large enough to have a deciding factor in the final tournament outcome. Additionally, the bonus that is awarded for topping the board can also significantly impact tournament standings. These two bonuses help to focus player attention back on the game at hand rather than on the seemingly meta-aspect of the scoring system.

The RANKing system appears to break down, somewhat, when you use it to score events in which only a few boards are played. In such events players may find that there is not much difference between the best and worst scoring results for each country. I would not use it to score an event that had fewer than 3 rounds of play with at least 2 or 3 boards being played each round. The system is also not very conducive to tournaments that feature a top-board in the final round of play. This is because the game scores can't be assigned until after the very last game has been played. Given this consideration, the RANKing system could actually work best for scoring a competitive series of games put on by a local Diplomacy club over the course of a year.

Lastly, you may notice that the RANKing system does not include a way to break ties in the final tally of tournament scores. I consider this aspect of the system to be feature and not a flaw. In most instances this should only affect those with moderate to low tournament scores for whom shared results are of little consequence.

In addition to the editorial staff of DiplomacyWorld, I'd like to thank Adam Silverman for his encouragement of this project. His notes on early drafts of this article were invaluable in helping me to refine this scoring system.

Growing the Hobby: Part V – Writing for the Hobby

By Larry Peery

This article is one of a series on ways to grow the Diplomacy hobby; and is part of the celebration of XENOGOGIC's, my personal Diplomacy 'zine from the 1960s, 50th anniversary. As you read on you may notice that points are made, illustrations are offered and conclusions are drawn --- all without much support. If this were a wiki article it would called a "shell" and readers would be asked to fill in the missing links and provide sources. Well, I'm asking you to do the same thing. More importantly, I'm asking you to think about the ideas you read here and, hopefully, head to your keyboards to create your own response.

In this piece I am trying to shift the emphasis from the dire state of the hobby' publishing and writing to the joys of publishing and writing about it and for it....Big deal!

The joys of yesterday.
The problems of today.
The hopes of tomorrow.

Introduction

It's like the perennial question, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" For Dip publishers and editors it goes like this, "Which comes first, the writers or the readers?"

Writing

People usually write for one of three reasons: 1) They can make money at it; 2) They enjoy it; or 3) They think they might combine the two. I call those tangible, intangible or fuzzy rewards.

Writing for the Dip hobby press is a bit different. I don't know of anybody in the history of the hobby who actually made money from either publishing or writing about it. In fact, four of the hobby's major publishers/editors have recently let a well-known but rarely discussed secret out of the bag, "They've lost money, in some cases a lot of money, paying for their publishing." And while many writers in the hobby do enjoy it, for others it is more than a matter of love --- it's an obsession, almost an addiction or perhaps both. This is a trait many great writers share and make no mistake, there have been and are some great writers in the hobby.

On writing press for the hobby. Differences between then and now in pubbing, editing, writing, and reading are obvious if you've been around the hobby for any length of time. All you need to do is go look at one of the Diplomacy Archive web sites and the zines from the early days to see how things have changed. The changes in all of those and in the hobby, the game, and the world in which they exist have created a mosaic ---a

combination of radical changes, gradual evolution, and a snail's race against time.

How it works: 3 elements make up the Diplomacy literary sub-hobby: pubbers/ editors, writers and readers. It is the constantly changing way they interact that gives the hobby its vitality and keeps it going.

The importance of support and feedback should be obvious. After all, they are the glues that hold them all together. Still, in a day when people have forgotten how to say "Please and Thank You," it's no big surprise that support and feedback are also lacking. Feedback can come in many forms: 1) a thank you, 2) a question, 3) a suggestion and 4) (the ultimate) a copy, a parody or even some plagiarism...

DW and TDP both need material to publish. Getting it is a perennial problem; and it seems to be a bigger problem the easier it gets to create something to publish. I'm not sure why, although in an age when 140 characters seems to define the limit of many peoples' ability to express themselves it shouldn't be a surprise I suppose. Still, I was very surprised and pleased at the response I got recently from so many in the hobby when I "demanded" (as one person put it) material for TDP. Perhaps sometimes it takes something more than just a "Please" to get a response.

Role Models for Dip Writers

The early influence of sci-fi, fantasy, and then history on the hobby's early press are well known, but if you write enough and live long enough you may find your writing acquires a certain panache of its own and an identity and style that identifies it as uniquely yours. As I recall, Boardman & Walker, Smyth & Koning, etc. etc. had it (as pairs). For most Dip writers the secret to success was to have a partner or a group to partner with, to "hit off of" as they say...

In my case my partner for the last fifty years has not been any particular person in the hobby --- many people filled that role at different times over the years --- but my inspiration was usually the events of the day and times around me. It was from that interaction that the concept of dip&Dip arose; and Peeriblah became the style by which I expressed it.

The greatest writer of Peeriblah ever was
....(drumroll).....Henry Kissinger.

HAK is a Great Role Model for a Wannabe Dip Writer....
(The World Is My Dot!)

Read his first two books and you've read them all. He's

had one original idea since he started writing and he's rewritten, recycled and repackaged it ever since, occasionally adding a few new illustrations, anecdotes, and pix to bring it up to date. It may be an old story but it still sells. The Saturday before Thanksgiving Henry appeared at his local library in Kent, CT for a book signing. At 91 years old and a millionaire many times over he was hardly doing it for the exercise or the money. He was doing it for the needs of his ego, I'm sure; and some 400 of his neighbors turned out to cheer him on.

Unfortunately we aren't all HAK. Or perhaps I should say fortunately we aren't all HAK. But there are other role models Dippers who want to write can follow. For example:

Or <http://www.democratichub.com/fareed-rafiq-zakaria.aspx?o=pv&gclid=CKzCrYHQ88ECFeRzMgodGV0AZg> Farid Zakaria is almost as well-known as Henry because of his books, his lectures, his endless media appearances, etc. etc. He also carries a cross of his own, his proven record for plagiarism, but that doesn't seem to deprive him of an audience

If you're not cut out to be a cutting edge Dip celebrity :-)) there are more intellectual and scholarly approaches which, while they may not make you rich, famous or controversial; can still leave you with a sense of satisfaction and a comfortable hobby life. For example: https://sinocism.com/?page_id=2349 (China) Bill Bishop has been a writer and blogger based in Beijing for years and his blog, sinocism, is a must read for anyone who is interested in today's China. When I started reading it years ago he had less than 500 readers. Today they number in the thousands. I'd be curious to know if he has more readers in Washington or Beijing. The fact that he has a pretty wife who runs a cupcake bakery in Beijing probably doesn't hurt his business either.

<http://thediplomat.com/authors/james-r-holmes/> (Military at Sea; after all 2/3 of the world's surface is water, right?). James R. Holmes is another writer who has found a niche and made a name for himself as a regular online writer, speaker, teacher, etc. He focuses on naval matters, particularly in the Pacific and especially those involving the US Navy and the PLAA Navy. He may not be well known but those who matter know him well and read what he writes.

All four of these men: Kissinger, Zakaria, Bishop and Holmes would make a good role model for any Dipper who wants to write.

What I have noticed of late may help explain the sad state of US military affairs, especially overseas: 1) Our civilian military leaders at the highest level are, to be blunt, barely competent. 2) Our military leaders at the highest rank are, to be equally blunt, also barely competent. In both cases I'm not sure if that's because of lackings in the leaders' personalities or lackings in

their training. 3) The best and brightest seem, to me, to be in the lower leadership levels and here I'm not only talking about civilian and military leaders but also those in the industrial and educational fields. I don't know if it's because they lack the baggage their superiors have or it's because they still dare to think outside the box that entraps so many leaders who are just thinking about how far they can get to reach the highest pension level they can before they go double-dipping. What does this have to do with writing for the Diplomacy hobby, you ask? My answer is simple: nothing and everything.

The military establishment and anti-establishment need people to write and speak out on what's wrong in the military; and so does the Diplomacy hobby.

Unfortunately, we have always had more people who were willing to complain and criticize than we had people who could turn that criticism into something positive and suggest a way to better things. We need to change that. I believe the hobby is on the brink of its Fourth Golden Age and it is up to us, well, to you actually, to make it a reality. By writing for pubs like DW and TDP you can do that. By your posts on the various Facebook Dip sites you can reach out to other Dippers everywhere and share your ideas. And finally, by participating in FTF Diplomacy events, whether through MeetUp, DipCons, or World DipCons you can further the discussion face to face. All of these are invaluable components to a dialogue that, I hope, will embrace the universal Diplomacy hobby. Ask yourself, when was the last time you had a discussion about the hobby (Other than, how can I get your dots as painlessly as possible for you....) with someone outside the hobby. One of the things that I've noticed in the worldwide hobby lately is a lack of real discussion about the state of the hobby. Only in Silver Spring last year did I see some of that, largely thanks to the efforts of Chris Martin. In Paris and in Seattle such discussion were usually outside the formal meetings --- in fact--- most of the ones I took part in came after the event was over when we were sitting in the WAC bar shooting the shit. This discussion needs to move into the hobby mainstream, how, and the logical place for it is in DW and TDP and the Facebook Dip websites. Let's see if it happens?

Writing for the Diplomacy Hobby Press

Mr. Heg, if you read this, I'm calling you out! Now!! Time's a wasting. If you start now and work hard you might be able to beat my 50 years of ... (whatever comes to your mind).

One of the things I've most been impressed by in the last couple of years is how many knowledgeable, talented and gifted people there are out there in the hobby. Unfortunately many of them seem to be shy, or perhaps hiding their brightness under a cover for fear of alerting their potential foes and we don't hear or read enough by or about them. That needs to change. And I'm calling you out!

People come to the Diplomacy hobby to play the game, online they come back because of the press, etc., and whether it's FTF, MeetUp, DipCon, or WDC; or PBEM or Judge Dip ---they remain because of the camaraderie.

What we have today did not come about by accident or an act of God. It came about after years of careful thought and work by Allan B. Calhamer and all those generations of hobbyists (17 and counting as I figure) who have come since the beginning of the hobby in 1961. Let's remember...

The early years of Writing for the hobby

The early influence of sci-fi, fantasy, and then history.... It was this "extra" that gave the postal hobby it's staying power.

40 PBM Dip games started in 1966, the year the hobby really took off.

The early influence of sci-fi, fantasy, and then history can be seen in the very titles of the first Diplomacy fan zines; and in the names of some of the contributors to those publications --- they were sci-fi fans.

In the early days a Dip zine had: game results, press, ads for game openings, new zine news, and an occasional ...but slowly Dip zines became a form of literary genre where the extraneous material became at least as important as the "other" stuff. It remains that way today. Well, unless you're playing in a game, of course.

1966AA

Graustark #100 (on line), 34 pp, 25 cents, published every two weeks or so used a manual typewriter, stencils and printed on foolscap. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Boardman
<http://www.whiningkentspigs.com/DW/index.HTM> (check G page for Graustark or E page for Erehwon for two legendary examples.

And Rod Walker's 25th anniversary article reference to AA describes how it was in the beginning.

My first postal game was "1966AA". Every postal game is given a standard alpha-numeric designation called a "Boardman Number" ---so that game was the 27th game begun in 1966. There is a person who assigns these things, and also prints the complete game report (players and annual supply center holdings) for each game after it ends. I've done that too; I was Boardman Number Custodian for a few years (1969-1972). By the way, those of you who have bought the Gamer's Guide may wish to note that the "sample game" in that publication is in fact the same first game I was in, 1966AA. Which country was I? Austria. Nobody else in that game is still active in fandom except for the GM,

John Boardman. This game was also a classic for its press, probably the best and most extensive ever written for a game of DIPLOMACY. I am adapting some of that material for a fantasy novel, In the Service of Her Holiness the Pope, I am working on.

People in the hobby but not even playing in the game wrote press for it.

My first game was 1966OO in Conrad Von Metzke's equally legendary Costaguana with Walker E, Turner F, Naus I, and I as replacement for T, I think.

1966AA in John Boardman's Graustark with Dygert as E, Smythe F, Walker A featured the introduction of Lucrezia Borgia as Pope Joan and enough press to fill a large novel.

1966AC in Conrad Von Metzke's Costaguana was my first game from start with Bailey F, me Austria, Rod R, Derek Nelson from Canada as G.

1966AE, again in CvM Costa, Lou Curtiss as I (one of the founders of COMIC CON)

1966AO, Rod Walker's Erehwon, Edi E (in his first postal game I believe), me F, , Bailey A

Writing for The Dip Press: Some Practical Tips

- 1) Pick a subject you're interested in in the hobby. Write about that.
- 2) Pick a subject not necessarily directly related to the hobby or game but which you can connect in some way to the hobby. Write about that.
- 3) Look for a subject that has no obvious relationship to either the game or hobby and ...
- 4) Look at past issues of DW, TDP, or in The Archives (whiningpigs.com) for ideas on subjects, styles, length, etc. Also look at other hobby and game related web sites such as Facebook, MeetUp, Yahoo, etc. There are dozens of web sites related to Diplomacy. If you're a newbie look at some of the hobby history and bio sites on Wikipedia. Do a Google search on almost anything Dip related. Look up demo game reports and read the commentaries for ideas. Check out the many DipCon and WDC event reports all over the internet. If none of these give you any ideas, you better take up a different hobby --- perhaps taxidermy?
- 5) Contact a publisher, editor or staff member and tell him you're interested in writing for the pub or site, share your idea, and ask for advice. Any publisher or editor will welcome you with open arms and lots of advice.
- 6) Start with something simple and short: a good page or two or three is a lot better than 20 pages of Peeriblah,

trust me. I know. As you gain more experience you'll find yourself thinking about bigger or more difficult projects. Here again seek some advice. Many pubbers and editors will suggest you consider writing a series of articles on a subject instead of one big humongous article. Remember, today's Dipper has a far shorter attention span than they did 50 years ago.

7) Remember, if you write about Dip and something else you love, your love will connect with the reader and your piece will create a bond that will endure ... I know. It worked for me fifty years ago and it still works today. Remember, finding your nitch in the hobby press doesn't have to be a bitch!

70% of earth's surface is water, 25% is land, and apparently 5% isn't quite dry or quite wet enough to be either. Go figure. That's a good way to look at the hobby's verbiage: water, land, and mud.

Taking it to the Next Level

Player, GM, Organizer, Event Host, Tournament Director, Custodian, Record Keeper, Pubber, Editor, Writer,(think of them all)....Dreamer.

Cartoonist, Poet, Variant Designer,

There is no greater calling in Dip than that of player, but writer comes a close second.

Most new Dippers came to the game and hobby one of two ways: either someone introduced them to the game by playing it with them, or they read something about it somewhere. We now have MeetUp to stimulate growth in the first of these and, with some luck, we'll some have a new peerisance in the written word to stimulate the second. Either way, it's a win-win for the hobby.

Conclusion

And that's it. A piece of pure Peeriblah. Written in the "stream of consciousness style" that well...became known as Peeribla

The CAT23 Academy's Laws of Diplomacy

By Thaddeus Black and Friends

Play to win. Go big or go home. Who wants another piece of another dumb draw, anyway? [Goloth's First Law]

Play to learn. Play to improve. Play so that -- win or lose -- you are always better than you were the last time your opponents encountered you. [Iverson's Corollary]

Post armies and fleets in strong stations -- or, in other words, an army in Munich is worth three armies in Denmark, so leave Denmark to the fleets. [Goloth's Second Law]

Every normal man must be tempted at times to spit on his hands, hoist the black flag, and begin slitting throats. [Mencken's Conjecture]

Never forget that opponents and allies do things for their own reasons, not yours. [Goloth's Third Law]

Play the situation on the map as it is, not as it should be. It will never, ever be as it should be. [Goloth's Fourth Law]

Goloth is, quite obviously, a dangerous right-wing loon. But don't let that stop you listening to what he has to say because he is still making some salient points. [Harrap's Zeroth Law]

The enemy of the enemy of my enemy is my enemy. [Harrap's First Law]

The act of trusting someone, despite clear indications that you shouldn't, does not impress them enough that they suddenly become trustworthy. In reality, they see you as a sucker. [Harrap's Second Law]

Revenge is for suckers. [McZet's Rule of Thumb]

Double-check your orders. If you bungle them you will look unimaginably stupid. [McZet's First Law of Stabbing]

Don't apologize; don't rationalize. It is indistinguishable from gloating. [McZet's Second Law of Stabbing]

Don't stop killing them till you're sure they're dead. [McZet's Third Law of Stabbing]

Many a Diplomacy game has been won or lost, not by the actions of the winning party, but because a third power got ticked off enough to let the leader win. Usually this was not the result of any stellar diplomacy by the leader, but rather by miserly treatment afforded the little third. Never underestimate the effect that greed has on the outcome of Diplomacy games. [McZet's Miser]

Never listen to your opponents' words when you can view your opponents' deeds. [Ecton's First Law]

Diplomacy requires the strength to bear having personal enemies. [The Law of Ecton's Boasting]

It ain't braggin' if you can back it up. [Ecton's Boast]

If we see that Germany is winning the war we ought to help Russia, and if Russia is winning the war we ought to help Germany, and in that way let them kill as many as possible. [Truman's Law]

He lied, I knew he lied and he knew I lied. That was diplomacy. [Kimball's Truth]

He who walks in the middle of the road gets hit from both sides. [Schultz' Law]

You can get a lot more done with a kind word and a gun, than with a word alone. [Capone's Law]

War is not an independent phenomenon, but the continuation of politics by different means. [Von Clausewitz' First Law]

In such things as war, the errors which proceed from a spirit of benevolence are the worst. Many assume that half efforts can be effective. A small jump is easier than a large one, but no one wishing to cross a ditch would jump across half of it first. [Von Clausewitz' Second Law]

Always leave a path of escape for the enemy, as a temptation for him to get out of the fight and to flee for safety. If he sees no way out, he will fight to the death. And the point is to defeat him, not necessarily to kill him, isn't it? [Wei Chan Hung's Law]

Sometimes the best way to bury the hatchet between friends is to get together and bury it into someone else. [Huber's Hatchet Law]

Dying is what you do, when you stop fighting. You can't plan to die gracefully, if you don't plan on dying. Never die gracefully, but rather fight gracefully (except when it is better to fight dirty). [Brahm's Protest]

Never argue with idiots. It brings you down to their level, then they beat you with experience. [Ecton's Wise Law]

Never willingly engage in a fair fight when you have the ability to make it unfair. If you get on the wrong end of an unfair fight, you are up against someone with superior diplomatic skills, or who puts in more effort, and hopefully not both. [Lauren's Rules of Engagement]

The first object of Diplomacy is never willingly to engage in a fair fight. Never willingly engage in an unfair fight either, unless it is unfair for the other guy. If the fight is unfair for you, your diplomacy is no good. [Lauren's Old Rules of Engagement]

If you're going to lie, lie big -- and never get caught lying by a power who has more than one unit. [Alexander's

Rule]

If you trust an ally enough to let two supply centers open for him, then you are trusting an enemy. [Hemgi's First Law of Stabbing]

When an ally with more supply centers than you have is proposing to you a two-way draw, he is in fact proposing to stab you at a near future time. When an ally with fewer supply centers than you have is proposing to you a two-way draw, he is in fact buying some time to get more supply centers than you have: at this point, the former principle will apply. [Hemgi's Second Law of Stabbing]

Superior tactics can indeed defeat superior numbers, even in Diplomacy. [Highfield's First Law]

Only a fool dislodges a unit and allows a retreat if he has the capability of forcing an enemy's annihilation. [Highfield's Second Law]

Why hold when you can support? [Highfield's Third Law]

Position in Spring, centers in Fall, unless the position you need just happens to be a supply center. [Highfield's Positional Principle]

Variety is the spice of life. Play the same country in the same fashion with the same moves enough times, and you'll continue to lose games. [Highfield's Stochastic Strategy Theorem]

Someone who agrees with you 80% of the time is not some 20% traitor; he's your friend and ally. [Reagan's Rule]

Check and re-check your orders. The last thing you need to do is build where you already have a unit or attempt to move a unit to a province it can't get to. [Rudis' First Law]

Always remember that another player may, as part of some twisted, maniacal plot, choose to misorder anyway. [Rudis' Second Law]

If you've thought of something, then chances are that someone else has thought of it as well. [Rudis' Third Law]

Just because someone else has thought of the same thing you have doesn't mean that you shouldn't go ahead and try it anyway. [Rudis' Fourth Law]

The best attack is one where they think that you didn't do it on purpose. [Cohen's Law]

Don't fear to stab. Your allies expect you to stab them, sooner or later (if they don't, then why are they playing

Diplomacy, of all games?). You want to stab them before they stab you. This is fair; they want to stab you before you stab them, after all. [Goloth's Golden Rule]

Be reluctant to stab a small ally in Diplomacy, when the small ally can punish you by throwing eighteen to someone else. Better that the small ally stab you first. [Goloth's Law of Discretion]

When you find a stalemate line, use it as a lever to force the guy on the other side to concede something to you. Why not? You could use it as a beam to bar the door and force the draw, but for what? This is the Academy. [Goloth's Lever Principle]

There are lies, evil lies and Army Venice - Trieste. [Twain's Disraeli Maxim]

Supporting a unit that cannot be dislodged proves to your enemies that you have an insufficient grasp of the tactical situation. [White's Rule of Support]

Write everyone. All the time. Every turn. [Cavebabe's First Law of Communication]

Get the last word. [Cavebabe's Second Law of Communication]

Make sure the last words are, "I win." [Cavebabe's Other Law of Communication]

Success in Diplomacy is inversely proportional to the number of public posts. [The Law of Inverse Posting]

The mark of a great diplomat is the ability to negotiate successfully with people who hate you. [Monster's Law]

Don't forget to look at the map. [Geyer's Truth]

Everything Counts [Faust's First Law]

Never React [Faust's Second Law]

Never Respond [Crow's Reaction]

The object of Diplomacy is to win. The purpose is to play the game. The odds of an exciting, artistic game are enhanced when all players accept both views. [Edwin's Law]

The object of Diplomacy is to win, but the purpose is to create a Diplomacy game. It takes all seven players to

accomplish the latter. [Edwin's Corollary]

If you are being ganged up on, go down fighting, but do die gracefully. The best players in the world couldn't help Austria if Russia, Turkey and Italy all wanted a piece of the empire. [Cousins' First Law]

We're dedicated to keeping the game going without NMRs even when it's Spring 1916 and we're down to a two-center power with a fleet out in the Barents Sea and an army in Gascony 'fer crying out loud and facing down two different 14 SC superpowers and there's no way that we're going to win but still, look, the game must go on. [Deeny's Creed]

In the immortal words of some evil guy, keep your friends close, but your enemies closer. It works better in Diplomacy when stated, Keep your friends close, but between you and your enemies. [Cousins' Evil Law]

If you are in a position where you have a back door, be very good friends with your neighbour. If you decide later to anger that neighbour, be sure that the neighbour you really angered at your front door has died first. [Cousins' Angry Law]

Big clubs can be effective, but only if used wisely. Your other neighbours may have smaller sticks, but if they don't like the way you use your club, you'll be eating wood very shortly. [The Canuck's Principle of Big Clubs]

Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival. [Churchill's Law]

It's only a game. Have fun and keep a sense of humour. [Cousins' Last Theorem]

**During the 1980s and early 1990s, gamesmasters were organizing Diplomacy matches online in CompuServe's "Category 23," adjudicating each match by hand. By the late 1990s, "Cat23" had migrated from CompuServe to the open Internet, where Cat23 grew yet more popular, especially among players who preferred manual refereeing to automated treatment. New, Internet-era Cat23 players that had proved themselves clubbable, or at any rate reliable, joined Cat23's original, CompuServe-era core group to form the Cat23 Academy, whose various Diplomatical epigrams the writer collected about 1997. The article lists the epigrams.*

The Golden Age of Diplomacy?

By Tim Haffey

Oh Larry, Larry, Larry. What have you done? You have reminded me of the "Golden Age of Diplomacy". The 70's and the 80's. In the 60's I remember that the zines simply covered a single game. Like 1964A. Remember those? But, the flood of postal zines that came out in the 70's and 80's was amazing to say the least. Many of them had many games going at one time.

One of the things I found interesting were the debates (Feuds) about different matters, some important (to Dip players) and some just silly but, intense. They even wrote fake zines and sent them out to everyone in that zine getting everyone confused and upset.



There was even a fake tournament put out by none other than Black Jack Masters. Remember that one. It sounded so good and I have to admit I sent in my two bucks. It was a fake Diplomacy World issue with the Dip Con Tournament advertised on the cover. The tournament was suppose to be held in a hotel in Las Vegas, the name of which I can't remember. It didn't exist anyway. Every player who signed up would have his own room and would negotiate by telephone or in person. Each player had one hour to send moves to the GM by telephone or deliver in person and then the GM would adjudicated the moves and write them up and at a certain time the players could come to the MGM's room and pick up a copy of the results and take them back to their own rooms and plot out the moves on their own

boards.

Certain players and publishers would feud over things like house rules, NMRs, how to show support with fleets, selection of nations, and the list goes on. Some of these "debates" really got quite ugly with people refusing to speak to each other ever again. Kind of sad really. But, they were fun to watch and follow.

What's that? What's to debate about on these things, Not much now, but then the conventions had not yet been made and/or accepted yet. Take NMRed. How do you handle a NMRed? Well, now days most GMs will have a standby players list that they can, hopefully, find someone to fill in when someone drops out or NMRs two times in a row. But the "rules lawyers" would say the rules clearly say that when a player does not send in moves (NMRed) the nation goes into Civil Disorder (CD) and all units stand or hold. Others would also say that the GM should have the units support each other as much as possible. But, others did not like that either because it made the DM a player in his own game. Eventually, most GMs adopted the standby list approach in spite of the rules.

House rules? Oh goodness. Talk about disagreements. Some GMs simply said he had two rules. Rule 1 – The GM's decision is FINAL. When in doubt, refer to rule 1. Other GMs would have house rules 10 pages long covering everything that could possibly go wrong and many times the players didn't like them. Ron (or Bob, can't remember) Brown who published Murdering Ministers had a house rule that said when a draw was proposed a non vote would count as a Yes vote even though the rules said otherwise. He was the only GM that I know of that had that rule. I guess the intent was to make sure you voted.

Assignment of Nations? Yeah, it was a dispute between using random assignments by drawing from a box or something. You got what you drew. But, some GMs preferred to use preference lists where you submit the country you want to play in the order of preference. Ties would be decided by a dice throw or something.

Oh yes, that was the "Golden Age of Diplomacy".



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Allan Calhamer: A Retrospective

By Edi Birsan and Larry Peery

It is good to see Allan finally get the recognition he so richly deserves for his creation Diplomacy. In the past few weeks scores of tributes to Allan have appeared all over North America and even beyond. A Google search reveals a long and growing list of Calhamer obits, remarkable not only for its length but also the diversity of sources. Many of those were republications from the Associated Press's stock obituary file. Others were based on the excellent "All in the Game" story Edward McClelland wrote some years ago for The Chicago Magazine. Closer to Allan's home tributes appeared from both the great (The Chicago Tribune, 4 March 2013, by Joan Giangrassie Kates) and the small (The LaGrangePatch (by Darren McRoy). Among others worth a look are: "Allan Calhamer Dies at 81; Invented Diplomacy Game" by Margalit Fox, New York Times, 6 March 2013; "Diplomacy: The Map That Ruined a Thousand Friendships," by Henry Grabar, The Atlantic Cities, 7 March 2013; Even POLITICO, the Washington Insiders' news and gossip source picked up the AP story, as did The Huffington Post. Word of Allan's passing spread quickly in the internet community as well. The first word overseas came from The Telegraph in the UK (16 March 2013). Truly, Allan may be gone but he's not been forgotten.

Edi and I knew Allan for nearly a hundred years between the two of us, and we thought we'd share some of our memories of the man we both called mentor and friend, Edi focusing on Allan skills (or lack thereof) as a game designer and player; and I focusing on the man many in the hobby never got to know.

There were two questions we wanted to answer in writing this. First, how could a man who was so extraordinarily ordinary in so many ways create this one artistic masterpiece? Second, how could a man who was so quiet stir up such a frenzy among his fans?

Edi notes that he probably played with him more times than most. I, on the other hand, can't recall ever actually playing Diplomacy with Allan. Edi got to know Allan across the Dip board. I got to know him in spite of it.

Edi writes: he was always very soft spoken and low keyed and never spoke ill of anyone regardless of the insanity on the game board or around him. Larry comments: It's true. He was so soft spoken it was sometimes hard to hear him even if you were sitting next to him. You really had to listen to hear what he had to say, difficult at times but always worthwhile. Nor can I recall ever hearing him say anything bad about anyone, although he wasn't above sticking a pin in an over-stuffed balloon once in a while. I can only recall one time when I actually saw Allan agitated. More on that later.

Edi: He saw the game in more of a social context with the expectations that most games would be called on time and the "what if" situations discussed. He believed in the concept that as long as you were alive you could come back and "win" and that all participants were equal. With the development of the postal hobby and the advance of a multi-game scoring concept demand, he admitted that he tried one system sort of as a challenge with the idea of what to do with a tournament and time limited games that were forced to "unnatural" endings. The resultant system he designed (his only attempt at it) was so complicated and unsatisfactory to himself that he just left it and never went back to try to make a "perfect" scoring system.

Edi: When he worked on the game there was a lot of work done on the design of the map more than any other aspect of the game. That the map has remained unchanged in 54 years (Larry notes: That original map has inspired hundreds, if not thousands, of variants over the years covering just about every historical period and geographical locale.) and no one has come up with a better alteration is a testament to his process and focus. The fundamental rules have been only changed in the most minor of points with the exception of the alternate convoy rule and the shutting down of the unintended abuse of the convoy rules called the Unwanted Convoy.

Edi: We had many discussions on the finer wording of the rules and several aspects we worked on for the last major rewrite of the rules together: the 1999 Hasbro set with the metal pieces. By the way, the original set in 1959 was supposed to have metal pieces as well with battleships like the Monopoly piece and cannons for the armies. The cannons were to be two wheeled versions of the French 75 but the company that was to make them went out of business and he had to scramble for a substitute and came up with the wood block pieces.

Larry: Allan produced the first 500 copies of Diplomacy himself and sold them primarily through an ad in The Atlantic magazine for all of \$7.00. Allan quickly realized he wasn't cut out to be a businessman and John R. Moot, who passed away in 2009, took over publishing Diplomacy with his GRI Company in Boston. But it was when Diplomacy became part of The Avalon Hill Company's family of games that Diplomacy really took off. Here again Allan found a fan in Rex Martin who promoted the game early on. Early buyers were enthusiastic but soon ran into the challenge of finding six other players with the time and space to play a game. John Boardman's GRAUSTARK published the first postal Diplomacy game in 1964 and the postal hobby was under way. Within a few years those early face to

face and postal players were beginning to inter-mingle and the first Diplomacy Conventions were under way. Edi's written a history of the early DipCons and it is available on line. Rod Walker and I hosted DipCon IV in San Diego in 1971 which attracted local players and a smattering of out-of-towners for an informal, multi-round exclusively Dip event. The most important result of that event was the decision to host a follow-up event in Chicago the next year. DipCon V was the first event that modern Dippers would recognize, complete with multi-rounds, a scoring system, a host gaming event, an awards dinner, etc. It also marked Allan's first appearance at a DipCon and that proved a major draw as Dip fans from all over North America flocked to meet the man who invented Diplomacy. It was in Chicago that I first met Allan face to face, marking the beginning of our collaboration and friendship. Allan's early participation in and support for DipCon was to make a major contribution to the development and growth of the hobby in later years. Allan gave a talk at the awards dinner, and yes he was a terrible public speaker, primarily because he was so shy. He also brought his lovely wife, Hilda, and young daughter, Selenne; which suggested Dip could be a family affair and not just a pastime for nerdy college kids. But Allan's most important contribution at that early event was one he followed in later years of making himself available to fans whether in playing a friendly game or in one-on-one discussions; and if you were 'zine publisher running postal games, designing a variant Dip game, or thinking of hosting a DipCon of your own he was always ready with a bit of advice and encouragement. Allan may have been shy and quiet but he didn't miss much that was going on. I remember one night during the Con Jamie and I snuck out to see Peggy Lee at the Palmer House. The next morning, Allan wanted to know why I had missed the previous night's round. I learned early on that the way to read Allan was to watch his eyes. A twinkle meant all was going well. A narrowing of the eyes meant a stab was coming. The impression I carried away from that first encounter was how ordinary Allan was in spite of his creation and his way above average intelligence. I think it was this as much as anything that attracted players to the game and hobbyists to him. Players soon realized that they could play The Man Who Invented Diplomacy and beat him at his own game. Hobbyists learned that his way of gentle suasion could do things that the game's bombast couldn't.

Edi: On the rules the major difference we had was on the Alternate Convoy Routes which we argued on since they were introduced. However, we finally agreed on the elimination of the Unwanted Convoy and my wording on it was included in the 1999 rules. Oddly enough we had come to an agreement on changing the Disband/Civil Disorder rules so that units in a supply center would not be removed and you then removed units furthest (direct move regardless of Coast or connections) from an OWNED supply center then fleets before armies and

then alphabetical. However, the "tech writer" who was doing the final draft of the graphics and word blocking for Hasbro did not get what we had sent him and it missed the publication. We also had discussed the change in the less than 7 player set up and the possibility to include some same board variant rules but we were unable to come to a definitive solution, meaning he was not overwhelmed, so his caution took hold and it was left as it was from the beginning.

