

THE EXPANSE

Background Guide
SSICsim 2017



Director:
Ashley Lall

Includes:

Welcome Letter

Background

Character Guides

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Welcome Letter

Delegates, teachers, and staff,

There's an old fictional trope that, at least in my opinion, rings true for this committee:

"Everything's better in space."

As a student of political science, in my opinion, to say politics and war are pretty interesting is an understatement. But politics and war... in space? I could not imagine a committee with higher stakes or more excitement.

This committee draws inspiration from novel series and Syfy television show, *The Expanse*, written by Ty Franck and Daniel Abraham under the pen name James S. A. Corey. Though the subject matter is grounded in science fiction, clear parallels become abundantly evident between the source material of this committee and the real world. Just as human history has seen the rise and fall of the colonial empires, so have characters in the history of *The Expanse*. Both versions of history contend with the fallout of great powers in the grips of cold war. The real and fictional Earths both stand witness to the oppressed and social inequality, to fights for freedom, and to movements which shape the course of history.

Even though *The Expanse* takes place a few hundred years in the future, it challenges us to resolve pressing questions which are relevant today. Should Mars be independent? How will Earth and Mars share resources? Will colonial rule lead to an inevitable war of independence? Elon Musk and NASA both have plans for colonizing Mars in the near future; I argue the political axis of extraterrestrial colonization is just as important as the physical process of terraforming.

Like any good Model United Nations conference, SSICsim is committed to creating an environment in which students can engage in diplomacy, debate, and leadership. In particular, crisis committees are fast-paced and full of surprises, making them a fertile ground for this type of engagement. Simple decisions will be blocked by delegates with their own political agendas, and as delegates of *The Expanse* committee will discover, everyone has secrets. I encourage all delegates, both experienced and novice, to take risks and put themselves out there. Make some allies, defeat your enemies, and if you want to blow up the moon - well, you might just get lucky.

Welcome to 2350.

Ashley Lall
The Expanse
Committee Director, SSICsim 2016

Introduction

Context

150 years ago, the *Canterbury*, a 750m long and 250m wide space ship, was built by Pur'n'Kleen Water Company for solar system colonization. The *Cant* relocated millions of people who now live on asteroids in the Belt or on the moons of the outer planets.[1]

Today, further colonization is no longer necessary. Rather than breaking the *Cant* down, Pur'n'Kleen has repurposed it as an ice trawler. It transports ice from Saturn's rings to Ceres Station in the Belt. There, the ice is broken down into liquid water and oxygen, compounds which are necessary for human survival but which are scarce on Ceres and other asteroids in the Belt. The *Cant* can haul several glaciers worth of ice at a time; even so, it is never enough for the six million permanent residents on Ceres. A round-trip from Ceres to Saturn and back takes close to three months, so the *Cant* docks at Ceres station with a shipment in March, June, September, and December. Daily water rations for residents of Ceres are scant; without a shipment from the *Cant*, human life in the outer belt would be impossible. This being the case, the *Cant* is the most important part of sustaining human civilization on Ceres.

The Interplanetary Investigative Coalition

Within the last 24 hours, the *Canterbury*, on course to Ceres station with its next shipment of ice, was vaporized. According to a statement released shortly after the attack by Pur'n'Kleen Water Company, two stealth ships appeared on the *Canterbury*'s radar moments before it was destroyed. The Company does not place blame on any particular group or faction; instead, it urges the Interplanetary Investigative Coalition (IIC) to thoroughly investigate the incident.

Taking place over holographic conference, the IIC convenes on September 18th, 2350 under the direction of Secretary General Esteban Sorrento-Gillis of Earth's United Nations (UN) and President Saroja Sapan of the Martian Congressional Republic (MCR). Delegates participating in the IIC must assign responsibility for the attack, devise an appropriate punishment, and ensure the safety of Belter civilian populations. Several

representatives from the solar system's three factions, Earth, Mars, and the Belt, are invited to participate on the ICC.

This conference marks the historic first meeting between all three factions in the solar system. The three factions have been locked in an arms race for the past few decades, fighting for control of the Belt's resources. Tension is high and trust is at an all time low; the solar system's tenuous peace is reaching its breaking point. Anything could be the spark that engulfs the factions in war.

