

## LORD OF HOSTS

Is devoted to variant Diplomacy. In these pages will be found Miller numbers and designators, variant game announcements and results, occasional articles and editorials, and (given a special request and a hefty bribe of \$3.00 per player, in addition to maintaining a subscription) games of variant Diplomacy. The price for subscriptions and back issues will be cost plus postage, rounded up to the nickel (so that I can produce additional copies). Offers to trade will be considered. Issues will be published at

least quarterly; more frequently if there is sufficient material or games.

Miller numbers will be assigned on receipt of gamemaster's name, address, magazine, year of game, type of variant, and list of players and countries; postage would be appreciated but not required; subscribers and traders will receive their number with their next issue. Anyone may reproduce an issue in its entirety; partial reprinting is permitted upon attribution, except for articles by other authors who herewith retain full rights to their own material This entire effort is yours courtesy of Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway, Apt 5-V, NY NY 10034, (212) 942-3572.

No. 8

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11 December 1975

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With this issue the price of issues effective with no. 7 goes to 25¢ plus postage (rounded up to the nickel, of course - note that postage is rising at the end of the month) to cover accumulated losses and the increase in production costs. Since the IDA Council now serving has chosen to toy with my finances, I am considering a complete revision of all financial policies.

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This is your .sust issi	
Aninisme remaints sub:	
( ) Keanb now!	

EIBEL CIVEE

Peter Berggren, Davistown Schoolhouse Rd, Orford NH 03777, runs EVEREST, the comprehensive ratings zine, available at 50%/issue (15%/issue for ratingsmasters). He will include variant ratings systems, if there are any.

Slobbovia is now being run as APA-SLOB - write to Robert Bryan Lipton, Box 1962, Lafayette College, Easton Pa 18042 for full details.

PHOENIX, the Journal of the DVC, #9-18, is available for a self-addressed envelope and 7 ounces postage from Robert Sacks. Subscriptions are welcome.

Eack issues of MN'zines through LORD OF HOSTS 5%6 are available at 20¢/number plus postage. From LORD OF HOSTS #7 on it is 25¢/number plus postage.

The finest publications available in the wargaming field are probably EUROPA and BUMM, published by Walter Luc Haas, at 13/\$10 and 10/\$5 respectively.

It appears that Variant Orphan operations in Britain and Europe have collapsed; interested persons should contact Sacks, Heuer, Haas, Haven, or Patterson.

Vacant positions on the MNC staff have the following duties: (in any combination) permanent back-up, Variant Equation Game Analysis, Fantasy & Science Fiction and Diplomacy Variant Feedback, Variant Handbook, Catalogue, and Bibliography, and Miller Number Recategorization.

There is a proposal before DVC to establish awards (for variant publication, gamemaster, design, article, and general contribution) to be awarded by a six member panel elected by DVC - the proposal will probably be voted on in December, and if it passes the panel will be elected in January - persons interested in serving on the panel should contact the Secretary.

Other business in DVC now pending include setting up a Variant Playtesting Service under Lewis Pulsipher, setting up an insurance program for variants certified as fully playable, and possible amalgamation of variant zines.

Since there have been a handfull of criticisms on my comments about IDA last issue, I feel obligated to report on developments - for my extended comments, see ABLEHNEN #2 submitted to IMPASSABLE, PAROXYSM, SFECULUM, and THE POCKET ARMENIAN. DVC by a vote of 5-3 decided not to consider a motion of censure and non-recognition of IDA; 3 members of the TDA Variant Committee formed the backbone of that majority. The IDA did establish a new IDA Variant Committee but it has not commenced work. The IDA almost reversed itself and gave recognition and support to the Variant Orphan Rescue Service, but Fulsipher is filibustering. The IDA Editor has published a 3 page report from DVC, with a rather ridiculous and false justification of the disestablishment of non-North American Miller Numbers, and the Council has not considered a request for a reversal of that decision; indeed, except for VORS, they have still not considered requests on variant business (as distinct from motions proposed by Council members on their own initiative which must be considered) or shown any sign of being willing to cooperate with DVC.