Larry: After a series of ups and downs that would have done The Bickersons (Look it up on Goggle) proud, the Diplomacy hobby was poised to begin a new Golden Age that would recognize the fact that the game and hobby were now a worldwide phenomenon. Richard Walkerdine, who passed away recently, conceived of the idea of having a "worldwide" DipCon event in Birmingham, England. Some four hundred gamers showed up, including Dip fans from as far away as the States and Australia. Richard brought Allan and Hilda to Birmingham for the event and for most of those attending it was their first face to face encounter with The Man Who Invented Diplomacy. A large crowd gathered, expecting to hear Allan talk about the creation of Diplomacy and perhaps some "secrets" on how to win from The Master. Instead, as only those who were there can attest Allan talked and talked and talked about the US Civil War! Eventually the large crowd dwindled to a handful including Richard, Hilda, and myself sitting in the back of the room listening. Hilda was patiently listening and smiling; while I was gleefully watching Richard squirm in his seat as he got more and more desperate for a smoke and a trip to the site's pub for a quick beer. As always Allan was glad to play an occasional round, chat with Dip fans one on one, and pose for pictures. To me more interesting than the actual gaming were the discussions and negotiations going on over the future of the event. It's interesting to note that Richard did not call his event World DipCon I, but just World DipCon. He originally had no idea that the event would become an institution. After a good meal and a few rounds in the site pub a handful of us agreed that the event should continue and that in two years it would be held in the USA (in Chapel Hill, NC in conjunction with DIXIECON), in four years in Australia (in Canberra), and that, if all went well, in six years we would return to Birmingham to consider our next move. Interestingly, Allan did not participate in that meeting, leaving it to the hobbyists to thrash out their future. The rest, as they say, is history, and this year's WDC in Paris will be number XXV. By now I had learned that Allan had interests other than Diplomacy and when we had a chance to talk one on one we usually found a subject other than Dip to talk about. I remember one morning at that first World DipCon Allan was particularly agitated, perhaps the only time I've ever seen him in that state. The reason was because there was no source in Birmingham to obtain the results of American baseball games and his beloved Chicago White Sox were playing a double-header that

day; and he had no way to follow the games or find the scores. I suggested he try the BBC or International Herald Tribune, or perhaps call the US embassy to see if they knew what was going on in Chicago. Remember, in those days the internet was in its infancy. When I ran into him later he said he'd gotten the results from the IHT, but I don't recall what they were.

Edi: He originally had no real concept of a forced stalemate line in the game and looked more to the concept of a strategic or diplomatic stalemate or exhaustion. He also was very concerned over the Austrian-Italian area of the board and the introduction of the concept of the Lepanto Opening with the idea of Italy and Austria working together to go east against the Turkey was a major plus. Not just the move combination opening play but the fundamental concept of Austro-Italian cooperation actively against Turkey rather than the choice of Italy going West or attacking Austria in the east.

Edi: He was a mediocre player (as most game designers are of the games they design). He was an unrepentant dot grabber. I remember him saying in one case where he slipped into an open Trieste from Italy, "He did not seem to be using that center and I could use a build." He almost never approached another player to discuss things and waited for them to approach him. When he did approach someone, it meant that his alliance pattern was changing and you knew to take precaution or just take him out. He was not a dynamic hit hard, hit first sort of player. He preferred to take the neutral centers and then see what the board looked like in 1902, probe a little here or there and see if he could join in on something. On the other hand he was hard to pin down on what he was going to do specifically mainly because he usually decided at the last minute when it came to order writing on any tactical thing.

Larry: While DipCon V and World DipCon I were the highlights of my face to face contacts with Allan there were other times we met. I think it was in Columbus or Hunt Valley that he, Rex Martin, and I were chatting on the patio one evening. I never saw Allan drink or smoke, but Rex enjoyed his whisky and cigar, while I had my usual Chivas Regal and Diet Pepsi chaser (, Well, I was young in those days. What can I say?). We talked about Avalon Hill's hopes for their new "computerized" Diplomacy game (which turned out to be a dud), why Avalon Hill was putting out three piece game boards (to fit in the boxes they got from their parent company), and

gossiped about the hobby. By the time we were finished Diplomacy was going to make Avalon Hill the Parker Brothers of the gaming world (it never happened), Allan was the most creative game designer ever (take that Gary Gygax), and Diplomacy would make us all rich and famous (well, one out of three of us made it). Contrary to what most Dippers think, Diplomacy was not Allan's favorite game. That was baseball. He loved it. He mentioned that he had designed a game called National Pastime, which he hoped would be even more successful than Dip. He'd done the same thing with it he'd done with Dip, producing the first few proto-types himself, and he was selling them to see if there was any interest in his new game. It didn't sound like sales were doing too good so I offered to buy a few copies. I gave him a check for a \$100 and he said he'd send me some when he got home. Sure enough a few weeks later a big box arrived and when I opened it I found ten copies of National Pastime enclosed. I remember playing it once with Ed Runge and his son Paul (both major league baseball umpires) and they both politely said it had potential before heading off to find the margharita pitcher. Other copies were given away as prizes at various PeeriCons or sold to hobby game collectors. I think I still have a couple of copies out in the garage. I wonder what they're worth now? Although I can't remember playing Dip with Allan I do remember we once played chess, which was another of his loves. He was a wicked player, especially with his knights, and he played fast. Allan also introduced me to Go, the Chinese classic game which some people compare to chess, although Chinese chess is nothing like Go. I had forgotten this until a couple of years ago when I was reading Henry Kissinger's book "On China," which had numerous references to Go in it. I found it intriguing that Calhamer and Kissinger shared an interest in that game. I never knew when talking to Allan where our conversations would go. I mentioned to him that on a recent trip to Copenhagen I had seen the Royal Danish Ballet perform a work that combined the music of Mendelssohn's Midsummer Night's Dream and Ligeti's music from 2001 with the dancers appropriately costumed. That led into a long discussion of ballet of all things. Still, from Diplomacy to ballet isn't such a reach. After all, both are about movement.

Larry: Hopefully these insights will give you some idea of what this extraordinarily ordinary man was like, both as a Dipper and a human being. For some of my thoughts on Allan and the hobby see my "The Gospel According to Calhamer" in the current issue of The Diplomatic Pouch.

Diplomacy – A Hump to Get Over

By Joshua Danker-Dake

“But, don’t you know, there are some things that can beat smartness and foresight? Awkwardness and stupidity can. The best swordsman in the world doesn’t need to fear the second best swordsman in the world; no, the person for him to be afraid of is some ignorant antagonist who has never had a sword in his hand before; he doesn’t do the thing he ought to do, and so the expert isn’t prepared for him; he does the thing he ought not to do; and often it catches the expert out and ends him on the spot.”

—Mark Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* (Ch. 34)

Do you lose at Diplomacy all the time? Do you get eliminated with astonishing regularity? Do your plans for world domination have a tendency to fizzle out around six supply centers? Do you prey on the sorts of players who answered “yes” to any of the previous questions? Let’s talk about it.

When I play internet Diplomacy with strangers, I have a tendency to overestimate my opponents. In my obsessive efforts to not underestimate anyone, I tend to assume that my neighbors are all crafty veterans. That is, I assume that there is a good reason—that there is *purpose*—behind everything they do. In doing so, I frequently mistake incompetence for guile.

To qualify: by no means am I suggesting that I’m Diplomacy’s “best swordsman in the world”—far from it (and I definitely took my lumps as an “ignorant antagonist” when I was getting started in the hobby)—but I’ve certainly had my foresight smashed to pieces by awkwardness and stupidity.

The illusion of cunning can be strong in 1901, but it rarely lasts beyond (or until) 1902—although that’s still plenty of time to get your plans dashed to pieces. For example, an English opening of YOR-EDI, EDI-NTH, LON-ENG combined with a French of opening of MAR-SPA, MAO-POR, PAR-BUR may appear to be the start of an anti-German alliance (and Germany will rightly run straight down that field in his mind), but when France immediately moves back to cover Brest, it tells you a great many things about that F–E relationship (and a crafty Germany will move in immediately to drive a diplomatic wedge between them).

Let me say this up front: The hobby is better off when veteran players help new players. There is, however, a time and a place for it—or perhaps it would be better to say that there is a time and a place *not* for it—consider, for example, an unranked online game versus a ranked one. And, truth be told, some players aren’t interested in help—but that’s their problem, not yours.

Let’s focus on new players who jump right into the deep end of the pool even if they don’t completely know what they’re doing—playing a ranked game, say. Do they belong there? Sure—how else are they supposed to improve, to learn anything? And what better way is there to help them learn Diplomacy than to mercilessly destroy them?

In the [Grantland article from last year](#), Edi Birsan was quoted as saying that Diplomacy is fundamentally about trust (and others, of course, have made the same point over the years). This is absolutely true.

The fact is, there’s a hump that new players have to work to get over—the hump of competence. This is a different sort of trust: there is a level of competence required for other players to trust you not to cause unnecessary problems. Put another way, there’s a certain range of predictability that new players have to learn to play within (or, if you prefer, there’s a certain range of unpredictability that other players will tolerate before they’ve had enough of your shenanigans).



In Diplomacy, as in life, trust is built and earned as well as given. Nobody wants to ally with a player who lies all the time without cause, and nobody’s looking for a mutually beneficial long-term alliance with a Germany who holds in Munich and Berlin in Spring 1901 because he doesn’t fully understand how the game works (other players might approach such a Germany in a predatory way, looking for a short-term relationship they can take advantage of, but the stink of incompetence will ward off more sincere suitors).

Obviously, new players often find themselves at a tactical disadvantage because of their inexperience. But if they also demonstrate that they can’t be trusted to be a

competent ally, that's an additional and distinct disadvantage.

There's nothing more ulcer-inducing than an unreliable ally. If you're playing with someone like that, what do you do? If you're me, you take them out (if possible). In ranked games, I tend to flagrantly kill (or, if that's prohibitively inconvenient, not ally with) players who either do dumb stuff or who clearly don't know the rules, for the simple reason that I can't trust them to do the competent thing. In a recent game, for example, I did better after my neighbor and I turned on each other than when we were allies (when the players are all asking each other, "Wow, what on earth is Italy doing?" it's probably time to make a move).

This is Diplomacy—if you rely too heavily on yourself, you're probably not going to win. However, if you rely on those who are fundamentally unreliable, there's a good chance you're going to lose *plus* look like a dumbass.

What, then? Obviously, I'm preaching to the choir in that if you're reading *Diplomacy World*, odds are that you're not averse to improving your game. However, there are other players out there, players who don't know that there are resources available, that *Diplomacy World* is where the cool kids hang out.

It should be noted that being a good ally and being a tactical mastermind are separate qualities. That is, there is tactical competence and there is diplomatic competence, and they don't necessarily go hand in hand. We've all seen players who are good allies but who aren't tactically proficient—naïve new players often fall into this category—they often end up on the wrong end of a stab. That's a lot of new players' first experience with the steepness of Diplomacy's learning curve.

On the other hand, if you're sound tactically but not strong diplomatically, the inability to forge enduring alliances may make it hard to make it past the mid-game on at least a semi-regular basis. That feeling is not unlike that of being the kid who always gets picked last for kickball ("I'm a cool guy—why doesn't anybody want to be my ally? Sniff.").

Both skills are necessary for reliably strong Diplomacy play. Everybody goes through Diplomacy growing pains, but you don't want them to linger, right?

Diplomacy's learning curve can be steepest in terms of tactics. I don't preach *READ ALL THE ARTICLES!* (I'm rather in favor of it, but I recognize that it's not for everybody), but there are lots of resources out there covering various depths of the Diplomacy pool, and it's certainly not difficult to read as much as is sufficient to give yourself a fundamental understanding of the game or a basic overview of the tactics.

Here's some practical advice for those who want to get over the competency hump.

First: learn the rules. You might think this would go without saying, but the Diplomacy rulebook can be daunting and unintuitive, and few things lead to bad tactics like an incomplete understanding of the rules.

Conventional openings are conventional for a reason, and no facet of Diplomacy has been discussed more extensively than openings. Openings in Diplomacy are similar to openings in chess in the sense that the less you know about them, the lower your ceiling as a player is going to be and the better the odds that merely competent but knowledgeable players will lay the smack on you sooner rather than later.

When Germany, for example, opens KIE-HOL, BER H, MUN H, this neon sign on the forehead reading *NEW PLAYER* tells us that he doesn't understand the game on a fundamental level, whether that pertains to the rules, the mechanics, or the strategy. We've all been there—but don't stay there. Keep hiking up the Diplomacy mountain.

While diplomatic skill is more nuanced, there are certain basic principles that avail much: good communication, insisting on more or less equal growth in your alliances, telling the truth whenever possible, and so forth (if you want to know what "and so forth" entails, then *READ ALL THE ARTICLES*).

As in so many facets of life, good communication overcomes a multitude of problems. In internet Diplomacy, for example, timely and coherent press can go a long way toward not getting you singled out for destruction.

People who don't respond to press are my biggest pet peeve in internet Diplomacy. There are various reasons for this, which include (but are not limited to) commitment to a course of action contrary to the one proposed, a failure to recognize press as a diplomatic skill, and general flakiness.

In a recent internet game, I was told by one player that he hadn't responded to my press because he was "busy"—I looked up his profile and saw he was in three active games simultaneously. He got his comeuppance, though—he got booted for NMRs and lost out on his draw share.

Alas, the failure to respond to press is not limited to new players. Nevertheless, the message should be clear: *don't be that guy*. Being rude isn't going to get you anywhere in life unless you're yelling at a cashier in a big-box retail store (you can trust me; I wrote a funny book about it).

In terms of telling the truth whenever possible: it's better to say "no I won't" than to say "yes I will" and then not do it. To crib a parable from Matthew 21 (steal from the best!): *A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, "Support me into Belgium." And he answered, "I cannot." The man went to the second and said the same thing, and he answered, "I will, sir," but did not. Which of the two was a less infuriating Diplomacy player?*

Being an infuriating Diplomacy player will get you killed. Don't be afraid to say, "Hey, man, sorry, I can't spare the support right now." Your neighbor will hate you way less.

While there are never any guarantees—this is Diplomacy, after all—getting over the competency hump will do plenty for your chances. In short: if you demonstrate that you are a tactical mastermind, people may go out of their way to kill you; but if you demonstrate that you are, in fact, a bad player or a flagrantly unreliable ally (or both), then people will *definitely* go out of their way to kill you.

And as we all know, getting killed is no way to win at Diplomacy.

Lifestyles of the Rich, Famous, and Dip Alfred and Brian: The Harvard Years

By Larry Peery

The Story of Henry Alfred Kissinger and Allan Brian Calhamer at Harvard University: 1947- 1954
and What Happened Afterwards



Introduction

I will refer to them as HAK and ABC hereafter. Doing so will save me at least a page of space.

You will see a few pictures as part of this article and a lot of links in various parts of the story that take you to web sites with more information and pictures about that particular topic. If you're not interested in the subject there's no need to look at the links, but if you don't you'll be missing a lot.

I included the Wikipedia short bios of the various Harvard and East Hamptons Dippers to give you an idea of the kinds of people who were playing Dip FTF in the 1950s and 1960s at Harvard and in the East Hamptons on Long Island. This was the Dip hobby that most of us knew nothing about.

There are many videos on YouTube of HAK and many of various Diplomacy players as well. Some of them are quite informative or entertaining. Unfortunately, there don't seem to be any of ABC speaking. I hope some of the player's in the last Chicago Dip event; which was also Allan's last public appearance; will post their cell phone videos on line. You have to see and hear HAK and ABC live to appreciate how much alike they were in one area --- neither one of them was worth beans as a public speaker.

We all know that HAK and ABC both went to Harvard University and we all know that Diplomacy is rumored to be HAK's favorite game; and therein lies my tale. Well, if you didn't know before, by the time you finish reading my story you'll know a lot about an unexplored

aspect of dip&Dip., the years HAK and ABC spent at Harvard. A brief Intermission gives me a chance to share a story hitherto unpublished about all of our principals. Then, in Part II, I'll share with you some information that I learned recently about both men. And in Part III I'll talk about things at Harvard today as they relate to these two titans of dip&Dip.

To refresh your memory on their biographies you may want to review the HAK and ABC entries in Wikipedia. In fact, I suggest you keep them hidden, along with a Google/Bing map application in the background on your computer for referral. We're going to be covering a lot of history and a lot of territory in this story. You might find it useful to keep a map of the Harvard campus on hand as well.

This is a story of fact, so you'll find lots of facts, conclusions, opinions, speculations, and theories, but what you won't find is any fiction. It would have been tempting in places to include some fiction but since this article is a work intended for historical reference I decided to forgo the fiction.

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT TWOS:

2 Men: HAK and ABC. HAK was born into a Jewish family in Furth, Germany in 1923. ABC was born into a comfortable family in suburban Chicago, Illinois in 1931.

Links for HAK

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Kissinger
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Trial_of_Henry_Kissinger
<http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2007/05/kissinger200705>

Photos of HAK

https://www.google.com/search?q=photos+of+Henry+Kissinger&biw=1920&bih=936&tbm=isch&source=lnms&a=X&ei=2CtIVNi8CI23yAT_wlKoCA&ved=0CAYQ_AUoAQ

Videos of HAK

https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=videos+of+henny+kissinger
Henry Kissinger (Pictures)
https://www.google.com/search?q=photos+of+Henry+Kissinger&biw=1920&bih=936&tbm=isch&source=lnms&a=X&ei=2CtIVNi8CI23yAT_wlKoCA&ved=0CAYQ_AUoAQ

Links for ABC

<http://boardgamegeek.com/boardgamedesigner/255/allan-b-calhamer#videos>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allan_B._Calhamer
<http://www.chicagomag.com/Chicago-Magazine/May-2009/All-in-the-Game/> go through this article and pick out words describing ABC and compare with words

describing HAK in media...contrast...

Photos of ABC

https://www.google.com/search?q=photos+of+Henry+Kissinger&biw=1920&bih=936&tbm=isch&source=lnms&a=X&ei=2CtIVNi8CI23yAT_wlKoCA&ved=0CAYQ_AUoAQ#tbm=isch&q=Photos+of+Allan+Calhamer

Videos about Diplomacy, many of them, can be found all over the internet.

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+videos+for+allan+calhamer+and+diplomacy&qpv=YouTube+videos+for+Allan+Calhamer+and+Diplomacy&FORM=VDR#view=detail&mid=35989C6E83B852725E0335989C6E83B852725E03> (a video of ABC playing Diplomacy)
https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#tbm=vid&q=Diplomacy%20game

From reading the links, looking at the photos and watching the videos of HAK and ABC you will immediately learn three things if you didn't already know them: 1) Both men inspired tremendous intellectual and emotional responses, many negative for HAK and almost entirely positive for ABC; 2) Neither was particularly photographic; and 3) Neither of them was a good public speaker.

2 Women: HAK was married to his first wife, Ann Fleischer Kissinger, for nearly fifteen years (1950 – 1964). Another story that may or may be not true is that Ann Kissinger worked to support HAK while he was writing his thesis and even typed it for him and did the same for his first book, as well as giving him two kids, but then he decided she wasn't the wife a budding presidential advisor should have. Nancy was just what HAK needed. She was a former student, had connections to the Rockefellers that he was courting, had family money, and, perhaps most important, was socially graceful and accepted by the right people. HAK has been married to his second wife, Nancy Maginnes since 1974. ABC was married to only one woman, Hilda, a former Oscar de la Renta fashion model, who survives him. (As I write this I've just read that Oscar de la Renta passed away a few days ago at age 81.)

2 Families: HAK had two children by his first wife, a daughter named Elizabeth born in Boston in 1959 and a son, David, born in Boston in 1961. Yes, it's a fact and matter of record that HAK abandoned the wife who had supported him through school and their 3 year old son when the boy was three. ABC left two daughters, now grown, Sellenne and Titania.

2 Lifestyles: It's hard to compare the difference between the lifestyles of HAK and ABC. While many of us might dream of living in the HAK style I suspect most of us would be much more happy living like ABC did. Perhaps that's the ultimate compliment I can pay him. Many of the words used to describe HAK in the articles and

books published about him describe him in less than complimentary ways. Was he a ladies' man, a playboy or a Lothario during the ten years he was single? Only you can decide that for yourself.

2 Communities: After coming to the United States from Furth, Bavaria, Germany in 1938 HAK settled into the upper west side of New York City, an area where Jewish refugees from Germany gathered. Except for his years in Washington, D.C. he has always lived in NYC and currently has a home in the River House co-op in Turtle Bay just north of the UN Headquarters and a place in South Kent, CT. The River House coop was for years considered "the place" to live in NYC. You can check it out with a Google search on 435 E 52nd St. New York. The top price now is \$8.9 million, but considering the number of co-ops in New York going for \$10 million or more (Way more!) and the fact that six of the 74 or so units in River House are on the market and have been for years, River House is definitely no longer "the place" to live in NYC. Two stories about the River House will give you an idea of what it's like. A squabble between the coop owners and the Athletic Club management in the same complex recently led to a proposal to convert the AC into a 12,000 square foot, 3 level coop that would sell for \$127 million, a NYC record. It never happened. The home owners eventually bought the rights to the property for \$45 million. When Richard Nixon moved to NYC from California he wanted to buy a coop in River House but the owners blackballed him. (Note: All numbers, especially real estate prices, are subject to change and gossip.)

River House Co-op, 435 E 52nd St., NYC
River House Co-op, New York City, \$10.8M sold
River House Co-Op, New York City, \$130M residence proposed, withdrawn Sotheby's
<http://ny.curbed.com/places/435-east-52nd-street>, \$130M unit goes for \$45M
<http://www.elikarealestate.com/ny/apartments/river-house>, 6 apts for sale
<http://observer.com/2011/07/river-house-co-op-that-dare-not-speak-its-name-sees-10-1-m-deal/>
<http://tdclassicist.blogspot.com/2011/10/kissingers-at-river-house.html>

The South Kent CT place on Henderson Road (which you can also find on Google) is worth about \$2 million. It's 86 miles from one to the other, about a 2 hour drive, and far enough out that in the event of a nuclear attack South Kent might survive a blast but probably not the radiation to follow. I believe Nancy had the property when she married HAK.

50 Henderson Rd., South Kent, CT approx. 50 acres, \$2M est value
<http://www.remax.com/realestatehomesforsale/50-henderson-rd-south-kent-ct-06785-gid500023181000.html>

<http://www.homesnap.com/CT/South-Kent/50-Henderson-Road>

ABC was born in Hinsdale, IL in 1931, 4.1 miles (a 13 minute drive) SE of La Grange Park where he lived at 501 N. Stone until his death in 2014. Home prices in that area run around \$400K.

501 N Stone, La Grange Park, IL
<https://www.google.com/maps/@41.8232966,-87.8788155,3a,75y,270h,90t/data=!3m4!1e1!3m2!1swprU2X9j2suayNcEohDnaA!2e0>
http://www.zillow.com/homedetails/501-N-Stone-Ave-La-Grange-Park-IL-60526/3786600_zpid/

DIPLOMACY AT THE KISSINGERS

Over the years thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of us have played Diplomacy in a house much like ABC's, but what about the other end of the spectrum? What would it be like to play Diplomacy at HAK's?

When I looked at the photos in the "Kissingers at River House" story I was amazed at two things: the use of the color green scheme and the Asian art. Still, it set me to thinking; what other options are there for playing Diplomacy in a green room and how many of those pieces of Asian art were purchased and how many were gifted to the Kissingers by foreign dignitaries or clients?

The Kissinger Co-op unit would comfortably handle a small DipCon event with two drawing rooms (2 boards each), a dining room (2 boards), and a library (one board). The 5 bedrooms would handle over-nighters and the boudoir would easily handle the most intimate negotiations. Oh, and the 7 bathrooms would easily allow one per Power. A staff of 3-5 would take care of player's needs, I'm sure.

<http://tdclassicist.blogspot.com/2011/10/kissingers-at-river-house.html>

One step up scale would be The Green Room at the White House, fine for a single board game. Who knows, the president herself might drop in for a round or two?

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/interactive-tour/green-room>
(The Green Room in the White House)

Another option, especially for celebrity watching players would be a game in any of the Green Rooms found in major theaters, television studios, or large meeting places. Here's a sample:

<http://www.worldwidewords.org/qa/qa-gre2.htm> (no topic is off limits in The Green Room in theaters,
<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=famous+green+rooms&qpv=Famous+Green+Rooms&FORM=IGRE>
Famous

Green Rooms. Would Italy do better there?

Kissinger and Associates office is located in an ugly office building at 350 Park Ave., NY, about 3 blocks from River House. It's also the home of Pete Peterson's Blackstone Group and many, many international financial firms. The building directory in the lobby does not list HKA as a tenant.

350 Park Ave., New York City
<http://www.vnony.com/portfolio/property/350-park-avenue/14/overview>

THE OTHER KISSINGER ASSOCIATES

Same name, but this one was founded by Darryl Kissinger in 1985, three years after HAK founded his consulting firm. Its corporate headquarters are at 2117 Main St., Centerport, PA. It's a software company and Michelle Kissinger told me they get a lot of interesting mail, email and phone calls from people, especially overseas, looking to speak with Dr. Kissinger. If that wasn't enough for you there's also a Kissinger Associates, Inc. in Overland Park, MO, a landscape design company run by Brian Whitfill. I wonder how much mail they get for HAK.
The Hilton Waldorf Astoria

Located some three blocks from the Kissinger offices and six blocks from the Kissinger River Front co-op the Waldorf Astoria's Presidential Suite (#35A) is traditionally the home of the President or the Secretary of State when in NYC at the UN or other official business. The US Ambassador to the UN has her own suite. Kissinger, of course, stayed there many times when he was Secretary of State or accompanying the President. I was curious how either of them could afford the going rate for the Presidential Suite, rumored to be the neighborhood of \$10,000 a night, but then I discovered the Waldorf Astoria's web site offers a best available rate starting at \$329 a night, and purely by coincidence the per diem lodging allowance in Manhattan is \$309 a night (probably \$329 on an up to date site). So not to worry.

More worrisome to the White House, the Secret Service (Well, perhaps not so much as they have other worries at the moment.) and the NSA is the fact that a Chinese company has just announced plans to purchase the Waldorf Astoria for some \$2 billion. Perhaps now the hotel staff will be more worried about bed bugs than electronic ones.

2 Careers: HAK's career as an educator, writer, diplomat, statesman, corporate advisor and commentator is well known. ABC completed his education, created his magnum opus, Diplomacy, became a mail carrier and devoted himself to being a

husband and father.

2 Passions: HAK nominal passion was diplomacy, but in reality he had only one passion, himself. It would be easy to say that Diplomacy was ABC's passion but those who knew him well knew better. He was fond of Diplomacy, after all he had created it, but he was passionate about other things, such as baseball and history, as well.

2 Goals: HAK's goal is to be remembered for doing many things on a grand scale. ABC's goal was to be remembered for doing one small thing very well.

2 Worlds: HAK's dream was of a world in perfect order, preferably one created by him. ABC's dream, at least as expressed in his creation, Diplomacy, was of a world in chaos where the struggle for victory was more important than the peace that might come with it.

2 Great Achievements: HAK's greatest achievement was himself. ABC's greatest achievement, to others, was his creation, Diplomacy; but I suspect he would have said his greatest achievement was his family. Certainly when he talked about them his eyes had a sparkle that I never saw him display over a Diplomacy board.

2 Ideas: Does a balance of power lead to a balance of order; or does a monopoly of power lead to an imposition of order by a single power? Or does the mere possession of a monopoly of power by a single power lead to a balance of power and a balance of order? Consider the examples of Rome, Great Britain and the USA. This is the great dilemma that one, HAK, sought to resolve and the other, ABC, sought to enjoy.

Part I: THE HARVARD YEARS

Harvard University at the end of WWII was a very different place than it is today. Although considered one of the nation's top schools it did not have the towering reputation it does today. As the War ended the university knew it was going to be swamped with students taking advantage of the GI Bill that Congress had passed in 1944.

HAK came to Harvard with some part time college work already completed, his military service in the Army done and even some experience as an instructor in post WWII Germany and quickly established himself. In Germany a major influence on him was a mentor named Fritz Kraemer. At Harvard his early mentor was a tutor named William Y. Elliott. It was tough for the over-enrolled class of '50 since the school was short of dorms, classrooms, and more. Kissinger recalls having to sleep on a bunk bed in a gym for the first few months, but the school hired more teachers, cut down the time required to get a

degree and did its best to deal with the situation.

ABC had no military GI Bill to pay for his schooling but he did have a scholarship that helped. In 1953 tuition at Harvard was \$800 a year, compared to \$44,000 a year for tuition and fees, plus \$24,000 in nonfee expenses and \$2,300 for medical insurance in 2014.

We should keep in mind that while HAK and ABC were studying at Harvard the Korean War was going on and many WWII vets were called back to duty. Some 1,789,000 Americans served in the Korean War of which some 33,600 were killed in action. More than 3,200 died in non-hostile incidents and more than 8,100 are still missing. Since the Korean War another 2,000,000 Americans have served with the military in South Korea; and technically the war is not over yet.

HK

HK received his BA summa cum laude in Political Science at Harvard College (Yes, there is a difference between Harvard College and Harvard University.). His 377 page essay was on "The Meaning of History: Reflections on Spengler, Toynbee and Kant." He lived in Adams House at Harvard University and his tutor was William Yandell Elliott. In 1952 he got his MA and in 1954 he got his Ph.D., both from Harvard University. His Ph.D. dissertation was on "A World Restored: Metternich, Castlereagh and the Problems of Peace 1812-1822." It was about the same length as his BA paper. The work praised conservative diplomats of the day for building a stable and peaceful international system. Interestingly, even today it is almost impossible to get a copy of the HK Ph.D. dissertation except from a few libraries, although the book based on it is available in multiple editions. The relatively short time for the advanced degrees reflected Harvard's post-WWII policy of speeding up its programs to allow more students to go through the school.

<http://adamshouse.harvard.edu/>

HAK remained on the Harvard Department of Government, not Political Science or International Relations, faculty for some 15 years while he increasingly dabbled in politics, first as a Rockefeller Republican but then switched to advising Richard Nixon in 1968. While at Harvard one of his students was Nancy McGinnis, a friend of the Rockefellers. During his White House years as National Security Advisor while on a temporary leave of absence from Harvard, Kissinger was given an ultimatum by the University, return to your teaching or lose your chance at a tenured full professorship. Kissinger decided to stay with Nixon and eventually became secretary of state.

ABC

ABC enrolled in Harvard University's Department of History the same year HK received his BA summa cum laude. After completing his lower division classes ABC had the time to take the classes he really wanted: European 19th Century History with Sidney Fay and Political Geography with Derwent Whittlesley, both of whom had a major influence on his design of Diplomacy just two years later He lived in Lowell House and most of his classes were in Robinson Hall; which still exists and may well have been the site of the first Diplomacy game ever played, probably in 1953 or 1954. He also belonged to the school Chess Club and was Secretary of the Taft for President group on campus. According to Laura M. Johnson of the Harvard History Undergraduate Office ABC's thesis, "The Establishment of the Wang Chingwei (or Wang Jingwei) Regime in Occupied China" was accepted but since he did not graduate Magna cum laude no copy of it was retained by the school library. Wang was an interesting Chinese warlord turned politician who first flirted with the Nazis and then became president of the ROC. He even made the cover of a Time magazine issue in 1935. Wikipedia has articles on Fay, Whittlesley and Wang. In 1953 ABC received his BA in History with an emphasis on East Asia and in 1954 he enrolled in Harvard's Law School.

You can find these photos by doing a Google search on your own. I didn't have much luck with cut and paste.
Photos of Robinson Hall
Robinson Hall 105
Robinson Hall 207
Robinson Hall Floor plan
Robinson Hall Warren Center basement (Was the first game of Diplomacy played here?)

HAK & ABC: THE CHINA CONNECTION

Photos for ABC & HAK

<http://ts4.mm.bing.net/th?id=HN.608051821941950779&pid=15.1&w=152&h=106&p=0>
https://www.google.com/search?q=wang+chingwei&biw=1920&bih=936&tbm=isch&imgil=uMRRxy56Pd r7oM%253A%253BMdxks1_Pp9-sfM%253Bhttp%25253A%25252F%25252Fcontent.time.com%25252Ftime%25252Fcovers%25252F0%25252C16641%25252C19350318%25252C00.html&source=iu&p f=m&fir=uMRRxy56Pdr7oM%253A%252CMdxks1_Pp9-sfM%252C_&usg=__8LXsCO98VCQpaRbTDyw_XEGc6YA%3D&ved=0CJABEMo3&ei=pZxFVNWBLsX4igKqs4HoDw#facrc=_&imgdii=_&imgrc=uMRRxy56Pdr7oM%253A%3BMdxks1_Pp9-sfM%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fimg.timeinc.net%252Ftime%252Fmagazine%252Farchive%252Fcovers%252F1935%252F1101350318_400.jpg%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fcontent.time.com%252Ftime%252Fcovers%252F0%252C16641%252C19350318%252C00.html%3B400%3B527

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang_Jingwei (links to pix and Time cover under photos)

http://china.usc.edu/App_Images//Memcon%20of%20Kis singer's%20Conversation%20with%20Mao,%202-17-1973.pdf (memo of HAK and Mao meeting)

We know that HAK met FTF with Mao several times and the pictures and stories document that well. What they don't tell us about the iconic photo of the two meeting in Mao's office/home in the Forbidden City was that besides the two of them, their aides, and the photographer, there were also present some of Mao's female bodyguards (discreetly hidden behind the bookshelves in the background of the photo), a spittoon and a chamber pot!

ABC, on the other hand wasn't really interested in China or Wang Jing wei when he wrote his thesis and his grade showed it. I suspect, although I don't know it, that he was probably "guided" toward that subject by a graduate student advisor who was writing his own thesis on the same subject. I know I ran into that problem in my own school days when an assistant professor of literature working on her Ph.D. thesis on Ernest Hemingway required all of her students to do their senior paper on some aspect of Hemingway. I wrote mine on the significance of bullfighting in the writings of Hemingway but it backfired. She loved it and I got an A despite all the blood and gore I peppered throughout the paper.

INTERMISSION:

An Untold Story about ABC, HAK, the White House, DipCon V, and Baseball!

It was at DipCon V held in Chicago in 1972 I believe, at The Drake Hotel that I first met ABC. For Allan and Hilda Calhamer attending wasn't a big deal, or maybe it was, even though it was their first appearance at a DipCon event, because they only lived a half hour drive away from the Drake, but for the Dippers who came, even in those early days, from all over America to meet "the man who invented Diplomacy" it was a big deal, and that included me. I would never have dreamed of attending that DipCon, despite having co-hosted the previous one in San Diego with Rod Walker, but one of my professors and a mentor (Adm. Robert L. Dennison, USN) encouraged me to go and made it possible. Dennison, by the way, was the commander of USN forces during the Cuban missile crisis and was a big help when I approached Graham T. Allison about his "Essence of Decision" study on that event. As you'll begin to see, the world of Diplomacy, Washington and Harvard is really quite small.

