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“There is a natural and necessary progression from the extreme of anarchy to the extreme of tyranny, arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness.”

– George Washington, Circular Letter to the States (1783)

“Liberty may be endangered by the abuses of liberty as well as by the abuses of power.” – James Madison

Tale of Two Revolutions: Why didn’t the American Revolution implode, fragment, collapse, or become corrupted or diverted, as the French Revolution did twenty years later and so many others have done before and since? While some French people and Francophiles might be offended, no one can seriously argue that Emperor Napoleon was the *goal* of the revolution.

Suggested factors in favor of the American Revolution include the character of the leaders (level-headed, practical, educated farmers and businessmen of the Age of Reason), the frontier outlet, availability of resources, European self-preoccupation, protection of the seas, Protestantism, a break from the old world, the Enlightenment and a dose of geographic good fortune (*à la* Jared Diamond). Shay’s Rebellion and the Burr Conspiracy hint at what could have happened.

- ✓ “We seem convinced that majorities exist to impose their will with few concessions and that minorities exist to prevent the party in power from doing anything important. That’s not how we were meant to govern.” – Sen. John McCain, “It’s time Congress returned to regular order,” Washington Post, August 2017.

Note the date of George Washington’s Circular Letter to the States – *sixteen years* before Lucian and Napoleon Bonaparte’s coup of 18 Brumaire. Sixteen years before demonstration of his point in the land of America’s ally in the War of Independence when their revolution imploded.

- ✓ “A shabby compound of brute force and imposture, the 18th Brumaire was nevertheless condoned, nay applauded, by the French nation. Weary of revolution, men sought no more than to be wisely and firmly governed.” – Arthur William Holland, “The French Revolution” (Encyclopædia Britannica, 11th Ed., 1911).

I highly recommend reading about the events of both 18 Brumaire (1799) and 25 Luglio (1943), in the former, the lack of reaction on the streets of Paris from the obvious coup d’état sanctified the end of the Revolution and a weary return to absolutism, in the latter case, the Italian public poured into the streets after the late night announcement and celebrated the fall of the Fascist regime.¹ And in 1660, Charles II returned without opposition to England weary of radicalization.

- ✓ “And the men who spurred us on, sit in judgment of all wrong, they decide and the shotgun sings the song.” – The Who, “Won’t Get Fooled Again” (1971).

Successful coups *d’état*, putsches and revolutions, of necessity, *must retroactively legitimize* whatever process, violence or atrocities occurred during the revolution, regardless of political or social cost to the new regime. Had the American Revolution failed, the Declaration of Independence would be an obscure historical document. Revolutions also frequently feature lies, deceptions and falsehoods and questionable ethics (for example, the Amethyst incident in 1949, or the Great Leap Forward and subsequent Great Chinese Famine), and/or a cast of unsavory characters

(such as Aaron Burr or Han Solo), which acts are all justified by or in the name of the greater cause.

“Al-Otaybi had turned against Bin-Baaz and began advocating a return to the original ways of Islam, among other things: a repudiation of the West; abolition of television and expulsion of non-Muslims.’ He proclaimed that ‘the ruling Al-Saud dynasty had lost its legitimacy because it was corrupt, ostentatious and had destroyed Saudi culture by an aggressive policy of Westernization.’”

– from Wikipedia article, “1979 Grand Mosque seizure,” quoting Robin B. Wright, *Sacred Rage* (2001) ²

Legitimacy: Legitimacy is a test of whether or not a Government, and hence the government’s authority, is generally regarded as *legitimate* by the civilization that it governs; legitimacy is “the quality of state of being legitimate.”³ Legitimate relates to being regarded as true to purpose, lawful, and/or conforming to accepted principles (in part, the ‘legal-rational authority’); that is, what is “legitimate” is based solely on an interpretation of the people within their cultural framework (related to morality, ideology), and not an objective reality.⁴

- ✓ The Revolt of the Comuneros (1521-1522) in Castile, Spain, against Charles V (Holy Roman Emperor mentioned in Unintended Consequences, 2 Entropy, p. 236, *supra*) provides a good example of legitimacy and revolts of the period. The rebels gained legitimacy by claiming to fight for Queen Joanna of Castile (Queen Doña Juana, mother of Charles V, aka Joanna the Mad) as a rightful monarch of Castile (her pushy brother was King Ferdinand II of Aragon). The rebel commander, Pedro Girón, maneuvered himself out of position and opened the way for the Royalist forces – stealing a night march – to capture Tordesillas where Joanna had been confined by her brother on claims of insanity; you can envision this being a very bad chess move (i.e. ‘fool’s mate’). With the loss of Queen Joanna, the rebel’s claims to legitimacy (in the view of that period) vanished (cf. to modern people’s revolutions). Girón resigned command, and somehow avoided being executed by either side; he spent his remaining days in exile in Africa commanding forces against the Moors. Today, the Revolt of the Comuneros remains a *symbol* to Castilian nationalist of revolt against foreign rule.

Most legitimacy occurs in the form of passive acceptance of the *status quo*, ‘the way things are’ even to the point of creating divine⁵ or cosmic reasons supporting the order of things or the rule of a particular group.

- ✓ For example, the MLA has legitimacy as the authority on style and grammar in the English language simply because all of the colleges require their students to buy and abide by the MLA style handbooks. No one ‘elected’ the MLA to be the authority on English style and punctuation (for example, the mid-1980s decision that the period goes inside the quotation marks and not outside, as I was taught in high school); they simply ‘are’ (i.e. were *de facto* appointed by college professors and editors) because of their established reputation which is perpetrated each semester upon unsuspecting college freshman and high-school students. The DSM is another example. And so is Merriam-Webster dictionary; if Merriam-Webster shows an entry as hyphenated, e.g., ‘spin-off,’ then it’s hyphenated, whereas if it doesn’t, e.g., ‘godlike’ instead of ‘god-

like,’ then it is not. You can cite the MLA and Merriam-Webster dictionary in any school paper grading argument and probably will win.

So globally entrenched are modern democratic ideals that non-democratic forms of government are usually considered automatically autocratic regimes who seek to suppress all dissent (which includes democratic leanings) and hold show trials, or hold sham elections in a bid for internal and external legitimacy. Legitimacy in the past has often been achieved by combining religious and secular authority into one person or marriage (e.g., king weds high priestess, the Papal States, 15th-century bishops⁶).

The ability to grant legitimacy literally became a business which was abused to licentiousness by most Popes in the late medieval period. While the Roman Senate had long been the grantor of legitimacy (e.g., Odoacer, Herod the Great), or sometimes the Praetorian Guard (e.g., Year of the Five Emperors, see Household Troops, 6 Government Titles, p. 653, *infra*), as the glow or shadow of the Empire faded, the Pope became more palatable as the adjudicator of legitimacy in Christian Europe.

A good example of this is shown by the War of the Sicilian Vespers:

- ✓ “Pope Alexander IV literally shopped around for a buyer for the crown of Sicily. In 1256 King Henry III of England agreed to buy the crown for his son Edmund for 135,541 German marks. He raised secular and church taxes in England and paid the Pope 60,000 marks, but could raise no more. The people and clergy of England refused to be taxed any further to enable an English prince to sit on the Sicilian throne. On December 18, 1258 Pope Alexander issued a bull releasing Henry from his obligation to buy the throne, but he kept the 60,000 marks already paid (cf. Runciman, Chapter 4).” – from Wikipedia article, “Sicilian Vespers,” captured November 21, 2018 (referencing Steve Runciman, [The Sicilian Vespers: A History of the Mediterranean World in the Later Thirteenth Century](#), 1958).

It is certain that no one consulted the residents of Sicily on this matter, and thus the residents of Sicily were treated in a manner similar to shop employees whose new manager is appointed by the large business owner. The business of the Pope was selling ultimate legitimacy and the business of the nobles was local power and wealth. The commoners were just employees in the great enterprise of Western civilization and I believe that this generally describes the arrangements that we now call feudal Europe. The change from subjects to citizens in the west was the shift in the legitimacy granting power from Popes and Kings (via appointments and charters) to the people, when they began to assert themselves by force of arms (see Subjects and Citizens discussion, 2 Government Titles, p. 599, *supra*).

