

Table of Contents

Arrears in Aristos	234
Acts of Intervention	235
➤ Push	235
➤ Pull	235
➤ Plot	235
➤ Poke.....	235
➤ Prose.....	236
➤ Punch in the Nose.....	236
Rascal Reverend	236
Unintended Consequences	236
➤ Hot Dog Conspiracies.....	238
Torn Pages	239
Endnotes	240

See Appendix IP – Interventions Reference Sheet

“My son, we are non-noble and proud of it. The non-noble is the man par excellence. It is he who pays the taxes, works, sows, harvests, trades, builds and manufactures. The right to be useless is a poor right indeed.”

– By the father of writer Nicolas Restif de la Bretonne ¹

“Gratitude is one of those things that cannot be bought. It must be born with men, or else all the obligations in the world will not create it.”

– Edward Wood, 1st Earl of Halifax

Arrears in Aristos: “Aristocracy is that form of government in which education and discipline are qualifications for suffrage and office holding.” – Aristotle. Inherent in *aristos* is the vague, questionable, mythic concept that social superiority equates to moral and intellectual superiority.

There appears to be a link between the failure of *aristos* in the aristocracy and the print revolution: Deprived of their major advantage in education, critical thinking, over the masses by the wide availability of learning and the rising middle class, the only things left to the position of the aristocracy were their eroding wealth advantage and hereditary dynastic authority. That is, during the Middle Ages (as we call them) and, to a lesser extent, up to the Reformation period, the aristocracy was *aristos* by virtue of their position and educational advantages, but following 1500 A.D. both eroded very quickly into a hereditary, leisured – useless – upper class.

- ✓ George III of England was mocked by the late 18th century press because he was interested in mundane things like agriculture, astronomy, because he wanted to learn and to know on his own.

There is a distinct contrast between a person who has a sense of entitlement, especially of the unearned kind, and a person who has a sense of obligation (duty), especially to strangers and when not externally imposed. Just as there is a similarly distinct difference between a government that has a duty toward those it rules (i.e. *Nobless Oblige*) and those who feel that people have a duty to and serve the purpose of wealthy, elite, and powerful (i.e. *Noblesse n’oblige plus*), see 4 Movement, p. 869, *et seq., infra*, for further discussion of this issue in an interstellar setting.

The tug-of-war is so fundamental to our civilization that books and volumes could be – and probably have been – written. The two go hand-in-hand through history, we all have a daily part.

“It is believed that when the Creator made the earth, he unknowingly released Despite upon it, and did not realize his error until it was too late. In actuality ... Lord Foul seems to have existed for as long as the Creator and is his antithesis as he marred one of the Creator’s creations which became known as The Wounded Rainbow and somehow became trapped in the Land when the Creator sealed the wound on the Rainbow which also trapped the Creators children on the Land creating the stars.”

– from unbeliever.fandom.com wiki article, “Lord Foul”

“The Creator is the mysterious being who created the Land and the universe in which it exists. This universe is referred to as ‘the Land’ but is clearly a different reality than Covenant’s world. The fundamental structure of the universe, the Arch of Time, prevents the Creator from intervening directly in events in the world of his creation, and he never appears in physical form within that world. He can, however, manifest himself in the ‘real’ world – he appears to Covenant and Linden as an old man in an ochre robe – and guides those who attempt to make contact between the universes.”

– from unbeliever.fandom.com wiki article, “Creator”²

Acts of Intervention: Each Intervention Potential equates (in most cases) to one Intervention act at a later time, a potential is subtracted each time an Intervention occurs. The following five types of Intervention Actions should provide the Concierge with the ✂s needed. It is possible that other types of interventions may be invented later as necessity dictates.

GGDM is a macrosocial simulation; because of this, the divergence of local interests and cultures on colony planets isolated and separated by light years is diminished and minimized in favor of a broad picture of the largescale civilization. This is one deficiency of the game where the intervention of a human Concierge can improve the game and keep it interesting.