During the Con I had a chance to talk to Allan one on one several times and I think it was then that our friendship first began. I recall that one of our conversations was about the popularity of the game in Washington, even in the Nixon White House. Jamie

Young and I told him about our tour of the White House and how I met HAK unexpectedly when she was showing me the "National Security Advisor's Office" and he walked in the door. He was polite enough but seemed a bit reserved and perhaps a bit embarrassed that I'd seen his "pig sty" of an office which most college assistant professors would have been ashamed of, let alone the country's second most powerful man in foreign affairs). We talked a bit about his books and I mentioned I had read his first major work --- he liked that, especially coming from a non-Harvard student, I suppose, and even asked me a few questions (a professor checking to see if his student had done his homework, I assume). Later Jamie explained to me that she had just turned down a job offer from HAK to join his staff because "he just didn't feel like a good fit," and immediately became known in Foggy Bottom as "the woman who said no to HAK." (This in the days when HAK was Washington's resident playboy. Jamie's decision to say no to HAK won her a powerful mentor in Washington, another Henry, "Scoop Jackson" the Senator from Boeing and a Senate powerhouse in military and foreign affairs, steered her toward ACDA, which was handling US-USSR SALT negotiations, and eventually into the State Department where her career lasted well over 30 years. Anyway, I digress, and I only tell the story to show the early post-Harvard links between HAK and ABC.

In fact, as I found out a day or so later, Allan was a lot more interested in baseball than he was Diplomacy. He wandered around the gaming venue with what we thought was a hearing aid, but was really an earplug for a transistor radio that he had on during every Chicago Cubs game. Chicago was "hot" that summer. It was the Cubs 100th season and they would end up 2nd (to Pittsburgh) in the NL East with an 85-70 record. If you were in the know, you could tell how the Cubs were doing just from watching facial reactions to the play-by-play (Alas, it didn't seem to work in Dip games, at least when I played with him.). At one point he told me that he'd had to forgo going to see the Cubs at home because of the Con. I asked him if it was worth it. He thought about it a long time and then said, "Yeah, I think so."

Part II: THE dip&Dip YEARS

While a University student ABC developed his game Diplomacy. While a law school student he perfected it, and eventually gave up his idea of becoming a lawyer if he ever had one, and went to work for Sylvania in 1958 to do operations research while he continued to work on his game. In 1959 he privately printed the first 500 copies of Diplomacy which he offered for sale through local game stores and ads in magazines like The Atlantic at a price of \$7.00. In 1961, the year John Kennedy, another Harvard graduate and reputed early Diplomacy fan, became president; ABC licensed a small Boston company called Games Research Inc. to market the

game. John Moot took a personal interest in his new product and worked hard to popularize the game and made it successful. Calhamer received a 5% royalty for each game sold.

By this time everybody in the History and Government Departments at Harvard and the other Boston schools had heard about ABC's game Diplomacy. While it didn't become exactly a rage it was definitely the "in" thing to do among the campus students, faculty and hanger-ons in the know. When the rumor spread that JFK was playing Diplomacy in the White House everybody wanted to try it.

What you've read so far is pretty much a matter of public record and references to this history can be found in some of the articles written about ABC during his life and in obituaries published after he passed. Most of those obits, I noticed, usually just repeated the same facts and stories from the earlier articles.

What follows now is told here for the first time, I believe. It came about because of my admiration for another Harvard man, Graham T. Allison. He had a huge impact on my own academic career dating back to when I first read his book ESSENCE OF DECISION, an analysis of the decision-making processes used in the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis (and which I've been trying to turn into a Diplomacy-type game ever since. Even Jack McHugh and I discussed such a project.). Allison has had a long and distinguished career as a political scientist and professor at the Kennedy School at Harvard. While thinking about writing this story it occurred to me that he might know something about the history of Diplomacy at Harvard. I sent off an email and a few days later I had a reply.

"Yes, I played the game a half dozen times when I was a grad student. Jim Wilson (Professor James Q Wilson at Harvard, passed away at age 80 in 2012) was a fan. One of the others who played was Ed Epstein (well known author of many JFK Conspiracy books).

"It's an engaging game, a great way to remind one of the problems anyone playing Germany faces, and a good reminder of the role of deception as well as fidelity in diplomacy. Good luck with your effort."

Knowing that Allison is 74, Wilson was 80 when he passed two years ago, and Epstein must be about the same; I realized that I was in a race against the clock to track some of these people down before it was too late. I sent another email off to Ed Epstein asking about his Diplomacy playing at Harvard. Once again I had a reply within days.

"It is a long story I am happy to tell you about. The players were Graham, myself, James Q. Wilson, Ed Banfield, Paul Weaver, Suzanne Garment, the late Allan Sindler and a few others.

"I also played in a day after Xmas game at the home of James Chase in the 1990s.

"We also played in East Hampton with Nora Ephron, Joe Rose, Joe Heller, Peter Maas and George Plimpton.

Links to:

James Q. Wilson

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Q._Wilson

James Quinn Wilson (May 27, 1931 – March 2, 2012) was an American academic, political scientist, and an authority on public administration. Most of his career was spent as a professor at UCLA and Harvard. He coauthored a leading university textbook on American government, as well as many scholarly books and articles, and op-ed essays. He gained national attention for a 1982 article introducing the broken windows theory. Wilson served on many national committees and boards, and was elected president of the American Political Science Association

Graham T. Allison

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_T._Allison

Graham Tillett Allison, Jr. (born 23 March 1940) is an American political scientist and professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He is renowned for his contribution in the late 1960s and early 1970s to the bureaucratic analysis of decision making, especially during times of crisis. His book *Remaking Foreign Policy: The Organizational Connection*, co-written with Peter Stanton, was published in 1976 and had some influence on the foreign policy of the administration of President Jimmy Carter which took office in early 1977. Since the 1970s, Allison has also been a leading analyst of U.S. national security and defense policy, with a special interest in nuclear weapons and terrorism.

Ed Epstein

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Jay_Epstein

Edward Jay Epstein (born in 1935 in New York City) is an American investigative journalist and a former political science professor at Harvard, UCLA, and MIT. He taught courses at these schools for three years.[3] While a graduate student at Cornell University in 1966, he published the book *Inquest*, an influential critique of the Warren Commission probe into the John F. Kennedy assassination. Epstein wrote two other books about the Kennedy assassination, eventually collected in *The Assassination Chronicles: Inquest, Counterplot, and Legend* (1992). His books *Legend* (1978) and *Deception* (1989) drew on interviews with retired CIA Counterintelligence Chief James Jesus Angleton, and his 1982 book *The Rise and Fall of Diamonds* was an expose of the diamond industry and its economic impact in southern Africa.[4] After teaching at Harvard, UCLA, and MIT, Epstein decided to pursue

his writing career back in New York City.[1]

Edward C. Ed Banfield

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_C._Banfield

Edward Christie Banfield (1916–1999) was an American political scientist, best known as the author of *The Moral Basis of a Backward Society* (1958), and *The Unheavenly City* (1970). One of the leading scholars of his generation, Banfield was an adviser to Republican presidents (Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan). Banfield began his academic career at the University of Chicago, where he was a friend and colleague of Leo Strauss and Milton Friedman. In 1959, Banfield went to Harvard, where he remained for the rest of his career, except for a brief tenure at the University of Pennsylvania.

Paul Weaver Unable to identify

Suzanne Garment

www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=Suzanne%20Garment
Suzanne Garment is an American scholar, writer, editor and attorney. She is the executive editor of *Jewish Ideas Daily*.

Garment holds the A.B. from Radcliffe College, the M.A. from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom, the PhD in political science from Harvard University, the J.D. and a master of laws degree in taxation from Georgetown

She has served as a visiting scholar at the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University; special counsel to Richard Ravitch, New York Lieutenant Governor and as counsel to the Task Force on the State Budget Crisis, co-chaired by Ravitch and former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker. Before earning the J.D., she was a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute; associate editorial page editor of the *Wall Street Journal*; author of the "Capital Chronicle" column at the *Wall Street Journal*; and special assistant to Daniel Patrick Moynihan, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.[1] Garment has taught politics and public policy at Yale and Harvard Universities.

Allan P. Sindler <http://www.amazon.com/Allan-P.-Sindler/e/B001KINFGM>

Author and scholar on presidential politics. Known for his research on Louisiana politics and biography of Huey Long.

James Chase Unable to identify

Nora Ephron http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nora_Ephron

Nora Ephron (EHF-rihn;[1] May 19, 1941 – June 26, 2012) was an American journalist, essayist, playwright, screenwriter, novelist, producer, director, and blogger. Ephron is best known for her romantic comedies and was nominated three times for the Academy Award for Best Writing: for *Silkwood*, *When Harry Met Sally...*, and *Sleepless in Seattle*. She won a BAFTA Award for Best

Original Screenplay for *When Harry Met Sally...* She sometimes wrote with her sister Delia Ephron.[2] Her last film was *Julie & Julia*. [2] She also co-authored the Drama Desk Award–winning theatrical production *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*. In 2013, Ephron received a posthumous Tony Award nomination for Best Play for her play *Lucky Guy*.

Joe Rose Unable to identify

Joseph Heller http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Heller

Joseph Heller (May 1, 1923 – December 12, 1999) was an American satirical novelist, short story writer, and playwright. The title of one of his works, *Catch-22*, entered the English lexicon to refer to a vicious circle wherein an absurd, no-win choice, particularly in situations in which the desired outcome of the choice is an impossibility, and regardless of choice, a same negative outcome is a certainty. Although he is remembered primarily for *Catch-22*, his other works center on the lives of various members of the middle class and remain examples of modern satire.

Peter Maas http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Maas
Peter Maas (June 27, 1929 – August 23, 2001) was an American journalist and author. He was born in New York City and attended Duke University. Maas had Dutch and Irish heritage.

He was the biographer of Frank Serpico, a New York City Police officer who testified against police corruption. He is also the author of the number one New York Times bestseller, *Underboss*, about the life and times of Sammy "The Bull" Gravano.

His other notable bestsellers include *The Valachi Papers*, *Manhunt*, and *In a Child's Name*, recipient of the 1991 Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime book. *The Valachi Papers*, which told the story of Mafia turncoat Joseph Valachi, is widely considered to be a seminal work, as it spawned an entire genre of books written by or about former Mafiosi.

Peter Maas was married to Audrey Gellen Maas, with whom he adopted a son, John-Michael Maas. Audrey died in 1975. He died in New York City, survived by his third wife, Suzanne, and their son, Terrence. He made a brief cameo as himself in an episode of *Homicide*.

George Plimpton

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Plimpton

George Ames Plimpton (March 18, 1927 – September 25, 2003) was an American journalist, writer, literary editor, actor, and occasional amateur sportsman. He is widely known for his sports writing and for helping to found *The Paris Review*. Plimpton was also famous for "participatory journalism" which included competing in professional sporting events, acting in a Western, performing a comedy act at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, and playing with the New York Philharmonic

Orchestra[1] and then recording the experience from the point of view of an amateur.

"I also used it in a seminar at Harvard I taught offering an A to a winner and Bs to losers.
"What else would you like to know?" (Ed Epstein in an email to the author.)

The amazing thing to me was discovering that all but one (I think I know who one of the two was but I'm not sure) of these people has a wikipedia entry and most of them are very impressive. The first group consists mostly of Harvard faculty members (students then and/or faculty since and/or now), except one who has passed. I'm not sure who the James Chase mentioned is. The East Hampton group is definitely a different crowd from the Harvard academics and shows that Diplomacy was popular or at least tried by people in the entertainment and literary fields.

I was also unable to find any record of either HAK or ABC having played Diplomacy with any of these people at Harvard or elsewhere. If anyone knows differently please let me know. My point is to demonstrate that there was and is a whole hobby devoted to Diplomacy beside the one we know. So many of us, especially old timers, have tended to think in terms of Boardman Numbers and those who played Diplomacy PBM and such without realizing that there was a whole different hobby out there besides ours who never came in contact with the postal hobby. One of the purposes of this article is to establish the fact that there was a Diplomacy hobby beyond the postal one supported by hobbyists like ABC, Conrad von Metzke and Gary Coughlan.

PART III: dip&Dip AT HARVARD TODAY

<http://cgis.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k79426&pageid=icb.page581785>
<http://cgis.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k79426&pageid=icb.page415576>

It's a long way from the Harvard of 1950s to the Harvard of 2014. The pictures of Robinson Hall, built in 1900 s by a wealthy alumni donor is a classic four story brick building that doesn't look much different than some of the halls built a century earlier at some of America's best old schools. Today the CGIS Knafel Hall and the Center for Government and International Studies (CGIS) South are two modern, five story buildings built in 2005 that mirror each other in style and design.

The Knafel Building contains the Department of Government, the Center for American Political Studies and the Institute for Quantitative Social Science.

The South Building contains the History Department and The Asia Center, the Center for Geographic Analysis, the Committee on African Studies, the Committee on

Inner Asian and Altaic Studies, the Committee on Regional Studies, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, the Harvard-China Fund, the Korean Institute, the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, the South Asia Institute and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies.

ABC

ABC retired from the Post Office in the 1990s and except for the occasional visit to a Diplomacy Convention pretty much contented himself with following the hobby from a distance and enjoying his other interests such as baseball and his beloved Cubs, history and ballet. After he passed earlier this year I read the many obituaries published all over the world about "the man who invented Diplomacy." One thing I noticed was that no obituary appeared in The Crimson, Harvard's school newspaper, although a web search did reveal some items about his days there as a student. I emailed the paper to find out why they hadn't published an obit about Allan and Nicholas Fandos, the managing editor of the paper, responded that there were so many distinguished alumni passing that the paper had no room for obituaries of this kind. He suggested I try the Harvard magazine.

HAK

As I think everyone knows HAK, at 91, is still very much with us.

We last left HAK deciding to stay with Richard Nixon and not return to Harvard. His reward for that was the secretary of state position. Interestingly, as a naturalized citizen Henry Kissinger, like Madeline Albright after him, was not eligible to be president. Still, as long as he had Nixon's support Kissinger was a very powerful figure in American foreign policy.

Since his falling out with Harvard over the tenured professorship the academic world wondered what would become of him and his papers, a collection numbering over a million pieces? That seems like a lot but in comparison my Diplomacy archives ran to over 300 boxes or some 300,000 pieces. In comparison, when Harry S Truman went home to Missouri from Washington his presidential papers totaled 45,000 pieces. But, having seen them, I'll tell you that Truman's papers are a lot more interesting than Kissinger's or mine.

That said, I should mention that the full record of Kissinger's stewardship as National Security Advisor, Secretary of State, and presidential advisor to two presidents is not yet written. Just last month a search of documents from the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library at the request of the National Security Archive revealed that Kissinger had ordered plans drawn up to strike ports

and military installations in Cuba and to send Marine battalions to Cuba to "lobber" the Cubans, as he put it. Mr. Kissinger, the documents show, worried that the United States would look weak if it did not stand up to a country of just eight million people.

HAK obviously subscribes to the theory that he who lives longest and writes the last book on a subject will be the winner. Here are some tidbits of trivia I found researching this article:

Take a simple question like "How many books has HAK written? Follow up questions: 1) How many did he sell? 2) How much did he make? 3) How good were they? Answers: Lots. Millions. Very good but not great. Not content with just being an author HAK is also variously credited and listed as a: sole author, co-author, contributor, author of forward, author of introduction, and editor. Hey, every little credit adds to the bottom line and the CV.

Amazon.com lists 5,909 results including books by, books about on a variety of subjects in a variety of categories, in a variety of mediums (hardback, paperback, Kindle, compact disc, etc.). There's even a DVD on HAK available from NG.

B&N.com lists 210 products (including Nook), including 15 different biographies (first in 1973 and most recently in 2009), a biography of Henry (Did you know his name was originally Heinz?) and Walter Kissinger (not counting HAK's own multi-volume autobiography) and 114 titles about him

Allbooks.com lists 75 titles.
www.abebooks has the best prices. (FYI, I am told ABE is owned by Amazon.)

One reviewer listed 31 books by HAK. The official HAK web site lists 20 titles. DIPLOMACY was published 20 years ago this year. Here's the official list in his latest book, WORLD ORDER, of books by HAK with some hot titles offered online:

WORLD ORDER (2014)

ON CHINA (2011)

A WORLD RESTORED: METTERNICH, CASTLEREAGH, AND THE PROBLEMS OF PEACE, 1812-1822 (THE RISE AND FALL OF THE THIRD REICH by William Shrier was published in 1960, \$1.25 for a 1245 page paperback that took millions months to read. I read it in three days. HK's book, published in 1957, but written earlier, 356 pp. goes for \$34. It took me months to read it because although written in English it read like it was written in German.)

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND FOREIGN POLICY (1957) these last two books, WORLD RESTORED and NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND FOREIGN POLICY are the foundation of any understanding of HAK.

THE NECESSITY FOR CHOICE: PROSPECTS OF

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY (1961)
THE TROUBLED PARTNERSHIP: A REAPPRAISAL OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE (1965)
1973 HAK co-awarded The Nobel Peace Prize
WHITE HOUSE YEARS (1979)
YEARS OF UPHEAVAL (1982)
1982: Kissinger and Associates Inc. founded DIPLOMACY (1994) (\$226 for a signed and inscribed copy, a signed copy in good condition goes for \$125 with recipient's signature and notes.)
YEARS OF RENEWAL (1999)
DOES AMERICA NEED A FOREIGN POLICY?
TOWARDS A DIPLOMACY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (2001)
ENDING THE VIETNAM WAR: A HISTORY OF AMERICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN AND EXTRICATION FROM THE VIETNAM WAR (2002)
CRISIS: THE ANATOMY OF TWO MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY CRISES (2003)
But writing didn't bring in the big money fast enough to maintain HAK's life style which, as we've seen, was very expensive indeed. So, to generate some cash flow he set up KISSINGER AND ASSOCIATES, INC. a consulting business, a one man think-tank using HAK's brain and contacts. Using a \$5 million loan from Goldman Sachs, which he paid back in two years, HAK was in business.
350 Park Ave., New York City

I followed what he was doing closely and I was amused to discover he was doing the same thing I had done with THE INSTITUTE FOR DIPLOMATIC STUDIES in 1971 when I created a "not for profit" corporation. Some serious Google searching will tell you all about its headquarters on Park Avenue, his board, his staff, and his clients; or at least as much about them as he wants you to know. Note the name Etienne Davignon on his board. Old time IDSers and Dippers will recognize that name for sure. Kissinger and Associates was and is a great success. How long it will continue once HAK is gone is anyone's guess. I suppose it will depend on how good records he kept and who gets control of them.

Still, there were things that needed to be tidied up. He still had two kids from his first marriage and no doubt Nancy worked hard to reestablish contact between them and their father. No one is talking on either side, but at some point Yale University offered the David and Elizabeth scholarships for their higher education. What the quid pro quo was came to light in 2011 when Yale announced that HAK was donating his papers to Yale and it would establish the Johnson (No, not named for LBJ.) Center for the Study of American Diplomacy to house them. In fact, HAK would even donate an unspecified amount of cash to pay for digitalizing his previous donation of papers to the Library of Congress. No doubt all this will bring HAK a significant tax write-off as part of his estate planning.

Still, like any good Dipper HAK was covering his ass and hedging his bets. Prior to a visit as carefully organized as if it were a visit from the Pope or the Queen of England, an invitation was delivered personally by the president of Harvard in New York. HAK then agreed to make an appearance at Harvard, but not on campus, as part of Harvard's 375th anniversary celebration. Everyone wondered if it was the beginning of a Harvard-Henry Kissinger Détente? At the event Harvard President Faust (Yes, really.) praised HAK and no one mentioned the long estrangement or HAK's papers donation to Yale. A panel discussion was moderated by Graham T. Allison of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. Still, HAK couldn't control everything, especially the students and there were those who protested long and loudly about his record as National Security Advisor and Secretary of State under presidents Nixon and Ford. Details on all this are available from the Yale and Harvard school and newspaper web sites.

Another example of HAK's style is the way he handled his relationship with Fritz Kraemer, Read the Google article on Kraemer. It matches the story as I know it. As we've seen there's a nasty side to HAK's diplomacy: the way he treated his first wife, Kraemer, Jamie (When a powerful man mistreats another powerful man that's politics, but when he mistreats a minor player in the game; that's scandalous.), and Schlesinger, and many others, we know this is not diplomacy it's Machiavelli.

Harvard University today is making a big effort to attract what it expects to be the "best and brightest" of China's next (7th) generation of leaders. Bo Guagua was and may still be a student at Harvard where he apparently majored in fast sports car demolition. His father Bo Xilai is in jail and has disappeared from the top leadership in China. Several sources say that the daughter of current leader Xi Jinping is currently enrolled under an alias and studying (hard, apparently) international business. No one has asked how she's paying her way at Harvard since her father makes about \$12,000 a year. Not to worry, according to media reports the Xi family is worth hundreds of millions, if not more. The number of prospective students from China interested in Boston schools has grown to the point that Hainan Airlines is now flying RTs from Beijing to Boston during prime

school recruitment visiting time.

In the days when HAK and ABC were at Harvard most of their activities revolved around a couple of houses and a couple of classroom halls. Today, the expanded programs have filled two major buildings and half dozen smaller ones.

And in projects directly relevant to Dippers Harvard is offering a mapping workshop on the use of digital media and mapping resources in the classroom.

My hope for the future is that Sellenne will offer her dad's personal archives to Harvard and that, since it lost out of the HAK papers, Harvard will accept them. In addition, I hope Harvard magazine will publish a suitable obit for Allan.

CONCLUSION

I suppose The Big Question on everyone's mind is, "Did HAK and ABC ever actually meet FTF at Harvard (or anywhere else)? Certainly we know that they were aware of and knew of each other and we know they were both at Harvard at the same time, probably within no more than two blocks of each other; and may well have shared some of the same classrooms and library facilities. However, that said, I do know that neither of them ever mentioned to me that they had met, that there is nothing they themselves said or wrote indicating such a meeting, there is no third-hand reports of such a meeting (at least that I am aware of) and there is no apocryphal evidence that such a meeting ever took place. It's nice to think it might have happened, but until proof comes to light, it's just a thought. What have we learned? One of these men was brilliant and knew it. The other was also brilliant in his own way but doubted it. And therein was our tale.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided by Hilda Calhmer, Selene Calhmer-Boling, Michelle Kissinger, Nick Pardos, Graham T. Allison, Ed Epstein, David M. Abshire, Laura Johnson, Jamie Young and Tony Despol in researching this project. Any errors are solely the responsibility of the author.

Club and Tournament Report

By Will J. Abbott

First off, an announcement: There is a new World Diplomacy Forum, which can be found at <http://wdf.asciiking.com/index.php>. Stop by, say hello, ask a few questions, give a few answers. Enjoy.

Now, in my wanderings around the Internet, I noticed a note attached to a record of the various DipCons about the 2008 event. Not being tied into the tournament scene much back then (I was mostly going to GenCon's tournament and only that one then) I did not recall the drama around the event in Bangor, so the note got my curiosity up. For those who wish to review the sordid details, there are two pieces from opposing viewpoints in DW 103. I am not going to rehash that debate here, which, after all, concerns a six year old event. It was what it was, decisions about it have already been made, and the hobby has moved on.

What I noticed about the convention, however, was how much the insularity of the Bangor hobby seemed to be a factor. These were players who did not travel much and had developed their own understandings and practices amongst themselves which varied from those of the wider hobby. This variance is not, in itself, a problem. However, because of their relative isolation, the Bangor hobby did not always meet the expectations of the traveling players. They did not see how their practices would be understood by those outside their hobby, and the travelers did not anticipate that certain aspects of tournament play would be substantially different than usual. As a result, various things occurred during the tournament which elsewhere would simply have been happenings, but became incidents and controversies and after the tournament the Bangor's event's status as DipCon 2008 was revoked.

None of what I am saying is to defend the Bangor group, or to criticize the NADF or the traveling players. Nor do I wish to turn that around, and lay the blame on the local organizers. The event is past, and assigning blame now is meaningless: those involved in some way have long since done so, and the rest of us aren't affected by it anyway.

Rather, I want to highlight the dangers of being isolated from the main body of the hobby. If the Bangor group had been more in touch with the wider hobby, they might have had the possibility of explaining their practices to the wider hobby, and understanding where the wider hobby differs. The Bangor hobby would not

have needed to change their practices necessarily, but by explaining how they do things differently, the traveling players would have been able to anticipate better the differences.

Being plugged in to the rest of the hobby isn't about uniformity. The hobby doesn't have that. We have various ideas of what constitutes a good scoring system, for example, and each idea has had a few differing implementations, with the result that there are literally dozens of scoring systems that have been used in tournaments. Many of us have our own favorites, but in the end, we generally go to tournaments, understand the scoring system, take it as a given, and roll with it. It effects play, certainly, but we generally get that, and live with it, and go to the tournament and have fun. We have different ideas on how, exactly, to place pieces on the board in a face to face game (are pieces on end normal or support? I recall *Diplomatic Pouch* articles on this debate). We have different ideas on what goals, aside from winning, are acceptable, if any. We have different ideas on what we want the hobby to be like.

What we in the wider hobby do with these different ideas is debate them. If you want to explain why c-Diplo is The One True Scoring System, write up an article, send it to Doug (his address is near the beginning of this issue) and try to convince us. If you think that the NADF needs to be replaced by a troika consisting of Jim Burgess, Yann Clouet, and Mikhail Gorbachev, write a letter to the editor about it. If you have an idea for how to make the hobby better, let everyone know, then do your best to make it happen. If the rest of us don't like it, you have the chance to persuade us. Even if you don't persuade us to adopt c-Diplo for all events or stand our armies and fleets on end between moves, you can still do so at your local hobby's tournaments and house games. But by participating in the wider hobby's conversation on these matters, you will become aware of the differing opinions on these matters, and when you hold tournaments, you can tell those from other parts of the world how you do things differently.

Europe plays the game differently from North America. The English hobby is not the Italian one, nor is the Washington, DC hobby the same as the Chicago one. But the diversity serves us best when it is a known diversity, so that we understand that you merely do things differently, and not necessarily wrong.

IDHOF 2014 ELECTION RESULTS

By Larry Peery

The selection of the 2014 Class for the International Diplomacy Hall of Fame is complete, but before I announce the names of this year's inductees let's pause and remember our previous members: Edi Birsan, John Boardman, Walter Buchanan, Allen B. Calhamer (deceased), Fred Davis, Jr., John Koning (deceased), John McCallum, Don Miller (deceased), Hal Naus (deceased), Conrad von Metzke, and Rod Walker.

I also want to thank the members of this year's Nominations and Elections Committee: Bernard Andrioli, Chris Babcock, Doug Beyerlein, Edi Birsan, Chris Brand, Walter Buchanan, Jim Burgess, Davide Cleopadre, Don Del Grande, David Hood, Toby Harris, Laurent Joly, Dorian Love, James O'Kelley, Giuseppe Salerno, Conrad Woodring and Jim Yerkey.

There were 23 nominees with seconds this year: Nathan Barnes, Xavier Blanchot, Jim Bumpas, Kathy Byrne Caruso, Davide Cleopadre, Steve Cooley, Marco Ferrari, Manus Hand, David Hood, Laurent Joly, Doug Kent, Eric Klien, Gwen Maggi, Chris Martin, Doug Moore, David Norman, Luca Pazzaglia, Mike Rocamora, Cyrille Sevin, Richard Sharp, Rob Stephenson, Richard Walkerdine and Don Williams.

The 18 selected for the Class of 2014 included: Nathan Barnes, Xavier Blanchot, Kathy Byrne Caruso, Davide Cleopadre, Marco Ferrari, Manus Hand, David Hood, Laurent Joly, Doug Kent, Eric Klien, Gwen Maggi, Chris Martin, David Norman, Luca Pazzaglia, Cyrille Sevin, Richard Sharp, Richard Walkerdine and Don Williams.

Unfortunately, Kathy Byrne Caruso, Richard Sharp, Richard Walkerdine and Don Williams were elected posthumously. I will let their families know of their selection.

Following the policy I set 30 years ago I will not divulge the specific results of the election. However, I will say that although every nominee was seconded there was a clear separation between those who were selected and those who were not, so no "close calls." Second, I was pleased to see an omission made many years ago corrected with the election of a good number of non-Americans. I note that in every case the non-American nominees received significant support from American members of the Committee. So, we are finally living up to our name "The International Diplomacy Hall of Fame." Good.

Although much progress was made with this year's election there is still work to be done. There are still some national and regional hobbies underrepresented in the IDHOF: Australia, Austria, Belgium, The Netherlands and Sweden all come to mind. Some of the sub-hobbies are also underrepresented. And, of course, there is still work to be done in recognizing those from the hobby's early years. But in time these omissions can and will be corrected.

More urgently, we need to make some organizational and administrative decisions; and start work on some ongoing projects that will give the IDHOF substance. I discussed those at length in the last issue of DIPLOMACY WORLD and if you didn't read what I wrote then I suggest you do so now.

To briefly (Well, as briefly as I can but not as briefly as Doug Kent would like I'm sure ☹.) summarize: 1) I'm still looking for an individual or a pair of volunteers to replace me; 2) I'm looking for continuing or new Committee members; 3) I propose that all active current members of the IDHOF be included in future IDHOF Nominations and Elections Committees with voting rights; 4) I'm pleased several people have volunteered their technical skills to help with some of the projects I mentioned last Fall. I hope others will also volunteer.

Administration decisions on things like: 1) When should the next election be? 2) How many nominees should there be? 3) What qualifications should nominees have? Etc. etc. I think all of that can be discussed on the IDHOF Facebook site going forward, but the decisions should be made by the next Committee since they're going to have to do the work.

Finally, I hope we can begin work posthaste on some ongoing projects: 1) a second Facebook Page or Web site as a hobby informational source on the IDHOF; 2) an IDHOF Database; 3) a collection of relevant links to other online sites; and 4) a collection of biographies and photos of IDHOF members for our own web site. Volunteers?

On a personal note, it gives me a great deal of satisfaction to see the IDHOF revived. For too long the hobby has focused on its organizations, events, publications, etc. We've neglected the most important element of the hobby ---our members. Now we've begun to correct that. It's high time.

Everything is an Argument: Using Diplomacy to Teach Persuasive/Argumentative Writing

by Scott Allen

Before I begin, I must give credit where it is due. Teachers ~~steal~~ borrow stuff from other teachers all the time, and I need to acknowledge the man who I ~~stole~~ borrowed from. Matt Scrivner has an amazing write up about his experiences using Diplomacy in the classroom which can be found on Board Game Geek. I emailed Matt two years ago and he was gracious enough to share all of his materials with me. So, Mr. Scrivner deserves some lauding and applause for his work in paving the way.

Introduction:

High school students love games. And I love incorporating games into my classroom. I have found, as a nine-year English Teacher at Pomona High School in Arvada, CO., that engagement can always be strengthened with some competition. Even if the competition is silly and not worth anything tangible at the end. Competition and games work to help students learn faster and retain the information longer.

I teach several college-bound Senior level English classes, and in those classes the essays we write are all persuasive or argumentative in nature. So, I start out the year with an in-depth study of the modes of persuasive/argumentative writing. I feel like the two modes have so much cross-over in terms of technique that we study them together.

We start out slow and easy by looking at some recent, topical editorials from the local newspaper. We study general techniques. Then I steadily increase the difficulty of texts: John F. Kennedy's *Inaugural Address*, Swift's *A Modest Proposal*, and finally, chapters from Machiavelli's *The Prince*. We also analyze commercials and print advertising, study fallacies of argument, and the students do a great deal of analytical writing about the texts they are studying.

But the real joy, for both the students and myself, begins when I introduce Diplomacy to them. My goal in using Diplomacy during this unit is to have students write using persuasive/argumentative techniques in an authentic simulation. They most certainly could write a persuasive/argumentative essay at the end of the unit, but I feel that Diplomacy creates more buy in, and allows the students to utilize the techniques we are studying more readily.

The Set-Up:

First, I have to set up the prize. Competitions work better when there is something on the line and playing Diplomacy in the classroom is no exception. I don't usually like to give my students unit tests, but in this unit it works better if I do, because the prize for winning Diplomacy is that the winners do not have to take the test. The students are usually very excited after I announce this. They want to do well so they don't have to do the extra work of studying for and taking a difficult unit exam.

Very few of my students have experience in strategic board games, let alone one as complex as Diplomacy. So, before we actually start playing the game we need to spend a significant amount of time helping the students understand the workings of the game. I link up the rules to Diplomacy and video tutorials in our virtual classroom (Schoology), and then assign the students to either read through the rules or watch the videos (which are not short). I use a quiz to hold the students accountable for this reading, but even with that in place, I have found that many students struggle with getting this assignment done. So many come to class unprepared to play. Because of this I also supplement this assignment with a discussion of rules, a walkthrough of the online interface we use to play the game, and some examples of simultaneous orders.

My job is made much easier through the use of playdiplomacy.com. The wonderful fellows who run that site were gracious enough to set up me up with an educator account that has a number of linked student accounts. The educator can then assign those accounts to games--even pre-assigning countries. I have used an adjudicator that you can download onto your desktop and then run the game before, but in that situation I have to run the game during class time, which can be a serious drain on instructional time. I also want to have the students utilize all of their newly found persuasive writing skills rather than negotiating through oral discussion. Using playdiplomacy.com allows me more classroom instructional time, less loss of personal time because I do not have to prepare the game (adjudicating orders, preparing map updates, etc), and it allows the students to write persuasively to each other.

Day 1:

Everything seems to work smoother if I start the students playing Diplomacy in the classroom. So, I always plan one period (or a part of a period) where I get the students logged on to playdiplomacy.com, get them signed into their games, and help them with their initial

messages to each other. This day usually ends as a success. The students are excited about starting their games, they are all hopeful future Diplomacy "champions." Their plans begin to get drafted and allies are obtained. Every student works hard and many become heavily entranced by the endless possibilities that Diplomacy presents.