- ✓ “[Atheism] had only a limited amount to do with reason and even less with science.... In reality ... modern atheism was primarily a political and social cause, its development in Europe having rather more to do with the (ab)use of theologically legitimized political authority than it does with developments in science or philosophy.” – Nicholas Spencer, [Atheist: The Origin of the Species](#), as quoted in Michael Robbins, “Atheists Used to Take the Idea of God Seriously. That’s Why They Mattered.” Slate Magazine, July 8, 2014.

- **Legitimacy & Authority:** Legitimacy is the first question of authority, just as jurisdiction is always the first question of any court of law. It simply cannot be avoided, they are axiomatic. Both are externally determined; a court cannot grant itself jurisdiction and an authority cannot grant itself legitimacy, not even by claiming divine sanction. The source of legitimacy is always the consent of those who are governed, regardless of what is claimed by those in power; for example, the legitimacy of a theocracy is the faith of the followers that allows the clerics to rule, not the power of some imaginary deity. In general, legitimacy of authority and government is that essence that captures the faith, confidence and hope of the majority of the governed, or at least, their passive acceptance of the current situation.
- ✓ The irony was not lost on anyone either inside or outside of the ‘workers’ paradise’ of Eastern Europe that protests were crushed by occupying Soviet troops, and the use of force blamed on the West. Loss of legitimacy is an inescapable cognitive dissonance.
- Consider the scene in the movie *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962). A member of one tribe kills another in a dispute. Immediately, the situation threatens to break into an open melee between the tribes, endangering the coalition that Col. Lawrence had assembled. He fires his pistol to get their attention and then intervenes: “The Law says the man must die.” After receiving assurances from the chiefs, he declares, “Then, I will execute the Law. I have no tribe and no one is offended.” The man he executed with his pistol is the man whose life he had previously saved (Ali: “That man he killed was the man he brought out of the Nefud.”) suggesting a circumstantial circle, but more importantly, in doing so, he placed himself above the tribal laws (in much the same way as the state) and their acceptance of this legitimized his authority was by at the minimum, passive acceptance.⁷
- ✓ “I have asked some of the Great White Chiefs where they get their authority to say to the Indian that he shall stay in one place, while he sees white men going where they please. They cannot tell me.” – Chief Joseph, a leader of the Wal-lam-wat-kain (Wallowa) band of Nez Perce Native Americans.
 - The return of the Diaspora to Palestine and the re-founding of Israel is a similar enough situation that the Palestinians in Gaza might ask the same question, feel the same way.
 - If my housecats, who have been in my house since they were all kittens, had the cognition and the communicative ability they might ask me the same, why must they stay in the house while they see other outside cats going where they please? On what authority do I keep them in the house?
 - The lawn and hedges might ask the same, why do they need to be trimmed and shaped when other bushes and grasses in empty lots and around abandoned, condemned houses, grow unhindered?
- **Sovereignty & Legitimacy:** Legitimacy should not be confused with official recognition by foreign entities and governments. In theory, recognition by foreign governments should not *matter* for internal legitimacy – but it does when related to sovereignty (as Napoleon III learned).⁸ It is perhaps, by a stretch, similar to pitch framing by the catcher in baseball: Where the catcher’s glove ends up should not have any bearing on whether the pitch is called a strike, but everyone thinks it does influence the umpires’ determination of a called strike.

- ✓ The situation in Somaliland is illustrative. Somaliland succeeded from Somalia in 1991 at the beginning of the Somali Civil War, it has been *de facto* independent, stable and relatively calm (as opposed to the rest of Somalia) but *has not been recognized* by any foreign government (the opposite of Justice Jackson’s ‘quasi-state’). The region immediately south, Puntland, has been autonomous at various points since 1991, but has been at other times under control of the government.

This principle is also the reason why puppet regimes and foreign proxies have difficulty obtaining internal legitimacy:

- ✓ Herod the Great of New Testament infamy, was appointed King of Judea by the Roman Senate and then was sent to unseat another usurper backed by the Parthian Empire (making their internal fight a proxy war between two massive empires over a client state). Being appointed King by an external conqueror, along with other factors leading to questions of his Jewish piety, made Herod’s legitimacy tenuous at best. The Romans, who were masters of this game and held most of the trump cards, knew exactly what they were doing in appointing Herod as King of Judea. The New Testament’s Massacre of the Innocents, whether historically accurate or not to any degree, demonstrates Herod’s faltering legitimacy and he certainly would have had good reason to fear a prophecy of another one claiming to be King of the Jews (such a prophecy in this case acts like the knight in chess).
 - See also Prophecy discussion, 2 Wheels in the Sky generally, *infra*.

There could occur many similar legitimacy situations in the game on both the small planetary scale and on the interstellar scale as powers become entangled; situations for which the Concierge can and should exercise judgment beyond the formal checks of the game.

Thus, a government is not ‘true to purpose’ if the government cannot maintain sovereignty or meaningfully engage other powers in diplomacy and trade. Legitimacy can be lost or tarnished if sovereignty is violated, it cannot control trade, or the government is humiliated by foreign powers, for example, China (rightly) regards the 19th Century as the “Century of Humiliation.” See Opium Wars discussion, 3 Commerce, p. 1216, *infra*.

- ✓ **Dr. Who to Prime Minister Harriet Jones:** “I can bring down your government with a single word.” – Dr. Who, “The Christmas Invasion” (2005).
- **Samurai Crabs:** The most immediate connection between sovereignty and legitimacy is military victory, the most instant failure of legitimacy is a military defeat that destroys sovereignty and prestige (the three are inextricably intertwined). Thus, many conflict checks in GGDM relate to military victory, defense preparedness and prestige. Regarding the Battle of Tsushima, May 1905:
 - ✓ “Imperial Russia’s prestige was badly damaged and the defeat was a blow to the Romanov dynasty. Most of the Russian fleet was lost; the fast armed yacht Almaz (classified as a cruiser of the 2nd rank) and the destroyers Grozny and Bravy were the only Russian ships to reach Vladivostok. In The Guns of August, the American historian and author Barbara Tuchman argued that because Russia’s loss destabilized the balance of power in Europe, it emboldened the Central Powers and contributed to their decision to go to war in 1914. The battle had a profound cultural and political impact upon Japan. It was the first defeat of a European power by an Asian nation in the

modern era. It also weakened the notion of white superiority that was prevalent in some Western countries. The victory established Japan as the sixth greatest naval power while the Russian navy declined to one barely stronger than that of Austria-Hungary.

In The Guinness Book of Decisive Battles, the British historian Geoffrey Regan argues that the victory bolstered Japan's increasingly aggressive political and military establishment. ... Regan also believes the victory contributed to the Japanese road to later disaster, 'because the result was so misleading. Certainly the Japanese navy had performed well, but its opponents had been weak, and it was not invincible... Tōgō's victory [helped] set Japan on a path that would eventually lead her' to the Second World War." – from Wikipedia article, "Battle of Tsushima," January 15, 2019.

The destabilization of the balance of power in Europe by the Russian Baltic Fleet's defeat in Asia is a point not to be lost either in the current world or in the reach of star-spanning civilizations of GGDM. From a legitimacy point of view, the Soviets had to defeat the Japanese at Khalkhin Gol in 1939 or be seen as another Russian government that lost to the Japanese.

In GGDM terms, this game-changing, stunning defeat might translate as Disruption Checks, inactivation of Constructural Elements, failure of Conflict Checks and possible disruption of Government Titles, near annihilation of the main warfleet of the losing position in two Combat Rounds, after a long movement to the combat zone, losses of Acts, Scenes, Power Activations by the losing position, encouragement of other positions, encouragement of continued aggression by the victor, inability to protect smaller colonies, Cargo Ships, Colony Ships by the defeated power. We all know what happened in Russia in 1917 after more defeats.

