

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

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Constantinus Takes Rome

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

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This month's cover drawing was provided by Vincent Tsao.

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word is used in these pages, refers to a game manufactured by the Avalon-Hill Company of Baltimore, Maryland.

THE MAN OF THE MONTH

Constantinus

by Vincent Tsao

During the third and fourth centuries, the Roman Empire was coming apart at the seams. After spending most of the third century repelling barbarian invasions, the empire bore thirty years - and as many emperors - of civil war. In 284 A.D., having trounced his opponents, Diocletian became emperor and reigned for twenty-two years, finally retiring of his own volition - a rare feat for Roman Emperors.

He organized the empire into two administrative and four military districts, and tried to revive the flagging state religion (which maintained that the emperor was a deity) by persecuting Christians and such. Constantinus, the general in command of Gaul, Britain and Spain, and the father of our man of the month, was very impressed by the Christians he persecuted under orders from the Emperor Diocletian. They were willing to die for a belief, and few in the empire were willing to die for anything, including the empire.

Indicative of the failure of the empire's institutions and religion to inspire much loyalty, (or anything else) numerous mystery cults flourished. Chief amongst them were the Mithraditic Cult, the Sun Worshippers, and the Christians. The rank and file of the army, where religions that spoke of an afterlife were popular, was polluted (to use a Gibbonesque word) with believers of one cult or the other, to a much greater degree than the general population (of which some 10% were Christian).

In 305 A.D., Diocletian resigned his post as "Augustus" of the West (the post he had given himself in dividing the empire) and convinced the reluctant "Augustus" of the East to do likewise. Both were supposed to be peacefully succeeded by their junior partners, the "Caesars."

Constantinus, Jr., who had succeeded his father in command of the Northwest Military District, was slated to be the new Caesar of the West. War promptly broke out across the empire as the posts of Augustus were up for grabs.

Constantinus refrained from this free for all, ruling his district from Trier, but not relinquishing his claim to be junior emperor.

The rest of the empire served as testing grounds for six years on which one contender after another was smashed. In 311 A.D., when only Maxentius remained in the West, Constantinus gathered his troops and declared himself the Augustus of the West. In 312 A.D., in a lightning campaign, he crossed the alps by the Mt. Cenis pass and defeated Maxentius' subordinates at the battles of Susa, Turin, Milan Brescia and Verona. Constantinus marched on Rome with 50,000 men, where Maxentius was concentrating 75,000, the odds against Constantinus were long.

Constantinus then saw his famous "sign" in the sky, along with the words "In hoc signo vincas" (by this sign you will conquer). Contrary to popular belief, the sign was not a cross. Such a sign was not even popular with Christians. Whatever the sign was, it included the Greek initials chi (X) and rho (P), which was the then used symbol of the Christian faith, being the first letters of the Greek word for Christ. The sign also included a bright ring, making it somehow like the symbols used by the Sun Worshippers and Mithra Worshippers.

Constantinus had a banner made up with the sign, slogan and his portrait. The troops were in ecstasy, for instead of just a share of the state treasury if they won, each thought his religion would be in also. So thought the Christians, the Sun Worshippers, and the Mithraditic Cultists. Constantinus was indeed

their man.

Constantinus faced Maxentius at the battle of Milvian Bridge. It was an amazing affair: Constantinus' outnumbered troops simply outfought their less motivated but veteran opponents. The battle was won when Constantinus' light cavalry smashed Maxentius' heavily armored cataphract cavalry. As the defeated men crowded over the bridge to Rome, it collapsed, drowning Maxentius and stranding the Praetorian Guard, (who often killed the emperors they were supposed to guard) which was destroyed.

Constantinus became the undisputed Augustus of the West, and he extended recognition to Licinius, who had grappled his way to power in the East.

Constantinus did not convert to any of the new religions at that time, but full religious tolerance was a tenet of his reign. Christianity was not to become the state religion until after Julian the Apostate. Christians were not again persecuted until heretics appeared.

The Christians, by virtue of their organization and the fact that they had always had numerous wealthy converts, fared much better in the new atmosphere of toler-

ance than did the other mystery cults.

In 314 A.D., Constantinus defeated Licinius and became the sole ruler of the empire, and founded the new capital on the strategic site of Byzantium. When Constantinople was built, a good piece of land was given to the Church to build the Cathedral of St. Sophia. The Church began to play the role of the old polytheistic religion had long ceased to do.

Constantinus was finally baptized on his deathbed in 337 A.D. As part of his will, the Church was granted land in Rome which has become the site of the Vatican. Of course, our man of the month was canonized as a saint.