Next Steps:

After day 1, Diplomacy becomes homework. Diplomacy is my students only homework assignment for several weeks. They compose their messages and put in their orders at home. I support my students by reminding them of upcoming order deadlines in class and through our Remind 101 text service.

We spend our class time deeply analyzing persuasive and argumentative texts. We discuss writing techniques and how those techniques persuade the reader. We discuss the implications these techniques have on the game of Diplomacy often. Our discussions of Diplomacy ramp up further when we begin reading and analyzing Machiavelli's *The Prince*. Our classroom talk can then include discussions of content as Machiavelli has some choice pieces of advice for Diplomacy players. My students especially enjoy the "being feared is better than being loved, if you can't be both" tidbit that Machiavelli delivers in chapter 17. At this point in the unit the students are heavily involved in Diplomacy and can immediately see the connection to the game as they are reading. The texts we read are extremely challenging, we move slowly and spend our class time reading, re-reading, summarizing, and analyzing the texts.

One of the most important assignments, and in my opinion the most valuable, is the Annotated Diplomacy Message. After the students have been playing Diplomacy for a while I ask them to select one or two messages they have sent in Diplomacy, cut and paste their writing into a Google Document, and then using the comment feature, analyze their own writing. This assignment is critical in connecting what we are reading and discussing in class and what the students are doing in Diplomacy for homework. I want the students to be able to identify persuasive and argumentative techniques in their own writing and more importantly, discuss what effect these techniques had on their reader. This is a difficult metacognitive assignment and time needs to be given so the students can dig deeply. It is easy to tell which students are successfully incorporating persuasive techniques into Diplomacy as their messages become longer, and more thought out. Some students are only able to identify friendly salutations and buddy nicknames as strategies in their messages. The students who are more deeply involved in managing their WWI country can identify Aristotles appeals, fallacies, etc. This assignment is another good

judge for me of how each student is doing in their Diplomacy homework.

The Winner's are Revealed:

After several weeks of playing Diplomacy, I announce the final turn. There is no way that we could play a full game of Diplomacy, as much as I would like to, we simply do not have the time. So, we play a number of turns. My students usually can make it through to 1904 or 1905 if I make the turns two days for Spring and Fall and one day for retreats and Winter/Builds. I tell the students when the last turn is coming so they can make their final push to capturing the most supply centers possible. Then the student with the most supply centers at the end of that turn wins the game and doesn't have to take the test. I always announce the winners with much pomp and circumstance--we start a slow clap for each of them. And I print out certificates for the winners and other notable players in each game (most epic fail, anyone?). We make a big celebration out of the end of Diplomacy and the students seem to enjoy it.

The Benefits:

- We are playing a game! I enjoy running a game/discussing a game during school hours and the students enjoy being part of a game.
- The student buy in can be huge. It is often difficult to get students excited about writing an essay, or taking a test. It is incredibly easy to get them excited about playing a game.
- Playing Diplomacy is an authentic activity. Yes, relatively few of my students will grow up to run a European country. But few of them grow up to write argumentative essays either. I feel that writing persuasive messages to another human being is much more authentic than writing any essay. These messages are like emails, and we all know how many emails adults write on any given day.
- The students become devious. Because we are focused on persuasive and argumentative techniques they begin to see those techniques popping up in both the messages that they are writing and the messages that they are receiving. They begin revising the way they approach adults (teachers, parents). They can see the fallacies in their own arguments. Most students realize that what I am teaching them are powerful tools to get what you want. That is exciting for me to see. Anytime the subject matter of my classroom translates to usage outside the school walls is exciting.
- Students have to struggle with complex rules and structures in an environment they haven't experienced before. Sometimes the struggle is indeed real, and I believe that students need to struggle. It is when we struggle and overcome

that we learn the most. For some students this unit may be the most difficult thing they have ever done, but it can also be the most rewarding.

Lessons Learned:

I've done this project twice now, and each time I do it I learn more and discover new and better ways of running this beast. Upon reflection, I have decided that I will always continue to do this unit as long as it continues to fit within the scope and goals of my course, as set out by the district. Reflecting in my profession is of extreme importance. The next time around I have decided to do some things differently:

- Giving Diplomacy as homework became problematic as students quickly forgot about the assignment or missed a deadline and then gave up on the game. I had students NMR'ing all over the place and several times I had to reinstitute accounts so students could get back into the action. This also caused player messages to suffer. Most students simply stopped messaging (which was the most important part of this project). Next time, I need to come up with some additional motivation to stay on top of Diplomacy, both the moves and the correspondence. Perhaps some additional points need to be awarded each year if students are putting in their moves and composing their messages with each other.
- I also need to devote additional time to connecting the techniques we are studying in class to Diplomacy. This year, I felt a huge disconnect and I'm sure the students experienced it as well. It seemed like the two assignments were totally separate and not connected in any way. So, we need to spend more time discussing how the persuasive techniques we are studying in the texts could be used in messages for Diplomacy. This may include more modeling, from me, of how to write effective Diplomacy messages. I did a little of this during this years unit, but feel that I need to do much more in the future.
- The Annotated Diplomacy message needs to be introduced earlier in the unit and more emphasis needs to be placed on it's importance. This assignment suffered because students had stopped messaging each other and their messages were so brief and devoid of content that they had little to analyze in their own writing. Perhaps next time I need to do some prep assignments for this earlier in the year where students analyze their own writing for other assignments. We compose college essays early

in the semester and then district mandated formulaic essays, both of which could be used as assignments where students could annotate and analyze their own writing techniques.

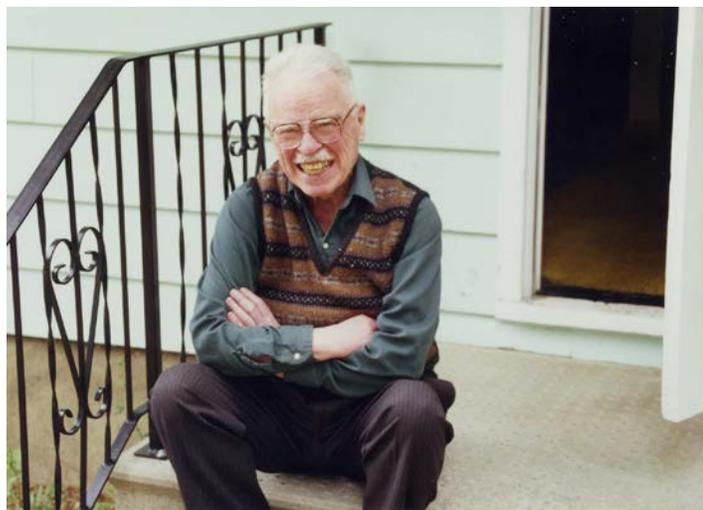
- Finally, I need to find a better way of introducing students to the game itself. Diplomacy is a complicated, nuanced game and demands some study to become good at. My students dislike reading long documents, which the Diplomacy rules certainly are. The videos, that I linked for the students, as an alternative to reading the rules, were good, but exhaustive. These videos came in multiple parts, but each part was about 15 minutes long. If the students were to watch all the videos it probably would have taken them a full hour. Because of these issues, most of my students didn't read or watch explanations of the game and thus went into Diplomacy, blind to the rules. This affected gameplay early on. Students wanted to win but didn't understand the game at the most basic level. This frustrated some students to the point where they wanted to quit--some did. And never underestimate how some things that seem simple can become very complicated for students who have never played a board game more complicated than Scrabble. For example, in many of my students games, I had players that tried to jump fleets from one shore to another because they didn't think they had to travel through the water spaces. One Turkish player tried to launch his fleet to Spain in one turn. The order didn't go through and I had a frustrated Turk in my classroom during our next teacher access period. Next time, I need to find a simple way to convey the rules to my students that doesn't require a long boring lecture, or hours of reading or viewing tutorials. I am thinking of filming my own short tutorial and posting it up for students to view as homework. That may improve this aspect. I also think that I could come up with some hands on practice, perhaps with actual copies of the game, where students can run through a turn or two and see the mechanics in an environment where I can look over their shoulder.

Conclusion:

I still think that there is a ton of potential for very deep learning in Diplomacy. It is a thinking man's game and I believe that students can really benefit from the writing opportunities that online Diplomacy presents. This year showed me that there is definitely still room for improvement, but I will continue to use Diplomacy in the classroom. My students deserve the learning experiences that come from playing a game of this calibre; they deserve to learn through gaming.

John A. McCallum (1915-2011)

By Doug Beyerlein



John A. McCallum died on 19 December 2011, in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. He was 96 years old. John was one of the first Postal Diplomacy players and publishers, and was one of the original inductees to the International Diplomacy Hall of Fame. John introduced me and numerous others to Postal Diplomacy. He published two Postal Diplomacy zines: Brobdingnag and SerenDip in the late '60s and early '70s.

John entered the hobby through his contacts in science fiction fandom. Many of the Postal Diplomacy pioneers, like John, had their roots in sci-fi fandom and published amateur zines to discuss their opinions on various subjects and practice their literary skills. Back then Postal Diplomacy zine publishers and players followed the same format, often using the action on the Diplomacy board as backdrop for their main interest: stories and tales in the form of "press releases".

John's naming of his zines, Brobdingnag and SerenDip, followed the early Diplomacy zine naming convention of using the names of fictional countries or locations described or mentioned in science fiction or fantasy literary works. John Boardman was the first to start this practice, with his zine Graustark.

John McCallum worked as a meteorologist for the Canadian government before he retired. He first worked in Dorval, Quebec, and then later in Frobisher Bay, North West Territories, and finally at the Suffield Experimental Station near Ralston, Alberta. Living in these locales, John had plenty of time for reading and writing. He never married or had children. When I

visited him in later years after he had retired in Medicine Hat, Alberta, his entire basement was filled from floor to ceiling with the books that he had read over the years.

John also taught mathematics at McGill University and Medicine Hat College. His knowledge of math and his interest in chess helped him in the development of three rating systems for Postal Diplomacy players. His BROB rating system awarded one point to the victor for every player beaten in a postal game and subtracted one point for every player who finished better. For example, a win over six other players was worth 6 points; second place (5 beaten; 1 beat by) was worth 5-1 or 4 points. Last place (7th place) was worth -6. His Calhamer Point Count (CPC) system awarded 1 point for a win; a fraction of a point for a draw (depending on the number of players in the draw) and zero points for all other finishes. The CPC system discouraged players from playing for second place. John's last (and I think best) rating system used a weighing point scale similar to that used to rate chess players. The winner was scored against each losing player, with more points gained against high rated opponents and less points gained against low ranked opponents. Points were lost in a similar fashion. This system rewarded play against other highly rated players. John named this rating system ODD (Organisation de Diplomatie).

In the 1960s John introduced new recruits to Postal Diplomacy through his practice of sending free issues of Brobdingnag to Avalon Hill wargamers who listed their postal addresses in *The General*, Avalon Hill's monthly magazine. That was how I first met John.

John ended his involvement in the Postal Diplomacy hobby in 1972. He suffered the all-too-typical "postal death" when he lost his enthusiasm for the hobby. This was one of the many turbulent periods in the hobby's history and it was during this time in the late 60s and early 70s that many of the early Diplomacy founders left the hobby. Although John discontinued his contact with the Postal Diplomacy hobby in 1972, he and I continued our correspondence by mail up until the time of his death in 2011. On occasion we would also talk on the phone. When John turned 90 he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. It was slow developing and John didn't seem to be discouraged by the diagnosis, but that was typical of his positive attitude on life. His obituary, published in the *Medicine Hat News*, does not mention the cause of his death.

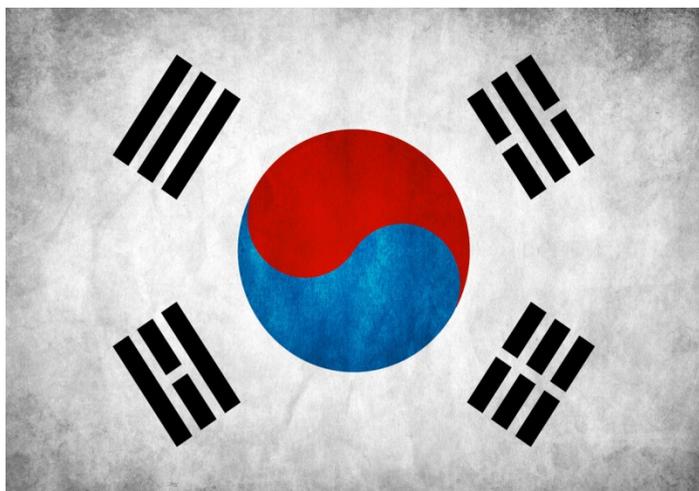
Can a Group of 5th/6th Grade Korean Girls Play Diplomacy and Remain Friends? Of Course They Can!!!

By Jim-Bob Burgess

Many of you are aware of this thread on the RPG.net forum where a group of seven Korean girls of about 10 or 11 played Diplomacy in their English class this fall. It's a fascinating thread, and my brief tour through it here does not give the entire thread its justice. Unfortunately, the semester ended, the poster stopped posting, and the ending of the event is slightly unclear. You can keep checking the thread and see if postings resume later in the New Year. The whole thread can be found at:

<http://forum.rpg.net/showthread.php?740428-In-which-5-6th-grade-Korean-girls-play-Diplomacy>

OK, so here's the set-up, they played every Friday in their Seoul English class and the intent was to conduct all their negotiations in English, a language they were just learning. The idea was that the class happened to have seven girls, all friends since this is a special extra-curricular class, so why not play Diplomacy? In the initial stages, like anyone learning the game, they started out trying mostly to figure out the moves and the rules. But England and Germany did a lot of whispering with the conference map and did make classic alliance moves in Spring 1901... A Mun-Tyo bouncing with Italy and F Lon-Eng with A Lvp-Wal. Since RPG.net is filled with non-Diplomacy players, there is a lot of snarky side commentary about the "friends" problem. As we who love the game all know, the REAL magic of the game of Diplomacy is that you can stab the hell out of friends on the board and actually become deeper friends off the board, best with roffling over beers. But this is part of the cool subtext of the thread.



There was some variation in how quickly the girls grasped the mechanics of order writing, but the English player was a star from the outset, figuring out how to

convoy to Brest in Fall 1901 all by herself. Otherwise, the GM teacher had to do some initial adjustments for misorders. Russia also was good with the tactics, but unlike the English/German players did not do much negotiating. Austria had the most trouble with the rules, in the fall, failing to have A Ser S F Alb-Gre, so Turkey could bounce her out. As a result, she was the only one grumpily playing along (remember, none of us like to have our fuzzy brains exposed), the rest were really having fun. And they apparently tried Monopoly before Diplomacy and that generated lots of arguing and complaining.



As 1902 starts, Italy realizes she must help prop up Austria and the EG alliance tries to motivate anti-Russian behavior. They refer to the Centers as "stars". Turkey listens and builds A Ank. Russia takes Vienna but then starts talking to Austria about giving it back in return for having SOME adjacent ally. France goes rogue with the fleet ending up in Nwg!! Italy and Austria team up to dislodge Germany from Munich, some interesting tactical displays. This ended week one...

Week two started with a wild Fall 1902. France didn't believe that England and Germany really were attacking her, Russia tried to get out of Vienna but was chain bounced by Turkey, and England slipped into Stp as Russia seemed not to realize that was possible from Norway. Italy asked Austria very nicely for Greece, and Austria moved out to let Italy in. As Austria, France and Germany have removals, some of the niceties of supply center support elude the girls. Russia then comes out with the first angry announcement to the board: "I want to kill all of you!" England builds too many armies, trying to stay "balanced" and then realizes they are sort of stuck on the island. This will take a lot of time, even

though she has eight centers already! Russia thus convinces everyone (except Germany) that England should be the enemy, but can't figure out how to get everyone's units over there to hurt the Brits. Then there is an explosion of commentary from the peanut gallery, some of whom know Diplomacy, but many who don't. I'll let you just go read that part.

So then we come to the end of 1903, Germany still keeps having trouble with tactics and both France and Germany get frustrated that they are losing their homelands and now can't build (Germany to Italy and Russia; France to England and Italy). But they do succeed at knocking England from 5 back to 3. France is not mollified by the fact that Italy says she moved through Marseilles to get to England. The Diplomacy part came down to large alliances stealing away for big long discussions (Turkey joining EG) and FAIR being the other coalition. This sort of thing is good for people learning the tactics since more brains can catch issues with order possibilities. The question is whether in this fluid tactical situation they will find the stalemate lines.



In 1904, Turkey is getting overwhelmed, with no close geographic allies, but plays a superior tactical game, retreating forward into Greece that Italy left open and Austria didn't cover from Albania. Tactics are improving and France makes a good comeback, getting Italy to let her into Spain while the Italian fleet goes to the Mid-

Atlantic. This isolates the English army in Portugal, which mistakenly just holds and allows this. Greece is dislodged in Fall from Greece, but then retreats to Serbia, which Austria left open. Austria remains the most clueless about understanding the yin and yang of the game. England gets a build back, but again mistakenly builds an army in London. Turkey now has four centers, Sev, Ser, Ank, and Smy, her enemies are unlikely to work the tactics to be able to take Turkey out quickly. But they still issue too many hold orders and the teacher/GM tries to get them to realize everyone should get orders every season as much as possible.

The recording of some thoughts and feelings in 1905 is the most interesting. France refuses to divulge ANYTHING, while England worries that she will die in the real world, killed by the Russian player. Russia jokes about this. Germany and Russia comment on how much STRESS the game puts them under!!! The Teacher also notes that France is the most inventive D&D player of the lot. But France then gives up her centers to Italy, kingmaking the alternative to the English power. But the English build another Army London, so there isn't much that she can do to get Italy. Turkey regains her homeland and takes Rumania, to stay at 5 despite having IRA against her.

So, there is more that was played, but "Daztur", the teacher, seems to have disappeared with the rest of the game results. Reading the entire thread is still quite rewarding though. The game was great for having the girls have to use English in an unstructured way. This is the same reason that I remain convinced that the Artificial Intelligence problem will be solved when someone writes a program that REALLY plays and negotiates in Diplomacy. That day is SO far off in my view. Let me end with some comments from the girls on the game of Diplomacy. "Turkey is very not kill and can go every way." This means that the Turkish player understood that even attacked by everyone, is not easily eliminated... unless I'm playing Turkey... The French girl agreed with this, saying "Turkey is really good because safe." Austria would have preferred to play Russia, "Russia, four stars and very kill." Interesting how they liked the English word "kill" so much! As noted above, they called Supply Centers stars. But Russia herself said, "No! Many people kill me!" The German player had an interesting take though, from the color of the German units. "My town and very black people and Baekhyeon ((K-Pop singer who wears all black)) likes black and a very simple color."

Eight Rules for How to Be Diplomatic When Playing Diplomacy

Adapted from wikihowtodoanything.com by Larry Peery

Think about your last FTF Diplomacy event, whether it was a housecon, a DipCon, or even a WDC. As you think about the following tips ask yourself if this was something you did or didn't do, and how did it effect your game? Then think about the other players, particularly your opponents and your allies in the game, and ask yourself the same question about them and their behavior, and how it effected you and the game?



I like the way these rules are written. They were intended for the average person in day-to-day real life situations. On the other hand I recall seeing a textbook used at the Foreign Service Institute Training Center; which is part of the George P. Schultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center in Arlington, VA. (You didn't really think they would let officers "in training" into Foggy Bottom, did you?) which took some 300 pages to cover the same information.

These rules are like the Ten Commandments, they are best known when they are broken but usually ignored when they are obeyed.

How to Be Diplomatic

Being diplomatic is also sometimes referred to as keeping your opinions to yourself or being a people-pleaser, but diplomacy doesn't necessarily mean not voicing your opinions or making yourself heard. To be diplomatic means to evaluate a situation before speaking or acting and to take the best course of action without being overly brash or bold. It takes the ability to interpret things, a little subtlety, and knowing how and what to say to be diplomatic. While diplomacy can be difficult in certain situations, especially in those that personally affect you or that involve something you feel strongly

about, a few basic tips and reminders can make it easy to be diplomatic in everyday life situations.

1. Think before you act. Even if you're angry or feeling offended, take a second to breathe and think things through before you say or do anything. If you have to, actually think, "Breathe!" in your head to keep yourself calm. It might seem difficult, but taking that extra second to evaluate the situation will keep you from seeming hot-headed or presumptuous.

It's especially important if you're in a public situation, like addressing a rude salesperson in a retail setting or trying to address the issue of an unruly child that's disrupting your meal from the next table at a busy restaurant.

2. Focus on the facts of the situation. Take a moment to step back and evaluate the situation objectively and assess the factual information before you without including your emotions.
3. Use decisive language. Speak clearly in simple language so that the person or people you're addressing won't misunderstand your points.



4. Be non-confrontational. It's okay to be assertive, and assertiveness can even help you get your diplomatic points heard, but avoid language that could be heard as confrontational or overly aggressive.

Try simply saying, "No" instead of saying, "There's no way..." or, "You've got to be kidding".

5. Avoid highly emotional situations. If you are involved in a discussion that's already emotional charged or argumentative, your attempts to be diplomatic will go unheard. Try again later. Suggest to the parties involved that everyone take a break and return to the conversation in five minutes when calm has returned.

Offer to mediate a discussion once everyone has relaxed and cooled off. Being a mediator will allow you to be diplomatic with everyone involved without anyone feeling that you're taking sides.

6. Refuse to be interrupted. Politely ask that the person interrupting you allow you to finish your thought and continue with your statement. Ask them to continue their thought after you've finished.
7. Choose a diplomatic posture. Use neutral body language to get your diplomatic point across. Look other people squarely in the eye when speaking and use a calm tone of voice.

Relax any parts of your body that can become tense during opinionated discussions, like your

hands, shoulders and brows.

Avoid waving your hands when you talk as this can be viewed as aggressive or distracting.

Don't think that you have to smile or laugh every two seconds to be diplomatic. Being overly friendly will make you appear facetious and your colleagues will take you less seriously.

8. Stand your ground. Being diplomatic means standing up for yourself, so do it. Be firm in your responses and opinions and stand by them. I suggest you make a small copy of these rules and keep it with you when you're playing Diplomacy. Refer to it when you're in doubt what to do. And when the game is over look it over and see how you did. With a bit of practice you'll find you're playing Diplomacy like a real diplomat!

So, I suggest you take these everyday rules for diplomatic behaviour and try them in your everyday life; then, when you've got them down pat, try them out in a Diplomacy game see if they improve your game. I bet they will and that's being very diplomatic.

Announcing a New Diplomacy Group in Fresno, California

by Zachary Jarvie



There is now a meetup.com group page dedicated to organizing games of Face to Face Diplomacy for anyone living near Fresno, California.

<http://www.meetup.com/Fresno-Diplomacy/>

Although Fresno is a smaller town than Los Angeles or San Diego I feel very encouraged by the recent interest that has been generated for Diplomacy in those towns

using meetup.com. I'd also like to thank Adam Silverman for his advice and encouragement on this project.

So if you live in the Fresno or nearby and you want to get your Dip Fix, then look up our group on Meetup.com. Once enough interested people join the group, I will start scheduling games for the near future.

Youngstown IV – Diplomacy World Demo Game – 2013Cxm03 – “Reasonland”

The Players:

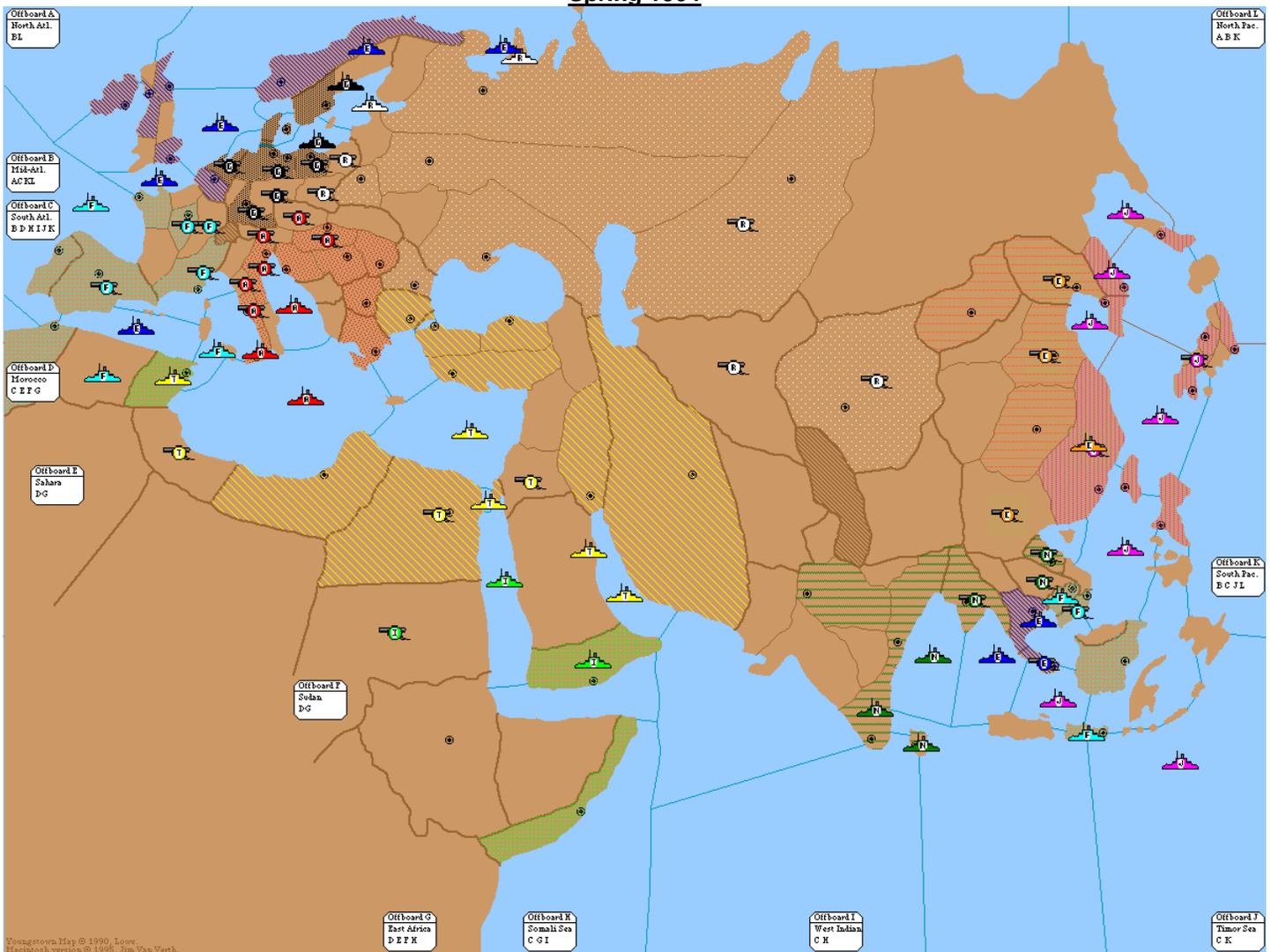
Austria: Andrew Leavey
 China: Tim Haffey
 England: Graham Wilson
 France: Larry Peery
 Germany: ~~Andy Bate~~/David Partridge
 India: ~~Heath Gardner~~/Harold Reynolds
 Italy: Brad Wilson
 Japan: Walt Buchanan
 Russia: Nathan Deily
 Turkey: Ernest Hakey III

GM: Douglas Kent

The Commentators:

Jim Burgess
 Rick Desper
 Jack McHugh

Spring 1904



Austria: F Adriatic Sea - Ionian Sea, F Apulia – Naples, A Budapest – Vienna, A Naples – Rome, A Rome – Tuscany, F Trieste - Adriatic Sea, A Tyrolia - Piedmont (*Bounce*), A Venice Supports A Rome – Tuscany, A Vienna – Bohemia.

China: A Inner Mongolia – Manchuria, A Kansu – Sikang, A Peking Supports F Yellow Sea – Canton,

F Yellow Sea – Canton.

England: F Belgium - English Channel, F East Indian Ocean - Andamon Sea, A Joharra Supports F Thailand(ec), F Mid-Atlantic Ocean - Western Mediterranean Sea, F Norwegian Sea - Barents Sea, F North Sea Supports F Norway, F Norway Supports F Norwegian Sea - Barents Sea (*Cut*), F Thailand(ec) Hold.

France: F Brest - Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Burgundy - Marseilles (*Fails*), F Gulf of Lyon - Tyrrhenian Sea, F Gulf of Siam – Cambodia, F Java Supports F Celebes Sea - Malay Sea, A Marseilles - Piedmont (*Bounce*), F Morocco – Algeria, A Paris - Burgundy (*Fails*), A Saigon - Cambodia (*Fails*), A Spain Hold.

Germany: A Berlin - Posen (*Fails*), F Denmark - Baltic Sea, A Holland Hold, A Kiel – Saxony, A Munich - Tyrolia (*Fails*), A Posen - Prussia (*Fails*), F Sweden Supports F Denmark - Baltic Sea (*Cut*).

India: F Bay of Bengal Supports F East Indian Ocean (*Ordered to Move*), A Burma - Thailand (*Fails*), F Ceylon - West Indian Ocean (*Bounce*), A Laos Supports F Gulf of Siam – Cambodia, F Madras - West Indian Ocean (*Bounce*), A Viet Nam Supports A Kansu – Sikang.

Italy: F Red Sea - Yemen (*Fails*), A Sudan - Egypt (*Fails*), F Yemen - Persian Gulf (*Fails*).

Japan: A Canton Supports A Viet Nam – Sikang (*Dislodged*, retreat to Hankow or OTB), F Celebes Sea - Malay Sea, F Korea - Yellow Sea, A Kyoto – Hon, F Osaka - East China Sea, F South China Sea Supports F Osaka - East China Sea, F Sea of Okhotsk - Siberia (*Bounce*), F Timor Sea Supports F Java, F Vladivostok Supports F Sea of Okhotsk – Siberia.

Russia: F Gulf of Bothnia - Sweden (*Fails*), A Omsk - Siberia (*Bounce*), A Prussia Supports A Warsaw - Silesia (*Cut*), A Sinkiang Supports A Omsk – Siberia, F St. Petersburg(nc) - Norway (*Fails*), A Turkistan Supports A Sinkiang, A Warsaw – Silesia.

Turkey: F Baghdad - Nejd(ec), F Eastern Mediterranean Sea – Suez, A Egypt Supports F Eastern Mediterranean Sea - Suez (*Fails*), F Ionian Sea – Tunis, A Jordan Supports F Baghdad - Nejd(ec), A Pentopolis – Libya, F Persian Gulf Supports F Baghdad - Nejd(ec) (*Cut*), F Smyrna - Eastern Mediterranean Sea

PRESS

Dear Germany,

1) Sun Tzu once said that all war is based on deception. Therefore, how to move and act to trick the enemy into wrong assumptions or miscalculated actions? Get you to fight Russia!

2) Sun Tzu once said "He will win who knows when to fight and when not to fight." I've translated that to roughly mean: the greedy and the dead. von Schlieffen recognized a war cannot be fought on two fronts.

Take a lesson from me, recognize who your strong ally is, and don't dare trust them.

Best,
China

Valetta, Malta (1 April 1903) Commodore Buchanan couldn't help but think to himself as the USS Kentucky sailed into Valetta's Grand Harbour that it was indeed a grand site to behold from the bridge of one of the world's most modern pre-dreadnoughts. With pennants

flying and the rails manned by sailors in their dress whites and moving at just fast enough a speed to create a wake that caused the welcoming yachts to bob up and down on the blue water of the harbor. Sailing into Valetta was no easy task even in the best of conditions but the bridge crew's confidence brought them safely through the series of sharp turns in small spaces that got them past the breakwaters and forts that dotted the islands and peninsulas that made up the ancient port and one of the Empire's major naval bases.

The Kentucky had docked right on the waterfront and Buchanan could feel the eyes of the Austrian and Turkish spies on the ramparts above as they took in every aspect of the Kentucky's impressive armaments. Buchanan didn't fail to notice the presence of several small Austrian and Turkish gunboats further down the quay. Berthed immediately ahead of the Kentucky was the flagship of the Royal Navy's CinC, Malta, the Hornblower. Although not one of the Brit's newest warships the Commodore's intelligence file had told him that the Hornblower consistently won every gunnery competition in the Mediterranean in the joint

exercises when the fleets based in Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus and Alexandria gathered for their annual review.

Dressed in his tropical whites Hornblower escorted the Kentucky's captain and first officer the short distance down the waterfront to the Hornblower's berth. The reception was correct but not formal which, considering the state of affairs in the Mediterranean was no surprise. Greeted at the ladder by the ship's captain, the three American officers made their way to the flag officer's quarters where Rear Admiral John Jellicoe was waiting. Buchanan knew Jellicoe was climbing fast in the Royal Navy. His expertise in modern ordinance and involvement in the Dreadnought project signaled he would go a long way, although some said his command skills lacked the vigor and inspiration England expected in its First Lords.

Buchanan took the Waterford glass half-filled with Scotch whisky the Admiral offered, his first drink since leaving Gibraltar weeks earlier. After the usual chit-chat about family, career steps, and local Navy gossip Buchanan noticed a young man in civilian clothes enter the room and take a position in the rear. What Buchanan noticed first was how thin he was. Second he was wearing the thickest glasses Buchanan had ever seen. Third, although he couldn't be sure, it looked like he was packing a side arm to go with the biggest briefcase Buchanan had ever seen. At a nod from Jellicoe the lower ranking officers left the room to the seniors and the one young man in civies. He placed the briefcase on the table and while Buchanan watched in amazement he proceeded to open the case on the top, on the bottom and on both sides creating a portable war room that would fit on a small table top. He pulled up a map holder that looked like it had once been a window shade holder, and unrolled a surprisingly detailed map of the Mediterranean. Noticing Buchanan's interest Jellicoe commented that the bag came with the man and that he was the best intelligence officer in the fleet. "The entire fleet," Jellicoe repeated for emphasis. In the next hour the man, whose name was never mentioned, took Buchanan on a tour of the past and present situation in the Mediterranean and offered some pointed comments about where things were headed.