- ✓ When Napoleon III overthrew the Second Republic to establish the Second French Empire (1852-1870), it is certain that there was a significant segment of the French population – the Victor Hugo crowd (see 4 Colleges, bottom p. 507, *supra*) – who thought, 'oh no, here we go again'; it would have seemed a step backward for France. It was predictable that in order to reestablish the absolute monarchy, the leadership would seek military adventures for glory and public distraction. Indeed, it soon followed that France won territory from Austria in a war over Italy (just as in 1796-1797 under Napoleon Bonaparte, before he embarked for Egypt) but infuriated the Pope and French Catholics, and failed to oust the Austrians; then involved itself in military adventures in Crimea, Syria,⁹ China, and Mexico.

But there were a lot of moving parts, both internally and internationally, Machiavelli would say that Napoleon III never really established as Emperor of France. He was forced to make concessions, easing restrictions on the press, appealed to the masses, re-empowered the legislature, and the liberals, signed a trade union with the UK that hurt French industry, blundered in Italy, and failed to check the rise of Prussia, which was his doom in 1870 when he personally surrendered to the Prussians at Sedan. Having failed before the Prussian invasion, he lost legitimacy and moved to England where he lived out his days, while Wilhelm I, King of Prussia, was crowned Emperor of Germany at Versailles in 1871.

“But what happens if there is no clear choice? Under the thin veneer of clear choices, the component worlds, nobles, businesses, and citizens of the Imperium harbor a maze of conflicting priorities and allegiances.”

– MegaTraveller RPG, [Rebellion Sourcebook](#) (1988)

Status Quo: The *status quo*, in most cases, is the natural and automatic choice. This also reaches to Conversion and Naturalization; as the generations of captivity pass, faith, hope and confidence in their previous governing power fade. Even animals domesticated from the wild become accustomed (like my housecats, all but one of whom I caught as feral kittens), sadly often to their own detriment, even when abused and neglected.

- ✓ “Well, consider this. If a teacher asks a boy in front of the whole class if his father came home drunk again the night before, is the boy obliged to answer ‘yes’? No. Exactly, the teacher is abusing his power in asking the boy that question. The honest answer is for the boy to lie, defending his father. And lie for all he’s worth.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace* (2000).¹⁰

Because most humans at least respect immediate authority, that rising dictatorships and fascist powers can jail opposition leaders with little actual resistance, gaining a large foothold on power.

- ✓ “If you put fleas in a shallow container they jump out. But if you put a lid on the container for just a short time, they hit the lid trying to escape and learn quickly not to jump so high. They give up their quest for freedom. After the lid is removed, the fleas remain imprisoned by their own self-policing. So it is with life. Most of us let our own fears or the impositions of others imprison us in a world of low expectations.” – John Taylor Gatto.¹¹

There are arguments that legitimacy exists when there is only one clear choice and that choice is to support the *status quo*, the existing government system. On some level, this is true and required, it is a useful observation, but I feel that this definition alone only creates a grudging, surface legitimacy (e.g., Mike + The Mechanics, “Silent Running”); it is the type of definition that legitimizes control by foreign powers and tyrannical or otherwise repulsive regimes as long as there is no other choice (which can be created by oppression). Even the *Ancien Régime*, monarchy by primogeniture, required more than this, they needed the Church to legitimize the process.

The visible government in GGDM consists of the Structural Title, which provides the overall umbrella under which various social groups tussle and elbow for power (Estate Titles) and control of social ideologies (Social Titles) with the end result being some sort of worldview, national identity, and policy. This is clearly a constitutionalist view of government – which may not in the past have been shared by much of humanity – but the U.S. Constitution simply formalized a process that had begun generations earlier in Europe and has spread globally in the generations since. Nearly every nation-state has a written constitution now, whether or not it is followed.

- ✓ In one of the cases I worked on in a rural county of Western Pennsylvania, I downloaded the local Rules of Court, read them and followed the procedures. It didn’t work. When I spoke to the lady at the Prothonotary’s Office, I told her that I followed the rules. Her reply? That’s not how we do it, ignore the Court Rules, this is what you need to do...

- Kings, Queens, and Guillotines: The most basic form of legitimacy in tribal societies and monarchies, is that what is good for the king is good for the tribe or kingdom. This concept flows then to conquest and marriage; a successful king will attract followers who want to benefit from his success, and as the king is expected to take care of his own family first, marriage into the family becomes a most attractive option as well. This rationale continued almost uninterrupted until the mid-19th century in Europe, until dynastic wars and multiplying political, state, economic, religious, scientific, population, and cultural complexities pushed the concept to abstraction and collapse.
- ✓ The situation of Napoleon III is informative; France in the late 19th Century was a much different, probably more complex society than France in the late 18th Century, due in large part to the French Revolution and the experience of Napoleon I, and of course, rapidly increasing international complexity and technology.
 - “Marxist sociologist Göran Therborn has characterized the reign of Napoleon III as the ‘first modern bourgeois regime,’ one which combined a movement of mass support with ‘bourgeois’ rule, albeit through authoritarian statist means. According to Therborn, such a form of rule, ossified upon the point of crisis, proves fatal to such regimes once major external crises emerge, inevitable under Marxist exploitation theory.” – cited in Wikipedia article, “Napoleon III.”

Thus, Napoleon III found it much harder to establish absolute monarchy than did Napoleon I (see also George Washington quote above).

The final collapse was called World War I. It is now called a *conflict of interest* where the pecuniary and familial interests of the executive might exert influence on decisions of state. Nonetheless, monarchy has been a popular form of government in space-opera fiction; many have questioned whether an interstellar civilization could be held together without ironfisted monarchy of starships and heroic-princely captains, and much of imperial space-opera fiction reflects the basic ancient Earth rationale described above (and it makes for great drama in any case). But such stories also always carry with them the 19th Century (the beginning of SF) tensions that finally collapsed the monarchical systems: Complexity, untamed frontiers, dynastic and personal feuds.

*“Kings and queens and guillotines
Taking lives denied
Starch and parchment laid the laws
When bishops took the ride
Only to deceive”*

– Aerosmith, “Kings & Queens” (1977)

Starch & Parchment: Each Magna Carta (see The Duality, 1 Government Titles, p. 584, *supra*) contains a list of between one and four Conflict Checks. Each Conflict Check describes a condition that must be true or false in order for the government to maintain legitimacy.

- ✓ “The gist is, when you look at individual versus group framing, there is a very long history of people acting in ways that don’t seem to be optimized at their individual

level, but are optimized for their group. And as a result, they perceive that it will confer benefits on them.” – David Pakman talking about Jonathan Haidt’s theory, David Pakman Show, May 13, 2020.

The conditions described by each Conflict Check will be based on *objectively verifiable* conditions within the game, such that there should be little dispute about whether or when the conditions have not been met (i.e. when the Conflict Check fails). It is thus that governments seek to establish and maintain the *status quo*.

- ✓ Examples of Conflict Checks might include, Construction Power must have been activated within the last two Regular Turns, no other Government Titles are disrupted, Capital Colony must be the largest colony in population, alien population of position cannot exceed more than 10% of total population, position does not have any colonies on Balkanized Planets, etc. Each of these is objectively verifiable, if they are not true, then the Government Title *may* become disrupted if all Conflict Checks fail. The above examples may fail either voluntarily, through negligence, or through the acts of other positions.

In game play, Conflict Checks are not much different than any other game; in any game, there are things that a player must do, must avoid doing, and must not allow to happen. That is part of the definition of a game. For example, in the 1976 James Dunnigan classic game Panzergruppe Guderian, the Soviet player – to legitimately be the Soviet player – cannot allow the capture of Smolensk without stiff resistance and without bleeding the Germans severely in time and losses; all else in the game revolves around that.