DIPLOMACY VARIANT COMMISSION
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R Walker/1273 Crest Dr/Encinitas Ca 92024 THE DIPLOMAT/\$2 min, 20¢/turn: 2001 R Ware/TEP 253 Commonwealth Ave/Boston Ma 02116 VOINSKIJ DOKLAD/\$2+6/60¢: Plague

R Zaccalini/23 Toluca Estates/N Hollywood Ca 91602 THE DIPLOMACY BARON/\$2+&D \$1+

Gigaton Bomb

World Powers

8/\$2: Anonymity, Global

1973Hbu. (Youngstown IIC/Labelle Revision) Zine: Pellucidar. GM: Burt Labelle A-Jim Nash (dro S'02), CD (out F'03); C-Larry Gel (dro S'05), Gary Peterson; E-Arn Proujansky; F-Lowell White; G-Blair Cusack (out F'06); In-John Stevens; I-Chic Hilliker (res W'03), Robert Sacks; J-David Hodge (out F'08); R-Douglas Dick; T-David Scott. Abandoned Fall 1910 as a draw over one player's objection.

In Lord of Hosts 7 it was reported that 1973CNbu 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 had been abandoned; Ben Grossman (of The Predawn Leftist) has revived the game in his zine. C 11\*12 13 14 6 E .8 8 9.10.11 9 10 11\*11\* F 4 8 9 9 9 9 00 01 6 G 4 6 5\* 3 1 Robert Blank (CD, S'02) 4 3 8 In 6 6 8 8  $\mathbf{E}$ 5 Keith Fletcher (res S'02) 4 7 Ι 9 11 12 13 12 12 7 1.1 10 F 11 . 4 Gordon Jones (draw S'03) J 5 G 2 4 3 6 4 4 1 4 Gary Brennan (CD, F'01) R 11 11 12 10 9 10 11 11 Ι 6 Joe Rucco (res 5'02) 4 9 9 12 12 12 12 12 J 6 Arnold Wittstein (draw S'03) 4 8 5 8. 6 R David Steiman (res S'02) 1975BCgw. (World Powers)  $\mathbf{T}$ Laurie Komornik (draw S'03) 6 -6 US Charles Kapp (res S'03) GM: Richard Ware

1973ANdy. (Atlantica II) Zine: Bushwacker. GM: Fred C Davis Jr

CANADA-John Boyer (2nd place); C.S.A.-Russ Vane (res Aug '71), Karl Schuetz; E-Eruce Chin (3rd place); F-Robert Spencer (dro Apr '70), L Johnson (out Sept '71); G-Tom Heller (res Oct '70), Ishkan (out Mar '71); I-Mark Burden (won/concession); U.D.A.-Conrad Von Metzke (res Mar '70), Herb Barents (out Mar '71).

<u> </u>	<u> Mar 1870</u>	Jun Se	p <u>Dec</u>	Mar 1871	<u>Jun</u>	Sep	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Mar 1872</u>	<u>Jun</u>
CANADA 4	5	7* 7	6	4	5	7	8	9*	11*
C.D.A. 4	7	9 12	14	16	14	10	7	5	5
ENGLAND 4	7	7 8	11	13	15	18*	19	- 18	. 11 .
FRANCE 4	4	3 4	3	3	2	0	-		
GERMANY 4	6	8 <b>*</b> 4	2	0	_				
ITALY 4	6	7 7	7	8	10	11	12	14	19**
U.S.A. 5	6 .	3: 1	<u> </u>	0	-				

1973CUec. (1721 II) Zines: The Pouch (to W'22), Carn Dum. GM: Raymond Heuer

A-Cary Fulbright (dro F'25), Peter Berggren (out F'27/succeeded to Spanish Throne); E-Jamie Adams (res F'22), Matthew Diller (won F'28); F-Kirby Welch (res F'22), CD (S'23), David Lagerson (res S'25), Scott Rosenberg (out F'27); Ottoman Empire-Robert Goldman; Poland-William Clumm (dro S'24), Fred Hyatt), R-Doug Ellis (dro F'23), Stephen Tihor (dro S'25), Doug McMullin (out F'27); Spain-David Hov (dro W'23), Robert Sacks (res W'27 to the rightful king:), Peter Berggren.