Although the recent shift in Germany's position had eased the pressure on the Royal Navy the Navy was still fighting a three ocean war in Scandinavia and the Barents, in the Western Mediterranean where the fleet had just established a presence in the West Med, and in the South Pacific. At the moment Britain faced challenges from Russia, and appeared headed for conflicts with Austria and Turkey, as well as an uncertain situation in Asia where only the benevolent support of the French and Japanese had prevented a Chinese-Indian sweep into SE Asia. Still, the Russians were being pushed back in Europe and had taken serious losses in the Far East, but sooner or later Japan

would expect to be rewarded for her help. The decisive theater was the Mediterranean and it looked like a classic stalemate line was forming in the center while the protagonists maneuvered on the flanks in Africa and the Middle East. After two years of fighting the war was finally getting serious with China and Italy pretty much knocked down, and some firm alliances shaping up. After a few questions Jellicoe's intelligence guru closed with two thoughts: 1) The decisive factor in the war would be what role the USA played; and 2) The new Dreadnought class ship would be a game changer at sea.

By the time he returned to the Kentucky after a typical RN dining in ceremony (Buchanan wondered if senior officers lived on a diet of prime rib, Yorkshire pudding, mushy Brussels sprouts, gin and whisky?) he had drafted a 600 word cable to the Commander in Chief about his briefing. Over the next few days Buchanan would play golf with the island's governor at the Royal Golf Club, tour the island's fortifications, visit some of the harbour's historical sites, and host an informal dinner for the local military brass. Although the captain of the Kentucky hadn't officially revealed their next destination, his eyes and nose told him from what supplies they were loading that they were probably headed for either Constantinople or Alexandria.

The Sultan announced today that the people of Tunisia have invited the Imperial Ottoman Fleet into the port city of Tunis to quell unrest and cult activities, with the recent dissolution of the Italian so-called government. Meanwhile, reports that Italian-led cults have taken refuge in caves along the coast of Libya and seek to summon a great old one up from the depths have led to the mobilization of the peacekeeping force in Pentopolis who have tracked them down and will capture them and provide mental health care for those whose sanity may be yet saved, leaving the now much more prosperous province of Pentopolis some autonomy and self-government. All visible presence of the Yellow Sign and other cult symbols has been eradicated from Pentopolis at this point. In Egypt, the Italian chaos cults had not enough time to establish themselves and are said to be heading for Ethiopia to establish a new center for their ungodly worship, but conflicting reports indicate that instead another attempt to seize the ancient tombs and ruins of Egypt may be in the works -- with their sanity perhaps lost, who knows what the Italian cultists still capable of forming organized formations might attempt?

Meanwhile, all this talk of RATs coming from the West seems like a rodent fixation on the part of the Anglofrankish barbarians. They should know that in actual fact, rats are some of the worlds most effective survivors...

Anon: A woman from Constantinople
Lost her favorite jewel: an opal.

It was found by Sam Eppy,
A priest who was peppy,
And the opal is now episcopal.

DIPLOMACY ONCE UPON A TIME ABOARD THE ORIENT EXPRESS

By Larry Peery

I'm a big fan of train travel and I've been lucky to travel on some of the best trains in the world beginning in 1967 when I took the train from Montreal - Toronto - Vancouver - Los Angeles, a distance of about 4,500 miles, after the '67 Expo; and most recently a RT trip from Oceanside, CA to Seattle a couple of years ago. In between I've used trains all over North America, in South America, all over Europe, and various local trains in Asia and Australia. My longest train trip to date was in 2003 when I combined a visit to WDC in Denver, CO and PREZ Con in Charlottesville, VA in a 9,000 mile Amtrak trip that went from Oceanside - LA - Denver - Chicago - Charlottesville - White Sulphur Springs - Charlottesville - New Orleans - Los Angeles - Oceanside in a three week period. But one thing I've never done is ride one of the world's true "luxury" trains like the iconic Orient Express (VSOE) which ran from Paris to Constantinople beginning in the late 1880s and which today has spawned a series of ultra-luxurious knock-offs as far away as Singapore and Peru! And, if truth be told at USD 3,315 for a one way ticket from London to Venice I'm not likely to be doing it any time soon. Oh, and in case a 24 hour trip isn't enough of the VSOE experience you can add on a couple of nights at their Venice Hotel for USD 8,010 SHARED! FYI, the original London to Venice VSOE trip in the 1880s took 3 days and three nights and cost... Well, don't even think about it.

Originally the VSOE left London, crossed the Channel by ferry, then made stops in Paris, Strasbourg, Vienna and Bucharest before passengers again hit the ferry before arriving in Constantinople. Later you could continue on to Taurus, Teheran, Jerusalem, Baghdad and Cairo on the Taurus Express. Today the Orient Express brand is owned by the French National Railroad Company (SNCF) and the company's website has a nice tribute to the Orient Express at <http://www.sncf.com/en/meet-sncf/orient-express>. CNN has a nice travel story on its web site including some photos at http://edition.cnn.com/2014/04/25/travel/can-any-train-ride-match-the-orient-express/index.html?hpt=hp_c4 There are a lot of other stories about the VSOE and this exhibit online if you do a Google search.

However, your frugal Dip guide (C'est moi!) has a less expensive way to experience the VSOE at a considerable discount, visit the new "Once Upon a Time Aboard the Orient Express" exhibit on display through the end of August at the Arab World Institute (just down

the street from La Louisiane Hotel for those of you who attended last year's WDC) in Paris.

Today the Orient Express brand is the property of France's SNCF national railway. It owns seven original Pullman (Yes, at the same time Eiffel was working on his tower the French were importing railroad carriages from the USA.) carriages, which have national historic monument status in France, including the three that are on display at Paris's Arab World Institute until the end of August. Three of those seven original carriages and a locomotive are parked in front of the Institute's building and form the heart of the exhibit. The first carriage is a 1929 Fleche D'Or decorated with the work of glass and crystal artist Rene Lalique and designed to look like a movie set filled with items that might have been used by famous real passengers. The 1929 Train Bleu's decor also features the work of Lalique but in a more abstract design. And the salon-bar car is well stocked with bridge tables, armchairs and cupboards filled with champagne and Bordeaux wines. It's easy to imagine one of the tables laid out with an original Allan B. Calhamer Diplomacy game and another with an original edition of R.S. Erickson's 1977 classic Rail Baron. Or, after a sniffer or two of Reme Martin Louix XIII (USD 8,000, including the Baccarat decanter), you might want to create your own version of a Rail Diplomacy Variant using this VSOE map



ORIENT EXPRESS IN TURKEY C. 1900



ORIENT EXPRESS IN PARIS 2014

Inside the Arab World Institute building on the lower floor (the building is huge) are a series of exhibits also devoted to the 130th anniversary of VSOE, including a running miniature replica of the train and lots more mementoes (both real and made for the exhibit copies --- can you tell the difference?). There are separate sections devoted to the Taurus Express and the history of the Near East during the VSOE era, including a large-scale interactive map pointing out the major historical and political changes in the region from the fall of the Ottoman Empire (1924, I believe.) the Sykes-Picot agreement, the First World War (and not a picture of Lawrence of Arabia to be seen!), the Second World War, and the exhibit diplomatically ends with the establishment of Israel in 1947. While you're there take time to check out the building itself and its high-tech design. And, for a more sobering experience visit the exhibit on contemporary Syria upstairs.

For anyone keen to recreate something of the original experience, however, the Institute has brought in chef Yannick Alleno. The three Michelin-starred chef will serve dinner priced at €120-€160 (\$165-\$220) per head in a "pop-up" restaurant in another original carriage until

July 31.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yannick_Alleno If you want to extend the moment beyond dinner consider spending a few more thousands on a room (USD 1,800 per night, and USD 1,000 for dinner for two) at the about to open Peninsula Hotel Paris. Veteran diplomats will recall that the Hotel was previously the conference center of the French Foreign Ministry and was used as the site for the first European Diplomacy Convention in 1993 and as site for the Vietnamese peace talks in 1973. Prior to that it was the famous Hotel Majestic at about the same time the VSOE began service.

Or, if all this is still too rich for you, try the Larry's List version. All you need to do is pick up a used copy of Ian Fleming's "From Russia With Love," Bram Stoker's "Dracula," and Sidney Lumet's 1974 version of Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express," with Ingrid Bergman and Albert Finney as Pirot (USD 3 plus shipping), a couple of boxes of Orville Reddenbacher's popcorn (USD 6) and a bottle or two of Veuve Cliquot (USD 41.00, on sale now!), turn down the lights, and put on a Edith Piaf or Josephine Baker recording to set the moon, and let the fun begin. Or, as a last resort go down to your public library (You do remember what those are, correct?) and check out a copy of Graham Wilson Green's (Let's see if he reads this :-)) "Stamboul Train."

Glamour, romance and Diplomacy are not three words that you normally think of belonging together, but this exhibit makes it so. Don't worry if you can't make it to Paris to see the exhibit it will be moving (by rail, I hope) to Vienna, Liege, and then Constantinople. Ah, I mean Istanbul!

Summer 1904

Austria: Has F Adriatic Sea, A Bohemia, F Ionian Sea, F Naples, A Rome, A Tuscany, A Tyrolia, A Venice, A Vienna.

China: Has F Canton, A Manchuria, A Peking, A Sikang.

England: Has F Andamon Sea, F Barents Sea, F English Channel, A Joharra, F North Sea, F Norway, F Thailand(ec), F Western Mediterranean Sea.

France: Has F Algeria, A Burgundy, F Cambodia, F Java, A Marseilles, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Paris, A Saigon, A Spain, F Tyrrhenian Sea.

Germany: Has F Baltic Sea, A Berlin, A Holland, A Munich, A Posen, A Saxony, F Sweden.

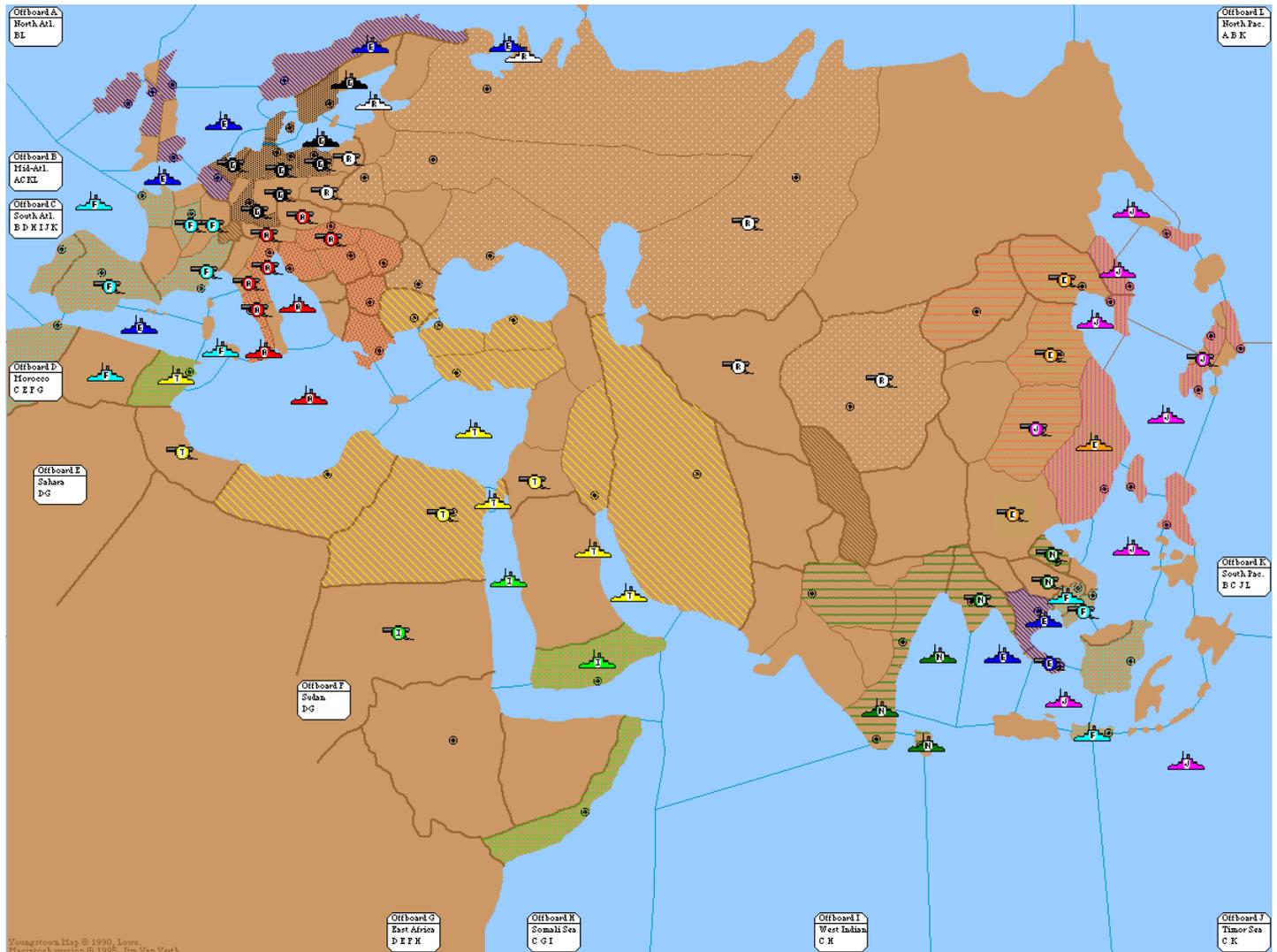
India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma, F Ceylon, A Laos, F Madras, A Viet Nam.

Italy: Has F Red Sea, A Sudan, F Yemen.

Japan: Retreat A Canton – Hankow..Has F East China Sea, A Hankow, A Hon, F Malay Sea, F South China Sea, F Sea of Okhotsk, F Timor Sea, F Vladivostok, F Yellow Sea.

Russia: Has F Gulf of Bothnia, A Omsk, A Prussia, A Silesia, A Sinkiang, F St. Petersburg(nc), A Turkistan.

Turkey: Has F Eastern Mediterranean Sea, A Egypt, A Jordan, A Libya, F Nejd(ec), F Persian Gulf, F Suez, F Tunis.



PRESS

Tokyo: Admiral Togo gleefully looked around at his staff, "I'll happily retreat to Hankow!"

Hankow: Lt. Gen Helmuth von Molke "The Younger," played with his mustache with one hand and twisted his monocle with the other as he stood on the balcony of the

Hankow City Hall and watched the column of Japanese soldiers march past headed toward the front. "God damn it! Who would have thought the retreat of a Japanese Army into eastern Hankow in East Hubei Province in east China would be the most important move in this Not So Great War?"

Spring and Summer 1904 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

Asia:

China has retaken Canton, but to do so he's let the Japanese into the Yellow Sea. Worse, he vacated Kansu in favor of Sikang, so the Japanese army just retreated to a SC. Presuming moderate competence by the Japanese, China won't be able to both hold Canton and

retake Hankow. But the Russian armies should be able to make progress in the Fall move.

India supported the Kansu - Sikang move. I have to wonder at the thinking there. A standoff in Sikang would have led to the destruction of the Japanese army in Canton. What advantage is there to this set of orders?

Wait - it's Kansu in the Spring, but Hankow in the Summer? Does it turn into Brigadoon in the Fall?

So, this is the most important thing to comment on this time. One issue is the relationship between England/France colonies with their European forebears. Japan is doing nothing right now to exploit the Off Board Boxes, nor is he defending against potential incursions. The English/French colonies are both basically stuck with no advance and no retreat. Was that an unwanted support from India to put France into Cambodia? Probably. Why? We really are looking for a solid alliance against Japan, but we're not seeing it. Japan seems open to dividing and conquering. China and India did work together, but as Rick notes, not efficiently, so Japan just retreats into an SC.

I agree with Rick that Japanese move wasn't very good for Japan but I would argue Japan has had little choice due to his concentration on army builds. Japan clearly expected his fleet move to Siberia to succeed and being forced to retreat to Han isn't so bad--as that army is now **behind** any Chinese armies and thus more of a threat.

SE Asia is a mess. The English fleet in Thailand is still on the Wrong Coast. The French fleet in Cambodia is similarly useless. But even with those fleets clogging the dry docks, the J/E/F alliance looks to take EIO this Fall.

So, the French fleet in Cambodia got there with India's help, so India was locking him in there. This really does not make any sense.

Not much to add here--as I've said before, I don't see the European powers doing much here. France's move is typical of the "any port in a storm" approach the Europeans are forced to take here.

"Alliance JEFF had four fleets. E-I-E-I-O!"

OK, enough of that silliness.

Swinging to the Middle East, Turkey should take Yemen on the coming turn. And he's already in Tunis. Maybe the Italians will take Ethiopia?

Turkey has a strong and secure position here--just mopping up the remnant of Italy in Africa and the Middle East, strong alliances with Russia to the North and Austria to the West--the best position in the game right now.

Continuing west, it seems that the French and Austrians are going to lock up things fairly soon.

It looks to me like France and Austria are already tied up, the key here looks like to be Turkey. From the Turkish deployment I would say Turkey will ally with Austria since I see no armies or fleets near Austria's wide open southern border.

And that leaves us with Northern Europe. If Austria works with Russia, the front with Germany should lock up quickly. St. Pete will fall, but after that, what will happen?

I agree with all of this, and so, now we get the model of what Youngstown is supposed to be... it has Off Board Boxes!!! It seems the players collectively are forgetting this. Some calculation about what happens next is required, otherwise everyone but Japan locks up and we wait for an inevitable slow slog west by the Japanese.

I understand by Turkey isn't attacking Russia, as Russia provides a buffer between China/Japan and Turkey, not quite sure why Austria has so many armies deployed against Germany and none against Russia. Unless there is some serious diplomacy going on--Austria's most profitable path is through Russia. Even with Turkey's help, Austria is headed for a stalemate in the West and I don't see Austria or France trusting each other enough to work against Germany.

This leaves Russia (or Turkey but Austria doesn't have the navy and loses more than she gains by making Turkey an enemy) as the main avenue for Austria to pick up some dots.

I also agree with Jim--these players need to start using the off board boxes or we're in for a long, slow moving game.

Fall 1904



Austria: F Adriatic Sea – Apulia, A Bohemia – Munich, F Ionian Sea Supports F Tunis, F Naples - Tyrrhenian Sea, A Rome Hold, A Tuscany – Piedmont, A Tyrolia Supports A Bohemia – Munich, A Venice Supports A Tuscany – Piedmont, A Vienna - Galicia.

China: ~~F Canton – Yellow Sea~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Gulf of Tonkin or Peking or OTB), A Manchuria Hold, A Peking – Hankow, A Sikang Supports A Peking - Hankow (*Cut*).

England: F Andamon Sea Supports F Java - East Indian Ocean (*Cut*), F Barents Sea - St. Petersburg(nc) (*Fails*), F English Channel - Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Joharra - Thailand (*Bounce*), F North Sea – Belgium, F Norway Supports F Barents Sea - St. Petersburg(nc), F Thailand(ec) - Gulf of Siam, F Western Mediterranean Sea Supports F Tyrrhenian Sea - Tunis.

France: F Algeria Supports F Tyrrhenian Sea – Tunis, A Burgundy - Marseilles (*Fails*), F Cambodia Supports A Joharra – Thailand, F Java - East Indian Ocean, A Marseilles - Piedmont (*Fails*), F Mid-Atlantic Ocean – Morocco, A Paris – Gascony, A Saigon – Annam, A Spain Hold, ~~F Tyrrhenian Sea – Tunis~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Tuscany or Gulf of Lyon or OTB).

Germany: NMR! F Baltic Sea Hold, A Berlin Hold, A Holland Hold, ~~A Munich Hold~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Kiel or Ruhr or OTB), ~~A Posen Hold~~ (*Disbanded*), A Saxony Hold, F Sweden Hold.

India: F Bay of Bengal - Andamon Sea (*Fails*), A Burma - Thailand (*Bounce*), F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean (*Fails*), A Laos Supports A Burma – Thailand, F Madras Supports F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean, A Viet Nam - Sikang (*Fails*).

Italy: F Red Sea Supports F Yemen - Nejd(wc) (*Cut*), A Sudan – Ethiopia, ~~F Yemen – Nejd(wc)~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Gulf of Aden or Arabian Sea or OTB).

Japan: F East China Sea Convoys A Hon – Korea, A Hankow – Canton, A Hon – Korea, F Malay Sea Supports F Java - East Indian Ocean, F South China Sea Supports A Hankow – Canton, F Sea of Okhotsk – Siberia, F Timor Sea Supports F Java - East Indian Ocean, F Vladivostok Supports A Hon – Korea, F Yellow Sea Supports A Hankow - Canton.

Russia: F Gulf of Bothnia - Baltic Sea (*Fails*), A Omsk Supports F St. Petersburg(nc), A Prussia Supports A Silesia – Posen, A Silesia – Posen, A Sinkiang - Outer Mongolia, F St. Petersburg(nc) Hold, A Turkistan - Iran.

Turkey: F Eastern Mediterranean Sea Supports A Jordan – Egypt, A Egypt – Fezzan, A Jordan – Egypt, A Libya Supports F Tunis, F Nejd(ec) – Yemen, F Persian Gulf Supports F Nejd(ec) – Yemen, F Suez - Red Sea (*Fails*), F Tunis Supports F Naples - Tyrrhenian Sea.

PRESS

Anon: People complain that New Delhi
Is crowded and noisy and smelly.
And that wild baboons
Beating Japanese goons
Is all that they show on the telly.

From NPR's Marketplace, here's the numbers:

FEJG = 34
RAT = 24
In = 6
C = 4
It = 3

Somehow "Lawrence of Morocco" just doesn't have the ring of "Lawrence of Arabia," and a fez looks boring next to a keffiyeh!

Dateline Java. French sailors have discovered that annoyed cannibals are safe to be around because they're already fed up.

Osaka, Honshu (1 October 1904) Convoys by ships of the Imperial Japanese Navy and supported by additional fleet units operating from Vladivostok units of the Japanese Imperial Army's 2nd Division were expected to land in Busan and Incheon Korea at any moment. Additional units of the Navy were patrolling the coast of Siberia.

Hankow, China (7 October 1904) Supported by units of the Japanese Navy, the Army's 1st Division launched an all-out offensive this morning against the Chinese navy's remaining units in Canton. The Chinese defense has strong support from Chinese boxers fighting under the command of FM Calvin Klein. Still the Japanese morale seems high, although the final outcome of the battle remains in doubt. Members of the Imperial Guard Fundoshi Regiment are aboard units of the South China Sea Fleet awaiting landing orders.

At Sea in the East Indian Ocean (10 November 1904)

Ships of the Japanese Navy are supporting operations by French and English forces against the perfidious Indians who broke their solemn vows of peace in SEA.

At Sea in the Aegean (13 November 1904) After port calls in Heraklion, Crete and Piraeus, Greece during which they dropped plenty of hints that their next port of call would be Alexandria, Egypt the USS Kentucky sailed at a leisurely speed east before heading south through the Kasos Strait before turning north and sailing west of Rhodes as the sun went down. Under cover of darkness the ship headed at maximum speed up the Aegean Sea before dropping anchor west of Limnos Island off shore of the town of Marina and on the opposite side of the island from the Turkish mainland.

Commodore Buchanan had only been told about their destination after leaving Piraeus when he was summoned to the captain's office and handed a double sealed envelope with another envelope inside. The second envelope was also sealed with red wax and Buchanan noticed the seal looked exactly like a cufflink he had seen The President wearing from time to time, something the average observer would not have noticed. The six lines were very clear about Buchanan's orders, but his face showed no emotion as he replaced the sheet of linen paper into the envelope and tucked it inside his pocket. He looked at the captain, who obviously had just read his own orders, and smiled broadly as he said, "Well, The President does enjoy his little naval war games, doesn't he?"

The captain pulled a cover off a nautical map of the Northern Aegean northwest Turkey, the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus and even a tantalizing bit of the Black Sea. ; and the two men began to study the map in detail.

(Two nights later) The British submarine B-11, on detached special assignment from its home base in Malta, surfaced to a clear night sky filled with stars and the calm waters of the Hellespont, only a few miles from the site of ancient Troy, a thought that sent chills down Buchanan's spine. Next to him the young captain of the B 11, Lt. Norman Douglas Holbrook, scanned the shoreline with his German binoculars, a fact that irritated the young Royal Navy officer whenever he thought about it. Buchanan and Holbrook had already compared their orders and Buchanan had noticed one thing he hadn't mentioned to the technically junior officer but still the sub's commander: his orders stated they were to proceed as far up the Dardanelles as Cardak observing Turkish defenses on both shores of the Dardanelles. Then if conditions allowed and subject to his judgment, they could continue on into the Sea of Marmara to the island by that name, circle the island and then return the way they came. Interestingly, the orders given to Lt. Holbrook said nothing about him or his ship being subject to a foreign officer's judgment. Well, Buchanan thought to himself, we'll deal with that when we get to Mamara.

As the sub slowly entered the narrow channel Buchanan thought of the natural hazards ahead: fast tides, shallow waters, rocks, sand bars that changed positions from day to day, a moon that might reveal them to anyone at any moment, clouds that might hide them or might not. Holbrook thought of his new ship and young crew, and his own relative lack of experience in this new technological marvel. He thought of the enemy's (Strange how he thought of the Turks as the enemy although they weren't at war and it was his ship that was violating international maritime law.) defenses: patrol craft on the water, barriers and nets designed to stop and catch ships like his, shore batteries that could destroy his ship with a single lucky shell, powerful searchlights that could reach from shore to shore, and no doubt other surprises as well. All of these were things he'd been told to observe and note.

(Four nights later) So far all had gone well and they'd had no real problems on the inbound part of their mission. After a conference on the bridge Buchanan and Holbrook had briefly glanced into the distance of the Sea of Marmara toward where Istanbul would be if they could see that far. Of course they couldn't but the power of imagination and suggestion was so strong that they

could almost see the lights of the city, hear its sounds, and smell the smoke and incense. Still, they'd more than done what was expected and now their goal was to get out of the area undetected and with the important information they'd gathered about the Turkish defenses. Reluctantly Holbrook gave the order to reverse course and head for the Dardanelles.

As he turned to climb down the ladder into the sub's dark and smelly interior Buchanan looked over the bridge wall and something in the night's darkness caught his attention. As his eyes widened he realized that the large black area behind the ship wasn't a black patch of sky it was a ship, a big ship at that, and one moving without lights at a fairly fast rate of speed, Buchanan looked back and realized that Holbrook was looking in the opposite direction and was unaware of the looming presence behind them. Buchanan reached for Holbrook's foot, and pointed over his shoulder. Buchanan dropped into the ship's interior with Holbrook right behind him. The two looked at each other before Holbrook's training took over. He barked a series of rapid commands and before he could finish Buchanan could feel the boat starting to tilt downward and turn to the left toward shallower water.

The question in both men's minds was "Did we see it soon enough and is there enough time to get out of the way?" The sub rolled sharply as it dove and turned and the sound of the passing ship's engines filled the sub so that even yelled commands could not be heard. It seemed like hours but in reality it was only a matter of minutes before they could tell the distance between the two vessels was increasing. Then, just as Buchanan was beginning to breathe normally when he felt and then heard a second ship behind them. Not as big or as powerful as the first one but still something to be reckoned with. Again the sub slowed, moved a bit further from the center of the channel and waited. And then it to passed and quiet returned.

The two officers briefly discussed the idea of surfacing or even coming to periscope depth in the hopes of identifying the two ships that had passed them, but finally decided that getting back with their information was more important than determining the identity of the ships.

"Good job, captain," Buchanan said, "Now let's get the hell out of here."

Autumn 1904

Austria: Has F Apulia, A Munich, F Ionian Sea, F Tyrrhenian Sea, A Rome, A Piedmont, A Tyrolia, A Venice, A Galicia.

China: Retreat F Canton - Peking..Has F Peking, A Manchuria, A Hankow, A Sikang.

England: Has F Andamon Sea, F Barents Sea, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Joharra, F Belgium, F Norway, F Gulf of Siam, F Western Mediterranean Sea.

France: Retreat F Tyrrhenian Sea - Gulf of Lyon..Has F Algeria, A Burgundy, F Cambodia, F East Indian Ocean, A Marseilles, F Morocco, A Gascony, A Annam, A Spain, F Gulf of Lyon.

Germany: Retreat A Munich - Kiel..Has A Kiel, F Baltic Sea, A Berlin, A Holland, A Saxony, F Sweden.

India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma , F Ceylon, A Laos, F Madras, A Viet Nam.

Italy: Retreat F Yemen - Gulf of Aden..Has F Gulf of Aden, F Red Sea, A Ethiopia.

Japan: Has F East China Sea, A Canton, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F South China Sea, F Siberia, F Timor Sea, F Vladivostok, F Yellow Sea.

Russia: Has F Gulf of Bothnia, A Omsk, A Prussia, A Posen, A Outer Mongolia, F St. Petersburg(nc), A Iran.

Turkey: Has F Eastern Mediterranean Sea, A Fezzan, A Egypt, A Libya, F Yemen, F Persian Gulf, F Suez, F Tunis.



Supply Center Chart

- Austria: Budapest, Greece, Klug, Munich, Naples, Rome, Serbia, Trieste, Venice, Vienna=10, Build 1
- China: Hankow, Manchuria, Peking=3, Remove 1
- England: Belgium, Edinburgh, Ireland, Joharra, Liverpool, London, Norway, Thailand=8, Even
- France: Borneo, Brest, Cambodia, Java, Marseilles, Morocco, Paris, Portugal, Saigon, Spain=10, Even

Germany: Berlin, Denmark, Holland, Kiel, Sweden=5, Remove 1
 India: Burma, Calcutta, Ceylon, Delhi, Madras, Viet Nam=6, Even
 Italy: Ethiopia, Magudisco=2, Remove 1
 Japan: Canton, Formosa, Korea, Kyoto, Osaka, Philippines, Kar, Tokyo, Vladivostok=9, Even
 Russia: Iran, Moscow, Outer Mongolia, Omsk, Posen, Rumania, Sevastopol, Sinkiang,
 St. Petersburg, Warsaw=10, Build 3
 Turkey: Ankara, Baghdad, Bulgaria, Constantinople, Egypt, Pentopolis, Smyrna, Tunis, Yemen=9, Build 1

PRESS

China to the world - It is just one small fleet but, it scares the hell out of Japan.

Got shot from the mouth of a cannon.
 He said as he flew
 "There must be better ways to
 Go visit my lovely wife Shannon."

Anon: On Kentucky its Captain Buchanan

Fall and Autumn 1904 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

Lots of stuff to talk about here, let's start with the biggest news—Germany's NMR combined with Russia and England both moving on Germany. This completely changes things in both Northern Europe and Asia as Russia picks up three builds and balloons to 10 centers while Germany drops to 5 centers and loses a unit. The only real surprise for me is Austria hasn't joined Russia in this attack on Germany, but E/F are on board.

is committed to working with China to hold back E/F/J but the dyke is about to burst which is bad news for India and will be a death knelt to China.

Questions for upcoming turns: Where does Russia build? Will Japan (or anyone else) ever use the off board boxes? Where do Turkey's armies go in Africa once Italy is gone? Will England and France keep working together in Europe and Asia? What's Japan's next move once it gets some armies in Asia?

The collapse of China and the rise of Russia has changed the complexion of the things in the Far East as India looks stalemated against an E/F/J alliance. China gets reduced to only three centers and is fading fast while India looks stuck, this may give Russia a chance to use its builds to try and re-establish itself in the Far East, at least until Turkey finishes gobbling up Italy and getting Austria started moving west against France.

Jack's Power Rankings:

1. Japan
2. Turkey
3. Russia
4. Austria
5. France
6. England
7. India
8. Germany
9. China
10. Italy

Speaking of Turkey, he has a nice position with his units deployed in Africa and Asia and picks up a build as well. My only complaint about Turkey's position is his lack of armies in Asia or Europe—far too many deployed in Africa—which is a strategic dead end. I understand why they are there I just think he over committed to that front.

Yes, the German NMR is unfortunate, and is savagely punished by the English and the Russians. BTW, The Austrians joined in by taking Munich. The French didn't have anything to take, and missed out.

Continuing that way, I've discussed India and his problems and the Western powers in Asia have the same problem—too many units jammed into that area in South East Asia and Indonesia. It looks like India

What also was interesting was that the lack of communication by the German probably was endemic and then finally frustrated the Russians, who then convinced the Austrians to help too. This is evidence that the big alliances are locking up and

they're deciding who to take to the endgame. Then, probably since they didn't communicate with Germany and let him know what they were doing, the German actually didn't send in orders at all. **Reminder to the purists.... NMRs happen. Knowing when NMRs are going to happen, or even helping to "induce" them to happen with lack of communication, is an essential skill in this format. Games are won and lost right here and this is where the game was lost for Germany, and the RAT alliance was solidified.**

The French have also missed a chance to get an army into Africa. A fleet in Morocco will be essentially useless. Of course, that entire front is going to lock up very soon if the alliance structure doesn't change. This is a problem with map variants that dramatically increase the number of units without changing the shape of the map very much. The TYS can be locked up with three fleets, leaving many fleets behind the line with nothing to do. I think that as the number of units increases, there is a greater need for more breakthrough points - like the North Sea. Provinces with a high number of neighbors that are difficult to hold against concerted attacks.

Yes, as I've been saying for what seems like forever, the idea of the Off Board Boxes in this variant is that they are supposed to be the place where the pressure is alleviated. But if the alliances are such that the Off Board Boxes are not helpful, then they are essentially useless. The way this game is playing out is classic in that way. You need England and France at odds for the western edge Off Board Boxes to be useful, OR that Japan is coming that way. Instead, Japan, England and France are the OTHER three way alliance.

Central Europe is becoming dull...moving East.

You can say that again.

Italy has finally taken Ethiopia. He's still getting smacked by Turkey. Turkey's also pushing armies through Africa, and should be able to hit the E/F position in Morocco soon. His next question is what to do about India. He certainly doesn't want a J/E/F breakthrough there. But with the Russian army in Iran (presumably friendly) and another fleet in Baghdad, the RAT alliance will be able to move into the sub-continent next year.