- ✓ A position is not prohibited from an act or failure to act which will cause a Government Title to fail a conflict check or even to become disrupted.
 - ✓ A position may be required to or prohibited from acting in a certain way due to ***Fundamental Realities***, which always hover in the background behind Conflict Checks.
- Esteem & Prestige: Esteem and prestige are important elements of legitimacy (and diplomacy), to wit:
- ✓ “This is not mere mysticism. Most important institutions are protected and empowered by esteem. To the cynic, a judge is an average woman in a robe; a general is a poser in a costume; a priest is a balding man with sweat staining his armpits. But however accurate these depictions, they are not true. Because of the institutions they serve, these people represent the rule of law, the triumph of duty, the presence of God.” – Michael Gerson, Washington Post, February 12, 2018.

Does legitimacy grant esteem and prestige or does prestige and esteem grant legitimacy?

- True & False: Humans prefer True to False. I think this is because knowing what is true is (considered) more useful than knowing what is false. For example, I have a color. What is it? There are probably sixteen million false answers, many of them will be closer to true than others, but there will be only one true answer (in RGB hexadecimal-whatever terms). And the true answer is what we want and if we know what is true, we can say with certainty what is false (anything that is not true), whereas, it seems that false answers don’t often get us much closer to what is true (*ut supra*): Each false answer eliminates only half of the 15,999,999 false answers, the one true answer eliminates all of the false answers and there seems to be something metaphysical, sublime about that. Thus, when writing statements that

must be false in order for the Conflict Check to pass, careful wording is required, and a wider range of possible conditions exist that may allow the Conflict Check to pass.

- ✓ Human students may also prefer true/false answer tests, because it seems they have a 50% chance of guessing correctly if they don't know. Conflict Checks are not, however, a school test question, rather, they are a certain set of objective game conditions that a position wishes to maintain in order to keep the Government Title legitimate (and thus functioning to gain Power Activations, Acts and Scenes).¹²
- Carte Blanche: Conflict Checks for each Government Title are never-ending; theoretically, at all times, at any moment, the legitimacy of the Government Title is being tested. Theoretically, a Government Title loses *some* legitimacy at the moment that it is discovered that the Government Title has failed one or more of the listed Conflict Checks. This may be important in some matters and not in others, the Concierge will judge on a case-by-case basis how to deal with the instant effects of failure of specific individual Conflict Checks by a Government Title, probably including a chance to generate an Intervention Potential.
 - ✓ As a practical matter, the Concierge will perform the Conflict Checks for each of the position's Government Titles at the end of processing each position's Regular Turn.
 - ✓ As mentioned in *The Power to Choose*, 5 Beginnings, p. 50, *supra*, Conflict Checks will not be performed until the fourth turn of the game (a playability concession).

The honeymoon is over! Off with the King's head! Send in the next guy.

The conflict checks for Estate Titles can be somewhat difficult to grasp properly because they are required to be false. For interpretation purposes, a multi-part Estate Title Conflict Check that is partially true is not completely false (it is partially false), and completely false is what is required to pass the Conflict Check of an Estate Title. When a Conflict Check contains "*or*" the statement is not false if either part is true. When a Conflict Check contains "*and*" both parts must be true, or the statement is completely false. "Or/either" is a divisive, separating term, whereas, "and/both" are inclusive, cumulative.

- ✓ The Japanese claimed in the early part of their aggressions that they were protecting Asia against the Europeans; later that they were creating a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere (a hollow propaganda conference was held in 1943 in Tokyo). Japan's actions in occupied territories soon made it all into a lie. The idea never gained legitimacy outside of the Japanese imperial government and was corrupted by Japan's military and nationalist agendas.

East Asia would only be trading one master or tyrant for another. Dr. Ba Maw theorizes that had Japan acted differently toward the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, "No military defeat could then have robbed her of the trust and gratitude of half of Asia or even more, and that would have mattered a great deal in finding for her a new, great, and abiding place in a postwar world in which Asia was coming into her own." (cited in Wikipedia article from Lebra, Joyce C. (1975). *Japan's Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere in World War II: Selected Readings and Documents*, p. 157). In short, Japan never acted in a way consistent with their outwardly expressed ideals, and thus the ideals never had legitimacy (e.g., *Mens rea & Actus reus*).
- Foreclosure of a Dream: "Yet Mr. Xi has consolidated power, sidelining or eliminating rivals, so there are few people left to blame when something goes wrong. 'Politically, I think

he is discovering that having total dictatorial power has a downside, which is that when things go wrong or have a high risk of going wrong, then you also have to bear all the responsibility,’ said Victor Shih, an associate professor at the University of California San Diego who studies Chinese politics.” – Chris Buckley and Steven Lee Myers, “Where’s Xi? China’s Leader Commands Coronavirus Fight From Safe Heights,” *The New York Times*, February 8, 2020.¹³ See similar discussion in *The Fog of Lützen*, 4 Colleges, p. 510, *supra*.

Any Social or Estate Government Title that is *currently failing all* Conflict Checks listed on its Magna Carta, is disrupted and *is removed* from the Public Space (past failures are irrelevant, only current status is checked). All Pathways leading to that Government Title are also removed and new Pathways must immediately be formed (even if objects on the Public Space need to be moved around, and some losses may occur) to connect all colonies to an undisrupted Social or Estate Title pursuant to the rules of that position’s Structural Title.

- ✓ As noted in *Interesting Times*, 2 Disruption, p. 272, *supra*, the chance that a Constructural Element will become inactive due to a Disruption Event at a colony is 5% greater if the position has any disrupted Government Titles. Disrupted Government Titles can ‘snowball’ into an avalanche, collapsing the position.
- ✓ “Failure of the Taxation Power activation at any colony does not count as a Power Activation failure for Government Title Conflict Checks ... unless all eligible sovereign colonies fail Taxation (this could be really bad if you only have one colony...).” See *Tax Revolt and Revolting Taxes*, 1 Taxation & Census, p. 297.

When a disrupted Social or Estate Government Title is removed from the Public Space that Government Title has completely lost legitimacy and *ceases to function*. It does not provide Power Activations or Acts/Scenes (see *Exercise in Vital Powers*, 2 The Sidereal Stage, p. 114, and *On the Soapbox*, 3 The Sidereal Stage, p. 122, *supra*). It is now just a theory or history ripple and has no effect, except that an Intervention Potential Plus is automatically generated per Regular Turn for each instance of disruption of a Government Title (of any kind), see *Changing of the Gardener*, 2 Disruption, p. 271, *supra*.

- ✓ With five Government Titles (one of which is a Structural Title that does not have a Magna Carta, *ut infra*), a position could have up to sixteen Conflict Checks to navigate each Regular Turn, and *some Titles may have only one Conflict Check and be easily disrupted*. Among the Conflict Checks, some may be contradictory or at least, seem irreconcilable; thus it is expected that on any Regular Turn, several Conflict Checks may fail. In addition to passing Conflict Checks each Regular Turn, there is the rest of the game, the strategy, the events on the ground.¹⁴ Some Titles may be good for some situations but are not good for the long term and will eventually fail or need to be replaced.
 - In the time when I worked on NASD/FINRA cases daily, and became increasingly aware of financial industry misconduct, it seemed that if there was a major U.S. headline financial scandal – except HealthSouth – Bear Stearns was somehow involved, e.g., Bear Stearns promoted Worldcom securities while their analyst had doubts,¹⁵ praised Enron nine months before its collapse,¹⁶ ending with Bear Stearns’ famous collapse during the subprime mortgage crisis of 2008.¹⁷ I wondered sometime in 2006, how many scandals, how much *reputational damage*, can a firm survive?

Though my impression may be inexact, it seemed that Bear Stearns was involved in a major scandal every couple of years. Thus, when Bear Stearns finally imploded in 2008 and was annexed by JP Morgan Chase (with some U.S. Government arm twisting), I thought ironically, ‘Well, it couldn’t have happened to a nicer, more upstanding firm’ (echoing Dirty Harry in *Magnum Force* (1973)).

Though the failure of Conflict Checks may or may not be scandalous,¹⁸ the loss of legitimacy by Bear Stearns and final collapse is a parallel to the disruption of a Social or Estate Title.