Background Information

Brief Historical Timeline

2100

Earth's population reaches 12 billion. Overpopulation dangerously taxes the environment, so space agencies begin researching the colonization of other planets. Terraforming projects on Mars and 'Luna' commence in 2125. In 2190, Martian secessionists publish their manifesto, and Earth ships immediately set course for Mars to reclaim the colony and quash the revolutionary forces. Outright war is avoided at the last minute, but uneasy tension remains.

2200

Earth's population reaches 19 billion, and Mars's population soars to 75 million. In 2205, Martian-born Solomon Epstein invents a fusion power engine called the Epstein Drive, allowing ships to travel at a high sustained thrust throughout a voyage. This efficient engine gives Mars a comparative advantage over Earth in its ability to access the resources in the Belt. In an effort to prevent a war over the change in the balance of power, Mars shares the Epstein Drive with Earth. The Mars Congressional Republic holds its first congress; soon after it declares independence from Earth.

Earth's colonization of the Belt begins by 2210 with the use of a few newly-built ships outfitted with Epstein Drives. Earth's United Nations consolidates into a world government in 2210 to oversee the Belt's colonization program. Tycho Station is built, and becomes home to the first Belters by 2215. Terraforming and colonization on Eros begins in 2220; once complete it is used for mining operations for the next 30 years. Terraforming and colonization on Ceres begins 2245 and soon becomes the economic centre of the Belt. Colonization of smaller asteroids and the outer planets' moons begin 2250 and continue throughout the rest of the century.

2300

Earth's population reaches 27 billion, Mars's population reaches 1.5 billion, and the Belt's population, including the outer planets, reaches 45 million. The Outer Planets Alliance (OPA) forms in 2325 to represent Belters' interests. Soon after its inception, the

OPA becomes is linked to several bombings on Earth and Mars. In 2330, Earth demolishes Anderson Station in the Belt, led by Colonel Frederick Johnson. In a large part due to this event, Johnson defects to the Belt and becomes leader of the OPA in 2335. In 2350, Earth's population reaches 31 billion, Mars's population reaches three billion, and the Belt, including the outer planets, reaches 70 million. *The Canterbury* is attacked on its way to Ceres carrying a shipment of ice.

Overpopulation and Colonization

The United Nations projected early in the 21st century that the population by 2100 would be about 11 billion, with the rate of growth declining after hitting nine billion.[2] Despite more widely-available contraception and the implementation of one-child policies in fast-growing countries, advances in medicine and technology continued to increase lifespans and decrease mortality rates, contributing to an unforeseen rate of population growth to 12 billion by 2100.

The consequences of overpopulation were apparent worldwide. More fossil fuels were expended which aggregated the greenhouse gas effect, increasing air pollution and accelerating climate change. Freshwater reserves dwindled rapidly. Federal governments rationed fresh water usage worldwide and imposed a tax on over use. Water scarcity also led to inadequately irrigated crops, which led to global food shortages.[3] To accommodate the larger population with an inadequate food supply, fresh produce and grains were also heavily rationed and taxed. Earth suffered several successive global health crises, including a rise in the incidence of asthma, with over one billion cases diagnosed in 2100. Without enough water to properly treat sewage, illnesses quickly spread. Crime, disease and malnutrition rates soared. It became clear that Earth could no longer sustain its growing population.

Due to environmental degradation and resource depletion from the strain of overpopulation, Earth's scientists began to seriously consider the possibility of extraterrestrial colonization. Mercury was too close to the sun; heavy carbon dioxide gas on Venus rendered it inhospitable; the asteroid belt was simply too far away. The moon's proximity made it a viable candidate, and evidence soon surfaced corroborating the existence of water on Mars.[4] With these considerations in mind, space agencies began researching terraforming.

Invention of the Epstein Drive

50 years later, the process of terraforming Mars and the moon was well underway. With the existing technology, a trip carrying people and supplies from Earth to Mars would take eight months, and a trip to 'Luna,' the moon, would take three days.[5] Human life surviving on other celestial bodies was a celebrated feat itself, but

the process of realizing this vision was simply too inefficient. Additionally, metallic elements used in machinery and terraforming were being slowly depleted on Earth. However, these precious metals did exist in plenty in the asteroid belt. The Belt had seemed too far away, but the choice became clear: abandon the mission of extraterrestrial colonization, or invent a newer and more efficient form of travel to reach the resources in Belt.