The Church that Constantinus had used so artfully in his climb, outlived his empire, at least in the West. When the Goths stormed Rome, though they were heretics, they were Christians.

Did Constantinus really see that sign? Or did he make it up as a clever means to an end?

There is a lesson here. Whether running for president, fighting your way to Emperor, or building an alliance structure in Diplomacy: be all things to all men.

AUNT VITKUNNA

Dear Aunt Vitkunna,

I'm a young businessman, interested in developing the commercial possibilities of the postal Diplomacy hobby. In my opinion, a good business organization can provide a much better service to hobbyists than have the slap-dash amateurs.

My outfit published a neat, well edited and punctual gamesletter. Last year we organized and ran the annual diplomacy convention. It was a great success.

I was given to understand by a num-

ber of amateur publishers that if the '75 convention was a success, my organization would continue to run the annual convention.

These guys now fear that I might "take over." I was in the process of organizing the '76 convention when the cabal of amateurs began a terrible campaign of lies against me. They keep claiming I made promises I never made.

Now they are running a deliberate effort to have my convention boycotted. I've

sunk a lot of money into this operation.
What should I do?

Horatio Viking

Dear Horatio,

Instead of trying to run "the" annual Diplomacy convention, why don't you run "a" Diplomacy convention, for people who are turned off by the other one.

The official convention is being held in Baltimore. If you've ever been to Baltimore, you know you never want to go back. If you ever get anything in Baltimore, you know that you have to see a physician when you get home. But the only thing you're likely to get in that town is ripped off.

The town isn't even the worst part of the convention. Typically it's being held on the campus of a university. They have Dippy games scheduled all day and all night. Sleeping arrangements have been made in dormitories. You know, six guys to a room and all the beer you can "sneak in" past a housemother. God awful! This one is strictly for kids!

Instead, why don't you try to reach another market, those interested in a convention where they can have some real fun.

Pick a fun city for your gathering:

New York, San Francisco, Boston or Atlanta. Arrange for discounts at a first class hotel for your group. Stock up on some good booze, even dope. If you're a businessman, you should arrange for some of your younger female staff to attend. Offer a bonus to every girl who brings a girlfriend. Diplomacy games should only be scheduled in afternoons. Leave the nights for partying and the mornings for chatching up on sleep.

Have a list of the more kankyer night spots for your friends to find their way to after your convention parties. Ask any cab driver if you are unfamiliar with the town you have chosen.

If you players would like to make side bets on their games, not that you should encourage this, agree to hold the money for the wagerers.

Your convention will cost quite a bit more than the "official" playpen, but for the players who are not college kids it should be just the thing. Soon everyone will forget about the propoganda directed against you and will only remember how much fun they had at your event and will come back every year.

Good luck!

Aunt Vitkunna

LETTERS

The Postal Ripoff

Drew:

It neen not be said that the postal system has degenerated since the Nixon Administration's "reforms". That need not be debated. However, your comment that only the big cities would receive mail service were it turned over to private enterprise

is, to say the least, rather backward thinking.

The intention of the Constitution in specifically authorizing the government to provide a postal service did not mean they were to have a legally enforced monopoly. (As an off-beat note, it is curious that the government operates 3,000 money losing corporations that are nowhere authorized

in the Constitution - in violation of the tenth amendment.) In fact, there are numerous examples of private postal systems - the Pony Express of 1860 being the most well known. Nowhere does the Constitution forbid private entrepreneurs from operating a competing system. The obvious intent of the Founding Fathers being to provide postal service to a Scattered nation where it would not otherwise be feasible.

Private contractors testifying on a bill introduced by Rep. Philip Crane (Ill.) said that they could deliver first class mail for 4¢/oz.!! If tax credits or other incentives were provided to include sparsely populated areas, they could be doing the job of the USPS at one third the cost!! For those who fear only metropolitan areas will be served, let it be known that I am from a rural area. One need only cite the example of the United Parcel Service. In less than eight years, UPS (without any tax incentives) has expanded its delivery areas to include every state except Alaska. There were several disadvantages to the USPS. (1) they were only allowed only to handle parcel post type material, restricting their line of business, (2) They had to build an organization, facilities and subsidize a competitor's losses (the USPS), (3) It would obviously be more profitable to haul a lot of mail on daily routes than make a special trip to some isolated areas withone package, (4) They deliver mail right to the front door, even in rural areas and small towns, and have them sign for it - al-
equivalent of registered or certified mail. Dispite these and other disadvantages, UPS is able to make large profits and deliver parcels at rates lower than the USPS's parcel post on as little time as it takes for first class mail. (For a rough comparison, it took the postal service four days to deliver a package air parcel post Dallas to Fargo at a cost of \$7.84. It cost us less than \$2.50 to return the same package (after proofreading) to Dallas via UPS. This included \$200 insurance and it took

them three days!) All this should be reason enough to open the poatal system to private competition. Nonetheless, the House soudly defeated the Crane amendment that would do this. Beleive it or not, big city congressmen were almost unanimously opposed to it. Those in favor were a few progressive thinking rural and suburban cangressmen - and there just weren't enough of them. Postal reform should begin with cleaning house this election and passing the Crane bill next session.