- ✓ “People are always coming up with new theories of the novel. But the main rule is, hold my attention.” – Margaret Atwood, Master Class video trailer.
- ✓ At the bottom of *every* adventure story is a sense of *divine intervention*; unusual events need to happen, things have to appear in convenient places and times to special people (the protagonists) to move the story along. Fiction writers are gods.
- **Push:** The Concierge issues a Special Bulletin, the text of which is given to push the game in a particular direction. Generally, this Intervention is not targeted at a specific position (unless something otherwise indicates) and should be phrased in the most general and gentle terms. The positions on their next Regular Turns should follow the push as much as practicable. Hopefully, the Concierge and players can agree on the direction of the game.
- **Pull:** The Concierge issues a Special Bulletin detailing some pregame history which has an immediate effect on the game and/or position. In most cases a Pull Intervention will detail history relating to one position, however, it is equally possible to detail history belonging to no position in the game and have that history affect a position in the present (e.g., ripples).
- **Plot:** The Concierge issues a Special Bulletin introducing a plot device or plot element to the game. A plot device is generally defined as anything that moves the plot forward, frequently it is an important-seeming object, sometimes it is a red herring. This in turn implies that there is a plot or storyline planned for the game, or for some part of the game. The plot or storyline can be that of the Concierge alone or in agreement with the players; however, the actors – in this case, the players – make the story happen.
- **Poke:** The Concierge issues a Special Bulletin, stating some immediate concrete event and effect that occurs to a specific position in the game. The effects generally should be small and probably will mainly effect a specific physical item in the Galactic Space, but is not limited to such application. The Poke can have ripple effects on the next turns.

- ✓ The ‘Poke’ is the most direct Intervention act by the Concierge, it most resembles an adverse News Event. Special Bulletins, of any sort, are not subject to modification by the positions, as they would a regular News Event. Nor can they be blocked by a Maintenance Shield, see Hammer Thumb, 4 Order, p. 567, *infra*.
- **Prose:** The Concierge, using a Special Bulletin, expands upon something that happened recently in the game using his/her own knowledge, or maybe just makes something up that does not have an immediate effect. What is said may or may not be true, so this is one exception to the absolutely true rule, Prose actions do not need to be taken as absolutely true for game purposes. The Prose Action may also be used for humor. The Concierge should be careful not to publish details of positions that should be kept hidden from other players.
- **Punch in the Nose:** The eternal question of godhood and GMing, is to what extent should the Concierge act to ‘force’ volitional positions or players to play within the guidelines of their Fundamental Realities and Government Titles? Like a director watching an actor, guest, or speaker go off script and start ad-libbing terribly on stage before a live audience, what can the Concierge do if the players, or some players, don’t want to play their part? There is some room for differing interpretation. *What if some players want to force the game in a different direction or think the game is boring?* The tools given to the Concierge are not autocratic, though admittedly, sometimes in the GGDM text, the tone seems as if they are intended to be or may need to be – *all participants* must have equal standing to weave the crazy game story.
 - ✓ **Ancient One:** [angry] Demons can do just about anything except possibly think what might happen when they do just about anything! – BeastMaster (TV Series), “A Terrible Silence” (2001).

“Christ reigns in such a way that the Emperor who persecutes Luther for the Pope is forced to destroy the Pope for Luther.” – Martin Luther, LW 49:169³

Rascal Reverend: I have wondered about the story of Martin Luther helping the ladies escape from the convent (which included Katharina von Bora, his future wife) by hiding them in large empty barrels (do you think J.R.R. Tolkein copied this idea in *The Hobbit*?). How did it come about? And when did the authorities know of his involvement and what did they do? Did it play any part in later events, such as the Diet of Spire or the Diet of Augsburg?

- ✓ Anyway, it doesn’t seem from the stories I have read that he intended to marry Katharina von Bora (if you were thinking that was his motive, but few would blame him if that were the case), but rather, that was an *unintended consequence*. But it shows that Rev. Martin Luther had a rascally side when he was younger.

Unintended Consequences: GGDM participants should never underestimate the power of unintended consequences, which may be one of the Concierge’s most powerful tools. A historical example demonstrates one of the most profound effects on history.

Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (and one of the most powerful men on the planet in his day⁴) was at war with the French in northern Italy. His mercenary armies were victorious, but unpaid and poorly supplied, in the spring of 1527. His armies marched on Rome, which they captured and sacked (loot, rape, burning and murder – in case the term needed any clarification) on May

6, 1527, also capturing and sacking several other towns along the way. The Habsburg commander, Charles III, Duke of Bourbon, was killed in the attack and the subordinate commanders lost control of the troops as they rampaged through Rome.

- ✓ Charles III, Duke of Bourbon, had what we would call ‘street cred’ with the mercenary forces he commanded – he was wanted for treason by the King of France, Francis I, with whom he had a very personal and familial dispute. In addition to being a capable military commander, with experience and fame, he was also an outlaw, a dispossessed titled noble, and a soldier of fortune, and was able to keep his army disciplined with his personality, gravitas and prestige. When he died attacking the walls of Rome, there was nothing left to restrain his men. His death probably led to unintended consequences, otherwise, you would have to argue that what happened in Rome is what Charles III intended. It seems he intended extortion after capturing Rome, but probably not a massacre, disease, burning, or looting of the Vatican (but that might have happened anyway).

This is the date of the famed stand of the tiny Swiss Guard within the Vatican, against overwhelming odds; the Guard was nearly annihilated buying time for the Pope to escape. As a result of which, the Swiss Guard became a symbol of a sort of eternal honor based on loyalty, duty, dedication, courage and sacrifice. This is consistent with generally, the Christian worldview.

- ✓ The little known Stand of the Swiss Guard is the subject of Sabaton’s excellent song, “The Last Stand” (available on YouTube). The historical problem is that while the Swiss Guard’s virtue was immortalized, the events and damage to the Church’s legitimacy were not something the Church wanted reminded of, but you can’t have it both ways; to talk about the Stand of the Guard brings forth the facts they wish to sideline.

Ninety percent of the population of Rome either was killed or fled in the course of eight months, Rome and the Vatican suffered immense and unrecoverable cultural damage, the city’s economy was destroyed, and disease ran rampant. The Pope was forced to pay a huge ransom, melting down gold artifacts and works of art to meet the demand. The Habsburg armies finally withdrew in February 1528, leaving a shattered city. Only the Vatican Library survived mostly unharmed, being used as a headquarters for the occupying army.

Following the Sack of Rome, the temporal power of the Papacy was effectively broken and bankrupt. Because of the fear of another such occupation by the Habsburg forces, the Pope was unable to restrain Charles V from dealing harshly with the Lutheran (Protestant) princes in Germany (the German Peasant’s War, the first ‘Protestant uprising,’ occurred in 1524-1525) and with the burgeoning Reformation movement. Additionally, the threat may have also convinced the Pope to refuse to annul the marriage of Henry VIII of England and Catherine of Aragon, who was Charles V’s aunt, resulting in the English break from the Roman Catholic Church and the subsequent English Protestant Reformation.

- ✓ King Henry’s envoy bearing the petition arrived in Rome in 1527, and would have been an eye witness to the Habsburg occupation. In 1529, the Pope forbade annulment without Papal approval.
- ✓ While some may dispute the sequence and facts presented here, please accept them as true for the sake of the discussion of unintended consequences. Certainly, Martin Luther recognized the oddity of the situation (*ut supra*).

A tricky thing to work,⁵ unintended consequences are by definition a rue in hindsight, meaning that to make them work in the story, participants must place themselves slightly in the future to anticipate the consequences unforeseen by the initial actor.⁶ Fiction authors and historians can always do this easily;⁷ it may take some practice to master, however, for group storytelling.

- ✓ “... it is rare for a series creator to envision how the series will develop over time. Furthermore, the creative process in dramatic television writing tends to be organic, as events in the series will unfold based on the events that preceded it. For example, were the wars with the Klingons and the Dominion on Deep Space Nine foreseen by its creators back in the first season? Of course not ... these events developed over time through the input of its writing staff.” – Anthony Leong, “Babylon 5: Triumph and Tragedy in Three Acts,” *Frontier: the Australian Science-Fiction Media Magazine*, April/June 1999 (article is available free online).