By the 23rd century, scientists had managed to halve the time it took to travel from Earth to Mars but still searched for a more efficient technology. Finally, in the early 22nd century, humanity made a breakthrough. Born on Mars, engineer Solomon Epstein created a modified fusion drive.[6] His drive enabled him to travel at a sustained 'high-g,' or high acceleration, throughout his voyage.[7] His rate of acceleration throughout his 37-hour voyage, several times that of gravity and enough to kill him, remains unknown. The blueprints for the Epstein Drive were extracted from his laptop and used to build the technology that is now sold to ship owners who want speed and fuel efficiency.[8] The edge of the solar system was still beyond human reach, but travelling to the Belt and the outer planets became a great deal simpler.

From the Epstein Drive's inception, it was known that flying at sustained high-g was fatal to frail human bodies. 'Crash couches' were invented to resolve this problem. Built with extra padding and needles that inject stimulants and drugs into the passenger's back, crash couches prevent the human body from being crushed by several times the weight of gravity.[9] In order to minimize stress on the body, ships use the Epstein Drive to accelerate in the initial half of trip; the ships then flip around and decelerate until the destination is reached.[10]

Locations

Earth

Earth is home to 31 billion people live and the largest military in the solar system. The UN headquarters is located in New York. Earth also governs *Luna*, which has 100 thousand permanent residents and houses most of Earth's criminals. Luna is also the rendezvous point for families with members on Earth and Mars. Earth has an additional satellite, Mao Station, which is owned by CEO of Mao-Kwikowski Mercantile, Jules-Pierre Mao.

Mars

Mars's population currently houses three billion people, and is led by the Martian Congressional Republic. Mars has the most advanced military in the solar system. The MCR headquarters is located at Olympia.

The Belt

The Belt refers to the asteroid belt and the outer planets, home to 72 million people. With a population of 1.5 million people, *Eros* is a former mining base and the

current entertainment district of the Belt. 6 million people live on Ceres, the biggest docking port of the solar system and the Belt's economic centre. Thousands of people live on the Belt's smaller asteroids. *Tycho Station* is the largest mobile construction platform in the Belt and the OPA headquarters. The *Nauvoo* is currently being built at Tycho.

45 million people live on *Jupiter's* moons. With 9 million people, *Io* supplies power cells to the Belt. *Europa*, with 10 million residents, provides cattle to the Belt. *Callisto* also supports 10 million people and is the Belt's business and information technology district. *Ganymede* is home to 15 million people and is the Belt's agricultural centre. Thousands of people live across *Jupiter's* smaller moons, totalling to an additional one million.

Saturn supports 20 million people over 100 of its small satellites. *Titan* is home to 500 thousand permanent residents; it is also the vacation and resort district of the Belt. 25 thousand people live on *Phoebe*, the research division of the Belt. *Uranus* houses 5000 people on *Titania*.

Questions to consider

1. Despite sharing the Epstein Drive, tension between Earth and Mars remains. Is it possible for these tensions to be resolved?
2. What is the impact of the brain drain on Earth? On Mars? How does the brain drain affect their political relations?
3. Should sustainability still be a driving policy on Earth when its citizens can simply choose to live on Mars or the moon?

Map



Key Issues

The Three Factions: Politics and Economics

Earth

Home to 31 billion people, Earth is governed by the United Nations which is based in New York City. The UN became the global central government in 2210 to oversee the colonization of the Belt and to manage resource depletion. UN officials are elected to four-year terms in a first-past-the-post electoral system. The UN also acts as the central government for Luna and the Belt.[11] Earth has the largest military of the factions, at six hundred ships and 10 thousand nuclear warheads. The UN seeks to preserve the geopolitical status quo between factions within the solar system; it strives to maintain its absolute advantage in military strength and size.

The UN is influenced by a variety of political ideologies. It is conservative in its attempt to maintain the old-world status quo with Earth as a strong colonial empire and the hegemon of the solar system. Earth is also a socialist welfare state. Half of Earth's population is able to work, and out of this labour pool, one in every two people are unemployed and living on Basic, either by necessity or by choice.[12] The world's eight billion workers pay income tax which funds Basic. The size of a country's working population is directly correlated with the amount of Basic that country receives. The UN distributes these revenues to national governments, which decide how to allocate their resources autonomously, to subsidize public resources such as housing, food stamps, and medical care. Depending on the relative competence of every state government, quality of life varies greatly across Earth. Where financial resources are managed well, life can be like an extended vacation; where state governments fail to manage their resources well on behalf of their citizens, people live in relative poverty. Many children do not attend school and are malnourished. As Basic distribution is so vital to state welfare, UN officials are frequently bribed by national governments to award more funding to their states. To leave Basic, a person must complete at least two years of work credits, after which they can apply to university or join the workforce full-time. Employment is a scarce resource, so this process is used to ensure that educational training is not expended on people who do not enjoy working or who may default back to Basic.