We should expect, if it really is JEF vs. RAT, and we think it is, that accelerated efforts to take out the littler guys should be coming. I think Morocco will be less of a focus than Turkey taking out Italy as that front eventually will lock up, but we'll see. India's been leading a charmed life, but I agree, that comes to an end next game year as RAT CAN be dominant if they can set up the front against Japan that far forward.

So, RAT controls 29 SCs and JEF controls 27. The other powers are doomed, though it's more obvious for Italy. Germany has become The Front, and that's never a good sign for a power that needs to have Lebensraum. China and India are large enough to be very useful, but unlikely to ever be real powers in this game.

I don't have much more to say on that, except that RAT controls more now and will widen that gap in the next few seasons. But I can see it still locking up, I don't know where all the stalemate lines are, but a six way draw looks pretty likely right now.

East Asia is an interesting mess. Japan has a fleet in Siberia, which is much, much less useful than an army there. If I were Japan, I'd be tempted to let somebody dislodge that guy, so as to replace it with an army. It should be noted for newcomers to this variant that a fleet in Siberia can move to Omsk, crawling along the coast in the hope of reaching St. Petersburg. So the fleet isn't completely useless. Just mostly so. Japan also has the army in Korea and a fleet in Vladivostok instead of vice versa. China can hold Manchuria indefinitely against that array of forces.

France is also playing the game of "Fleets in useless places" with his fleet in Cambodia. England at least is trying to get out of Joharra.

Yes, so that is another consequence to me of NOT using the Off Board Boxes, the fleets that could be bouncing around the board, but aren't because of the alliances, are stuck in relatively useless places. I basically agree with Rick on the details, and wanted to make the wider point.

India is going to have difficulties holding the line at the WIO. If there were one more friendly fleet to block that province, he could hold Ceylon/Madras/And Sea indefinitely. The next best thing will be to do a standoff to keep WIO and accept that he's losing And Sea.

So, I don't think this is happening, but if RAT were less sure that they were ahead, they might have had to deal with India and help shore things up. But I agree that India will be cut out and RAT will take their chances on how far forward they can meet the Japanese (and their English/French colonists).

That's the only really loose area of the board right now. The rest of it is pretty much locked up, at least until somebody decides to go for the Off-Board boxes.

And again, they'd use the Off Board Boxes if there was some reason to do so. In this alliance structure, they don't help.

If the game does lock up as RAT vs. JEF, then we'll have to sit back and wait to see if anybody blinks. Powers with idle military forces tend to find something to

do with them. For example, that Russian army might wander down to Delhi...

Winter 1904



Austria: Build F Trieste..Has F Trieste, F Apulia, A Munich, F Ionian Sea, F Tyrrhenian Sea, A Rome, A Piedmont, A Tyrolia, A Venice, A Galicia.

China: Remove A Hankow..Has F Peking, A Manchuria, A Sikang.

England: Has F Andamon Sea, F Barents Sea, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Joharra, F Belgium, F Norway, F Gulf of Siam, F Western Mediterranean Sea.

France: Has F Algeria, A Burgundy, F Cambodia, F East Indian Ocean, A Marseilles, F Morocco, A Gascony, A Annam, A Spain, F Gulf of Lyon.

Germany: Remove A Berlin..Has A Kiel, F Baltic Sea, A Holland, A Saxony, F Sweden.

India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma , F Ceylon, A Laos, F Madras, A Viet Nam.

Italy: Remove A Ethiopia..Has F Gulf of Aden, F Red Sea.

Japan: Has F East China Sea, A Canton, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F South China Sea, F Siberia, F Timor Sea, F Vladivostok, F Yellow Sea.

Russia: Build A Moscow, A Sevastopol, A Warsaw..Has A Moscow, A Sevastopol, A Warsaw, F Gulf of Bothnia, A Omsk, A Prussia, A Posen, A Outer Mongolia, F St. Petersburg(nc), A Iran.

Turkey: Build F Baghdad..Has F Baghdad, F Eastern Mediterranean Sea, A Fezzan, A Egypt, A Libya, F Yemen, F Persian Gulf, F Suez, F Tunis.

PRESS

CUN: The China Underground News reports the rumor in the streets of Peking has it that the Empress of China has been murdered right in her own palace in Peking. While the Empress has not been seen for sometime, no official is confirming this rumor. Civil unrest has started

up in Mancuria, but the Fleet in Peking and A in Sik are still following the orders of their leaders. CUN fears China may be reduced to Civil Disorder before the year is out.

Winter 1904 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

No real surprise with any builds here.

Austria's F Tri isn't that surprising if you view Austria as allied with both Turkey and Russia.

It's not like another army will help. OTOH, it's not like another fleet will help much, either.

I think it is clear that the main issue happening now is taking out German centers, and then they lock up on the stalemate lines. I have to admit here that I've not studied what said lines might look like, but I don't think there is any way (with or without this fleet Trieste) that Austria breaks out into the Atlantic through the Straits. So, long way of saying, and agreeing, no it doesn't matter.

China's removal of fleet make sense. He's pulling into a few mutually supporting armies and gets him out of the way of the Japanese Navy.

China kept his fleet, yes? He removed Army Hankow, which was the most useful of his armies. I can see keeping the fleet to hold the line at Manchuria, but keeping the army in Sikang over the army in Hankow is curious. Maybe he's opening the door for Japan to take his dots to punish Russia for taking Outer Mongolia? I'm baffled.

Sorry, Rick is right--yes I don't know why kept his fleet on the board--can't do very much with it.

So, China's only chance is somehow changing the JEF dynamic. India is the other power with the most

to lose in the TRIPLE/TRIPLE outcome. So, I think that's what China is trying to do, somehow (we don't have access to the negotiations), but I don't think it will work. Still, China/India NEED to work together on something that tries to break the big alliances.

Russia's building all armies, so I guess he's working with Britain, not so sure this a good thing for both Austria and Turkey--those Russian armies have to somewhere.

Army builds are called for. Presumably Russia is going to invade China or India in force.

I considered this but China only has three centers--assuming Japan doesn't get any and then that's it...I think India is a more likely target--but there is also Turkey, which is why I suggest he needs more armies below...

Hmm, you really think so? I think Russia is going to try to help the invasion of India, eventually, but those armies mostly are Asian, with the goal of just locking up the north Scandinavian line. I think you're all trying to make the choices too complicated.

The only place Russia could have built a fleet was in Sevastapol, and that would have been incredibly useless.

I don't like Turkey's build of another fleet. Turkey is Asiatic power and some point he is going to need to

project some power into Asia, I don't think Turkey can do that with all fleets.

Turkey needs another fleet to hold back the JEF alliance which is close to getting past the Ceylon mini-stalemate line.

Two key things here. Russia will be the army power coming down through Asia, while Turkey will be responsible for holding Ceylon (eventually). Second, the interpretation of this needs to rely on the RAT being really strong. I think it is. You may disagree.

Germany's removal of A Ber was surprising--I would thought F Bal would be the first to go.

Germany loses the ability to project power when he removes his fleets. Germany doesn't have any good choices here. The question is whether he wants to retake Posen. He could have done so easily if he'd kept the army in Berlin. Maybe he's telling Russia that he doesn't care and still wants to fight England?

I don't think it really matters.... but again, only matters if you have to break alliances to get anywhere. This is a problem in the big variants. No one in the big alliances wants to be the first to blink. Keep growing, keep taking out little guys....

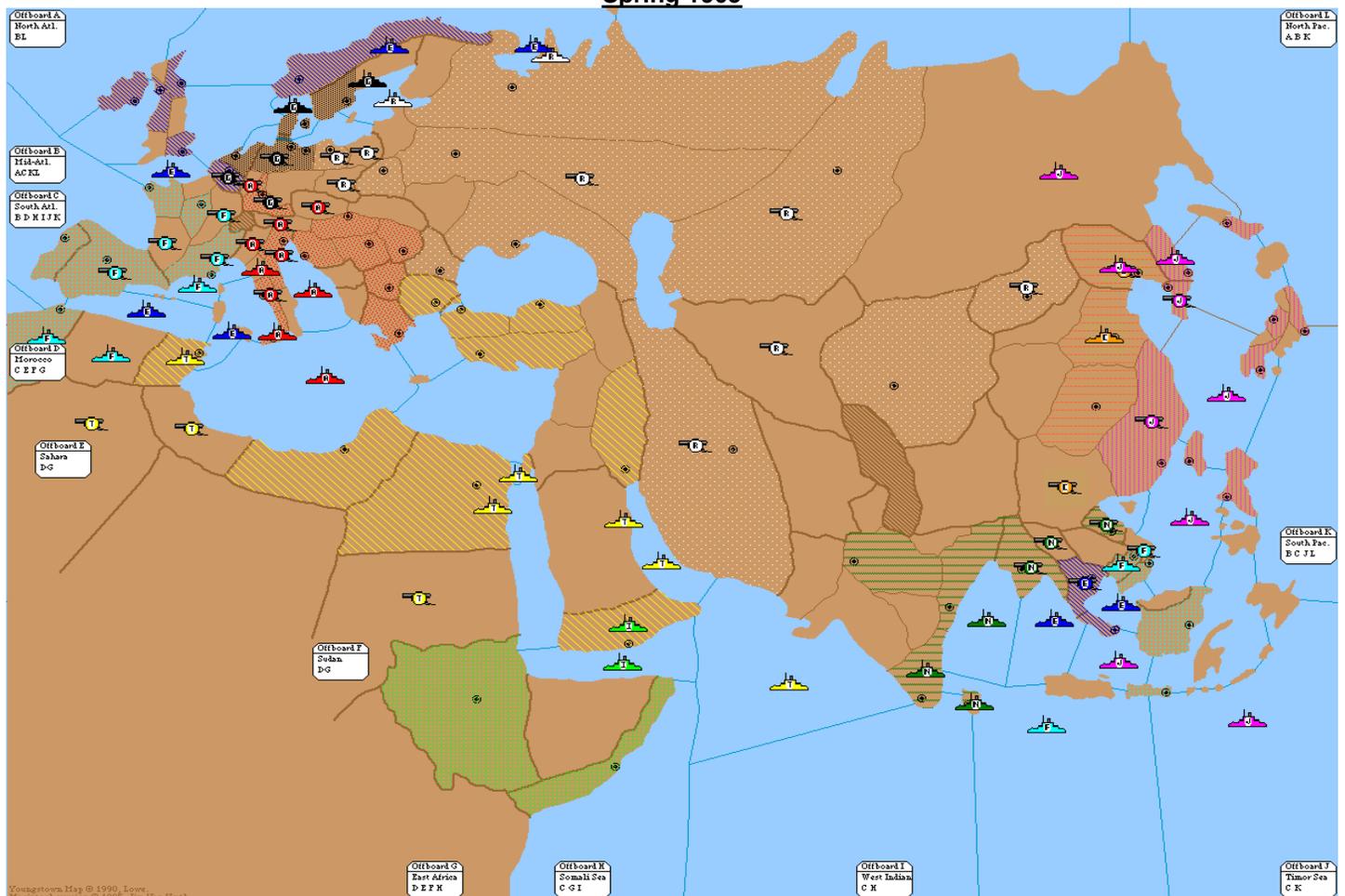
The English position in the North isn't very strong, not if G & R work together. On the flip side, the Russian position in the North isn't very strong if E & G work together. Either way, Germany is more useful as a swing power if he keeps both fleets.

I suppose this IS possible, to bring Germany back in as a vassal. But that's not how I see it. We shall see pretty quickly.

There's still play in the North, as well as in Asia. The Med is about to become very, very boring. Ditto for Africa.

Agreed with Rick, but I see less play in the north than he does. To me the questions are: will someone find a use for northern off-board-boxes and will SOMEONE sneak a fleet across the Arctic? I say the answer to both is no, and thus vote for boring...

Spring 1905



Austria: F Apulia – Naples, A Galicia – Bohemia, F Ionian Sea - Tyrrhenian Sea (*Fails*), A Munich – Ruhr, A Piedmont Hold, A Rome Supports F Tyrrhenian Sea – Tuscany, F Trieste - Adriatic Sea, F Tyrrhenian Sea – Tuscany, A Tyrolia Supports A Saxony – Munich, A Venice Unordered.

China: ~~A Manchuria Hold~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Inner Mongolia or OTB), F Peking - Canton (*Fails*),
A Sikang Supports F Peking - Canton (*Cut*).

England: F Andamon Sea Supports A Joharra – Thailand, F Barents Sea - St. Petersburg(nc) (*Fails*),
F Belgium - English Channel, F Gulf of Siam Supports A Joharra – Thailand, A Joharra – Thailand,
F Mid-Atlantic Ocean - Western Mediterranean Sea, F Norway Supports F Barents Sea - St. Petersburg(nc),
F Western Mediterranean Sea - Tyrrhenian Sea.

France: F Algeria - Tunis (*Fails*), A Annam Supports F Cambodia, A Burgundy Supports A Saxony – Munich,
F Cambodia Supports A Annam (*Fails*), F East Indian Ocean Hold, A Gascony - Marseilles (*Fails*),
F Gulf of Lyon Supports F Western Mediterranean Sea - Tyrrhenian Sea, A Marseilles - Piedmont (*Fails*),
F Morocco Supports F Mid-Atlantic Ocean - Western Mediterranean Sea,
A Spain Supports A Gascony - Marseilles (*Fails*).

Germany: F Baltic Sea – Sweden, A Holland – Belgium, A Kiel Supports A Munich – Ruhr, A Saxony – Munich,
F Sweden – Skagerrak.

India: F Bay of Bengal Supports F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean, A Burma - Thailand (*Fails*),
F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean (*Fails*), A Laos – Shan, F Madras Supports F Bay of Bengal,
A Viet Nam - Sikang (*Fails*).

Italy: F Gulf of Aden Supports F Red Sea – Yemen, F Red Sea – Yemen.

Japan: A Canton - Peking (*Fails*), F East China Sea Supports F South China Sea - Canton (*Fails*),
A Korea Supports F Yellow Sea – Manchuria, F Malay Sea Supports F East Indian Ocean,
F South China Sea - Canton (*Fails*), F Siberia Hold, F Timor Sea Supports F East Indian Ocean,
F Vladivostok Supports F Siberia, F Yellow Sea – Manchuria.

Russia: F Gulf of Bothnia Hold, A Iran – Turkistan, A Moscow Supports F St. Petersburg(nc),
A Outer Mongolia Supports A Omsk – Siberia, A Omsk - Siberia (*Fails*), A Posen Supports A Warsaw – Silesia,
A Prussia Supports A Posen, A Sevastopol – Iran, F St. Petersburg(nc) Hold, A Warsaw – Silesia.

Turkey: F Baghdad - Nejd(ec), F Eastern Mediterranean Sea – Suez, A Egypt – Sudan, A Fezzan – Sahara,
A Libya Supports F Tunis, F Persian Gulf Supports F Yemen - Arabian Sea, F Suez - Egypt(ec),
F Tunis Supports F Ionian Sea - Tyrrhenian Sea (*Cut*), F Yemen - Arabian Sea.

PRESS

Anon: Somewhere in the Sahara,
A Turkish army wandered,
While in distant Ankara,
The Turkish Sultan pondered.
What would the Italians do,
With their fleets remaining, two?

Vladivostok, Russia (1 May 1905): Units of the Combined Northern Japanese Fleets continued exercises this spring in Siberian waters. Rumor has it that giant bungee cords have been placed across the Trans-Siberian Railroad east of Omsk in preparation for the forth-coming Russian counter-offensive that is expected as weather improves.

Yellow Sea, China (1 May 1905) and Seoul, Korea (1 May 1905): Combined units of the Japanese Navy and Army launched an aggressive campaign to capture Manchuria today. Pundits predict no problem against the Chinese defenders unless Russian forces come to their aid, in which case a long, hard battle is expected.

Canton, China (1 May 1905): Units of the First Army moved north from Canton towards Peking before dawn this morning. The two front pincers attack on Peking, combined with the attack on Manchuria is expected to result in a collapse of the already shaky Chinese government. Rumors that the Imperial Palace in Peking has been sacked and burned have yet to be confirmed.

Canton, China (3 May 1905) Units of the Combined Central Japanese Fleets are patrolling waters off Canton in preparation for future landings as army forces move north toward Peking. Sizeable forces remain at sea for use in the north or south as required by developments in the multi-front war.

At Sea in Malaysian and Timor Seas (5 May 1905): Units of the Combined Southern Japanese Fleets are active in these waters in support of English and French allies. Morale is high as prospects for a major sea battle with units of the perfidious Indian navy loom.

Toulon, France (5 May 1905): The Japanese naval attaché in France, Captain Ono Oyea Omaibee, arrived here today and immediately boarded the French Mediterranean fleet flagship, *Cherchez la femme*, to view maneuvers in the Western Mediterranean. Units of the English/French/Austrian/Turkish navies are gathering for the biggest naval battle in the region since Lepanto!

The Buchanan Stories

Limnos Island (Thanksgiving, 1905): After days of mapping and charting the approaches to the Dardanelles, the B-11 had successfully rendezvoused with the Kentucky, which had paid several port calls along the Greek/Turkish Aegean/Eastern Mediterranean coast. After days of debriefing and writing numerous reports which were dispatched to Malta, Gibraltar, London, and Washington; Buchanan had received yet another envelope with the cufflink presidential seal, and as he opened it and read the "Good job, Admiral ...greeting" in the President's familiar looping handwriting, he realized that this message, like the first one, was written before he left the White House. He wondered how many more messages awaited his arrival. Still, a president's request was an order by any other name, and he took it as such.

Limnos Island (later that evening): Since it was his last night in Limnos and the B-11 would be sailing for Malta the next morning, Buchanan took advantage of Lt. Norman Douglas Holbrook's offer for a few drinks on the town. As the two officers boarded the launch to Mirana's Porto Mirana Palace Hotel's private dock Buchanan noticed another launch ahead of them and one sailing along behind. Buchanan noted and commented on Holbrook's nicely trimmed mustache and beard, at least compared to what he'd seen on the submarine where shaving was a subject for night dreams. By the time they got to the dock the first launch had come and gone and the third one was waiting for them to clear the dock. Since Buchanan had no idea of where the Hotel was he failed to notice that Holbrook was taking a rather long roundabout way to get there, and the fact that they were discreetly followed by two Royal Marines in civvies. By the time they got to the Hotel Buchanan had spotted six more Royal Marines surrounding the Hotel as well as a

cart unloading a variety of packages, containers, and such outside. The Hotel seemed unusually quiet although it far past the tourist season. Still, Buchanan thought it seems as if we'd have the place to ourselves. And, so in fact, it was to be. Holbrook led him into the tiny Hotel bar, took a swig of a stiff shot of Scotch and excused himself for a moment. While Buchanan thought about the mission to date, and continued to wonder about the identity of the two ships they'd passed on their exit from the Straits, Holbrook disappeared toward the men's' room. He returned a few minutes later dressed in dress whites and handed Buchanan a Wally Bag with his dress whites inside. "OK, now it's your turn to make pretty," and gave him a big grin. Buchanan, for once, did as told, and, not forgetting to take his drink with him, made for the head. The drink was starting to have its effect and by the time Buchanan had finished changing he had failed to notice that his uniform fruit salad had two additional ribbons.

The two officers exited the bar, passed another couple of Royal Marines, still in mufti, and slowly climbed the stairs. The small banquet room upstairs held perhaps 30 people, all dressed in formal uniform or as close to it as possible under the circumstances. There were officers from the Kentucky and the entire crew of the B-11. The officers looked at ease with the surroundings and knew what was coming. Most of the enlisted men did not and showed it. This was their first experience at a "formal dining in." The captain of the Kentucky as senior officer present took over as president of the event. The captain of the B-11 as second ranking officer, as a ship commander, took over as vice president. Royal Navy and US Navy formal dining ins are a bit different, and only fairly recently had the two services held joint events (something to do with the War of 1812 had prevented it earlier). Normally the host nation's traditions are followed, but not always.

Royal Navy officers have the privilege of remaining seated when toasting the Sovereign. Some sources state that this privilege was granted by William IV. A popular story states that Charles II was on board his namesake ship 'Royal Charles' and had bumped his head on the low overhead of the wardroom when he stood up to reply to a toast that had been drunk to him. He stated that henceforth, naval officers would never again rise to toast a British sovereign. In 1964, Queen Elizabeth II extended the privilege to the Royal Marines in honor of their 300th anniversary.

Toasts are traditionally offered to rulers (e.g. the Sovereign or President), commanders (but the President is not repeated although he is commander-in-chief), and units. Various traditions are honored. Fines (a way of raising money to pay for the event) are collected for violations of various rules (e.g. failing to ask for permission before going to the loo). For more details on all this consult Wikipedia or any military etiquette manual.

Prior to the official beginning of the dining in the captain of the Kentucky read a message to the group from the First Sea Lord commending their efforts on their mission, announcing that each member of the crew would be advanced one grade in rank, that the captain of the B-11 and Commodore Buchanan would be further decorated by direction of His Majesty, and that everyone present was then and forever after forbidden to discuss the mission with anyone who did not participate in it. The captain then read a similar message from the President commending the crew and awarding decorations to the two senior officers on the mission.

Lt. Holbrook took his turn at the rostrum and wasted few words in announcing that the First Sea Lord had approved the awarding of the Royal Navy's submarine service "Dolphins" to Buchanan, the first foreigner so honored. Holbrook grinned as he informed Buchanan that the chief benefit of that was that henceforth whenever he ran into another RN Dolphin in a pub or bar he would be expected to buy the first round, as senior officer present.

Finally, the captain of the Kentucky produced a large, sealed envelope and carefully opened it. He reminded those present that they were under an oath of secrecy of unending duration. He then began passing various photos down the table. He told them that he appreciated their curiosity about the identity of the two ships that had passed them in the Dardanelles and identified them as two German Navy vessels, the pre-dreadnought Goeben and the cruiser Breslau. (The Goeben eventually joined the Turkish Navy in 1914, was renamed the Yavuz, and served as flagship of the Turkish Navy until 1973!). He said that if war did break out between England her allies and Germany and her allies the work they had done would be of great value to the allied forces.

Hours and much whisky and grog later, the dining in ended with an impromptu singing of God Save the King, The Star Spangled Banner, and Auld Lang Syne.

Limnos Island (the next morning): Buchanan watched from the observation deck as the B-11 faded into the distance and disappeared underwater, before he turned his head and nodded to the captain of the Kentucky. Within minutes the ship was picking up speed and heading south

Latakia, Syria (days later): The Kentucky moved south, then east north of Cyprus, before again turning south down the coast of Syria. It paused briefly outside Latakia where Buchanan boarded a small fishing boat for the trip into the port. Within hours he had joined a survey party of French engineers working for the VSOE Railroad that were mapping a new route from Latakia to Aleppo and

points east. His cover as an American engineer and his open pockets to members of the crew made him popular and no one commented as he discreetly took photos and drew the occasional map as their caravan moved east.

Aleppo, Syria (a week later): Buchanan realized that he was having an enjoyable trip with the friendly group but he really wasn't getting a feel for what was going on in the Levant. In Aleppo he asked the British representative and some Americans he ran into for an alternative approach. The British consul suggested he hire a private guide to take him south into Jordan, Iraq and the land of the Saudis. He even knew the perfect candidate, a young British student from Oxford who was in the area studying medieval fortifications from the time of the Crusades. He told Buchanan that he was intelligent, spoke the language well, and knew a lot about local geography and tribal politics. He also said he was a bit "strange," without saying why. Buchanan decided to interview him and the next day, after a few drinks (whisky for Buchanan, tea for his guest), hired him for 5 pounds sterling a week plus expenses. The two set off and in the fall and early winter traveled south through the Levant, the Holy Land and into the land of the Saudis --- as far as Medina via the Hejaz Railroad which had just been built, and then to Riyadh. As he paid off his student guide Buchanan asked him what his future plans were. "I will go back to Oxford, finish my degree, and return here. My future is in this land." As the fair-haired, blue-eyed twenty-something year old disappeared in the crowd, Buchanan wondered if he'd ever meet him again.

Riyadh, Arabia (early winter): Buchanan realized he was in the middle of nowhere, at least for an American, and winter was approaching, although winter in the Arabian peninsula isn't what it is back in the States. He found a caravan headed for Qatar and after ascertaining that his chances of making it there without being robbed or worse, were better than one in three, he decided to give it a go, after promising the caravan master a healthy fee if he arrived intact and on time. It was a cold and windy trip but they made it and he managed to hook up with a gold smuggler in Qatar who promised to deliver him in Abu Dhabi, Bandar, or Karachi by spring. Buchanan signed on for the voyage to Karachi but planned to leave the dhow in Bandar. He had other plans from then on. He'd read reports in the local newspapers (yes, the London Times published a Middle Eastern edition a week after it appeared in London) that suggested adventuresome travels were already flocking to join pioneer aviators flying first time routes along the northern shore of the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, and Arabian Sea. It was said one such trip could pay the pilot for his plane and all expenses for a year because of the gold trade between the Gulf and India. And who knew what other secrets he might uncover?

Summer 1905



Austria: Has F Adriatic Sea, A Bohemia, F Ionian Sea, F Naples, A Piedmont, A Rome, A Ruhr, F Tuscany, A Tyrolia, A Venice.

China: Retreat A Manchuria - Inner Mongolia..Has A Inner Mongolia, F Peking, A Sikang.

England: Has F Andamon Sea, F Barents Sea, F English Channel, F Gulf of Siam, F Norway, A Thailand, F Tyrrhenian Sea, F Western Mediterranean Sea.

France: Has F Algeria, A Annam, A Burgundy, F Cambodia, F East Indian Ocean, A Gascony, F Gulf of Lyon, A Marseilles, F Morocco, A Spain.

Germany: Has A Belgium, A Kiel, A Munich, F Skagerrak, F Sweden.

India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma, F Ceylon, F Madras, A Shan, A Viet Nam.

Italy: Has F Gulf of Aden, F Yemen.

Japan: Has A Canton, F East China Sea, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F South China Sea, F Siberia, F Timor Sea, F Vladivostok.

Russia: Has F Gulf of Bothnia, A Iran, A Moscow, A Outer Mongolia, A Omsk, A Posen, A Prussia, A Silesia, F St. Petersburg(nc), A Turkistan.

Turkey: Has F Arabian Sea, F Egypt(ec), A Libya, F Nejd(ec), F Persian Gulf, A Sahara, A Sudan, F Suez, F Tunis.

Spring and Summer 1905 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

So, as always, let's start with the press. Some interesting press this turn, let's take a look and see if it helps us understand what is going on. Turkey likely wrote the initial anonymous item, note that he set up a trade while starting the flood of fleets into the Indian ocean. Turkey let Italy move into Yemen, but Italy will still at best only have the two centers, and most likely Yemen now will be annihilated. The next set of press is more Peeriblah about the vassal support of the French for the Japanese. And then the Japanese Walt Buchanan (US Engineer) spy network story is told in the next few press items. All of this, shows the strength of the EFJ alliance. Peery's press is just blabbing, but let's look closer at Walt's long set of items as he tours the west. The Americans clearly are supporting the EFJ alliance and Commodore Buchanan is traipsing his way back to Japan while "looking in" on the Turkish alliance. He seems to be saying the Germans are still with the Turks (sale of the ships), but that's the most interesting thing in this set of orders, so let's leave the press and go to that.

What of Germany? Last time, we left the Germans seemingly the odd man out, but our esteemed German leader David Partridge, who is one of the best Diplomacy players around when he's paying attention, seems to have pulled off a brilliant stab. I leave it to my co-commentators to see if they agree, but I think we have a German player going to the EF alliance and saying "look what they did to me, I'm with you guys now, can I help you change the equation on the European mainland?" But this was a total stab lie and Germany actually is still on the RAT side, so it's still a GRAT. Germany sneaked into Belgium as England left. Austria and Germany worked together through Munich to set up to move into France proper, and Germany took Sweden back. France supported the move into Munich, but clearly so did the RAT alliance. This could be really bad news for the EFJ. Norway and Burgundy can be taken in the Fall, and then the homelands of both England and France are under attack. It will be interesting later to assess if the stab on Germany that opened up this greater stab by Germany on England was a ploy by the GRAT alliance. Or if it just was opportunistic from the situation. Right now, I'm betting it was the former.

France and England in the Mediterranean: So, did they succeed by getting into the Tyrrhenian Sea, or

is this just the beginning of a push there too? Getting the fleet into Tuscany suggests the latter. Eventually, that advanced English fleet is knocked out, then the Gulf of Lyon, then Algeria, then Western Mediterranean and Morocco. I think the EF pressure on their homelands also makes it difficult for them to defend this line too. I think the line is nearly completely gone here.

Italy's Survival: Italy can keep the two units for one more year, but then he collapses next game year as the flood of Turkish fleets come forward. And from the anonymous press, the one army relentlessly moves forward as well.

India's Handwriting on the Wall: Those two armies from Russia, they come for you! The Russians could have a bit of a problem in getting enough units in the right places in Asia fast enough. I even was wondering if Germany will give Russia Norway for the fall (guaranteed with the two German supports while Moscow covers St. Pete) to give Russia the builds they need to fill in the Asian territory. India was helped by the slowness of the EFJ advance though, I don't get why France didn't advance to the West Indian there just is so little movement there.

China: But China keeps getting whittled away, that's where Japan is gaining slowly. But will that be enough to attack Russia forward into the Russian homeland? That's the question in Asia.

In sum, I was really depressed for action before, but now I'm getting excited again.

I won't reply point-by-point but rather will focus on a few locations.

1) Germany. As Jim says, this is a major stab by Germany on E/F. The question now is whether they go for the dots or position. G/R can take Norway while Germany squats on Belgium. That would make two disbands for England in a position that cannot afford disbands. Or they could leave the army in Belgium unsupported while trying to get an army into Burgundy. I suspect getting the German fleet into Norway is a priority, while taking Belgium isn't - if E/F dislodge him, he'll be able to retreat to Picardy.

2) Tyrrhenian Sea: the English fleet here is useless. It doesn't let E/F take Tunis, since Turkey has two armies

with uncuttable supports. This fleet is sticking out in an untenable position, begging to be dislodged and forcibly disbanded. A/T can do that by attacking TYS with supports from Tuscany, Naples, and ION. The attack in the opposite direction would have at most two supports, so it would be overpowered. And A/T don't need to worry about losing Tunis: if the English fleet in TYS is dislodged by an attack from Tunis, its support of any attack on Tunis would be gone, and the two armies in West Sahara and Libya would have enough strength to keep Tunis from the fleets in Algeria and Western Med.



3) Yemen - The Italian has taken Yemen in a Spring move, but won't be able to hold it. Turkey can cut the support of Gulf of Aden and use the other two fleets to retake Yemen. Alternatively, Turkey can use the fleet in the Arabian Sea to block WIO from any French incursion. That leaves only two forces to attack Yemen, but if Italy uses his fleet in GoA to do that, it won't be able to stop the army in Sudan from taking Ethiopia.

Actually the fleet in Yemen is probably doomed. It won't be able to retreat to Red Sea, or Arabia, or, indeed, anywhere. But as long as Italy defends Ethiopia, he'll be able to build another force in Magudisco to replace the lost fleet. Not that it really matters all that much.

4) WIO - India didn't do a self-standoff to defend this sea province, but France didn't even try for it. France could have snuck in and team JEF certainly had enough fleets to follow up to EIO. This window appears to be closing.

5) F Siberia is useless. F Vladivostok is useless. If I were Japan here, I'd pull out of Vladivostok to the sea, build another army, and start putting useful armies in these land provinces.

6) Manchuria. Even with Russian help, China cannot retake Manchuria without losing Peking. OTOH, Japan need not worry about losing Canton, since Hankow is available for a retreat. More generally, Japan has a lot of fleets in useless places. If he's not going to go to the Off-Board boxes, he might stab France and build some armies. Either that or go to Gulf of Tonkin already.

I'm not convinced Germany and E/F were ever allied. It struck me that England and Germany were working together against Russia in the north for a but but that's it. I never really saw France and Germany working together. They just weren't making any progress in attacking each other, mostly because Russia and Austria were too busy elsewhere to help France and England was allied with France thus not helping Germany. Italy was wiped out by Austria before he could decide if he would help France or Germany.

I agree with Jim Bob in that Germany is still working with Russia and Austria--and I also agree with Rick about no point in pushing Germany's armies around up the Low Countries. France or England needs to get another army up there to keep Germany from "retreating" into France.