Thus, although there is a series creator, executives, directors, producers who hold the IP rights, purse-strings, and all final authority over the series, a television series with or that develops a story arc is still a group storytelling exercise in some sense through the input of the writers who create the scripts and the actors who bring the characters to life and argue for their characters.

- ✓ Emergent and group storytelling was discussed in *White Gold Wielder*, 2 Dreamtime, p. 153, *supra*.
 - ✓ See also Prophecy discussion, 2 *Wheels in the Sky* generally, *infra*.
- Hot Dog Conspiracies: After-the-fact conspiracies mistake unintended consequences for the intended consequences of the conspirators. The sign of an after-the-fact conspiracy theory is when the alleged intent of the conspirators matches exactly (or almost), the known end result of the completed conspiratorial acts. For this to happen, everything has to work exactly as planned, with no unexpected asides, obstacles or unintended consequences, with no unaccounted for facts or actors; the alleged conspiracy executed with extraordinary luck and skill.

This is true of the Russian conspiratorial claims about Mr. Browder, the post-9/11 conspiracy theories, and even to some extent, the illegal voting claims from the 2016 presidential election. The more steps and actors required, the more farfetched and amateurish the after-the-fact conspiracy theory appears (compare this to inchoate conspiracies, where the end result is obviously not known and may never happen). The problem with this, of course, is always *that you can never say it is impossible* that everything worked exactly, that the end result was exactly as intended regardless, or even that the conspiracy theorist might be correct, but for the wrong reasons, e.g., mistaking unintended consequences for the intended consequences.

- ✓ A pack of hot dogs has eight, a pack of buns has eight too. There is a conspiracy of hotdog makers and hotdog bun makers to make you buy a pack of each! 😊

“The manuscripts I have to look over are full of the doodles of bored monks, like battle-armed knights dueling snails or monkeys using chamberpots, or their distinctly unholy complaints, like the monk who appended ‘Now I’ve written the whole thing: for Christ’s sake, get me a drink’ to the end of his manuscript. Would that their comments on performance techniques in Cycle Plays were so strikingly vivid.”

– Jay Eckard, “Drama PhD Students Delve into Medieval Manuscript Pages in UW Special Collections,” *University of Washington, School of Drama*, April 5, 2016

Torn Pages: My economically depressed, beleaguered home city (following the lead of several larger cities in the U.S.) decided to reinvigorate the local economy by building a convention center in a large empty lot next to the beltway (that had destroyed center city by allowing traffic to bypass the city in 3 minutes) for easy access. However, they could not compete with the larger, better-known cities and there were not sufficient quality hotels, dining, and other amenities in walking distance to support the convention business (it's a chicken or the egg first question, planners expected these to develop with the convention center) and the convention center folded in a few years leaving a huge, mostly new, large, empty building with a large parking lot.

Someone eventually broached the idea of turning it into a roller skating rink, it seemed like a wonderful idea as the only local rink had closed years before in the early 1980s.⁸ So they made it into a roller skating rink and it seemed to work well with the local youth, except that it became the center of the illegal drug trade, was raided by authorities several times, and the city was forced to close it down after about two years as a public nuisance (that they created). Last I knew, the big empty building with the big empty parking lot had finally been converted to a large chain grocery store that seemed to be doing well enough; center city, populated by few residents who are not in the county jail, had not had a large grocery store in at least 50 years.

