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ARCHIVES LISTING

With the exception of the issues of Atlantis on order, only current issues were added to Hoosier Archives this week. Therefore, Archives Listing No. 5 in Hoosier Archives #5 is still substantially correct and it is unnecessary to publish a new listing in this issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new "Bibliologia" is out! Rod Walker outdid himself and instead of waiting until May to publish "Bibliologia - 1971," he has already published it in Numenor #10 of 16 February 1971. Subscriptions to Numenor are 10/\$1.50 and can be obtained from: Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego, CA 92116.

WANTED: Hoosier Archives will pay a reasonable price for any postal Diplomacy publication not included in the "Archives Listing" as it is desired to build as extensive a collection as possible. Postage and handling will be paid for duplicates of issues in the listing or any Dippy 'zines that you would otherwise throw away. These issues will then be made available at cost for others who want them. If you have a rare back issue Diplomacy 'zine but are unwilling to sell it, I would very much like to borrow it for xerox purposes and am willing to pay a fee.

OUT OF THE ARCHIVES

Now what you have all been waiting for--Hoosier Archives' series on reprints of old Diplomacy articles. This issue features "A Case for the Triple Alliance" published in Graustark #200 of 3 January 1970 and is reprinted by permission of John Boardman. I would have asked for the author's permission also, but John can't remember the correct identity of General Toetruck, who has apparently faded into the corridors of Dippydom antiquity.

A CASE FOR THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE

By General Cielya Toetruck

I write this article, if these few words deserve the title, in an attempt to clarify my own thoughts and to create comment as to the problems facing Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Italy. These great powers are what I prefer to call "Middle Powers." Middle Powers because they face the likelihood of a two-front war. In fact, Austria-Hungary must base her strategy on the premise that she will be required to fight the Turk in the Balkans and the Italians along the Isinzo River. So my thesis is, the Middle Powers must ally if they hope to survive, let alone win.

Let me begin by commenting on what I believe to be the situation facing each of the Middle Powers. Austria-Hungary is surrounded by a wealth of "convenient" supply centers - convenient in the sense that in order to capture the supply center it is not necessary to take a large number of provinces or seas which do not contain supply centers. Even as she is blessed with neutral supply centers, Austria-Hungary, plagued by potential enemies to the North, South, East, and West, can not consider any border safe. But her very location can be her salvation. Austria-Hungary stands watch over the Eastern Marches. She is the only Great Power positioned to thwart Turkish expansion. As long as Turkey remains a threat to Christian Europe, Italy and Russia dare not dismember the Hapsburg Empire. For the Balkans to fall into the hands of Turkey would be a major setback for Italian and Russian diplomacy. If Turkey captures Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Budapest, Turkey will become a "Super Power" fully capable of dealing with Russia and Italy. Therefore, it is to the best interest of both Italy and Russia to permit Austria-Hungary to exist as a buffer state, and time is all that Austria needs. Given three or four years, the Austrian Empire should be powerful enough to withstand the onslaught of Italy and Russia.

Italy is confronted with a dilemma. To attack Austria-Hungary places her across the path of the expanding Turkish Empire, which by this time would be a Super-Power. In fact, Italy, when she succeeds in destroying Austria, inherits the unhappy fate of the Hapsburgs. Only, the Italian player must seek a solution for stopping a Super Power, and unfortunately for Italy, the solution usually requires Italy to leave her western borders open to French incursions. But all "convenient" supply centers are to the East. For Italy to go to war with France means a rather long campaign before any supply centers are captured, and long campaigns without immediate reward are very dangerous. It goes without saying, for Italy to attempt Munich, though very flashy, is courting disaster. Perhaps Italy's best policy is to wait at least one year. If it appears that France, allied with England, will take Germany - attack France. If Turkey is being pressed by an Austro-Russian coalition and if France is being pressed by Germany, England, or both - hit Austria-Hungary. Of course, the strategy will be tempered by the situation, but the above is only a generalization.

Surrounded by a host of convenient supply centers and enough potential rivals to make survival most difficult, Germany's position

is similar to Austria-Hungary's. Also like Austria, Germany has a natural enemy, France. Only if England is most inept in her foreign policy will Germany and France ally. As if Germany did not have enough troubles on her western border, she must contend with Russia in the North and to the East. Therefore, Germany's diplomacy is straightforward; she must prevent England, France, and Russia from forming an alliance. Again, like Austria-Hungary, Germany is blessed with a critical location. She is the only country that can prevent France from exploding into Central Europe - something Russia and Austria-Hungary would want to prevent at all costs. So, it would seem natural for Austria and Russia to remain on good terms with Germany until these powers had satisfactorily settled the Turkish problem.

To sum up my argument, Austria-Hungary's reflex move into the Balkans generally entangles her with Turkey and later Russia. The first four years should see Austria and Russia allied against Turkey. But these two powers could very quickly become involved over the spoils. Besides, Austria's long border with Russia would make disengagement, let alone trust very difficult. It is not "good" policy to leave your back open to attack; therefore the Austrian player would always wonder when the Russian would break the peace. Whereas Austria's borders with Russia are long and difficult to police, her frontier with Italy can be secured with two armies and two fleets.

Even though the convenient supply centers are to the East, Italy will find it convenient to move on France. Early in the game, Austria-Hungary and Russia will be engaged in eliminating Turkey, and later each other. Therefore, the Italian player will have at least four years to gain control of the western Mediterranean and the surrounding land masses. Given the assistance of Germany, Italy should have little trouble in driving the French from Marseilles and the Iberian Peninsula. It will be necessary for Italy to protect herself against Austrian adventures, but two armies and one fleet should provide enough security. Therefore, it seems natural for Italy and Austria-Hungary to ally.

Germany's expansion into the Lowlands and her problems of defending Munich are excuse enough to cause Germany to go to war with France. Therefore, Italy and Germany have good cause to consider a coalition. And after the demise of France, the coalition would always have England to contend with. I discount the possibility of Germany and Austria-Hungary ever going to war. They just do not have the convenient supply centers to fight over. Besides, there is always Russia.

The main problem of the Middle Powers is the threat of the two-front war. If there is an alliance of the three middle Powers, I have tried to prove that there would be no conflict over spheres of influence. I think that it is obvious that the alliance would eliminate the two-front war for Italy and Austria-Hungary. Germany would still be faced by the threat of Russia, but I hope that I have proven sufficiently that Russia can be handled by the Triple Alliance.