- ✓ A sunny April 2nd morning, Bee Gee, a smallish white yearling tomcat being pursued by a large gray tomcat ran down the walk, turned the corner into my yard, giving him the slip through the hedges. The gray tomcat in pursuit ran past, then doubled back and sat on the other side of the fence staring at Bee Gee. My oldest large tomcat wandered into the yard, *touched noses with Bee Gee*, then sat down staring at the gray tomcat who shortly wandered off. King Tom I of my yard! Tribal. Sovereignty!

*“The earth starts to rumble
World powers fall
A’warring for the heavens
A peaceful man stands tall
Tall, tall.”*

– Megadeth, “Symphony of Destruction” (1992)

World Powers Fall: There are three conditions under which a *Structural Government Title* can become disrupted (but **does not** generate an IP+): A Structural Title is disrupted:

- ✓ If the position does not currently have a Capital Colony (**after** a position’s Capital Colony has been established, see Capital Colony, 2 Order, p. 532, *supra*),
- ✓ If the position has no remaining undisrupted Social or Estate Titles, or
- ✓ If the position is unable to comply with the requirements of the Structural Title for any reason, including but not limited to, having no undisrupted Social or Estate Titles to connect the colonies by Pathways or being unable to place Titles in required ways.

As *Structural Titles* do not occupy any Monads on the Public Space (except Pathways), there is nothing to remove when a Structural Title becomes disrupted. Rather, the disrupted Structural Title continues to exist in Pathways on the Public Space, but does not collect Acts or Scenes and is not able to provide a Power Activation while disrupted. While disrupted, the placement requirements of the Structural Title continue to apply on the Public Space, until and unless it is replaced by a new Structural Title. A Structural Title becomes undisrupted or restored at the end of any turn when there are no remaining conditions which would cause it to be disrupted.

- ✓ This *automatic restoration* applies only to Structural Titles; restoration of Social and Estate Titles requires an activation of the Order Power and is discussed later.
- ✓ Note that as Structural Titles have no Conflict Checks they are generally less susceptible to the vagaries of game events and decisions. Structural Titles are sort of the

bedrock or spine of the position’s government, and usually always insure a minimum of one Power Activation available each Regular Turn.

“Romantic nationalism (also national romanticism, organic nationalism, identity nationalism) is the form of nationalism in which the state derives its political legitimacy as an organic consequence of the unity of those it governs. This includes, depending on the particular manner of practice, the language, race, culture, religion, and customs of the nation in its primal sense of those who were born within its culture. This form of nationalism arose in reaction to dynastic or imperial hegemony, which assessed the legitimacy of the state from the top down, emanating from a monarch or other authority, which justified its existence. Such downward-radiating power might ultimately derive from a god or gods (see the divine right of kings and the Mandate of Heaven).”

– from Wikipedia article, “Romantic nationalism,” captured November 28, 2018 (emphasis added)

Romantic Nationalism: As I am a product of the 20th Century and the participants are of the 20th or 21st Century, there is little doubt that GGDM was designed and will be played from the view of romantic nationalism (defined, *ut supra*). Certainly the Conflict Checks discussed above, reflect romantic nationalism, but whether this is appropriate for an interstellar government with isolated colony worlds separated by vast distances is very questionable.

Notably, much of space-opera and interstellar-set science-fiction features heavy-handed imperial, dictatorial, or top-down legitimacy (“dynastic or imperial hegemony,” *ut supra*), the agents of which are the starship captains and crews, see *Nobless Oblige* discussion, 4 Movement, p. 869, *infra*; also Status Quo, *ut supra*. See also discussion of ethnic and ultra-nationalism in Hege-
monic Empires and Invading Timelines, 4 Order, pp. 571, 576, respectively, *supra*.

- ✓ “...in the mid-nineteenth century, it was common to believe in collective spirits embodied in ‘the nation’ or, under Hegelian and Marxist influence, in other collectivities such as ‘the bourgeoisie’ or ‘the proletariat.’” – Michael Accad, M.D., “An introduction to praxeology and Austrian school economics,” alertandoriented.com (blog), April 13, 2016.
- ✓ “National mysticism (German *Nationalmystik*) is a form of nationalism which raises the nation to the status of numen or divinity. Its best known instance is Germanic mysticism, which gave rise to occultism under the ‘Third Reich.’ The idea of the nation as a divine entity was presented by Johann Gottlieb Fichte. National mysticism is closely related to Romantic nationalism, but goes beyond the expounding of romantic sentiment, to a mystical veneration of the nation as a transcendent truth. It often intersects with ethnic nationalism by pseudohistorical assertions about the origins of a given ethnicity. National mysticism is encountered in many nationalisms other than Germanic or Nazi mysticism, and expresses itself in the use of occult, pseudoscientific, or pseudohistorical beliefs to back up nationalistic claims, often involving unrealistic notions of the antiquity of a nation (antiquity frenzy) or any national myth defended as ‘true’ by pseudo-scholarly means.” – from Wikipedia article, “National mysticism,” captured November 28, 2018.

- “Ancient History Encyclopedia was founded in 2009 by Jan van der Crabben. He realized that the internet was missing a reliable and comprehensive resource for ancient history. What was available online was either scattered across various websites, illegible due to poor presentations or tainted with a distinct nationalist agenda.” – from About page, Ancient History Encyclopedia, August 30, 2019.

A possible early example of a national mysticism is the Novgorod Republic (1136-1478), ruled by a council (after expelling the Grand Prince of Kiev) who invited various Rus’ princes to rule at times when they needed military assistance and command. However, sovereignty always remained with the council, and *the city* (not the Prince) was referred to as “His Majesty Lord Novgorod the Great” indicating personification, gender, and possible mystical transcendent meaning assigned to the state.

- ✓ Information from Wikipedia article, “Novgorod Republic,” captured December 7, 2018.
- ✓ See also, *romantic narcissism*, Hand-Wringing Aspect, 3 Colleges, p. 487, *supra*.

“Nietzscheans used to say we act out of enlightened self-interest. The problem with Bolivar and his ilk is that they’ve forgotten the most important word: Enlightened.”

“Our people were meant to be living gods, warrior-poets who roamed the stars bringing civilization, not cowards and bullies who prey on the weak and kill each other for sport. I never imagined they’d prove themselves so inferior. I didn’t betray our people – they betrayed themselves.”

– Telemachus Rhade, Andromeda, “The Unconquerable Man” (2003) ¹⁹

“The reality of the conflicts between the Europeans and Xhosa involves a balance of tension. At times, tensions existed between the various Europeans in the Cape region, tensions between Empire administration and colonial governments, and tensions within the Xhosa Kingdom e.g., chiefs rivalling each other which usually led to Europeans taking advantage of that and meddle [sic] in the Xhosa kingdom politics. A perfect example of this is the case of chief Ngqika and his uncle chief Ndlambe.” – from Wikipedia article, “Xhosa Wars,” June 15, 2019

Between Nietzscheans & Xhosa: The Nietzscheans in the Andromeda television series (2000-2005) were predatory (like the colonial British), the Xhosa in real-world history were victims.

- ✓ There was considerable jostling going on; the Xhosa chiefs fought each other (e.g., the Battle of Amalinde in 1818) and were under pressure from other expanding or displaced South African tribes.
- ✓ The classic answer is that there must be a higher power to keep all smaller units in order, and that was, of course, the European colonial power, Britain.
 - “So this is not a situation where two states each mistakenly worry that the other is hostile. Rather, it’s what international relations scholars might call a classic problem of anarchy, in the sense *that there is no power above states that can enforce agreements they make with each other.*” – James D.

Fearon, “The Big Problem with North Korea isn’t that we can’t trust them. It’s that they can’t trust us,” Washington Post, August 16, 2017.

This classic answer is the basis of science-fiction’s galactic or interstellar empire trope (or in Star Trek, the Federation, an ‘Americanized’ form of interstellar empire). See also Hegemony discussion, 4 Order, p. 570, *supra*.