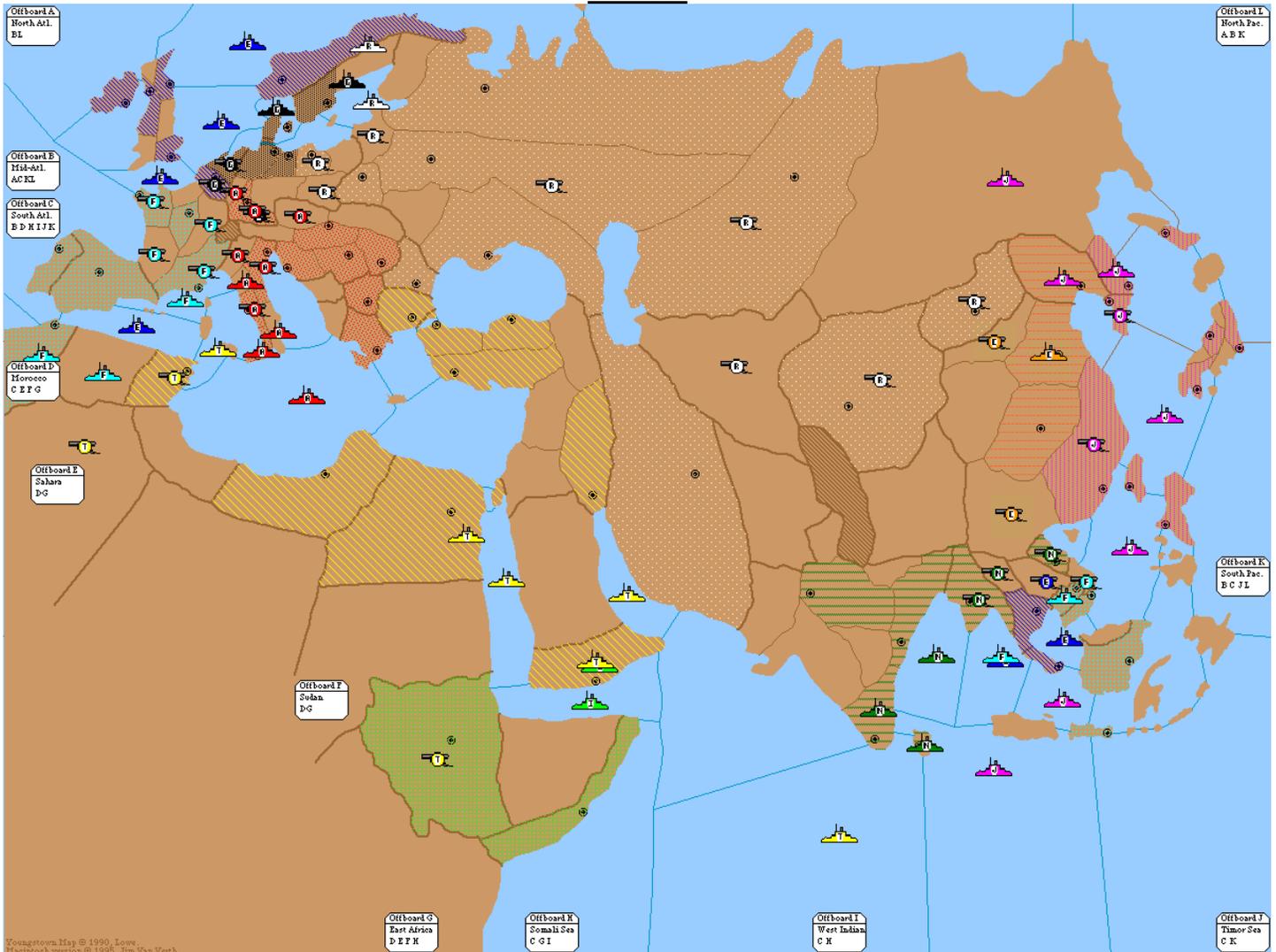
The problem with the English F Tys is it has no place to retreat to--nice idea though but Austria and Turkey have so many units they have every province occupied. That's not something you see happen very often in regular Dip but there are more units in Youngstown so its not as big a surprise here.

I agree with Rick that Japan has too many useless fleets--if Japan won't use the off board boxes because its allied with E/F--a mistake in my opinion as E/F gets much more out allying with Japan than Japan can get--then Japan needs to become a land power in Asia. This means she needs to lower her 3 to 1 fleets to army ratio to 2 to 1 or perhaps even lower.

Turkey and Russia head toward the Indian and Pacific oceans--India's probably only going to survive as China has, a rump state on the stalemate line, if India survives at all. E/F/J slowly grinding their way forward but they are going so slow they will find R/T waiting for them when they do get around or through India's units.

This game may be headed for a stalemate unless Japan switches sides, E/F can break out somewhere--either in the Indian ocean or in Europe-- or A/T can break out of the Med or R/T can break through in Asia.

Fall 1905



Austria: F Adriatic Sea – Apulia, A Bohemia Supports A Tyrolia – Munich, F Ionian Sea Supports F Tunis - Tyrrhenian Sea, F Naples Supports F Tunis - Tyrrhenian Sea, A Piedmont Hold, A Rome Supports F Tuscany, A Ruhr Supports A Belgium, F Tuscany Supports F Tunis - Tyrrhenian Sea, A Tyrolia – Munich, A Venice Supports A Piedmont.

China: A Inner Mongolia - Manchuria (*Fails*), F Peking Supports A Sikang – Canton, A Sikang - Canton (*Bounce*), A Hankow S A Peking (No Such Unit Exists).

England: ~~F Andaman Sea – Thailand(wc)~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Sumatra or Joharra or OTB), F Barents Sea - Norwegian Sea, F English Channel - Belgium (*Fails*), F Gulf of Siam Supports F Andamon Sea - Thailand(wc), F Norway - North Sea, A Thailand – Laos, ~~F Tyrrhenian Sea – Tunis~~ (*Disbanded*), F Western Mediterranean Sea Supports F Tyrrhenian Sea – Tunis.

France: F Algeria Supports F Tyrrhenian Sea – Tunis, A Annam - Viet Nam (*Fails*), A Burgundy Supports F English Channel - Belgium (*Cut*), F Cambodia Supports A Thailand (*Ordered to Move*), F East Indian Ocean - Andamon Sea, A Gascony – Brest, F Gulf of Lyon - Tyrrhenian Sea (*Fails*), A Marseilles Supports A Burgundy, F Morocco Supports F Algeria, A Spain – Gascony.

Germany: A Belgium Supports A Munich - Burgundy (*Cut*), A Kiel – Holland, ~~A Munich – Burgundy~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Saxony or Kiel or OTB), F Skagerrak Supports F St. Petersburg(nc) – Norway, F Sweden Supports F St. Petersburg(nc) – Norway.

India: F Bay of Bengal Supports A Burma, A Burma Supports A Shan – Thailand, F Ceylon Supports F Arabian Sea - West Indian Ocean, F Madras Supports F Bay of Bengal, A Shan - Thailand (*Bounce*), A Viet Nam - Annam (*Fails*).

Italy: F Gulf of Aden - Sudan (*Fails*), ~~F Yemen – Gulf of Aden~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Arabian Sea or OTB).

Japan: A Canton - Peking (*Fails*), F East China Sea Supports F South China Sea – Canton, A Korea Supports F Manchuria, F Malay Sea Supports F East Indian Ocean - Andamon Sea, F Manchuria Supports A Canton - Peking (*Cut*), F South China Sea - Canton (*Bounce*), F Siberia Hold, F Timor Sea - East Indian Ocean, F Vladivostok Supports F Siberia.

Russia: F Gulf of Bothnia Hold, A Iran – Turkistan, A Moscow - St. Petersburg (*Bounce*), A Outer Mongolia Supports A Turkistan – Sinkiang, A Omsk - St. Petersburg (*Bounce*), A Posen Supports A Bohemia - Saxony (*Void*), A Prussia – Livonia, A Silesia Supports A Bohemia - Saxony (*Void*), F St. Petersburg(nc) – Norway, A Turkistan – Sinkiang.

Turkey: F Arabian Sea - West Indian Ocean, F Egypt(ec) Supports F Suez - Red Sea, A Libya – Tunis, F Nejd(ec) – Yemen, F Persian Gulf Supports F Nejd(ec) – Yemen, A Sahara Supports A Libya – Tunis, A Sudan – Ethiopia, F Suez - Red Sea, F Tunis - Tyrrhenian Sea.

PRESS

Dipkemon

RAT used "diplomacy", it was super effective! Italy has fainted.

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. .

Wait...what's that? RAT is evolving?

(Don't press 'B' here. We don't want to cancel this.)

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. .

Congratulations! Your RAT has evolved into a TAGIR. Would you like to give your new TAGIR a nickname?

(So TAGIR sounds like Tiger, which is the only reason this joke works. No, of course we don't. I never understood why nicknames were appealing in Pokemon.)

Sultan abdicates! Sultana Aliyah Kaballa, in a surprise harem coup, announced today that the Sultan, for "reasons of personal health", has abdicated in favor of herself, his first wife. Members of the harem have taken over several key government ministries, with the full support of the Grand Admiral of the Turkish Navy and the Grand Marshall of the Turkish Army. Rumors of something stirring within the Imperial Harem had been circulating for months, and the Harem Guard has declared its support for its erstwhile wards as well. So far, the people of the Empire have taken the news in stride, as wives and concubines all over the empire have

stated that the new leadership should be given the full support of their husbands "or else".

In related news, it seems agents of the American Suffragettes movement had been visiting the Imperial Harem and discussing their efforts in the United States, and the various states which had already given women the vote. The Sultana has declared that a Constitutional Convention would be assembled, consisting of both men and women from all over the Turkish domains, to begin setting up a framework suitable to the Turkish way of life but with equality for both genders. Predictably, there were protests at this news, especially from the hard-line clerics of the Prophet, but some clerics also spoke out supporting the idea, finding passages in the Quran to support it. "This is the 20th century", many proclaimed, "let us become a modern Empire fit to govern our rightful conquests in a manner fair to all citizens!"

Skeptics predict this move towards women in positions of power and able to actually elect a government in some fashion is doomed to fail, only time will tell... Some claim that this was an attempt by American agents to stir up internal strife so as to aid their not-so-secret allies, the Anglofrankish barbarians which are their distant kin, but as is often the case, it is possible that they stirred up something that will in the end prove a bitter pill for them to swallow.

France: As the game and the world plunges toward the abyss of WWI let us pause and look back to a kinder, gentler time when WWII was behind us and things looked and sounded good, at least on Broadway. And yet only a few months later the American political literati rose to find the latest issue of Collier's magazine in their mail box exploring the possibility of a WWIII that would cause unbelievable destruction in the same areas that

had been devastated by WWII --- with one new addition, the USA.

With good reason "The King and I" has always been one of the world's favorite musicals ever since it opened on Broadway in New York at the St. James Theater in March, 1951. Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic music and lyrics and the performances of Gertrude Lawrence, already dying of cancer although she didn't know it, and an unknown actor and director named Yul Brynner, made Margaret Landon's story a smash hit that endures to this day. Literally

Just days ago a new production of the American theater classic opened in Paris at the Theatre du Chatelet to rave reviews for the latest revival of the work. George Loomis's review in the International New York Times praised the work as "being as near to perfection as ..." and left it at that. It runs through 29 June so if you're in Paris see it if you can.

On the flip side of the coin my mail box brought me a surprise early birthday present a few days ago, a copy of the October 27, 1951 issue of Collier's magazine. This 130 page issue was devoted to a single subject, what WWII might be like. It caused a huge controversy in its day when several dozen of America's leading thinkers about things political and military, Even today the list of contributors raises eye-brows and blood pressures among readers.

Perhaps not since the radio broadcast of H.G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds" in 1938 had the United States been so over-whelmed by the possibility, not the reality, of another world war. The horror of the unknown was far worse than the known reality of WWII.

I don't want to go into the details of what the scenario presented suggests because that would spoil the "fun" of it, if "fun" is the right word, but I'm sure Allan Calhmer and James Dunnigan and every other significant wargame designer read that issue at one time or another. You can find it in a library, I suppose, if someone hasn't stole their copy, or online, or for sale on eBay. I bought a copy for \$10, compared to the 15 cents cover price, but it well worth it.

Get a copy of the magazine, find a copy of "The King and I" with whichever fav soprano is singing the role of Anna. Just make sure The King is sung by Yul Brynner. There's no other King like him, even Elvis. Listen to the music as you read the story of WWII to be and keep in mind that these two things were happening just months apart in 1951 America, truly a time "that tried men's souls."

Vladivostok, Russia (1 September 1905): Units of the Combined Northern Japanese Fleets continued their efforts to strengthen defensive positions in Siberia and along the northern Russian coasts. Rumors here

suggest that Japanese naval engineers have constructed a huge fence consisting of 1,000 liter barrels of vodka along the eastern Trans-Siberian Railroad line and around major towns in Siberia. Reinforcements continue to pour into Vladivostok in anticipation of the coming battle.

Dalian, Manchuria (2 September 1905): Detached units of the CNJF sailed today into the Yellow Sea in what is reported to be supporting moves for the attack on Peking being launched by IJF coming north from Canton. Rumors that the fleet was being shadowed by a mysterious chartered yacht carrying representatives from the international media: CIA, NSA, NRO, and Radio Free Clippers were denied by the Imperial Press Office in Tokyo.

Canton, China (3 September 1905): The last units of the First Army left Canton today headed north along roads and rail lines to Peking. Rumors continued to circulate in the city that the Japanese military high command had reached an understanding with Chinese warlord Un Fuc Duk that in exchange for his cooperation in the attack on Peking he would be installed as the new Emperor. Other media suggested that the long missing Empress Dowager Teresa Tang would remount the imperial throne.

At Sea in the Sea of China: Fleets of the CCJF were in coastal waters off Canton and the Pearl River Delta waiting for word to occupy Canton, Hong Kong, and Macau. The Japanese authorities have banned gambling in HK and Macau until the odds maker's listings reflect the current situation.

At Sea in the Timor and Malaysian Seas: Units of the IJN continued their support of French and English naval forces in the SEA as Indian forces moved further into the area. Vice Admiral Kari Yoke, commander of the fleet, predicted that the Indian forces would be scalped, tarred and feathered before being sent back to their reservations. Ensign (3rd class) David Hood of the CSA Navy, along for the free ride, said that the combination of Japanese sea power and Southern BBQ fuel would surely defeat the Indians in a hurry for their curry ☐ (Sorry, I didn't write that, Toby did.).

THE BUCHANAN STORIES

Delhi (Late Fall 1905): Buchanan sat by himself on the terrace of The Grand Hotel nursing his third whisky of the morning as he thought back about his journey from Aleppo to Delhi. It had been quite an adventure on land, sea, and air but he wasn't sure his report would be believed in Washington, except maybe by Jules Verne fans. Still, it was a story that had to be told. Besides, his "boss" would love it. He realized, as he waved for the waiter to bring him another whisky, and another waiter some ice and a third waiter a fresh glass, that his bar tab

this morning would be more than the average Indian worker made in a year. On the other hand, he knew, the Maharajah of Gaj Singh, head of the Rathmore clan of Marwar, had received his own weight in precious stones from his subjects as a gift on his 50th birthday.

Buchanan settled back in the chaise and began to remember...

Before he left Aleppo with his young English guide Buchanan had done as the local British representative had suggested and paid a call on the local senior British Army officer, a Brigadier named Allenby, who struck him as a competent soldier, something of a rarity in the British Army, especially in the Near East. Allenby had offered him the names of other locals to look up along his journey without prying into exactly where Buchanan was going or why. He appreciated that because he would have hated to admit he didn't have a clue about either.

On the Railroad to Hejaz (a few days later): Buchanan and his guide boarded the new train that continued the line from Aleppo to Damarcus and then to Medina and on to Mecca. The owners bragged it was built as a service to pilgrims going to Mecca but everyone knew that passengers were an unwelcome nuisance and that the real (big) profits on the line would come from smuggled goods. The two had their first class compartment to themselves but somewhere south of Damascus a third person joined them. He was a tall, dark eyed but relatively fair skinned Arab dressed in the traditional dress of the region but without the keffiyeh that would have identified his clan. As he settled in he exchanged a few pleasantries with Buchanan and his guide and then appeared preoccupied with his prayers and meditations. Still, Buchanan noticed that his eyes moved back and forth between the two of them, and that whenever Buchanan turned the page on what he was reading, his eyes followed. Finally, at one of the intermittent stops the train made for fuel or to take on passengers Buchanan's guide said his goodbyes and left him. Buchanan noticed their compartment partner was watching the whole time, although he had not gotten off the train. Buchanan had planned to stay on the train from Medina all the way to Mecca but he'd been warned that a blue-eyed white man in Islam's holiest city would likely not only be unwelcome but probably in danger of his life. So, instead he got off in Media with the intent of joining a caravan to the coast, perhaps to Bahrain where he could catch a dhow to continue his journey east. To his surprise, Buchanan saw his Arab traveling partner also debark in Medina, but figured it was just a coincidence.

But three days later when he turned up at the caravan "hotel" in search of a passage to the coast he saw his Arab, as he had begun to think of him, already wandering in the market. Buchanan had already

arranged to buy a camel and gear and many caravan leaders were willing to have him join their party at the usual rate --- 10 times higher than locals paid. Buchanan thought the arrangements were complete but as he almost forked over a deposit (50%) to the caravan leader his Arab appeared at his shoulder and engaged in a long, loud protracted discussion with the caravan leader. Finally, with considerable anger showing, Buchanan's deposit was returned (minus 25%) and his new guide, Faisal, led him off to another part of the hotel. As the two walked he discovered his new guide not only spoke English, he spoke it quite well. He explained to Buchanan that he was being over-charged all the way around on the camel, the supplies (both sold by the original caravan leader's brother) and especially by the caravan leader, who probably intended to rob him and dump him along the way. Such things happen, his guide said, as he shrugged his shoulders ---if it is Allah's will. Faisal, as his named turned out to be, took Buchanan back into the market and found him a new, much healthier camel and better equipment, especially a good saddle, before taking him to a much smaller caravan resting spot where he explained that this caravan was sponsored by his family and since he would be with him there would be no problems.

The next morning, very early morning, Buchanan arrived at the rendezvous site and discovered all the others were impatiently waiting for him. Soon they were on their way heading north and east toward the Persian Gulf. Try as he would Buchanan couldn't find out much about Faisal, except that he spoke excellent English and apparently had a taste for good whisky as he demonstrated when Buchanan offered him a swig from his pocket flask. Days passed.

Bahrain (Two weeks later): The caravan arrived with no problems and only one interesting incident when it stopped at a small oasis in the middle of nowhere, and in the middle of Arabia nowhere is nowhere. The caravaners were gathered under the few trees in the hot afternoon when suddenly a group of Arab Bedouins rode in out of the sands. The leader dismounted and walked up to Faisal, kneeled and indicated his subservience to and loyalty to the much younger Faisal. The two exchanged some words and only once did the band leader even glance at Buchanan. After some dates and water, the band was back on their camels headed back the way they had come. Faisal offered no explanation and Buchanan knew better than to ask. By the time they made the small boat journey across to Bahrain Buchanan had forgotten the incident.

On the Persian Gulf (Two days later): After a short break Buchanan found that Faisal had found him what he considered to be a suitable dhow for the trip onward. Buchanan had told him he planned to go down the Persian Gulf and into the Arabian Sea without being too specific about where he would end his trip. He indicated

he wanted to see Qatar and Abu Dhabi before transiting the Straits of Hormuz and on to Oman. At no point did he let the dhow crew know he wanted to be dropped off in Bandar on the Persian side of the Gulf. The days on the dhow were pleasant enough and the fresh seafood was excellent. Buchanan took his turn at the small boat's rudder and even worked the sails, which impressed the crew that didn't realize (he thought) he came from a naval background. As they sailed back and forth Buchanan continued his drawing of sights along the way. Usually if anybody was watching he'd concentrate on other boats, faces of the crew, etc. but when nobody was watching he'd sketch the various coastlines and harbors they passed. No one, except Faisal, seemed to pay much attention to him and except to offer suggestions for various spots to sketch; he pretty much left Buchanan alone. Buchanan did seem to enjoy fishing and nobody seemed to notice that most of his fishing took place as they entered or left various ports or crossed key straits along the way. Buchanan thought he was being clever hiding his mission's purposes, but what he didn't realize is that they not only knew what he was doing they wanted him to do it and do it well. They figured it would benefit them when the "big" war they all expected happened.

Approaching Bandar, Persia (A week later);

Buchanan had thought a lot about his orders, vague as they were, and he couldn't decide whether to stay on the water and coast all the way to India, or break away and head inland if, if so, in what direction. If he got off the dhow in Bandar, Persia he could either head north into Persia's interior or northeast into Afghanistan, or due east into the Muslim areas of the Paki tribes and eventually India. Curiosity eventually won out and he decided to head into Persia and then Afghanistan because few if any experienced American military officers had seen it. He knew he'd be dealing with the Hindu Kush mountains and an area where earthquakes were an almost daily occurrence and one in which a westerner from anywhere was considered fair game.

Bandar, Persia (A few days later): The dhow's captain seemed surprised at Buchanan's request to change course so he could see Bandar on the north side of the Straits and the southern gateway port into Persia. For an out of the way place it had a lot of foreign residents, including more spies than almost any city in the world. Spy watching and motive guessing were the two most popular pastimes in the bazaars.

Buchanan paid off the captain, royally, and left the little boat with some regret. He knew, if nothing else, his days of fresh seafood were over. He had barely made his way to a local caravan hotel when he realized he was being followed. He sensed it, but he couldn't identify who was following him. He eliminated Faisal, the captain of the dhow and the crew. Who, he wondered, could be following him? That afternoon as he sat in front of the

hotel having a cup of tea (not hot, not cold, but lots of sugar) he was on the verge of an anxiety attack when a tall Bedouin approached him. What he noticed first was the man's face, then his head dress, and finally his sword. Buchanan realized after a moment that he was from the oasis weeks before in Arabia and was one of Faisal's men. Without much urging, Buchanan followed him, half expecting him to lead him to Faisal, but instead he found himself face to face with yet another transplanted Englishman, probably retired from the Indian Army. After the usual chat about home (Did he really ask if the Yankees had won the world series?) his host inquired if there was anything he could do to help Buchanan on his onward journey, mentioning that his friend Allenby in Damascus and Faisal in Medina had asked him to keep track of him.

As Buchanan digested that he realized his entire trip thus far had been carefully orchestrated by the British and that the only person missing was the Second Sea Lord himself. Deciding that if they'd gotten him this far they'd surely not abandon him now, Buchanan said he'd like to see as much of the ground as he could and get a feel for what things were like in what he'd taken to calling the Middle East instead of the Near East. Persia. The Ottoman Empire was on rocky terrain and Persia wasn't doing much better, but Afghanistan was a quagmire. Although he knew he was a sailor, Buchanan also realized that the myriad of tribes in Afghanistan and Pakistan had run the best armies of Russia and England out of their lands in what some called "The Great War" but which he thought of as "The White Mans' Folly." He figured if he could gain even a bit of understanding of it he might prevent a future American involvement in one of the most desolate areas on earth.

Buchanan suggested that perhaps the best way to see this God forsaken and primitive area was by using high technology. He knew railroads, cars, balloons and even the first primitive planes were beginning to cross the area following river valleys and traditional trading routes from point to point and city to city. Perhaps I can create a Route 66 along the Silk Road he thought. Route 66 was still a dream in America but already 2% of the country's travelers were moving by auto. It was just a matter of time and fuel, he knew. Fuel? Bingo! That was the answer to the question that had bugged him from the beginning: why was he on this trip? Churchill as Second Sea Lord and Roosevelt as a high level Navy Department bureaucrat both knew that fuel was the future for navies but both men had gone the next step and realized that oil, gasoline, etc. was the future fuel for land based travel as well. Whoever controlled the sources of oil, could move it to markets, and provide safe and efficient ground routes would replace the ancient roads that allowed Roman to rule the world.

Buchanan smiled to himself as he asked questions about travel possibilities out of Bandar heading east. His

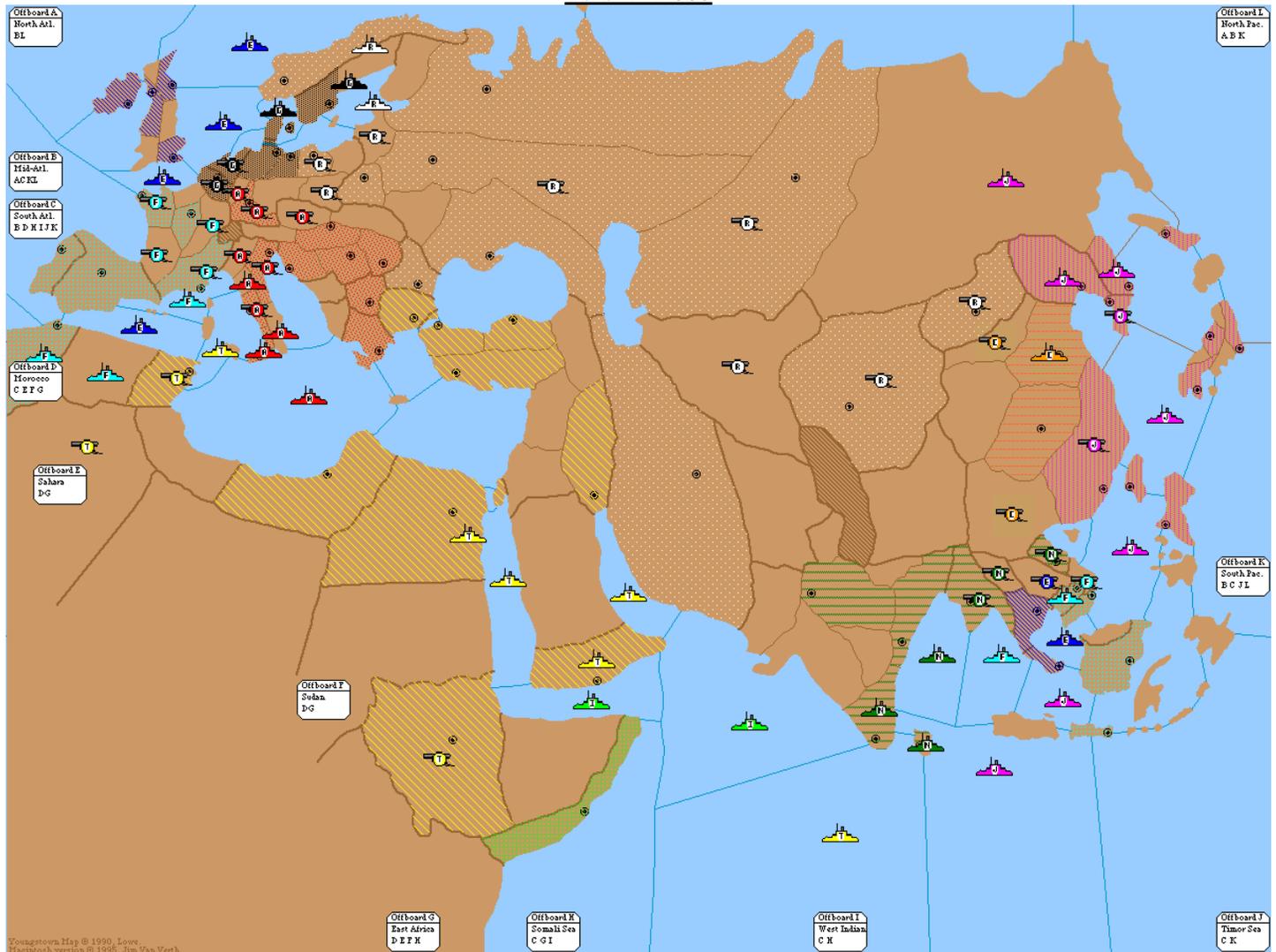
host suggested he head north to Kerman and then east into Sistan before crossing into Afghanistan towards Kandahar and then on to Kabul. Part of the thousand mile journey would be by land, camel or donkey, but some of it would be by air, either balloon or aircraft, made available by various independent “fly for hire” pilots with their own planes who mostly worked for trading companies, mapping companies, oil exploration companies and the occasional rich tourist who wanted to be the first to go there! Buchanan asked about costs and, knowing he had two US government bearer bonds for \$5,000 each on him, wasn’t too worried until his guide told him that all transactions would be done in cash, which meant gold. Buchanan turned white, and his host gently smiled and said, “The British Treasury does accept US government bearer bonds as gold equivalents, but it will take me a few days to raise that much gold without causing alarm in the local markets.”

Kerman, Persia (Two weeks later): Buchanan was amazed at how well it had all gone so far. It was

amazing how efficient the British could be when they wanted to do something, especially when spending somebody else’s money. He’d already had his first plane and balloon ride and enjoyed both immensely, although sometimes he thought the balloon was actually going backwards, as indeed it was. Still, progress was made and he couldn’t help from time to time pulling out his worn copy of Jules Verne’s “Around the World in Eighty Days,” and comparing his progress with Fogg’s. Well, so far Fogg was clearly the winner in this part of the world.

Sistan Persia (A week later): As the small biplane took off from Zebole headed east toward Afghanistan Buchanan realized he was in the middle of the Hindu Kush, the most terrifying mountains in the world, riding in a plane that was propelled by engines that couldn’t even run the newest elevators in New York. Still, he thought, as they flew west at an altitude of 2,000 feet and a speed of about 60 mph, surrounded by mountains of 12, 15, even 19 thousand feet, he realized he was a trip of a lifetime and a voyage to history.

Autumn 1905



Austria: Has F Apulia, A Bohemia, F Ionian Sea, F Naples, A Piedmont, A Rome, A Ruhr, F Tuscany, A Munich,

A Venice.

China: Has A Inner Mongolia, F Peking, A Sikang.

England: Remove F Andaman Sea..Has F Norwegian Sea, F English Channel, F Gulf of Siam, F North Sea, A Laos, F Western Mediterranean Sea.

France: Has F Algeria, A Annam, A Burgundy, F Cambodia, F Andaman Sea, A Brest, F Gulf of Lyon, A Marseilles, F Morocco, A Gascony.

Germany: Disband A Munich..Has A Belgium, A Holland, F Skagerrak, F Sweden.

India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma, F Ceylon, F Madras, A Shan, A Viet Nam.

Italy: Retreat F Yemen - Arabian Sea..Has F Gulf of Aden, F Arabian Sea.

Japan: Has A Canton, F East China Sea, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F South China Sea, F Siberia, F East Indian Ocean, F Vladivostok.

Russia: Has F Gulf of Bothnia, A Turkistan, A Moscow, A Outer Mongolia, A Omsk, A Posen, A Livonia, A Silesia, F Norway, A Sinkiang.

Turkey: Has F West Indian Ocean, F Egypt(ec), A Tunis, F Yemen, F Persian Gulf, A Sahara, A Ethiopia, F Red Sea, F Tyrrhenian Sea.

Supply Center Chart:

Austria:	Budapest, Greece, Klug, Munich, Naples, Rome, Serbia, Trieste, Venice, Vienna=10, Even
China:	Hankow, Peking=2, Remove 1
England:	Edinburgh, Ireland, Joharra, Liverpool, London, Thailand=6, Even
France:	Borneo, Brest, Cambodia, Java, Marseilles, Morocco, Paris, Portugal, Saigon, Spain=10, Even
Germany:	Belgium, Berlin, Denmark, Holland, Kiel, Sweden=6, Build 2
India:	Burma, Calcutta, Ceylon, Delhi, Madras, Viet Nam=6, Even
Italy:	Magudisco=1, Remove 1
Japan:	Canton, Formosa, Korea, Kyoto, Manchuria, Osaka, Philippines, Kar, Tokyo, Vladivostok=10, Build 1
Russia:	Iran, Moscow, Norway, Outer Mongolia, Omsk, Posen, Rumania, Sevastopol, Sinkiang, St. Petersburg, Warsaw=11, Build 1
Turkey:	Ankara, Baghdad, Bulgaria, Constantinople, Egypt, Ethiopia, Pentopolis, Smyrna, Tunis, Yemen=10, Build 1

PRESS

FLASH NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

Washington, DC (Moments Ago): The White House has confirmed preliminary reports in afternoon editions of the NY Times, The Washington Post, and the Emporia Gazette that current fighting in the Near and Middle East has spilled over into the United States. According to unconfirmed reports in the Madison, WI Double La Crosse Daily hundreds of Turkish soldiers have been killed in battles with Italian forces and mercenaries from Austria, Russia and Serbia. One young Turkish martyr, armed only with an AK-1 slingshot is already being hailed as the "new" David for having brought down 20 turkeys with only 13 rocks in suburban Appleton. Apparently soldiers and followers from all four countries were in Wisconsin for the annual "Kill a Turkey Day Festival." Unfortunately, the translators of the event

press releases used the wrong form of the word turkey, instead substituting Turkey in its place; and the carnage resulted. Wisconsin Gov. Tyson Swanson has ordered flags flown at half-mast until the last turks have left for Turkey.

Have you ever had somebody (usually a wife, boyfriend, parents, kids or online gamers) ask you why you play a game so old and boring, not to say irrelevant, as Dip? Well, the next time it happens refer them to the following article which I think clearly shows that Y4 V is as timely as this morning's headlines.

New Chinese map gives greater play to South China Sea claims



4:04am EDT

BEIJING (Reuters) - China has unveiled a new official map of the country giving greater play to its claims on the South China Sea, state media said on Wednesday, making the disputed waters and its numerous islets and reefs more clearly seem like national territory.

Previous maps published by the government already include China's claims to most of the South China Sea, but in a little box normally in a bottom corner to enable the rest of the country to fit on the map.

The new, longer map dispenses with the box, and shows continental China along with its self-declared sea boundary in the South China Sea - stretching right down to the coasts of Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines - on one complete map.

"The islands of the South China Sea on the traditional map of China are shown in a cut-away box, and readers cannot fully, directly know the full map of China," the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily said on its website.

Old maps make the South China Sea's islands appear more like an appendage rather than an integral part of the country, which the new map makes "obvious with a single glance", the report added.

"This vertical map of China has important meaning for promoting citizens' better understanding of ... maintaining (our) maritime rights and territorial integrity," an unnamed official with the map's publishers told the newspaper.

China's foreign ministry said people should not read too much into the issuing of the new map.

"The goal is to serve the Chinese public. As for the intentions, I think there is no need to make too much of any association here," ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a daily news briefing.

"China's position on the South China Sea issue is consistent and extremely clear. Our stance has not changed."

Beijing claims about 90 percent of the South China Sea, but parts of the potentially energy-rich waters are also subject to claims by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Tensions have risen sharply in the region in recent months, especially between China and both Vietnam and the Philippines.

China's positioning of an oil rig in waters claimed by both Beijing and Hanoi last month has led to rammings at sea between ships from both countries and anti-Chinese violence in Vietnam.

The original map can be found at

<http://img1.gtimg.com/news/pics/hv1/253/151/1634/106289608.jpg>

The new map can be found at

<http://img1.gtimg.com/news/pics/hv1/37/26/1635/106322542.jpg>

Note the way the new map blatantly distorts the relative sizes of the countries shown.

The following link is marked CHINA'S EYES ONLY:

http://news.qq.com/a/20140625/010790.htm?utm_source=The+Sinocism+China+Newsletter&utm_campaign=f46ba832cc-Sinocism06_25_14&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_171f237867-f46ba832cc-29575165&mc_cid=f46ba832cc&mc_eid=4e56bf7249

Fall and Autumn 1905 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

General Superstructure of the Game: Other than the fact that Japan did get another build but is starting

to get hemmed in once China is out, it is only the TRAG alliance that gained centers. In my view, they

are not locked up in any part of the board and so I expect further growth and as long as they don't turn on each other again, EF in particular seems doomed to me. Note as well, in what is probably a good decision, Russia focused the army units on the China/Japan front and so India might also be a junior part of this alliance, at least for a while. I think Russia needs a northern fleet to come over against Japan with this next build. Austria is just slightly bottled up in the short term, but EF can't hold the front in the Mediterranean, so once that front starts collapsing, France itself falls as well. And STILL, the Off Board Boxes go unused....

