

CRUSADER: **HISTORY. DOC**

Basic Politics of the WEC:

Because of the disappearance of the country/state as the foundation for political power (due to the corporate battles of the early 21st century,) the political scene has emerged to represent the will of the Cartels rather than the will of the people. For one thing, the dream of democracy has fallen by the wayside, replaced by the need to watch the bottom line and the fulfillment of the stockholders' expectations.

By the end of the 20th century, politicians had proven themselves to be a malignancy to democracy. Corruption, mistrust as well as voter apathy created excellent conditions for the peoples trust to be transferred to the private sector. The newly forming "mega-corporations" were eager to win over the hearts and minds of individuals by offering job security and corporate gold cards in exchange for loyalty and blind obedience. In leu of the declining voter turn outs for elect officials, the global corporations removed the burden from the general public for the need to choose between two lesser political evils. The mega-corporations began the social purification processes, the hauling away of all undesirables, and the protection of the individual from himself. All that was required for a prefect life with the company was for the individual to conform with the corporation's perfect lifestyle.

Though today's WEC is headed by a President, he is in no way a representation of the people. He is in fact a product of the Cartels. It is through them that all political power rests.

Every four years, the corporate elite from all the Cartels hold board meetings to elect those from their mist to represent their interest in the World Congress. The number Congressmen and Senators elected to the World Congress are arrived at according to both the Cartel's size (the number of employees and families that make up the corporate human resource citizenry) and the Cartel's political worth, (based on its gross revenues and projected growth.) After the members have been elected to the World Congress in secret balloting sessions, the new corporate politicians must govern through the WEC in accordance with their corporate states agenda. The head of the World Congress is the coveted position of Chairman. It is the Chairman's duties to oversee the corporate welfare of the World Congress, as well as to discipline members.

Elected by the World Congress, the President serves as the head of the WEC. Though Congressmen and Senators are elected on four year terms, when the President is chosen he is selected for a life term. This insures that the President can widen his view of the corporate platform to the long term, rather than shorten his stance by insisting that he worry about his corporate career every four years.

Politics of the Sol System:

For the past 46 years the Earth and its celestial counterparts have been governed by the iron fist of the WEC. Having been formed in 2150 by a consolidation of DOMO, EEI, ALM and the American Alliance corporate states, the WEC has been the dominate powerhouse over all corporate and governmental dealings throughout the solar system. Though the WEC was formed in an effort to further consolidate the regional and continental corporate states of the world, the other planets of the solar system and their stellar satellites also became the property of the global consortium, though they were never officially annexed. Frontiers like the newly terrafarmed Mars, the ore reclamation confederation of the asteroid belt, and far flung colonies of the of the Outer Planet Alliance were declared the as property of the WEC. All economic vestiges, no matter how distant, were now to be governed by the Consortium.

Needless to say, the outer worlds were less than appreciative of this. But because the new frontiers were dependent upon the Earth for their economies, they had little recourse to deny the subordination. At first, a few dared to test the resolve of the WEC's power, hoping that distance meant anonymity. When life sustaining supplies disappeared from the manifest of shipments to the distant outposts, most quickly learned to accommodate the demands of the Consortium. Those who did not conform tragically found themselves part of the vast and icy cosmos.

For the first decade, most of the frontier worlds complied with the WEC demands. Mineral ores and other raw materials were transported back to the Earth's Orbiting Production Platforms for the benefit of the terrain population. Most of these materials were either "under-priced" or "under-reported" so that the profits skimmed by extra-terrestrial trade made many a magistrate wealthy. It became a routine joke around the World Congress that the best senators were those in charge of the frontier trade, the senators who had fallen from favor were those dispatched to the colonies to oversee the trade.

But as the first generation of non-terrain (NT's as they are derogatory called) began to question the status quo, the WEC found itself in a unique situation. With the Earth's dependence upon the rich resources of the frontiers growing, (mineral ores from asteroids, Di-Cor from the lunar mines, etc.) the Terrains were in no position to threaten the out worlders. In face, most frontier posts had become self-sufficient rather than risk their livelihoods on the whims of ever demanding Consortium. Because of this, the WEC found it prudent to begin a new trade with the distant worlds, namely, the exportation of military diplomacy to the independent minded colonies.

As most people suspected, Mars was the first frontier world to formally propose independence. In xxxx a resolution was proposed, but it quickly died on the floor of the World Congress, (and there were rumors that a few senators from the Red Planet died along with it.) Because of this, military “appropriations” were also stepped up to keep the colonies in line. The WEC had far too much invested in Mars to let the planet think that it could be independent. This also sent a message to the Outer Planet Alliance. Seeing that the Martians were quickly becoming prisoners on their own planet, asteroid mining outposts in the icy reaches of the solar system quickly became models of efficiency rather than risk having shiploads of Enforcers unexpectedly show up at their airlocks. In time, the military did become a part of every outpost, and many precautions were taken to insure that the “new police” did not become too friendly with the locals. On routine basis, all military personnel are rotated so that they will not become sympathetic towards the native populace, and therefore compromise any commands given to them from earth. Military personnel are kept in a high state of vigilance so that so that they remain loyal to the WEC and only the WEC.