250 49 48 5\* 6\* 6 23 24 25 26 27 28 46 43 42 41 6 CARTHAGE 0 6 4 3 3 20 24\*26 EGYPT 3 3 7 4  $\mathbf{E}$ 8 11 15 17 4 4 4 0 7  $\mathbf{F}$ 6 8 10 11 12 14 14 15 18 7 GREECE 5 8 4 7. 2 1 0 57 6\* 6 3 OH 5 55 7 4 2\* 5 6 6 6 ROME 4 0 7 5\* Ρ 7\* 5 6 8 10 10 SYRIA 8 8 8 9 11 12 2..0 R 7 4 4 . 4 4 Totals are in units supportable rather than centers. 8

1972Aldu. (Legion) Zines: Thunderbird (to 246), Adanak (to 243), M\*U\*S\*H. Ghs: Nork Weidmark (to 246), John Hulland.

C-John Ostapkovich (dro 245), John Morgan (dro 240), CD; E-Paul Stone (dro 249), Peter Valker (dro 240), CD (out 238); G-Peter Bennett (dro 244), Les Pimley (won 238); R-Richard Greenwell (dro 244), Matthew Valeriote (out 242); S-John Leeder.

Please note that 1975Rgr, announced last issue as a hoax, is actually being played though with a slight change of rules, and a few initial replacements. Chuckle.

My own variants - this issue we have some minor clarifications of the Downfall II rules (if it ever gets started) and two more of my variants: a revision of Active Neutrals which makes extended resistance in Scandinavia more likely by having Norway and Sweden played as a single power, and another rule and schedule variant, Hidden Strength, which allows each player to attempt to bring a single extra unit into the game, without need for supply for the next two winters, something I suspect every diplomacy player has always wanted to do.

The worst part of this job is going into extended details over new variants I'ld just as soon prefer I'ld never seen, so effective immediately comments on such will be minimal, if any are given at all.

Indonesian (Russel Fox, Urf Durfal #5). Confused, perhaps unplayable.

Plague (Richard Ware). Voted, spreads to adjacent units which CD and die 2 turns later. Sick.

Plague! (Adam Gruen, <u>Urf Durfal</u> #6). Another random variant, effects land provinces eliminating units in them and negating supply. Also sick.

World War III (Scott Rosenberg, The Pocket Armenian 19 & 20/CHOAM 37). Confused and unnecessarily complicated - uses nuclear and alignment rules.

gx. Trader (Matt Diller, The Pocket Armenian #23). A purposeless joke: 5 players, 1 island supply center each, 1 sea space.

Siberian-Iberian (Paul Girsdansky, <u>Magna Avis</u> #1 (&2)). Iberian player added; Caspian navigable; Switzerland semi-passable, but fortified. Poor.

Møøse (Paul Girsdansky, Magna Avis #2). Scandinavian player added; Pacific theatre added. Very confused.

Chinese (T A McCloud, Speculum #24). A rather charming, simple economic game. 6 powers and 3 random Chinese factions. Three staging areas with unlimited stacking for the powers - Siberia for Russia, Indo-china and the Pacific for the other 5. Annual moves only - no seasons. Imperials disappear 1911; Kuomintang have 1 army for every 3 years 1911 to 1928 and adjust for supply centers thereafter; Communists have 10 armies every 13 years starting 1927. Chinese builds are random, but they annihilate units in the build centers. It costs to bring in and maintain armies (there are no fleets) and to have units annihilated; revenue comes from supply centers; if a power goes too deeply in debt the player is deposed and re-

gw. World Powers (Richard Ware). Simple extension covering the entire world; each of the powers has an additional center (not necessarily historical), and Japan and US are each added with 4 centers; there is a canal through Egypt and between Mexico and Columbia. Some merit.

Extended (Peter Scribner, Cimmeria #23). Simple extension including Africa and the Middle East; any player eliminated from the original 34 centers goes into civil disorder; Italy, Russia, and Turkey get additional home centers; Britain gets 2 colonial centers, and Austria, France, and Germany get one each - units may be built in colonial centers only for a gain in centers within three land provinces. Interesting concepts.

Magic II (Roger Cooper, Valinor #1). D&D strikes! could use a little simplification, but good. In addition to standard set-up, one unit is knighted (double strength - must be doubly attacked to totally cut support), and there is a hero and a wizard for each player; heroes may accompany their own forces adding 1 to their strength, and travel alone (over land or water) without strength - if they are unable to retreat when forced they're annihilated; wizards may move invisibly (if an enemy unit is in the same space it has a 50% chance of detecting and capturing the wizard) or cast spells to take effect before movement (spell broken if the wizard is discovered, hit by lightning or fireball, or attacked) up to a total of 3 plus 1 for every winter, but only one at a time and only a Learning spel to start (there are 15 other spells - all useful directly in some way); certain spells must be maintained; one spell is Counterspell against several of the other spells; one spell (Light) may be cast while moving to counter Darkness.