If the government would quit f****ing up the free enterprise system and forcing one group to subsidize another, we could all enjoy a higher standard of living. Let's face it - the poor and middle class cannot afford to buy congressmen. so it's only natural that most social service programs and regulatory agencies only benefit big labor, big business and monopolistic fat cats. The solution is not to turn the government into an agency to plunder the rich to prop us up (we've already seen how the gov't has use such programs to buy votes from the poor at the expense of the middle class) but to reduce, diffuse and decentralize the power that there is less opportunity for corruption. The more powerful the government, the more it reeks of corruption!

Dave Staples

Dear Drew

You trans-atlantic types always include that "copyright and makers of Diplomacy" crap in your 'zines, why? Affraid of being sued?

Dave Allen

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GRAND TOURNAMENT DIPLOMACY

WAR BREAKS OUT! MOBILIZATION STUMBLES IN ENGLAND, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA. TURKS AND RUSSIANS ON COLLISION COURSE. ITALIANS TAKE KEY TYROLIAN MOUNTAINS AS AUSTRIANS HESITATE. FRENCH MOVE TO GUARD GERMAN BORDER, ENGLISH TO CHANNEL

1976 Dhd

Spring 1901

Rules

England

Don Rittel - F Edi - Nth
Gary Carson - A Liv - N.M.R. (hold)
John Kador - F Lon - Eng

Germany

Lee Kendter - A Ber - Kfe
Bill McDonough - F Kie - N.M.R. (hold)
Jim Diehl - A Mun - Ruh

Russia

Vincent Tsao - A War - Ukr
Phil McGee - F Stp - Bot
Nina Pawlak - A Mos - Sev
Ian Jeffrey - F Sev - Rum

France

Dennis Klien - F Bre - Mid
Bob Sergeant - A Mar - Spa
Harley Jordan - A Par - Bur

Italy

Karl Schuetz - A Ven - Tyr
John Machir - F Nap - Ion
Bob Sacks - A Rom - Ven

Austria

Chuck Doehrer - F Tri - H
Bruce Martin - A Bud - Ser
Dennis Nagle - A Vie - N.M.R. (hold)

Turkey

Bob Normand - A Con - Bul
Rick Solomon - A Smy - Arm
Will McCullam - F Ank - Con

Your attention is called to page six of R.S.S. Vol. 1 No. 1 (the last page of the rules for G.T.D.), where there is printed an example to clarify the defection rule (Rule 23). The example includes a misprint. It should read as follows;

example:

Player A: German A Hol-Bel, defects to France

Player B: German A Bel H

Player C (king of France): Accepts defection of German A Hol

You should also take note that every player must send in orders for all of his units. Players can not give their kings proxies to order their units. When a player does not send in his orders, as happens in regular Diplomacy, his units hold.

Press

The Master Chamberlain shivered as he strode down the corridor of Quirinal Palace to the royal bedchamber. His Majesty, Roberto I Eduardo, was not going to be pleased. Imagine! Prince Carlo of Venice, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Italian Army had declared himself to be the rightful Tsar and was marching off to Russia, with the Army of Northern Italy as personal bodyguard. What with the German and Austrian Kaisers insisting on the inviolability of the Tyrol, it was going to be a peace-

ful decade - why, he might even be replaced as Master Chamberlain, and then how would he hold off his creditors? As he turned the last corridor he was shocked - lights through the half opened door, at this hour of the night - could His Majesty have already...

(Translator's Note: We have endeavored to preserve the accuracy and dignity of the conversations recorded.)

"Urbano! What kept you? No excuses - if I had to wait for you before finding out what is happening I'd still be Duke of Lucca. Take these dispatches - General Mobilization, Order for Army of Rome to march to Venice and maintain order, your appointment as regent - and get them pub-

lished immediately. Now remember, don't accept any pledges of allegiance from foreign commanders who can't pay their own way, and don't go robbing the public treasury or I'll reduce you to a Baron charged with keeping peace in Sicily - no honorable retirement to your March in Romagna" As His Majesty marched out, in the battle dress uniform of a Field Marshal of the Royal Italian Army, the new Regent was already considering the situation - with his new authority he should have no problem with his creditors any more. Retirement to Sicily or Romagna indeed!