- ✓ Drug dealers are like cockroaches and mice, they seem to just spread into wherever they can go and take over, any place where people congregate for any purpose, destroying the value of whatever place they plague, trading our society and legacy to pocket easy cash now (and adding nothing of value to civilization);⁹ because of them, generations of youth are deprived of places and experiences that their parents enjoyed. People have not fully realized the widespread corrosion caused by illegal recreational drug use and drug dealers; just as a small example, public restrooms in center city Pittsburgh are no longer available because an ordinance was passed to prevent drug dealers from using public restrooms as their place of business (if your office is the public restroom, what line of business are you in?). Because of people who take advantage of the former friendliness and openness of our culture, our culture has become much less friendly and open over the last 40 years. What effect will this have on the future? When everything is closed, isolated, everyone viewed with suspicion?
 - “I’m from Sydney yes. I live there now, yeah. Sydney’s a good city actually; it’s a very easy city to live in, a very hedonistic city in the sense that it’s full of sun and plenty of beaches and yet it’s small enough. It’s not like L.A. or somewhere that’s too spread out, it’s very small. And that’s where the film industry tends to be concentrated. Only one big bad problem with Sydney, we’ve had a succession of corrupt state governments almost since the early convict era, I think, and unfortunately during the sixties they let in organised crime, so Sydney is also the gateway to organised crime in Australia. Heroin and everything are ridiculous there. *Really I mean it has noticeably affected society.*” – George Miller as quoted by Anne Billson, “George Miller Talks about Mad Max, Heroes & Tina Turner: The 1985 Interview,” previously unpublished interview published on Multiglom: The Anne Billson Blog, May 12, 2015 (emphasis added).
 - “[Aaron] Shamo called himself a ‘white-collar drug dealer,’ drew in co-workers from his time at eBay and peppered his messages to them with smiley-face emojis. His attorney called him a fool; *his primary defense*

was that he isn't smart enough to be a kingpin. ... For traffickers, the profit margins are irresistible: The DEA estimates a kilogram of fentanyl synthesized for a few thousand dollars could make a dealer more than \$1 million. 'Any moron can basically become a major drug kingpin by dealing in fentanyl,' said [Mike] Vigil [former chief of international operations for the Drug Enforcement Administration]. 'You can have somebody with an IQ minus 100 who becomes an overnight multimillionaire.' ... The story they told convinced the jury to convict Shamo of 12 counts, including continuing criminal enterprise, the so-called 'kingpin charge' that is typically reserved for drug lords like El Chapo and carries a mandatory life sentence. The jury deadlocked, though, on the 13th count: the death of [Ruslan] Klyuev." – Claire Galofaro and Lindsay Whitehurst, "The rise and fall of an Eagle Scout's deadly fentanyl empire," Associated Press, September 15, 2019 (emphasis added, *what a fun defense!*).

- ✓ I recall an outcry over a page that was torn from a medieval manuscript in a special collections library by a German Ph.D. student who had a drug addiction problem. Sadly, that young scholar's future was probably destroyed by the act. This is offered here in relation to the unseen damage of illegal drug use, but the process has been ongoing for a very long time: Thousands of individual pages of manuscripts are available for sale and in collections, having been torn out of their original volumes by looters, thieves, or by owners, or by second-rate scholars, who needed quick cash to support hedonistic needs (feature quote, *ut supra*). There is of course, a black market. Occasionally, the destruction of manuscripts and illegal sales makes the news cycle, e.g., William H. Honan, "Teacher Tied to Stolen Manuscript Pages Faced Prior Ethics Questions, Colleagues Say," New York Times (archives), May 30, 1995 (available free online), regarding a U.S. university professor.

*"Does anyone know where the love of God goes
When the waves turn the minutes to hours?"*

*And all that remains is the faces and the names
Of the wives and the sons and the daughters"*

– Gordon Lightfoot, "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" (1976) ¹⁰

Endnotes.

¹ Citation & Commentary: Cited in Crisis, Absolutism, Revolution: Europe 1648-1789 (2nd Ed., 1992), p. 226 by Raymond Birn. The 18th and 19th Century European nobility's "right to be useless," is an example of slow and insidious deterioration from within due to stratified economic and social inequities. Many works in or about the period (e.g., Horatio Hornblower and Barry Lyndon) explore the arrogant, self-entitled attitudes of European nobility.

² Commentary & Citation: These wiki entries refer to Stephen R. Donaldson's Chronicles of Thomas Covenant the Unbeliever; Linden appears in the Second Chronicles.

³ Commentary: Regarding the Habsburg sack of Rome in 1527.

⁴ Commentary: Upon Charles V's prominent Habsburg jaw (a result of extensive pedigree collapse) rested the nexus and zenith of European dynastic power and the Holy Roman Empire. He did much to push both toward their eventual sunset centuries later. By 1683, after the Thirty Years War left Germany in shambles and the Holy Roman

Empire battered, Vienna was saved from the last Ottoman invasion only by the intervention and brilliant leadership of the Polish king, John III Sobieski. Afterward, the sun set on the prospects of all of the Vienna combatants.