1975Zfs (Intimate), Matt Diller, The Pocket Armenian. A-Scott Rosenberg, F-Nicholas Ulanov.

1975BAbu (Youngstown), Joseph Antosiak, Anschluss. A-William Clumm, C-Doug Kjell, E-Steve Peluso, F-Ron Gorski, G-Don Efron, In-Robert Robertson, I-Steven Ball, J-Eugene Prosnitz, R-Karl Shuetz, T-Arnold Proujansky. (Orphaned) 1975BBgv (US II-R), Fred Davis, Bushwacker. Jeff Barber, William Clumm, Ed Feuerherd, Stephen Locke, Stephen Morrill, Gary Smith, Rod Taylor.

gv. United States II (Fred Davis, <u>Bushwacker</u> V. IV #7; subsequent revisions)
1975BCgw (World Powers/preliminary version), Richard Ware, -. A-Robert Blank,
E-Keith Fletcher, F-Gordon Jones, G-Gary Brennan, I-Joe Rucco, J-Arnold
Wittstein, R-David Steiman, T-Laurie Komornik, US-Charles Kapp.

gw. World Powers (Richard Ware, Voinskij Doklad #1)

1975BDdi (Anarchy IV), Bob Hartwig, <u>The Podunk News</u>. Robert Acheson, Peter DeBenedittis, Mike Dominskyj, Guy Erwin, Doran Greening, Kurt Mackes, Phil Richards.

1975BEgx (Trader), Matt Diller, The Pocket Armenian. Edi Birsan, Rod Walker, John Beshara, Lew Pulsipher, Robert Sacks.

gx. Trader (Matt Diller, The Pocket Armenian #23)

1975BFgw (World Powers), Richard Ware, <u>Voinskij Doklad</u>. A-David Turkel, E-Hazel Rovno, F-Arnold Wittstein, G-Joe Rucco, I-Bruce Miller, J-Gordon Jonas, R-Joe Chapman, T-Steve Klein, US-Jim Massar.

1975BGgl (30 Years War), Raymond Heuer, Carn Dûm. A-William Osmanson, Bavaria-Greg Costikyan, Brandenburg-David Hov, Denmark-Donald Kawash, E-Ferkin Doyle, F-Jeremy Paulson, OE-Fred Bolin, Palatinate-Donald Hov, Poland-Arnold Proujansky, R-David Metters, Saxony-Matthew Diller, Spain-Gene Prosnitz, Sweden-Joseph Grailey. United Provinces-John Brennick, Venice-Fred Hyatt.

1975BHfh (Colonia), Ben Grossman, <u>The Predawn Leftist</u>. A-Roger Oliver, E-Jack Kerins, F-Victor Ricci, N-Robert Stimmel, OE-Fred Eclin, Por-Karl Schetz, R-Lee Kendter, Sp-Jack Hering.

1975BIgo (Near Utter Chaos), Ben Grossman, <u>The Predawn Leftist</u>. A-Ricky Phillips, E-Eric Goldberg, F-Greg Costikyan, G-Adam Gilinsky, I-Alex Katzoff, R-Jim Reilly, T-Fred Bolin.

1974ALfd/1974.4.0.2 (Algernon), Dave Vaughn, -. John Arbogast, Jack Bradley, James Bruun, Thomas Galloway.

1974AMfd/1974.4.0.3 (Algernon), Jack Bradley, -. John Arbogast, James Bruun, Thomas Galloway, James Vaughn.