- ✓ After the Battle of Amalinde, fueled by opposing Xhosa chiefs and millennialist seers, the British intervened, destroyed one of the chiefs and settlers invaded and colonized large tracts of fertile lands which were never recovered to the Xhosa.²⁰ The loser of the civil conflict was the Xhosa Kingdom which vanished in three generations.

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Vir Cotto: *“Politics and morality on the same side? That doesn’t happen every day, Deleenn.”* – Babylon 5, “Between the Darkness and the Light” (1997)

And the Parting on the Left, Is Now a Parting on the Right: Governments exist because of needs, conditions and circumstances. Morality and the common good only become part of the government when their absence is intolerable.

- ✓ When a bad, oppressive government survives, it is not solely because of the leader (who usually receives all of the blame), but because that leader had plenty of other people helping him mislead, oppress, rob, and murder his own or other people.²¹ Thus, bad regimes are a result not of the leader who is blamed, but the state of the civilization, the ideals of the people, from whom it rose to absolute power.

The Conflict Checks necessarily focus on needs, conditions, and circumstances that brought about the Title, and how that Title maintains legitimacy. Good and morality are optional.

- ✓ For example, the primary question asked with regard to Estate Titles is “what condition or circumstances must have existed in order for this group to become a ruling Estate, what needs do they serve, and what conditions or circumstances must continue in order for the Estate to continue ruling?”
- ✓ Whereas Social Titles represent the ideals and prevailing beliefs of the civilization, and therefore, the question asked is, “what ideals or concepts prevail in this society to which standards the government will be held in the test of legitimacy, and what sorts of conditions and circumstances would ideally represent the beliefs of the people?”

As a practical matter, however, when looking at the Conflict Checks for various Estate and Social Titles, there may appear to be no major differences between the two or between the way that they play in the game (that is, the differences between Estate and Social Titles are ‘a little fuzzy’), and many may regard the designation of “Estate” and “Social” as window-dressing. Indeed, there is no special game mechanic for either one anywhere in the rules, however, beyond the rules, the Concierge will frequently take into consideration the position’s current Social and Estate Titles (the current sociopolitical milieu), as representative of the position, when deciding other matters, or applying Interventions, and the conditions imposed by the Conflict Checks do serve to guide the position’s activities and conduct (in the form of negative stimuli/negativity bias), gives the position a personality.

- ✓ Government Titles should not be viewed as any sort of *advantage* in the game, they do not grant any special ability (their game function is Power Activation and Acts and Scenes), rather, their effect is to guide the position's conduct and development by the conditions required to maintain their legitimacy.

OV-VO Schemes: Many years ago I wondered, what is the cognitive difference between:

- 1) Native speakers of languages where the *object comes first in the sentence* (i.e., the OV – object-verb languages, that is, SOV – subject, object, verb, [e.g., “Charles cereal ate”]) and OSV, OVS languages, e.g. Latin, Japanese, Korean and about half the languages in the world), and
- 2) Native speakers of languages where the *verb generally occurs first in the sentence* (i.e., the VO – verb-object languages, specifically SVO – subject-verb-object languages [e.g., “Charles ate cereal”]) VSO, VOS languages, e.g., English, Russian, Cantonese and about half the languages in the world)?

Does the word order of the language make one group of speakers more “object/noun oriented” and the other group of speakers more “verb/action/tense” oriented? And what, if anything, does that indicate about their cognitive processes and worldview? In case you are wondering, I don't have any great answers to these questions (or even a clue) and I doubt that it has been the subject of much research or literature. I have little idea of how it might be testable.

If you are having difficulty learning a foreign language, part of the problem may be a switch from VO to OV order (e.g., an English speaker learning Japanese or Korean), which demonstrates that there is a real natural, learned cognitive divide caused by the common preferred word order of the speaker's native language. In intro linguistics class, I even found the concepts of declination and masculine, neuter and feminine verbs (e.g., in Latin) difficult to *grok*.²²

- 3) Another Angle: Justin, the narrator for *Fire of Learning* (<https://www.pat-reon.com/FireofLearning>), noted in the YouTube video “How Latin Works” that Latin derives meaning from word endings (i.e. noun endings are changed by location in sentence, but do not change meaning – I think this is the declination problem I couldn't grasp) and not word order (he suggests that Russian may be somewhat similar) and thus any word order is grammatically correct in Latin if the correct word endings are used. This is obviously much different than modern languages. He does go on to say, however, that the Romans preferred subject-object-verb order (like English) and that memorizing all of the word endings-placements in Latin is tedious. The first millennial shift from changing word endings to word ordering to create meaning is curious, it is difficult to discern what it means, if anything, cognitively.

The problem of distinguishing clearly between Estate and Social Titles feels similar to the OV-VO language cognitive schema discussion, but one more accessible and resolvable (i.e., cognizable), perhaps because it is outside us, or perhaps because I have developed mental tools for it.

“If any one basic cause could be assigned to Europe's first great conflict since Waterloo, it might have been found in the consent of the various peoples. For half a century they had given their rulers full powers in the secret dealings of diplomacy and strategy, and during the summer of 1914 the blank check was presented for payment.”

– Lynn Montross, *War Through the Ages* (3rd Ed., 1960), p. 683

Endnotes.

¹ Commentary: Fascist Italy was like the kid who goes along with what the neighborhood bully is doing, then after things go bad, wants out, but finds out then that it is too late. The bully and his gang occupy the kid's apartment, antagonize the neighbors and 𐀀 the place until the police arrive.

² Commentary: I specifically remember the Iran Hostage Situation, Skylab and Abscam from 1979; I don't have any memory of the Grand Mosque Seizure. I turned 12 in 1979, it is likely that I remember the first three because they had to do with the United States, i.e. they were closer to home. It is also likely, for the very same reason, that the first three dominated the half-hour network evening news in a time when we still had 13 channels on the dial. Thus, the Grand Mosque standoff may not have received much air time in the United States.

³ Citation: Merriam-Webster's 11th Collegiate Dictionary.

⁴ Commentary: Did you ever notice that the Spanish, French, Native Americans (all major landholders in North America), and slaves were not invited to the *Continental Congress*? How continental was it? A group of white men from part of the east coast of North America. Nor did they deign to call themselves the Colonial Congress instead.

⁵ Citation: "When he said in 2012 that the Constitution was 'either inspired by God or written by brilliant people, or perhaps a combination of both,' Romney was echoing Mormon teaching. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) has a deep and doctrinal devotion to the U.S. Constitution, which it considers to be divinely inspired.

The first rumors of a possible 'Senator Romney,' which began to swirl in April 2017, brought new life to the long-whispered 'White Horse Prophecy' that combines this messianic constitutionalism with Mormon politics. Depending on whom you ask, the White Horse Prophecy holds either that Mormons will one day save the American constitutional system in its darkest hour, or that Mormons will overthrow American democracy to create a latter-day theocracy. The prophecy is attributed to Mormonism's founder, Joseph Smith Jr. In 1843, Smith purportedly told his followers that on the day when 'the Constitution of the United States is almost destroyed... hang[ing] like a thread,' out of the 'Rocky Mountains' the 'great and mighty' Mormon people will, like the 'White Horse' of the Book of Revelation, rush east to save the Constitution.

While the White Horse Prophecy itself is almost certainly apocryphal, Mormon leaders in the nineteenth century consistently taught, as Joseph Smith's successor Brigham Young did in 1868, 'if the Constitution of the United States is to be saved at all it must be done by this [Mormon] people.' Likewise, in the twentieth century, LDS Church leaders as well as Mormon politicians continued to invoke the spirit of the prophecy, if not the prophecy itself. During his own presidential run, in 1967, George Romney explained that what Smith, Young, and other early LDS Church leaders meant in their prophecies about the Mormons' special role in American political history: 'Sometime the question of whether we are going to proceed on the basis of the Constitution would arise and at this point government leaders who were Mormons would be involved in answering that question.' Forty years later, as Mitt Romney positioned himself for a White House bid in 2007, he denied that the prophecy had anything to do with his own political aspirations or religious beliefs.