Earth relies heavily on fresh water imported from the Belt, most of which goes toward agriculture, Earth's main interplanetary export industry. Water is also broken down into clean oxygen for breathing and hydrogen for ship fuel. Earth also imports precious metals like lithium and iron from the Belt for technology and ship production. Trade relations have stagnated between Earth and Mars due to cold war tensions, so Earth owns only a limited number of Epstein Drive engines imported from Mars.

Mars

Mars, a former Earth colony, began terraforming in the early 22nd century. Rather than modifying the chemical components of the atmosphere, domes were built to surround the planet which were subsequently pumped with oxygen. A complex system of tunnels was also dug under the planet's surface, which is now home to millions.[13] The intellectual demands of the terraforming process put enormous pressure on Earth's intellectual community, many of whom were sent to Mars to study and develop the new territory. These researchers, scientists, and engineers began growing their own food and building their own ships, and Mars became increasingly autonomous from the UN and Earth governments. Shortly after the invention of the Epstein Drive, Mars declared its independence from the UN under the condition that it shared the engine with Earth.

Today, Mars is home to three billion people and is an independent military power governed by the Mars Congressional Republic (MCR). Like Earth, life on Mars is made up of a medley of political ideologies. Mars has democratic elections every four years, but any given governing body is authoritarian; its people are nationalistic and xenophobic. Mars has a collectivized terraforming process. All resources and corporations on Mars are state-owned to ensure the goal of terraforming is met. Whether it's modifying the atmosphere, extracting resources, or designing ships, every Martian who is able to work must work. With about 25% of Earthers working and 65% of Martians working, Martians view themselves as disciplined intellectuals and Earthers as lazy members of a dying civilization.[14]

The only imports upon which Mars relies come from the Belt. Mars used to trade with the Earth companies, but due to cold war tensions, Mars now relies on its own ships to transport ice and minerals from the Belt. Mars can only mine in specific zones of the Belt; these zones are determined by Earth, which remains a source of tension between the planets. Mars is largely an export-based economy, with large technological, manufacturing, and pharmaceutical industries.

Mars's military is smaller than Earth's but bigger than the OPA's, and more advanced than both. The planet has 350 spaceships and 5000 nuclear warheads. Its military's modus operandi is "quality over quantity"; consequently, the Martian Congressional Republic Navy (MCRN) focuses on developing high-tech weaponry. The MCRN is the only faction known to possess stealth ships and weapons. Notably, every ship in the Martian Navy is equipped with the Epstein Drive, whereas Earth has only a few ships with the technology between many industries and OPA has none. Mars reaps the benefits of an ongoing cycle of comparative advantage: more efficient technology leads to easier access to the Belt's resources, which accelerates technological development.

The Belt

Reaching the Belt with an efficient form of travel was first made possible with the Epstein Drive, which was thereafter deployed to shuttle miners to the

Belt and ship resources back to Earth and Mars. Tycho station, the headquarters of Belter company Tycho Manufacturing and Engineering Concern, was first created as a home for labourers and their families.[15] In order to create more living space, as well as to alleviate the strain of Earth's overpopulation, Tycho turned asteroid Eros and dwarf planet Ceres into permanent settlements by building reaction drives into the celestial bodies and then 'spinning' them over a decade to induce artificial gravity.[16] Oxygen-filled domes were built on their surfaces. Eros Station is home to 1.5 million people, protected by private security firm Protogen. Ceres has six million permanent residents, with about a million visitors and a thousand docked ships at any given time.[18] It is protected by private security firm Star Helix Security. Shortly after colonizing the Belt, humanity moved to the outer planets. Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus all support people on their moons. The combined populations of the Belt and the outer planets reach just under 80 million.