1975BJgy (Downfall II), Robert Sacks, Lord of Hosts. Elv-Paul Bean, Ent-Robert Sacks, Gon-Kevin McGree, H-R-Gregory Costikyan, North-Richard Ware, Ranger-Arn Proujansky, Roh-Margaret Gemignant, Sar-Burt Labelle, Sau-Warren Morris:

gy. Downfall of the Lord of the Rings and the Return of the King II (Robert Sacks, Lord of Hosts Supplement to 586, Revision in #8)

ACTIVE NEUTRALS (Revision) Every mnior power begins with a unit in it, according to the schedule below. Every major power player will also play for one or two minor powers, according to the schedule. Each power, major or minor, will be played separately - with separate supply center counts and with separate status regarding self-dislodgment - except Sweden and Norway which will be played as a single power, since they share a common King in 1900; a minor power could win; a minor power once wiped out cannot be brought back any more than any other power; a major power can wipe out its associated minor powers, and vice versa. Schedule: Austria A Belgium F Portugali Italy A Sweden F Norway

Schedule: Austria A Belgium F Portugal England A Greece France A Rumania A Denmark Germany A Bulgaria F Tunis

Russia A Serbia
Turkey A Holland A Spain

. THE DOWNFALL OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS AND THE RETURN OF THE KING II

- 1. The rules as published as a supplement to Lord of Hosts #5&6 apply with the following clarifications.
  - a. The designer may make rulings from time to time as precedents.
  - b. Ordinary fleets may be built, just not multiple fleets. The Seas of Rhun and Nurnen have no effect on the game.
  - c. The TA elimination option applies to pieces which would have been dislodged if pieces could be dislodged. Since pieces not involved in combat are not ordinarily revealed, a TA with this option will be advised if it meets a piece.

d. The Balrog is stronger than Ents.

- 2. House Rules (changes underscored in this manner)
  - a. Preference Lists are used when submitted.
    b. Press and all moves since the previous issue of Lord of Hosts will be carried in the next issue of Lord of Hosts (except for insipid press which will go only to other players, if at all). All moves except the moves due immediately before an issue of Lord of Hosts will come out by carbon copy. c. Deadlines for Spring and Fall moves (or their equivalents) will normally be three weeks, and for adjustments, when some restances to the restance of t
  - be three weeks, and for adjustments, when separate, two weeks. First move deadlines will be four or five weeks.
  - d. A player who misses two consecutive moves will be dropped and replacements will be asked for. General Orders may be submitted, but if used it is still counted as a missed turn.
  - e. The Gamemaster is the final judge of all questions, and reserves the right to be arbitrary on questions of misconduct.
- The Participants for 1975BJgy GameMaster/ENTS-Robert Sacks/4861 Broadway, 5-V/NY NY 10034 ELVEN LORDS-Paul Bean/13 Grove St, 8/Boston Ma 02114 GONDOR-Kevin McGee/SUB #3 MWHS #2/TME-21 2nd MAW/MCAS Cherry Pt NC 28533 HARAD-RHUN-Gregory Costikyan/1675 York Ave/NY NY 10028 NCRTH-Richard Ware/TEP 253 Commonwealth Ave/Boston Na 01440 RANCER-Arnold Proujansky/50 W 77th St/Hotel Park Flaza/NY NY 10024 ROHAN-Margaret Gemignani/3200 ME 36th St. 907/Ft Lauderdale Fl 33308 SARUMAN-Burt Labelle/Forest Fark 23/Biddeford Me 04005 SAURCN/LORD OF THE RING-Warren Morris/Company 125/Rort Trng Cntr/Orlando Fl 3289
  - ( ) Please pay \$3 game fee. ( ) Resubscribe now!
  - ) Trade for:
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- 4. Initial moves are due: 7 pm, Wed, 14 January 1975.

## HIDDEN STRENGTH

Once during the game each power may attempt to bring an extra unit onto the board, according to the schedule below. This is a move which may be supported; it succeeds if it appears in the designated space with greater strength than any other unit moving to or holding in that space - otherwise it fails, though it may serve to have prevented another unit from moving or supporting. A unit brought on in this manner is automatically in supply the next two Winters.

Schedule

Austria An army anywhere within 1900 boundaries or Fleet Trieste England Fleet North Atlantic, Army Wales, or Army Syria An army in Burgundy, Gascony, Paris, or North Africa An army anywhere within 1900 boundaries or Fleet Kiel France Germany An army anywhere within 1900 boundaries or Fleet Apulia or Tuscany Italy An army in Moscow, St. Petersburg, or Sevastopol Russia Any unit in Ankara or Smyrna Turkey

WINTERCON IV will take place January 16-8. Since I am not responsible for it this year, I cannot say much about it (there may be an attachment on it), but I hope it will be worthwhile in the tradition of MIT-SGS WinterCons. info contact Rich Moore, 50-316, MIT, 77 Mass. Ave, Cambridge Ma 02139.

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