⁵ Citation: “WhatsApp’s Oct. 29 message to users warned journalists, activists and government officials that their phones had been compromised, Facebook said. But it also had the unintended consequence of potentially jeopardizing multiple national-security investigations in Western Europe about which Facebook hadn’t been alerted – and about which government agencies can’t formally complain, given their secret nature.” – Dov Lieber, Valentina Pop, Robert McMillan, “Police Tracked a Terror Suspect – Until His Phone Went Dark After a Facebook Warning,” *The Wall Street Journal*, January 2, 2020.

- ✓ “At that time, I warned about the deadly, so called, unintended consequences of a unilateral invasion. Today, 17 years later, that fear has unfortunately turned out to be a truth.” – Sen. Bernie Sanders speech, January 3, 2020.
- ✓ “I hope the administration, I pray the administration, has thought through the second and third order consequences of what they have chosen.” – Joe Biden speech, January 3, 2020.
- ✓ Unintended Consequences: U.S. Navy shoot down of Iran Air Flight 655 in the Persian Gulf, Russian shoot down of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in Ukraine, Iranian shoot down of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 near Tehran, all by surface air defense systems, not air-to-air (unlike Korean Airlines Flight 007).

⁶ Commentary: Rhetorical Question: What is the difference between unintended consequences and emergent behavior?

⁷ Citation & Commentary: “As it is popularly known, Straczynski went into ‘Babylon 5’ with a ‘five-year plan’ that he originally conceived in 1986, an ambitious blueprint that outlined the events of every episode right up until the series finale. In addition to providing a roadmap for the development of the series, this five-year plan ensured a level of consistency unparalleled in dramatic television, which allowed Straczynski to use literary devices such as foreshadowing and allusion to great effect during the course of the series. This was exemplified by the various dream sequences and flash-forwards that sometimes took up to three seasons for their significance to be revealed. This, of course, rewarded loyal viewers who tuned in week after week, and required the audience to take on a more active role while watching the series, analyzing and interpreting each plot point and line of dialogue in the context of the overall story.” – Anthony Leong, “Babylon 5: Triumph and Tragedy in Three Acts,” *Frontier: the Australian Science-Fiction Media Magazine*, April/June 1999 (article is available free online).

⁸ Commentary: The old roller rink was turned into a dirty, junk-filled warehouse for a moving and storage company at which I worked as a temp for a few memorable days in 1997.

⁹ Citation: “Despite his celebrity, sources say [David] Ortiz seems to have invited trouble in his home country. One Dominican source called the neighborhood around Dial Bar & Lounge ‘not a safe area’ and described the bars in that part of the city as ‘well-known for being full of people with unjustified money, new rich guys with attitude and unjust wealth, driving Lamborghinis and Rolls-Royces. You don’t have to be a genius to figure out how (they have the money). David [Ortiz] has a terrace (in his home) with a better view than the one he was at. It’s unconscionable what happened.’ ‘Everything is fishy in the D.R.,’ [Dominican Republic] adds the Cuban-born Dominguez, who spent six years investigating corruption in baseball as a DOI member and lived on the island off and on during that period. ‘What you see is not what you get. Everything is Three-card Monte.’” – Teri Thompson and Christian Red, “A drug lord, a car chase and more: New details make Ortiz shooting more complicated,” *Daily News*, June 16, 2019.

¹⁰ Commentary: The weather man can tell us about patterns, how storms move, why it rains. But he cannot tell us why it rains every evening when it’s time to walk home from work, or why it seems that it rains any morning when you have a bunch of stuff to carry to work. It’s 4:30 p.m., sunny, at 5:00 p.m. when you leave the office, it’s overcast, by 5:30 p.m., it’s storming. Why? No one can explain why, a hundred times a day, a simple task turns into an extended annoyance, three times more difficult than it should have been. This is the human question to the universe. This is why all of our science and empirical knowledge is unsatisfying in the long run of our lives.