Belters are colonies of Earth, but they do not share its old-world conservatism. In protest against Earth's governance of the Belt, some Belters joined together to form the Outer Planets Alliance (OPA). The alliance formed to protest the absence of labour unions. Mining huge glaciers and rocks was a dangerous, and injuries and death were commonplace. Many labourers in the past have had limbs severed while mining; a comparable accident on Earth would receive a limb transplant, while Belters would receive little to no compensation. The inner planets view the OPA as a terrorist organization.

The Belt has always had an economy based on unskilled labour and low wages. Eros, which found its gravity first, became the Belt's centre of mining and ore smelting operations.[17] The shipping economy shifted to Ceres, which was much larger than Eros, while Eros matured into the Belt's entertainment industry. Tycho station remained the largest mobile manufacturing industry in the solar system. When colonization expanded to beyond the Belt, energy, agriculture, and technology industries appeared, all overseen by Earth.

Earth monopolizes the use of the Belt's resources and thus controls Belter use of the resources as well. Any shipping and transportation to the Belt is controlled by the Earth. The Belt directly imports organics, agriculture, and primary products from Earth. It imports medicine and technology from Mars, through Earth-based companies. Martians freely take resources from the Belt with their own ships. The Belters' lack of control over their resources has been a source of tension between the factions for decades.

Belter Independence

Exploitation

Belters will continue to feel exploited by Earth as long as they remain under its colonies. Belters feel mistreated by the UN due to lack of labour unions and low wages for their work. Rather than using the Belt's wealth of resources to further Belter civilization, the Belt is slowly sucked dry by Earth and Mars in their own respective quests for survival and technological advancement. The UN dictates the Belt's usage of its own resources: the ice from the Belt is reserved for Earth and Mars, and Belters are forced to get their ice from Saturn's rings. The usage of Earth's ships to transport resources to the Belt limits Belter freedom, and can be used as Earth's bargaining chip if it feels the Belt is stepping out of line. To the inner planets, the Belt is incredibly important, but Belters themselves are expendable. Belters cannot work or live outside the Belt; yet Earth continues to exploit Belters by controlling their resources and condoning horrible working conditions.

Racism

Generations of living in the Belt has resulted in physiological and cultural differences between Belters and those living on Earth and Mars.[22] Due to growing up with less gravity, Belters are usually taller and thinner than the average Earther or Martian, and have slightly larger heads. Belters have also developed their own language; Belter creole consists of a medley of Earther languages and hand signs, unrecognizable to foreigners. [23] Belters are viewed as lower class because of these differences in appearance and culture. To someone from the inner planets, any 'real' human should be able to live on Earth or Mars. Belters would never be able to do so; the higher levels of gravity would easily snap their thin bones. Additionally, Belters regularly face prejudice based their work. During colonization, Earthers who were criminals, uneducated, or unemployed became miners in the Belt; perceptions that all Belters are lazy and unintelligent persist today. Ceres station, a docking port, is a hotbed for political unrest since members from all three factions regularly interact.

The OPA

The Outer Planets Alliance (OPA) claims to represent the interests of all Belters and all those who live on the outer planets' moons, with the exception of Ganymede. Despite being governed by Earth, the Belt and outer planets are de facto governed by the OPA. The OPA sees Belters as slaves to the Earther and

Martian economies and seeks change by fighting for independence. Originally created to fight for workers' rights and workplace safety standards in the Belt, the OPA network expanded with different branches advocating for labour unions and other workers' rights in addition to the OPA's main goal of political independence.

Fred Johnson's OPA faction fights for political independence under a communistic government. The resources of the Belt would be owned by the OPA rather than the UN, and the OPA could exercise its own trading practices. The OPA calls for a one-party state that would represent the interests of all Belters and those living on the outer planets. Each station and moon would have elected representatives who would also be members of the OPA party. All mining and shipping would be state operations carried out with Tycho's ships, with the majority of the Belt's resources going toward the Belt. No Belter citizen would ever have to worry about rations again.

The OPA has generated mixed feelings in the solar system. While the majority of Belters support Belter rights, they do not necessarily support the violence that some members of the OPA use. Because the OPA headquarters is located at Tycho Station, the group has access to the 100 ships Tycho has built. The Belt is prohibited from building weapons, but it is believed that the OPA possesses an unknown number of nuclear weapons. Because of this, the UN and the MCR view the OPA as an armed and dangerous terrorist network.