[Good press, Bob, but remember, Slobbovia this ain't.]

FIRST REGULAR GAME

1976

Winter 1901

Germany
Jim Diehl

Build F Ber, A Mun
Has F Den, A Bel, A Kie

Austria
Dave Malmquist

Builds A Vie, A Bud
Has A Rum, A ser, F Alb

Italy
Jerry Rogowski

Build F Nap
Has A Tyr, A Pie, F Tun

England
Don Rittel

Builds F Lon
Has A Yor, F Nwy, F Nth

Russia
Bb Sergeant

Build A War
Has F Swe, A Gal, A Sev
F Bla

France
Bob Normand

Builds F Mar, F Bre
Has A Bur, A Spa, F Pr

Turkey
Mark Nelson

No Builds Received
Has A Bul, A Ank, F Con

Press
"Benitto e quel male che vien solo"
Rome to Paris
"A Beau Jeu, Beau Retour"

SECOND REGULAR GAME

At the suggestion of our players, the procedure for country assignments by pre-

ference lists will be explained.
First, all players are requested to send

to the Gamemaster a listing of the countries on the board in the order in which they would like to play such countries. Such list should include all seven countries.

Next, for the players who chose not to send in such lists, or whose lists are incomplete, the Gamemaster will make up a list for each such player from random selections of the seven countries. For the incomplete lists, the G.M. will use the listed countries as a start of such list and complete it with random selections.

Then, all lists are placed evenly on the floor of the Gamemaster's study. The landlord's (Arne Eastman's) mystical cat, Felis Exterius, is then consulted. If more than one player chooses the same country as his first choice, the first player whose list is stepped on by F.E. gets his first pick. For the players who do not get their first choice, the process is repeated in the second round of picks from among the countries chosen second on the player lists.

The process goes on often for up to an hour since F.E. often must meditate before making his next selection and will not proceed from one round of picks to another immediately.

Country Placement

Jim Harper	<u>G</u> <u>I</u> <u>F</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>R</u> <u>E</u>	Germany
John Machir	<u>F</u> <u>E</u> <u>T</u> <u>I</u> <u>A</u> <u>R</u> <u>G</u>	France
Jim Diehl	<u>F</u> <u>R</u> <u>E</u> <u>T</u> <u>I</u> <u>A</u> <u>G</u>	Italy
Jad Dittmar	<u>T</u> <u>R</u> <u>A</u> <u>E</u> <u>I</u> <u>F</u> <u>G</u>	Turkey
Curt Gibson	<u>G</u> <u>A</u> <u>I</u> <u>E</u> <u>T</u> <u>R</u> <u>F</u>	Austria
C. Dupuis	<u>F</u> <u>R</u> <u>A</u> <u>G</u> <u>E</u> <u>T</u> <u>I</u>	Russia
Bruce Martin	<u>E</u> <u>A</u> <u>F</u> <u>T</u> <u>G</u> <u>R</u> <u>I</u>	England

Germany

Jim Harper
7637 Campbell Street
Taylor, Mich. 48180

France

John machir
2553 Holman Avenue
Silver Spring, Md. 20910

Italy

Jim Diehl
5008 Normandale Highlands Drive
Bloomington, Minn. 55437

Turkey

Jad Dittmar
1235 Birch Road
Homewood, Ill. 60430

Austria

Curtis Gibson
c/o Apt. 1-A
176 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016

Russia

Charles Dupuis
6515 Yale,
Apt. 921
Westland, Mich. 48185

England

Bruce Martin
119 Ely Drive, South
Northville, Mich. 48167

Good Luck! Deadlines are below

NOTA BENE

1. Deadlines. The deadlines for Fall 1901 moves in 1976 Dhd (GTD), and for Spring 1902 moves in 1976 BE (FRG) are on:

July 12, 1976

The deadline for Spring 1901 moves for the Second Regular Game (as yet without a Boardman Number) is:

August 10, 1976

2. Change of Addresses. The addresses below are effective immediately.

John Machir
2553 Holman Avenue
Silver Spring, Md. 20910

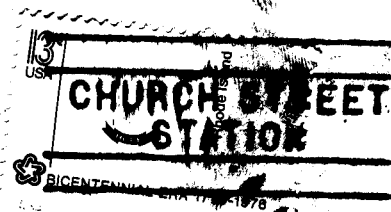
Harley Jordan
46065 Frederick Street
Northville, Mich. 48167

Dennis Klien
235 Gentry
Park Forest, Ill. 60466

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Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed

Mr. Rod Walker T
1273 Crest Drive
Enchinitas, CA 92024



Please see page _____.

FIRST CLASS MAIL