The Off Board Boxed go unused because EF is EFJ and Russia, the only other power in the northern part of the board, where most of the boxes are, is not building fleets. India's only hope to survive is to live on the stalemate line—like the central powers of regular Diplomacy, Germany, Italy or Austria, often do—and become indispensable to one side or make it impossible to remove India without upsetting the balance of power.

E/F is secure in the Med, unfortunately they are soon to be outflanked in the north and the west so it won't matter. In fact right now they have too many assets in the Med—no reason to keep four fleets tied up defending two centers when Bur and Nwg are about to be stove in by RATG.

Across the French-Italian-German borders the A/G holds the upper hand, with 5 Austrian and 2 German armies facing off against 4 French armies—unless E/F can start hitting Bel and get another unit into this area France's days may be numbered.

I do think E/F can free up another unit by withdrawing to MAO & Mor in the Med. This would expose Spa/Mar but Mar is already on the frontline and Spa can be occupied by one fleets currently on station in the Med or North Africa. This may be too little, too late.

Finally in the North we have 3 English fleets facing 2 German and 2 Russian fleets—I would argue Russia would be better off with more fleets and less armies overall and here we can see why. Note the useless armies in Liv and Pru—if Russia had one or two more fleets in the north than England would be in real trouble, as it is, with the fleets as currently

deployed, both Russian fleets bottled up on the Baltic, However this will soon change if Russia can get another fleet build in StP(nc) and England can't counter with her own build of F Edi.

With Germany continuing to lose centers, I also wonder how much longer she can afford to stay allied to A/R if it means losing more of her home dots. I'm sure A/R wouldn't mind, nothing says pliable toady like not having any place to build new units.

Press: Larry Peery goes off on China this time in the Autumn press, yawn.... more Peeriblah. The Press for Fall is more extensive and interesting. It clearly suggests that we DO have a TAGIR (pronounced Tiger). I think TIGAR would be better, but no matter. Is that for real? Probably, that's the way everyone moved. The press seems a bit in your face with that challenge. If there really is a TIGAR, then it easily sweeps aside a JEF with Italian and Chinese flotsam and jetsam. I love the Walt Buchanan press, but he seems to have a serious case of mistaken identity... this press, plus the Peery supporting press, mostly seems aimed (if it has an aim at all) in breaking the Turks out of the TIGAR. The Turks finally are about to break a boatload of fleets into the Indian Ocean, why stop now? This makes no sense.

I salute JB for being able to read Larry's press...it puts me to sleep so I generally just give it a quick scan. Whether or not there is a formal "tiger" alliance or not, matters little at this point since it is how all the members are working with each other on the board.

Let's go after the rest of the countries briefly in reverse alphabetical orders, since little has changed.

Turkey: Since Italy miswrote the Gulf of Aden order, he easily knocked Italy down to one unit. The Turks will start having fun with nothing in their way to advance fleets forward into the Indian Ocean, and slowly to cement ownership of all of Africa.

Russia: Bouncing over St. Pete worked (no unwanted support as England retreats to defend the homeland) so he can build a fleet there and send it east. With that, he can at least hold against Japan and perhaps make progress. I think F Siberia can be dislodged. And working with Germany, soon Russia will be in the English homeland.

Japan: Passing up bouncing Turkish F West Indian Ocean just further seals the Japanese long term fate. This is likely the last year with a Japanese build, though he will fall slower than England and France.

I don't agree that Japan is toast. There is still plenty of diplomatic play left between R/J/T/I. The end of the West in Asia is just the end of the Act I of the play that is Far Eastern Diplomacy. One more thing, just because Japan isn't using the OBB right now doesn't mean Japan can't in the future. There is nothing to stop Japan from moving on E/F, assuming they do collapse, to try and collect some centers by moving via the OBB to Europe.

Italy: Might keep Arabian Sea, but making an error trying to move to Sudan which isn't adjacent to Gulf of Aden didn't help. Easily dead next year, but Russia doesn't really want to back up to defend against an Italian rogue. We'll see, but I expect Brad to go down silently and easily.

India: The key thing that Harold has done is wormed his way into the alliance to stay in the game for a while. He clearly is the junior partner of the five, but with him in it, it also means that there is some chance to break down the French/English holdings in Southeast Asia without Turkey/Russia taking him from behind.

Germany: Well, Austria didn't cut Marseilles, and thus while Germany gets builds, he didn't get into Burgundy. It is possible I'm making too big a thing of the big alliance, perhaps Austria is undercutting it. But the Germans working with Russia can start getting into the Atlantic, and that means a world of trouble for England.

France: Gets a reprieve, keeping Burgundy for now.... fails to coordinate with England in SE Asia, where does he gain?

England: In even worse shape since three fleets defending the homeland is not enough.

China: Making mistakes in ordering didn't help, but China still seemingly has no allies. Maybe he can survive for a bit helping Russia.

Austria: Took the low and safe road, holding in Piedmont with support. Why not take the risk and break the Maginot line? But it shouldn't matter; advancing into France should be possible very, very soon.

I think you answered your own question, Jim, why does Austria need to take any chances? He'll be picking up French holdings soon enough.

Japan continues to have fleets in useless places, and that's going to hurt in the long run unless the alliances change. (Which may well happen.)

The German switcheroo has completely opened up the Scandanavian front. Russia can build a fleet in St. Pete, but I don't think its purpose will be to go east. Three Russian and four German fleets will be enough to invade England, no matter what the E/F pairing does. Maybe if Japan had already started sending a helper fleet that would have made a difference. Also, Austria and Germany have enough strength to force control of Burgundy, though getting further than that will take a lot of time. Invading France by land alone is generally impossible.

In Asia, Japan continues to twiddle his fleets. He could go to the Gulf of Tonkin and make an effective attack on Vietnam, but that appears to be uninteresting. China has a disband (he should lose the fleet), and that should help Japan, but it's too little, and it's not coming quickly enough.



Turkey is crushing the remnants of the Italian position and can join India against the JEFs. He's also likely to be the first one to start using the off-board boxes, to outflank Japan.

If Italy wants to keep F Arabian Sea, more power to him. That's hardly a real worry for Russia. The army in Moscow is only two steps from Iran (yeah, that makes geographic sense). Doesn't really matter - Italy is toast next year.

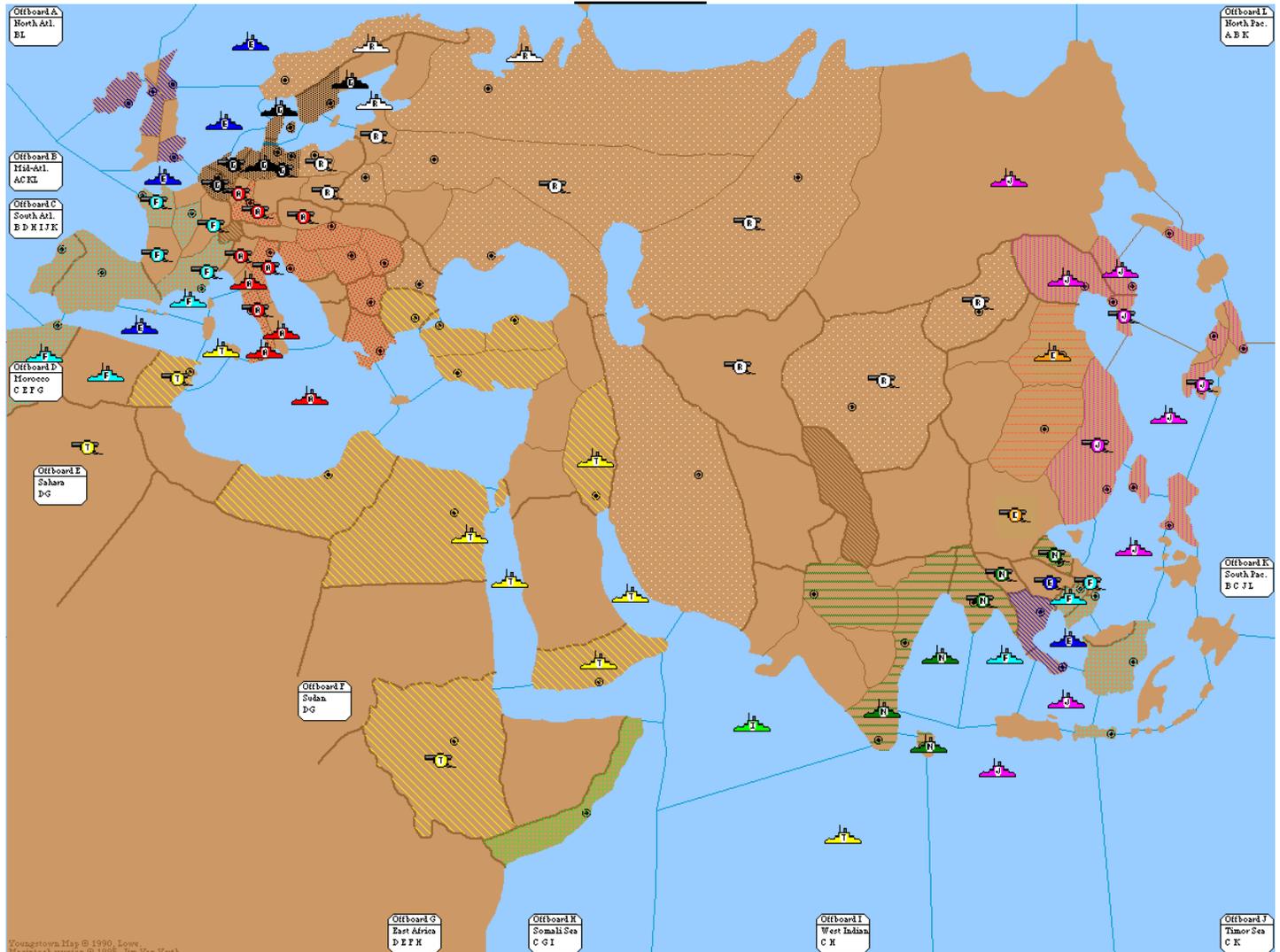
In the big picture, Russia, Germany, and Turkey should all be growing in the near future. England's in deep trouble, China's in even worse shape, and Italy's a Dead Man Walking.

Austria is going to be banging his head against a wall for a while. He's the one to watch - good diplomacy on his part at this juncture is called for. Being simply a team

player will keep the peace, but it's unlikely to be a good idea in the long run. Of course, knowing Dave (Germany), I wouldn't be surprised if he and Andrew

have already been talking about the medium-term plans. It might be time for some "chainsaw diplomacy".

Winter 1905



Austria: Has F Apulia, A Bohemia, F Ionian Sea, F Naples, A Piedmont, A Rome, A Ruhr, F Tuscany, A Munich, A Venice.

China: Remove A Inner Mongolia..Has F Peking, A Sikang.

England: Has F Norwegian Sea, F English Channel, F Gulf of Siam, F North Sea, A Laos, F Western Mediterranean Sea.

France: Has F Algeria, A Annam, A Burgundy, F Cambodia, F Andamon Sea, A Brest, F Gulf of Lyon, A Marseilles, F Morocco, A Gascony.

Germany: Build F Kiel, A Berlin..Has F Kiel, A Berlin, A Belgium, A Holland, F Skagerrak, F Sweden.

India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma, F Ceylon, F Madras, A Shan, A Viet Nam.

Italy: Remove F Gulf of Aden..Has F Arabian Sea.

Japan: Build A Osaka..Has A Osaka, A Canton, F East China Sea, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F South China Sea, F Siberia, F East Indian Ocean, F Vladivostok.

Russia: Build F St. Petersburg(nc)..Has F St. Petersburg(nc), F Gulf of Bothnia, A Turkistan, A Moscow, A Outer Mongolia, A Omsk, A Posen, A Livonia, A Silesia, F Norway, A Sinkiang.

Turkey: Build F Baghdad..Has F Baghdad, F West Indian Ocean, F Egypt(ec), A Tunis, F Yemen, F Persian Gulf, A Sahara, A Ethiopia, F Red Sea, F Tyrrhenian Sea.

PRESS

Baghdad: The shipyards here are booming, with three shifts working around the clock building the warships which will soon be supporting Turkish Naval Operations in the Indian Ocean. A new class of ship, the Sultana class battle cruiser, will make up the mainstay of the new fleet, operating at longer ranges and higher cruising speeds than the current battleships built at the end of the last century, that comprise the bulk of the capital ships of most modern navies. The Admiralty named the class after the new leader of the Empire, claiming that while somewhat smaller than the larger, more "masculine" battleships, the Sultana class battle cruisers will pack significant firepower in its sleeker, more streamlined design. The greater speed and relative firepower does come at the cost of some armor reduction, but the Admiralty assures us that the ships will operate with a screen of torpedo-boat destroyers which will guard against both torpedo boats and the new underwater ships which have been recently reported to be in development by other nations. The Sultana class battle cruisers will be well suited to long patrols in the high seas of the Indian Ocean and with luck, the Pacific Ocean as well, able to carry out both shore bombardment in support of allied land forces as well as engage in gunnery duels with capital ships of enemy navies. They will be especially well-suited to engaging cruiser squadrons, which may be as fast as the Sultana class, but not as well-armed. The first Sultana class battle cruiser, the Aliyah, is scheduled to be operational in January '06, to be followed by 3 sister ships shortly after. Destroyers will be detached from other active fleets to provide their escorts, with each fleet having a gunnery and combat readiness contest to determine the best qualified to form the new squadron -- those fleets will in turn have replacement destroyers built for them at shipyards in Ankara, Smyrna, and Istanbul.

A new military leader has risen in China on the death of the Empeoress and is offering a peace to Japan if he wishes or he can continue to bang his head on the great wall of China. We wait breathlessly for the Japanese reply.

Tokyo, Japan (1 December): The Prime Minister looked down the table at his senior ministers, pausing to give each one of them a deep, penetrating look. Finally, he spoke, "I will ask you all the same question the Emperor asked me. Three years ago We had no enemies, only allies. Now We find We have only enemies: China, although on the verge of total collapse;

India is fighting our allies England and France; Russia will surely retake Siberia in the Spring and could well threaten the homeland with naval forces if it wishes; and Turkey, from nowhere, is on the brink of driving us from the East Indian Ocean. What has caused this? Who is responsible? And who will take the blame?" The Emperor has authorized the recruitment of another army for the war in China and hopes that will convince the Indians, Russians, and Turks that we only desire peace with them, either collectively or individually. The ministers bowed their heads and nodded silent agreement. "We are all to blame." Thought the War Minister, "but no one more than you, Prime Minister."

Osaka, Japan (7 December): The first units of the 3rd Army began mobilizing in preparation for departure to the war zone, but no one seems to know quite where they are headed. Some suggested Korea, others Formosa or the Philippines, but the over-whelming favorite in the booking houses was China.

THE BUCHANAN STORIES

Delhi, India (Early Winter, 1905): Buchanan sat in the Officers' Club, off the Gentlemen's Club , off the "White's Only" Club of The Grand Hotel. He knew by now that he was a hotel favorite and legend, having run up the largest bar tab in the history of the old hotel. The manager, unaware that Buchanan would be leaving in a few days, had ordered a dozen dozen cases of Buchanan's favorite whisky from Singapore and it was due to arrive at any moment. Pity, he thought, as he reminisced about his recent trip from the Near East through the Middle East to India. Tilting his head back, almost closing his eyes, he clutched his Waterford tumbler of whisky and remembered... Teheran (Early Fall, 1905): Landing in Bandar Buchanan realized he had arrived in Persia at a critical moment when the fate of the dynasty and the country were on the brink of.... Well, nobody seemed to know exactly what the brink was but they knew that it was there. The old Qajar Dynasty (from the 1780s!) was about to fall, but what would replace it? British and Russian dabbling in Persia's internal affairs had caused rot in the center and young people and liberals wanted something new and better, preferably on a "western model." Reforms eventually led to a written constitution and a liberalized government. Mozzafar-al-Din Shah signed off on the changes and died five days later.

Zebole (Late Fall, 1905): Zebole was the last big town (population 1,000 in 1905, 135,000 today) in Persia before entering Afghanistan. More importantly it marked the spot where the Helmand River became nothing more than a vast marshland and natural irrigation system. Buchanan had received a message through the Hotel that the local Thomas Cook agent was looking for him. Buchanan found him eventually, at the bar of the Hotel, of course. He'd already realized that most of the serious work in Persia, at least that involving foreigners, was done in hotel bars where whisky, forbidden under Muslim law, was readily available in a variety of "fruit drink" decanters. Buchanan read the message delivered by Thomas Cook, not realizing that there were twenty more, more or less like it, in almost any port or major town he might have stopped at on his trip – all carefully orchestrated by his guardian angel, Allenby. The message was brief and told him which camel race track to arrive at and when, without telling him any details. So, on the appointed morning, he arrived at said point and, much to his amazement discovered the large field had been emptied of camel dung and reasonably smoothed out. Sitting at one end of the field were two single-engine monoplanes, each modified to carry a small pilot and one passenger. Buchanan was a Navy man, of course, but he recognized the basic plane as a modified Sopwith Pup, the precursor to the Sopwith Camel. He noted, as he approached the planes that they had been modified by removing any weapons they might have had, an extra seat had been installed, and the wing had been enlarged significantly for better range and altitude he assumed. OK, he thought, but who are these two guys? Two of them looked like typical "for hire" free-lance pilots, which in fact they were. The third, though, threw him. He looked like a stand in for "Wild Bill" Cody in a Wild West Show, which is exactly what he was. But he was also one of the first pioneers of aviation and his name was Samuel Franklin Cody. As they looked over the plane, Buchanan noticed a large pillar of dust approaching them. Inside the pillar was another vehicle unlike anything Buchanan had seen before. It turned out to be a very recent example of the latest in automobile technology. The driver introduced himself as one Charles Rolls and said he would be flying the first plane and his passenger in both the car and plane would be Habib. It wasn't until much later that Buchanan learned that Habib was actually Habibullah Khan, the Amir of Afghanistan, who had decided to save a few weeks on a trip to Kabul after a state visit to Persia. Leaving the second pilot to tend to the cars, the two planes took off with Cody, Rolls, Habib and Buchanan heading in a vaguely eastern direction at 1,500 feet and 60 mph.

(Historical Note: Cody was a Wild West showman and is often confused with Wild Bill Cody although they were not related. He was born in Iowa and died in an airplane accident in 1935 flying a demo plan for the British military. He's buried in the military cemetery at Aldershot and it was reported by The Times that 100,000 people

turned out to see his funeral procession pass by ((Probably the same reporters that covered the recent demonstration in Hong Kong.)). Cody's planes were only a part of his contribution to the advancement of military use aviation. Another was the "Man-lifter War Kite," used for aerial spotters in WWI by the RAF. Charles Rolls, of course, was the Rolls of Rolls Royce, and made many contributions to engines designed for both autos and airplanes which, at that time, used about the same amount of power. Habibullah Khan, Emir of Afghanistan from 1901 to 1919). He was considered a relatively secular, reform-minded ruler who attempted to modernize his country. During WWI he maintained a policy of strict neutrality and resisted the efforts of the Ottomans and Germans to drag his country into the war. He actually signed a treaty of friendship with India and paid it a state visit in 1907. He was assassinated as part of a family dynasty power struggle but those responsible barely lasted a week in power before Habib's third son ousted and imprisoned them all. Buchanan, well, more about him later.) The distance from Zebole to Kabul by air was 710 miles, about 2 hours flying time nowadays. But in 1905 things were a bit different. First, it wasn't point to point flying. There were no charts, no maps, no reliable compasses or altimeters, etc. etc. The only givens were the distance to be traveled, the speed of the plane (60 mph if all went well), and the fact that the plane could fly for about 3 hours without refueling. Since there was no "official" British military presence in Afghanistan, Allenby had relied on Thomas Cook to do what the BBC would come to do in later years (e.g. WWII and post-WWII), act as its surrogate. Cook had arranged for fuel (delivered in 10 liter containers) to be delivered to a series of landing spots along the Helmand River which basically runs from Zebole to Kabul, each marked by a large \$ sign to attract the planes as they flew by. Ideally, with no problems, they figured the trip would take five days. It ended up taking 21.

Kabul (21 Days Later): When the two planes landed in Kabul on a large polo ground beside the royal palace Buchanan realized something was wrong when a score of uniformed soldiers riding matched camels charged the planes as they made their landing approach. Still, on the ground, all went well, and Habib, who had become whisky and bridge partner with Habib on the trip, invited his new friends to stay with him --- and off they went to the 200 room royal palace. Buchanan became genuinely fond of Habib during this trip and later sent him a collection of books including works by Jefferson and Lincoln.

Kabul (A Week Later): It only took a week for Buchanan to realize he needed to be moving on, so he bid his goodbyes to Habib and set out, by land, for Jalalabad, a hundred and ten miles down a very primitive road that hadn't changed in at least a thousand years. From there it was a highlight of his entire trip, a passage through the Khyber Pass. A tendon of the Silk Road, the route used

by countless conquerors in both directions, the Khyber Pass seems simple enough: 58 km long, 3,500 feet above sea level, and only 10 feet wide in places). But from Jalalabad to Peshawar is only 40 miles and most Americans knew it only because of the 1936 movie, Khyber Pass, the 1954 movie Khyber Patrol with Richard Egan and a young but exotic looking Raymond Burr, or the 1956 movie, King of the Khyber Rifles with Tyrone Power and Terry Moore. Younger readers, now well into their mid-life crisis, may remember Peshawar as the place where Francis Gary Powers took off from and where, some locals say, you can still see weird looking planes landing and taking off at night with no lights.

Lahore, India/Pakistan (Another Week Gone By):

From Peshawar to Lahore is only 400 miles or so but it seems far, far further. Basically it marked the dividing line between Muslim and Hindu Indians and in many ways, it still does. Buchanan stayed only long enough to collect his mail at the local Thomas Cook agent (Nothing but his final bill from The Grand Hotel in Delhi, which just about equaled his pay for the last year, was stamped in Hindi, PAID IN FULL.) Still, Buchanan realized Lahore was and would always be important because of its position as a bridge between the Muslims and Hindus, and between Kashmir and the rest of India. A peaceful Lahore meant a peaceful NW India, but the opposite was also true.

Lahore, India/Pakistan (A Few Days Later): Buchanan realized he needed to get to Delhi quickly if he was going to make his schedule to get onto the Indian Ocean before the Spring sea battles took place. Fortunately, Thomas Cook had once again found a solution, but when Buchanan saw it he couldn't believe his eyes. Again, he was told to show up at an out of the way polo field early in the morning before sunrise. When he got there at first he didn't realize what he was seeing and that it was his intended transportation for the 300 mile trip to Delhi. At first he thought it was a large tent of rather unusual shape, but when he saw the revolving propellers he realized it had to be more than just a tent. He was so entranced by whatever it was as he approached it he didn't even realize he was chomping on one of his famous, unlit cigars. But half-way across the field he saw a short, almost stout, figure running toward him yelling, loudly, in what he guessed was German. The fellow got close enough to grab Buchanan's cigar out of his mouth, dropped it on the ground, and stomped on it repeatedly before he realized it wasn't lit. The two stood and looked at each other. Buchanan said, "Buchanan." And his cigar stomper merely glared at him and said, "Zeppelin." And Buchanan realized he was in the presence of living genius. During the two day trip to Delhi Zeppelin explained he was on a "secret" mission funded by "his" foundation to test a new long-range Zeppelin design that hadn't even been seen in Europe yet. In search of the most secret possible location to build and test his new design Zeppelin had picked Lahore and the Northwest

Territories of India. Gliding over the Indian scenery at an altitude of 1,000 feet and a speed of 10 mph the Z0 (called Zoe by the crew) was both primitive and far more advanced than anything Buchanan had ever been transported in before. This, he thought to himself, could be The Next Big Thing. Zeppelin had told Buchanan that the British were already at work on their newest Dirigible, No. 1 "Nulli Secundus" but Zeppelin said his latest design, called "Interdum permaneo, lamem usquequaque a perfectus" (Sometimes Last, But Always a Finisher) was far superior to anything the Brits were working on.

Delhi, India (A Few Days Later): Buchanan had arrived a bit too late to see Curzon, Viceroy of India, before he left office, but not before Curzon had left for home. Home, of course, being England, for every Englishman. Buchanan had left his "civilian" card at the Curzon's palace (Much too big to be a mansion, but not as public as a hotel) and waited for a reply. The response came on one of Curzon's usual cards. All it said was "Curzon" and the time and date and place of the appointment. As ordered, Buchanan, in full dress whites with sword and medals, appeared accompanied by a few retainers including the local British agent, the local British Army officer in charge, and the local Thomas Cook agent. Before long, Curzon and Buchanan were swapping stories about their adventures and although the old man seemed glad to be going home he still expressed his strong affection for India and his chance to serve as the Empress' representative there.

Buchanan seemed almost shy when he pulled the crumpled, sweaty letter from Allenby and handled it to Curzon. Curzon didn't even look at the return address before he started asking Buchanan questions about Allenby and the Near East. The conversation dragged on through tea, drinks, dinner, more drinks, and then late night drinks and a cigar or two. And still the two chatted like old comrades and new friends. Curzon told him that Allenby had asked him to keep an eye on Buchanan in case he needed help on his RTW mission since it might involve not only professional but also personal peril. Buchanan told Curzon that he had seen as much as he could in a half year spent traveling 6,000 miles from the Mediterranean to India and that now he needed to get home before his information became history instead of the latest information. Curzon seemed to understand and asked what Buchanan's future travels involved. Buchanan told him he really wanted to go north and follow the Silk Road into China but "time was of the essence" so he was looking for a fast ride to Calcutta and then a ride to Singapore and home.

Curzon pondered that and then suggested that he, Buchanan, join him in a few days for a train ride to Calcutta. From there Buchanan ought to be able to link up with a fast ship to Singapore, apparently oblivious that Buchanan was planning all along to join the Kentucky in Calcutta so he could observe firsthand the

impending battle in the Indian Ocean between Turkey, India, England, France and Japan. The two quickly agreed on the details and Buchanan promised to be at the train station two mornings hence.

One of the last things Buchanan did in Delhi was meet with some officers and men of the 1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers who had recently been awarded the newly created Tibet Medal for their service in the 1902/1904 campaign in Tibet. He spent hours listening to their stories and filling their glasses and assessing their comments about the relative strengths of India/Britain, Russia and China in Tibet and what might happen in the future.

When Buchanan arrived at the station he discovered Lord Curzon, his wife, and his party of 20, had already arrived and were being entertained by Buchanan's old friend, the Maharajah of Gaj Singh, India's richest ruler. The train, named The Empress of India although she had never ridden in it, was a private train, said to be the most luxurious and fastest in the world, a gift from the builder to the Maharajah for the rights to build rail lines from Delhi to Calcutta and Bombay. As the train pulled out of the station Buchanan noticed the honor guard lining the tracks from the North-West Territorial Guard. Later, he discovered that for the entire 812 miles to Calcutta there would be one fully dressed guard every ten feet from the local raj as a sign of respect for the Empress's former viceroy. At all major stops and many small villages crowds gathered to watch the splendid train pass. In Calcutta an honor guard of Royal Marines lined the route from the station to the docks where the ships waited.

Curzon and his party would travel on the new P&O liner, Vectis, billed as the first cruising yacht or as an iron passenger steamer, depending on rates. It was a first class only ship of some 6,000 tons and 6,000 hp engines with shore excursions arranged by, who else, Thomas Cook. Reviewers noted that the ship had the latest in radio gear and could send and receive messages anywhere within 6,000 miles. Interestingly, the ship's radio room was off limits to crew members, passengers, and operated under military discipline. For its inaugural cruise Vectis had been chartered by the Maharajah of Gaj Singh's Indian Shipping Line and Thomas Cook.

As the Vectis sailed Buchanan was invited to a small reception in the captain's lounge attended by Curzon, his American-born wife Mary (both of Curzon's wives were wealthy Americans), a representative of the new Viceroy and a representative of the Maharajah of Gaj Singh who presented Mary with a string of matched pearls said to be comparable to those of the Tsarina Alexandra of Russia. The string, it was said, was long enough to fit as a belt for the biggest elephant in India.

Later that evening, Curzon and Buchanan had a few drinks and exchanged farewells, with Curzon passing a number of letters to Buchanan, assuming he would arrive in England first. A few hours later no one noticed as the Vectis slowed to almost a halt alongside a large, darkened warship that seemed to be waiting for them. Buchanan and his small party transferred to the Kentucky by launch and were barely aboard before the Kentucky moved away at full speed heading south and east at near max speed.

As he made his way to his cabin Buchanan realized that the string of pearls the Indian Maharajah had given Mary Curzon cost about as much as the Kentucky had to build. And then he wondered if he would be in time to witness the greatest naval battle since Tsushima Straits. And perhaps the greatest naval battle ever fought in the southern hemisphere.

TO BE CONTINUED

FRENCH PRESS: The Government has secretly ordered implementation of Operation Filet which ordered the conversion of France's industrial base to an all out military production: Le Creuset would resume making cannons, Sabatier would resume making knives and bayonets, etc. Even the taxi drivers of Paris would be pressed into service to transport troops when needed if the Germans got too close to Paris.

Rumors spread that the Bank of France was about to transfer their gold assets to an undisclosed location outside the territory. Reunion and St. Pierre & Michelon were favorite destinations for the nation's gold.

French naval forces were being issued new packets of sealed orders, code books and maps in case the situation in the Atlantic or Mediterranean worsened.

Even the children of Paris were mobilized in the effort, being asked to donate a centime to buy a sandbag to protect the art treasures of the Louvre.

The girls of Pigalle are donating used condoms by the thousands at the opening night performance of Les Troyens so they could be recycled as tourniquets in time of need.

The eighty-four year old Duc de Rohan, claimant to the throne of France, took his place at the Eternal Flame under the Arc de Triomphe as a guard saying that even his flat feet and fallen arches would not stop him serving his country in its hour of peril.

Revival of Berlioz's LES TROYENS at the Paris Opera brings down the house!

Rumors that the Paris branch of the Rothschilds Bank had pledged their entire holdings, including the family

mansion on the Ile St. Louis, as collateral for a 10 billion franc loan (at 1.5% interest) from the Frankfurt branch of the same bank to help finance the French war effort. A secret footnote to the loan papers pledged that in the event the Germans lost the war the French branch would fund a massive effort to relocate displaced Jews to a "new home" in Palestine.

Winter 1905 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

China: Does NOT remove the fleet, which probably is a mistake that won't matter very much unless Russia lets China toady in on the Japanese attack. That might help Russia a little bit, but as noted last season, Russia can move only a little bit further until they bring a fleet over.

Yeah, Japan can sink that fleet easily. I don't see the point of keeping it.

Russia: Does build the F StP(NC), and while it can contribute to the attack on England, I would move that unit east first. We'll see what happens in the spring.

I don't see the point of moving east. Omsk, then...Siberia? So what?

I would put that fleet in the Barents right away. Then Russia takes the Norwegian Sea in the Fall while the Germans probably take the North Sea.

Italy: As expected, he keeps the Arabian Sea, but it won't matter much, other than creating a small dilemma for Russia.

Not much of an issue. I would let the Turks defend Iran in the Spring while two fleets take the Arabian Sea. The Indians are the ones who need to worry - that Italian fleet can throw a wrench in their plans to defend Madras.

Turkey: F Baghdad does get into the Indian Ocean pretty quickly. I'm not sure if he will be the first to use an Off-Board Box or not.

Japan: Yes, an army to place into China, but it isn't clear how that helps, as Rick said last season, the real problem for Japan is having fleets in the wrong places.

OK, I'll offer some free tactical advice for Japan. (I know we're months behind, so it's not like this is really an issue.)

Japan should convoy his army to Korea, walk the army in Korea to Vladivostok, and sail the fleet in Vlad either

Reims: Veuve Cliquot, the largest supplier of Champagne to the Imperial Russian court announced it was putting an embargo on shipments of Champagne to Russia for the duration of the conflict; and that French Champagne makers were prepared and able to flood their cellars to keep them out of German hands in the event of a German invasion.

to the Sea of Japan or Sea of Okhotsk. Let the army in Canton try to sneak into Hankow. If F Siberia is dislodged, retreat to NPO. If F Manchuria is dislodged, thank the Russians and the Chinese and retreat to the Yellow Sea. Or - even better, _sail_ to the Yellow Sea. Fleets are for sea spaces. Then in the Fall move, take Peking with one army and hit Manchuria with two armies, supported by the Yellow Sea fleet, if needed. Keep that fleet in the Yellow Sea until Manchuria and Peking are secured.

Meanwhile, put the (expletive deleted) fleet in the South China Sea into the Gulf of Tonkin already. In the Fall that can either be used to defend Canton or help an attack on Vietnam.

The Japanese press indicates he wants to convoy to China. That's not a good plan.

Germany: A fleet and an army, yes, the key question for the central alliance is whether all those armies in the center of Europe will stab, or will they wait until England and France are outflanked?

And who will stab whom? Germany looks like he's being kept on a short leash, but that could change.

PRESS: Wow, a stupendous amount of Winter Press. Walt Buchanan finishes his pilgrimage to India. He seems to be trying to make some change, but then says that the naval battle in the Indian Ocean will be stupendously large. As it will be. It isn't clear if there is any other point, but I loved the Cody vs. Cody comparison and was fun to read. The continuing Peeriblah? Well, as the French prospects decline, there is a bit of an improvement in the interest and readability of the French press. I found the scurrying around to protect the French legacy was fun. The Turks come back into the press wars and tell us about the mobility of the fleets, indicating (perhaps) that he does plan to use Off-Board Boxes.

Nothing to add except to say, Turkey's build of F Baghdad signals that India is safe for now.