Ethics of War

Nuclear Weapons

Big or small, every faction has an arsenal of nuclear weapons, and every ship is built with missiles. The weapons, however, are to be used strictly in battle and never on a civilian population. It is commonplace for nuclear weapons to be used against pirates who often try to hijack ships transporting resources from the Belt. Regardless of whether they are humane, the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty was reversed; the use of nuclear weapons and missiles is now the norm.

Chemical and Biological Weapons

Since the 1925 Geneva Conventions, the use of biological and chemical weapons have been banned from war.[26] They are highly effective, but they are considered inhumane and unpredictable weapons of war. In order to

protect civilian populations, they have not been researched or used for centuries.

Interrogation and Torture

Gravity torture, usually used specifically against suspected OPA terrorists by the UN or the MCR, involves propping a person up from under their armpits from a height at which their toes barely touch the ground.[27] This allows them to feel the weight of Earth's or Mars's gravity: enough to hurt them to spur confessions, but not enough to kill them. This type of torture is considered inhumane and is illegal across the solar system; however, the UN and the MCR still occasionally use this type of torture.

The only acceptable form of interrogation to be used against Belters is the use of the water tank.[28] Belters are placed in a low gravity water tank to simulate the strength of gravity in the Belt. Belters are given masks and are hooked up to a machine through which they can communicate with their interrogators.

Hacking

As technology improves, so do hackers. Hacking may be illegal, but is serious concern, especially to the intelligence based Martian economy. Hacking is a tactic usually employed by pirates or intelligence agencies. It takes a variety of forms, from hacking a personal cell phone or computer to overriding an auto-pilot feature on older ships. The OPA is notorious for hacking live news broadcasts with condemnations of Earth and Mars and with calls to action to their fight for Belter independence. It has also successfully hacked into smaller ships' mainframes.

Super-humans

Still considered an idea from fiction, not much research has gone into the creation of super-humans or super-soldiers as weapons of war. Many consider genetic modification an ethical dilemma with too many unknown variables. As a result, neither super-soldiers nor weaponized humans are deployed.

Questions to Consider

1. How would the different political ideologies of the factions affect their usage of military weapons?

2. The OPA is already the de facto government of the Belt: should giving the alliance political legitimacy be considered?
3. Can the three factions be represented by any countries or empires in history?
4. Where should the line be drawn between ethics and efficiency? If a weapon gets the job done, why should it not be used?

Character Profiles (20)

Earther delegates (6)

Esteban Sorrento-Gillis, *Secretary General, United Nations*: Sorrento-Gillis is one of the two people who called this conference together immediately following the explosion of the *Canterbury*. A volunteer with the United Nations since he was 20, Sorrento-Gillis has committed himself to fighting corruption within and outside of the UN organization for the past 40 years. He has access to UN and monetary resources. He can also call press conferences and release media statements.

Sadaavir Errinwright, *Under Secretary General, United Nations*: On the recommendation of Sorrento-Gillis, Errinwright became the Under Secretary General to the UN. Errinwright is wary of Mars, whom he sees as a major threat to Earth's control of the Belt's resources. He was a member of the committee that approved the Massacre of Anderson station in 2330. Errinwright has access to UN and monetary resources.

Chrisjen Avasarala, *Deputy Under Secretary, United Nations*: A former UN lawyer, Avasarala now works under Errinwright at the UN. She is ruthless and ambitious despite being in her seventies; she seeks to achieve her goals no matter what the cost, personal or otherwise. She will stop at nothing until she gets to the bottom of the destruction of the *Canterbury*. Avasarala has access to UN and monetary resources.

Defne Murza, *Chief of Naval Operations, United Nations Navy*: Murza desperately wants peace between Earth and Mars for the renewal of trade relations. Without more of Mars's Epstein Drive engines, she believes Earth cannot reach its full potential. Murza has access to military resources. Anyone wishing to use the UNN's ships or weapons must get Murza permission first.

Karolina Ivanov, *Chief of United Nations Intelligence*: Ivanov has been the Chief of the UNI for the past five years, and brings an objective point of view to the conference. Ivanov stresses the importance of making peace between the three factions to ensure the future security of the solar system. Ivanov has access to interfactional intelligence.

Jules-Pierre Mao, *CEO of Mao-Kwikowski Mercantile*: One of the biggest corporations in the Belt, Mao-Kwik Mercantile is in the business of miscellaneous interplanetary transportation and private security. Mao works closely with Protogen on Eros to provide security to the station. Mao has access to monetary resources, as well as small ships and weapons. He also owns Mao Station, an Earth satellite.