Romney's forceful denunciation came in response to the virulent anti-Mormonism that helped derail his first presidential bid. After all, the negative attention Romney's campaign generated for the church, the LDS Church officially repudiated the prophecy in 2010. Mormon scholars downplay the prophecy as 'no more than a fun bit of Mormon folklore,' as political scientist Russell Arben Fox put it to me. But like all folklore it reveals something about the culture from which it emerges. And for that reason, 'the prophecy has long functioned as a kind of metaphor,' Fox said, 'helping to organize Mormon aspirations and ambitions for political service.'" – Max Perry Mueller, "Mitt Romney's Mormon Mission," *Slate*, February 20, 2018.

⁶ Commentary & Citation: In 1459 Diether of Isenburg won election as Archbishop of Mainz. Although elected, the Archbishop was effectively a ruler-prince of the territory, controlling its foreign policy, military forces, taxation, law and order, etc. He lost a war against the Count Palatine the next year. After being elected, he had to pay 20,000 guilders to secure confirmation from the Pope, then the Pope sacked him two years later in 1461 for attempting to introduce reforms and for opposition to the Papacy and Holy Roman Emperor. Hmm... 1461 was five years before Erasmus was born, and 22 years before Martin Luther was born in Eisleben about 375 km (233 mi) northwest of Mainz, and 21 years after Gutenberg invented the mechanical movable type printing press in Strasbourg (his family left Mainz for political reasons 50 years earlier following a craftsmen revolt).

So the Pope took his money, then sacked him and installed his rival, Adolf of Nassau as Archbishop of Mainz. The people of Mainz however supported Diether and he refused to leave. With a conflict brewing, everyone else jumped in – bishops, archbishops, counts, and princes – all secular rulers of territories – and took sides. Towns, land, castles

and gold were ceded or exchanged to secure alliances. There was a big war called the Baden-Palatine War, the Baden allies sacked and burned towns on both sides of the Rhine River on the way to invading the Palatinate, until they were ambushed and defeated in a forest by the Prince of Palatine's forces after being deceived as to the location of enemy forces. The Prince of Palatine took high-level prisoners, held them as hostages in his castle until their huge ransoms were paid, and this ended the war between Baden and Palatine.

But not between the competing Archbishops of Mainz. Eventually, Adolf of Nassau snuck into Mainz with 500 men and captured the town, Mainz was plundered and damaged, outlying settlements were burned and plundered. Deither was deposed by force and expelled with about a hundred families from Mainz. One of those expelled from Mainz in 1462 was the elderly Johannes Gutenberg, who returned in 1465, died in 1468 and was buried in Mainz. Information from Wikipedia articles, "Johannes Gutenberg," and "Mainz Diocesan Feud."

⁷ Citation: Earlier in the movie at their first – unfortunate – meeting, Lawrence had said to Ali: "Sherif Ali. So long as the Arabs fight tribe against tribe, so long will they be a little people; a silly people; greedy, barbarous, and cruel, as you are." *Id.*

⁸ Commentary & Citation: Perhaps the concept of negative and positive sovereignty might be useful in GGDM:

- ✓ "As Jackson argued, negative sovereignty is focused on sovereigns, whereas positive sovereignty is more responsive to those who are subject to sovereign power." – Miriam Ronzoni, "Two Conceptions of State Sovereignty, and Their Implications for Global Institutional Design," <https://ecpr.eu/Filestore/PaperProposal/4ecd5722-de86-403f-ada9-a89c675765b7.pdf> (European Consortium for Political Research).

Justice Jackson is the foremost modern American judicial authority on sovereignty, his most famous book being about "quasi-states."

- ✓ "A controversial thesis underlies this theoretical book: much of the Third World consists of 'quasi-states' that exist because of their formal acceptance by the international community rather than their post-colonial attributes. These countries, it is asserted, are unable to protect human rights or provide social benefits and economic welfare. Thus they have 'negative' rather than 'positive' sovereignty." – Andrew J. Pierre, reviewing Justice Jackson's Quasi-States: Sovereignty, International Relations And The Third World, Foreign Affairs, Is. 22, Winter 1991.

⁹ Commentary & Citation: The French had a long history in Syria ending finally in 1946, when the British invaded Syria to end spiraling-out-of-control protests and violent responses between the Syrians and French troops.

- ✓ "[T.E.] Lawrence had a sinister reputation in France, both during his lifetime and even today, being seen as an implacable 'enemy of France'; the man who was supposedly constantly stirring up the Syrians to revolt against French rule throughout the 1920s. The French historian Maurice Larès wrote that the real reason for France's problems in Syria was that the Syrians did not want to be ruled by France, and the French needed a 'scapegoat' to blame for their difficulties in ruling the country. Larès wrote that far from being a Francophobe, as he is usually depicted in France, Lawrence was really a Francophile. Larès wrote: 'But we should note that a man rarely devotes much of his time and effort to the study of a language and of the literature of a people he hates, unless this is in order to work for its destruction (Eichmann's behavior may be an instance of this), which was clearly not Lawrence's case. Had Lawrence really disliked the French, would he, even for financial reasons, have translated French novels into English? The quality of his translation of *Le Gigantesque* (The Forest Giant) reveals not only his conscientiousness as an artist but also a knowledge of French that can scarcely have derived from unfriendly feelings.' Larès concluded that the popular thesis in France that Lawrence had 'virulent anti-French prejudices' is not supported by the facts." – from Wikipedia article, "T.E. Lawrence," January 10, 2019, referencing Maurice Larès "T.E. Lawrence and France: Friends or Foes?" (1984). T.E. Lawrence is also commonly known as "Lawrence of Arabia."

¹⁰ Commentary: You could 'read into' this scene that he is suggesting that humans are not entitled to the truth and thus it is hidden from them (by God). I trip over the word 'entitled' because it probably doesn't apply and I am not sure what it means in that context. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, by implication of his profession, believes that truth is completely objective in the form of God. But in the most literal sense, he is talking about the Nazis and specifically, about is interrogator, Manfred Roeder ("He's got no right to the truth" *Id.*); earlier in the film Bonhoeffer had preached that Adolf Hitler was trying to put himself in the place of Jesus Christ in demanding unquestioning obedience (e.g., the Nazi oath of allegiance to Hitler) to which he is not entitled even as the elected leader of Germany.

¹¹ Citation & Commentary: "Daniela described how she went from being a bright and promising high school student in Mexico with dreams of becoming a scientist to being pulled into the self-help curriculum of Nxivm, and eventually kept in isolation in a room for nearly two years at the direction of members of the cult-like group. 'Was

the door locked?’ prosecutor Moira Penza asked. ‘No,’ Daniela testified. ‘Did you feel like you could leave the room?’ Penza asked. ‘No.’ Daniela testified that Raniere and other Nxivm members convinced her own family that she had done something horrible enough to warrant being held in a room in isolation, and that they enlisted her family’s help to keep her there. She went years without seeing her family. ...

Daniela testified that Raniere and other Nxivm members enlisted the help of her own family to ‘work on her.’ They were told, ‘Your daughter is prideful and destructive.’ Her family didn’t know that the basis of Daniela’s ‘ethical breach’ was that she had developed feelings for another man. Instead, Raniere told her family about an incident years earlier in which she had stolen and promptly returned money. Raniere encouraged her family to be strict with Daniela. ... Every waking hour of her life was focused on how to repair her so-called ethical breach, Daniela testified. She said her parents and high-ranking members told her the only way to fix things would be to stay in isolation in a room in her family’s home indefinitely.” – Sonia Moghe, “‘Please let me out’: Former Nxivm member testifies about being held in a room for 2 years,” CNN, June 2, 2019.