Martian delegates (6)

Saroja Sapan, *President, Mars Congressional Republic*: Sapan is one of the two people who called this conference together. Mars's authoritarian leader, Sapan advocates that severe punishment be dealt to anyone involved in the *Canterbury* incident. Sapan has access to MCR and monetary resources. Sapan can call press conferences and release media statements.

Lukas Lang, *Secretary of State, Mars Congressional Republic*: Lang works closely with the president of the MCR. It is an open secret that Lang views Earth as a wasteland that is socially, technologically, and militarily inferior to Mars. Lang believes that Mars should have political control over some of the Belt or outer planets to even out the playing field with Earth. Lang has access to MCR and monetary resources.

Patrice Pacaut-Jones, *Secretary of Defense, Mars Congressional Republic*: Pacaut-Jones anticipates that the accusations that Mars is behind the *Canterbury* incident will incite enough anger throughout the solar system to spur an attack by Earth or the Belt on Mars. Pacaut Jones has access to UN and monetary resources.

Theresa Yao, *Chief of Naval Operations, Mars Congressional Republic Navy*: Once the admiral of warship the *Donnager*, Yao is now in charge of the MCRN. Yao prides herself on commanding the most disciplined and advanced marines in the entire solar system. Yao is adamant that none of her ships were used in the

attack on the *Canterbury*. Yao has access to military resources. Anyone wishing to use the MCRN's ships or weapons must get Yao's permission first.

Roberta "Bobbie" Draper, *Gunnery Sergeant, Mars Congressional Republic Navy*: Draper's team of Martian marines are deployed on Ganymede to hold territory against UN marines. She believes that Mars should control the outer planets if Earth controls the asteroid Belt. Draper is a good leader and brings a level head and her military and marine expertise to the conference. Draper has limited access to military resources and personnel.

Azzaam Shah, *Chief of Martian Congressional Republic Intelligence*: Shah does not know who is responsible for the *Canterbury* incident, but he is not ruling Mars out of the equation. Shah is willing to conduct any investigation that would shed light on this situation. Shah has access to interfactional intelligence.

Belter Delegates (6)

Maria Shaddid, *Star Helix Security, Ceres Station*: Shaddid is the captain of private firm Star Helix Security. She views protecting Ceres from outside threats as her number one goal. She is concerned that an attack on a ship transporting resources to Ceres means that an attack on Ceres could be next. Shaddid has influence over law enforcement on Ceres. She has access to security personnel.

Antonia Dresden, *Protogen Security, Eros Station*; Dresden has been working with Protogen for decades. She oversees the security and research divisions of Protogen. Dresden feels that Mars has always hated Belters for their differences, and she is concerned that Mars is planning an attack on the Belt. She has researching powers and access to limited security personnel.

Dmitri Havelock, *Chief of Police on Ganymede*: Originally born on Earth, many were surprised when Havelock decided to work in the Belt. He has faced prejudice throughout his life because of it, from Earthers, Martians, and Belters alike. He attends the conference to represent Ganymede, which does not support the violent tactics of the OPA. Havelock has access to limited security personnel and has influence over the people on Ganymede.

Nala Chahine, *Mayor of Phoebe*: Chahine is a strong advocate of Belter independence. Chahine knows the cold war is just a war over who gets to control the Belt and its resources. She sees the attack on the *Canterbury* as Mars's signal to Earth that it is ready to escalate the war. Chahine has access to limited security personnel, has influence over the people on Phoebe, and has researching powers.

Frederick "Fred" Johnson, *Leader of the OPA*: Johnson is the leader and spokesperson of the OPA, and represents the interests of the Belt. He is the face of the OPA's political independence movement. Johnson is seen as a traitor to Earth but a hero to the Belt. Based at Tycho Station, Johnson has access to monetary and military resources.

When an Earther UN official on Tycho station put a handling surcharge on incoming shipments of ice and air, about 50 thousand Belters living on the station would have been unable to afford a single month's supply; a full 24 hours each month would have had to be spent not breathing. [Leviathan Wakes chp 9] Armed insurgents overtook the station, demanding that the surcharge be removed. Earth retaliated and ordered Captain Johnson to retake the station. What ensued was a massacre with the death of thousands of civilians. Johnson was a hero to the UN but was called 'the Butcher of Anderson Station' in the Belt. Ashamed, Johnson resigned from the UN Navy and defected to the Belt. After numerous incidents of fighting for Belters' working rights, Ceres Station OPA ambassador Anderson Dawes recruited Johnson as the face of the OPA.

Anderson Dawes, *Ceres Station Liason to the OPA*: On Ceres Station, Dawes works to unite Belters under the common cause of independence. He sees the *Canterbury* incident as an opportunity to reel in any undecided Belters to his cause. He views riots on Ceres as a way to make Earth and Mars seriously consider Belter independence. Dawes has influence over the people of Ceres. He also has access to limited security personnel.

Third Party Delegates

Carol Avraham, *Expert on interplanetary relations*: A professor of political science on both Earth and Mars, Avraham has dedicated her life to studying the political tensions between the three factions of the solar system. She is invited to the Coalition to provide objectivity and creativity in solving this crisis. Avraham has researching powers.

Elias Carlsson, *Interplanetary journalist*: Carlsson is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster at *Infinity and Beyond News (IBN)*, the solar system's leading interplanetary news source. He is known for asking cutting questions and giving an unbiased retelling of events. He hopes to quickly uncover the secrets behind the the *Canterbury* incident. Carlsson can release media statements to the press.

Committee Mechanics

Overview

Delegates will be seated in one room together, but the coalition is assumed to function as a holographic conference due to both distance and general hostilities between the three factions. Piracy and hacking is commonplace in the solar system, so delegates should be warned that their communication feeds may cut out due to technical difficulties or hacking. During this time, they would be unable to communicate with other delegates, and they would have to wait until their feed returns.

Procedure

This conference will follow the Model United Nations parliamentary procedure of a continuous rolling moderated caucus. There will be no speakers list, and delegates can freely address each other during debate on any number of the issues at hand with recognition from the Moderator. Delegates are still permitted to motion for specified moderated caucuses with set time constraints and speaking times as necessary. Unmoderated caucuses will be reserved for free informal discussion and creating directives. Interruptions and points of personal privilege will not be permitted under any circumstance in this committee. The final ruling of parliamentary procedure during committee session will ultimately be at the Chair and the Moderator's discretion.

Time

The conference convenes on Friday November 18th, 2350 and will take place over five sessions. Each committee session is assumed to represent the duration of 24 hours. Crises may occur while the committee is in recess, and delegates must address these crises when the conference resumes.

Directives

In crisis committees, directives rather than resolutions are used to communicate and plan courses of action. Committee directives need three signatures to be introduced and a majority vote in favour of the directive to pass. All committee directives must be approved by UN Secretary General Esteban Sorrento-Gillis and MCR President Saroja Sapan to pass. Delegates wishing to use Earth's ships or weapons must receive prior approval by UNN Chief of Naval Operations Defne Murza. Delegates wishing to use the ships or weapons of Mars's navy must receive prior approval by MCRN Chief of Naval Operations Theresa Yao.

Private directives are sent to the dais for approval and are not introduced to the committee for a vote. Private directives contain courses of action for personal issues. Delegates can ask for security personnel, investigate other delegates, or even start crises of their own. For a more detailed list of private directive subject areas, please see the committee's Tumblr.

Use of Electronic Devices

Delegates are not permitted to use laptops, phones, or electronic devices while the committee is in session. Delegates will not be able to access Wi-fi during the conference; however, delegates may use their own data during recesses to review Twitter updates by the crisis staff. Any twitter responses or retweets by delegates must include SSICsim's official hashtag for its 2016 conference. Directives must be handwritten clearly and sent to the dais for approval.

Tumblr will be used by crisis staff prior to the conference for world-building. The Tumblr will also include more detailed character profiles. Delegates are encouraged to review the information on Tumblr prior to the conference. Throughout the conference, crisis staff will control a Twitter feed that will be projected in the committee room. Tweets will provide crisis updates, confirm private directives, and show the results of committee directives

Theexpansessicsim.tumblr.com

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Appendix A: Map



<http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-FnreoAUFbkY/VmLELypRdLI/AAAAAAAAAbw0/8OUPrtGcmdQ/s1600/The%2BExpanse%2Bsolar%2Bsystem%2Bmap.png>