- ✓ Think that humans have nothing in common with fleas? Authority is the legitimacy to put the lid on the dish. The real question to ask in the Nxivm case is why or how Raniere and his little group obtained legitimacy of authority over the ‘victims’ of the scam? Daniela’s door was not locked, but our prisons are locked and guarded at public expense to keep the criminals inside and the public outside. Disturbing?

¹² Commentary: Sometimes I wonder if I am ‘doing it right’? But what does that mean in the design of GGDM (or life even)? Does it mean I did it wrong because while GGDM is a game, it is likely never to be played? Did I do it wrong if it is deemed likely that few will ever read GGDM or give a damn about it? Did I do my life ‘wrong’ by being obsessed with GGDM? What would constitute ‘doing it wrong’ – or in this case, what would be a ‘false’ answer if ‘doing it right’ is the only ‘true’ answer? I can’t know if I am doing it right if I don’t know within what framework or objective it is to be measured. And thus, I do what seems right each time and the game evolves, emerges and slowly drifts toward some unknown destination. The goal post has been moved left and right and down the field many times since 1992. I continue to “comb and curl” my dialogues (Dionysius of Halicarnassus). I have read interviews and commentary by fiction writers who claim that when they begin a story, they don’t know where it will go and they are sometimes ‘surprised’ by what the characters do in the story and how it ends; that is, whether they are ‘doing it right’ or not is unknown until the work is finished. This has sometimes happened in GGDM too.

¹³ Citation: “‘It’s a big shock to the legitimacy of the ruling party. I think it could be only second to the June 4 incident of 1989. It’s that big,’ said Rong Jian, a writer about politics in Beijing, referring to the armed crackdown on Tiananmen Square protesters that year. ‘There’s no doubt about his control over power,’ he added, ‘but the manner of control and its consequences have hurt his legitimacy and reputation.’ Mr. Xi himself has recognized what is at stake, calling the outbreak ‘a major test of China’s system and capacity for governance.’” – Chris Buckley and Steven Lee Myers, “Where’s Xi? China’s Leader Commands Coronavirus Fight From Safe Heights,” The New York Times, February 8, 2020.

- ✓ In a late March 2020 CNN interview with Jake Tapper, the head of the CDC suggested that the Chinese government may (intentionally) not be accurately reporting deaths from the coronavirus outbreak in China.

¹⁴ Commentary: When I was about 9 years old, I was at a family get-together at a remote trailer. I decided to climb a huge evergreen tree on a hilltop. I got up into the tree and kept climbing up, wending my way around close branches and needles, as only a 9-years-old boy can. I was apparently quite determined, and having fun, and didn’t give much thought about how far up I was in the tree (some people would say I am still far up the tree) or all the bumps and scrapes I was receiving. Suddenly, I emerged at the top of the tree – literally the top of the tree – looking around at the tops of the other trees below me, and the wind started blowing. I was holding onto the swaying tree top for dear life! I hadn’t anticipated it. Legitimacy in GGDM Social and Estate Government Titles feels this way; in addition to the position’s own actions or inactions, actions of other positions (sometimes seemingly innocuous) and adverse News Events effects, and even some luck of die rolls, buffet against Conflict Checks each turn.

¹⁵ Commentary & Citation: Laurence Vile Davidson (Bloomberg News), “Bear Stearns Analysts Had WorldCom Doubts,” Washington Post, November 3, 2004.

¹⁶ Commentary & Citation: Bear Stearns was sued by Enron, settled with the Enron Creditors Group, a 2001 analyst memo from Bear Stearns praising Enron nine months before it collapsed was posted to Wall Street Oasis in October 2015 (Mike Bird, “A hilarious 2001 Wall Street research note praised Enron’s ‘revolutionary’ business model 9 months before it started to collapse,” Business Insider, October 26, 2015; Sloane Ortel, “Enron Revisited: Highlights from Bear Stearns Research,” <https://blogs.cfainstitute.org/investor/2015/10/28/enron-revisited-highlights-from-bear-stearns-research/>, October 28, 2015).

¹⁷ Citation: Matt Egan, “The stunning downfall of Bear Stearns and its bridge-playing CEO,” CNN Business, March 16, 2018, describing the hands off management style at Bear Stearns:

- ✓ “Cayne served as Bear’s CEO for 15 years. He held that title until January 2008, when he stepped down as CEO but stayed on as chairman. In the tense months around that time, Cayne’s hands-off management style led him to miss critical events that foreshadowed the meltdown. When a pair of Bear Stearns hedge funds that bet on mortgages collapsed in July 2007, Cayne was playing a bridge tournament in Nashville, Tennessee, without a cellphone or email access, The Wall Street Journal reported at the time. Despite the tremors on Wall Street that summer, Cayne typically took long weekends to play golf at a country club in New Jersey. On Thursdays, the CEO would take a \$1,700 helicopter ride from Manhattan – he paid for it himself – to squeeze in a late-afternoon golf game and then another on Friday, the Journal reported.”

¹⁸ Commentary: For example, I heard at various times in my youth an assertion that the U.S. government knew in advance that the Japanese were going to attack Pearl Harbor and either acted indifferently, or more sinister, deliberately allowed it to happen. There seemed to be some circumstantial evidence. The Japanese, aware of how the attack would be perceived in America without a formal declaration of war, instructed their ambassador to deliver the declaration of war shortly before the scheduled attack time. However, the ambassador was kept waiting for an hour and a half outside the Oval Office and thus missed delivering the war declaration in advance of the attack. Thus it was perceived in America that the Japanese attack was treacherous and without reason; however, unknown to most of the public, the U.S. had previously threatened to intervene against Japan in French Indochina (i.e. Vietnam) and moved the Pacific Fleet half way across the Pacific Ocean to Pearl Harbor (which did not have underwater torpedo nets) from San Francisco (which did have) which the Japanese took as a direct threat of force by the United States.

- ✓ Note however, that in November 1914, the British and French naval forces ‘tested’ the Ottoman Empire defenses of the Dardanelles with a 20-minute bombardment before any formal declaration of war was issued against the Ottoman Empire. This ‘test’ attack alerted the Ottomans who then added mines and new defenses, brought up more ammunition; the minefields caused the Allied fleets much difficulty and lost ships on subsequent attacks in February and March 1915, leading ultimately to failure.

¹⁹ Commentary: The current trend toward ‘tribalism’ in our political culture – bemoaned by many over the last five years – is the next generation of 1960s to 1980s activism that became self-interest without the enlightened part.

²⁰ Commentary: The English had long practice at this; the Normans had done essentially the same to the Welsh and Irish in the 11th and 12th Centuries.

²¹ Commentary: This is an adjunct of functionalism historiography holocaust arguments; that whatever focus is placed on Hitler by intentionalism holocaust historians, he was but one man: Germany as a nation with the help of local auxiliaries committed the crimes, especially in Poland, the Baltic States and the Ukraine.

²² Commentary: My undergrad intro linguistics course was the worst course (even compared to pre-calculus with a professor who barely spoke English). In my last semester as an undergrad, I had to take six courses to complete the requirements to graduate. I had three law courses, world literature, intro linguistics, logic, and a graveyard shift security guard job at a tourist-trap mall, plus Marine Reserves drill at Anacostia Naval Base. The world literature and intro linguistics courses were taught by professors who were husband and wife, the first of two times that happened to me. The first two weeks of the linguistics course taught the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) which I recognized as similar to Speedwriting Shorthand, of which I had completed three courses in secretarial school.

But after that, we began the course textbook. I told the professor that reading the linguistics textbook felt like wading through mud (i.e. reading without comprehension), and that I had three law courses and a world literature course (all with substantial reading assignments), and with limited reading time, which books do you think I will spend my time reading? The intro linguistics course was such a disaster that the professor, who barely lectured or whose lectures were barely intelligible, ended up significantly curving the grades, which was the only reason I passed. The worst aspect of it was that I had been generally interested in linguistics since the time I had switched to an Anthropology major, I was looking forward to the course (it was an elective), and I felt that I should be able to *grok* it, that it was accessible. But alas it was a big concrete wall, apparently I do not have a linguistics (or pre-calculus) mind.