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CANTON CONFEDERATION

>>>> BEGIN FACTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC BOX

Canton Confederation: Fujian (Fu-chen), Fuzhou (Fu-chow), Guangdong (Can-ton), Guangzhou (Can-chow), Jiangxi (Chiang-zi)

Prominent Languages: Yue (Cantonese), Mandarin, Xiang, Pinghua

Population: 220,560,000

List of Provinces: Fujian, Guangdong, Hunan, Jiangxi, Macao

Government Type: Confederation of democratic republics

Bordering Countries: Coastal Provinces, Guangxi, Henan, Honk Kong, Sichuan, Taiwan

Geography: The southern part of the Canton Confederation is dominated by the Pearl River and its extensive coastline with the South China Sea; it is separated from the northern territories by the Nanling Mountains. The northern provinces are much more hilly and mountainous, featuring several small mountain ranges before flattening out again around Lake Poyang, the largest freshwater lake in the Chinese Splinter States.

Notable Features: Pearl River Delta, South China Sea Territories, Lake Poyang, Zhurong Peak

>>>> END FACTS AND DEMOGRAPHICS BOX

GEOPOLITICAL OVERVIEW

In 2018, the members of the Greater Canton Economic Development Council, a trade alliance of the most industrially developed provinces (Fujian, Guangdong, Hunan, Jiangxi, and Zhejiang), seceded from the People's Republic of China and formed an independent confederation, sparking further secession movements and leading to the Republic Civil War (2019-2027), which ended with a fractured collection of Chinese states.

When secession was declared, the Canton Confederation invited Taiwan to join them, but the state declined. During the Republic Civil War of the 2020s, the Crash of '29, and the reconstruction and growth period in the 2030s, Taiwan and the Canton Confederation remained economically codependent and developed closer relations.

Nationalist parties in Taiwan and the Canton Confederation gained strength in provincial and national elections—unfortunately, instead of Taiwan joining the Canton Confederation, the provinces of Fujian and Zhejiang declared independence and joined Taiwan. This sparked the Nationalist War (2041-2044), a bitter conflict fought mainly in Fujian and Zhejiang, with two failed invasions of Taiwan by Confederation forces.

The Nationalist War ended in a truce with the rise of Sichuan on the Confederation's western border, as both nations realized they could no longer afford to sustain the conflict. With Fujian returned to the Canton Confederation, and the Confederation officially recognized by Taiwan. Zhejiang splintered into microstates during the conflict, and is now considered part of the Coastal Provinces. Taiwan and the Canton Confederation maintain strong economic and cultural ties, but political opposition continues, mainly in disputes over the South China Sea.

MAJOR CITIES

Guangzhou

The Flower City is the capital of the Canton Confederation and Guangdong province, and one of the largest and most populous cities in the Chinese splinter states, second only to Hong Kong. As a port city, Guangzhou is the economic powerhouse of the Pearl River, through which it has direct access to the South China Sea and receives traffic from all over the world, and is a rail transport hub that can receive or ship products directly from the ports throughout the Confederation and into neighboring countries. Guangzhou hosts the regional headquarters for all A- and AA-rated megacorporations that operate in the Confederation.

Changsha

The regional capital of Hunan province is also the country's major producer of mycoprotein, processed soy products, and genetically-engineered rice and animal strains. The Hunan government has aggressively pursued a program of developing biotechnology and its subsidiary industries, and Changsha is a poster child for what they hope to accomplish. The major megacorporate influence in Changsha is Tan Tien, which has six large-scale production facilities or farms and three research complexes in the city due to the special privileges, incentives, and tax breaks offered by the city and provincial government.

Fuzhou

The regional capital of Fujian province is on the Min River, granting access to Jiangxi and the Coastal Provinces. The Fujian government retains strong links to Taiwan, and remains the principle importer and exporter of goods from Taipei, with the local government having extremely lax policies on Taiwanese immigration compared to the rest of the Confederation. Fuzhou has a reputation as a center for mystical healing, based primarily on the Fujian College of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Wuxing is the primary megacorporate presence in Fuzhou, and often subcontracts proprietary but non-critical magical research to Fuzhou research consortiums.

Nanchang

The regional capital of Jiangxi is the major interior transportation hub of the Confederation. Jiangxi province has a capitalist-socialist democratic government focused on meeting the needs of the Confederation, either by the manufacture of necessary goods, the redistribution of goods produced in other provinces to where they are needed, or the acquisition of such materials from neighboring states like Henan or the Coastal Provinces—all at a profit to Jiangxi. Nanchang acts as the government's own brokerage house, buying and selling some goods according to a set schedule and encouraging Nanchang corporations to do likewise with incentive measures.

Macao

As the sister city to the Hong Kong Free Enterprise Zone, Macao is located on the estuary of the Xi Jiang and Pearl Rivers. Macao was invited to join the Confederation after gaining its independence in the Republic Civil War, and has since become a leading tourist destination, with a number of casinos and very lax laws on the ownership and use of recreational drugs and BTLs and official recognition and support of the sex trade. Macao is also notable in contracting mercenaries to serve as its police force, where most other provinces rely on local or contracted corporate police.

SPECIAL LOCATIONS

Zhurong Peak

Located in Hunan province, one of the Five Sacred Mountains of China is often associated by wu fa with the element of fire. It is, without a doubt, the single most potent power site in the Confederation, and its slopes are rife with natural alchemical reagents that support the widespread practice of traditional Chinese medicine in the Confederation. The Grand Temple of South Mountain at its base serves as the lair of an adult Eastern dragon known as Yat Gwan, who was recently officially recognized as administrator of the National Key Tourist Resort Zone; its recompense for overseeing the magical health of the mountain and preventing its over-exploitation is an annual tribute of thirty rubies on the summer solstice.

The South China Sea Territories

This area of the South China Sea, including nine reefs, is legally under the control of the Confederation. The South China Sea is the second most important commercial waterway in the world and is disputed between Taiwan, the Canton Confederation, Guangxi, Hainan, the HKFEZ, the Philippines, Vietnam, the Pacific Prosperity Group, Wuxing, and Shiawase. A partial adjudication before the Corporate Court has mainly confirmed the already-existent rights those nations had granted to megacorporations to extract oil, natural gas, manganese nodules, and other resources from the sea bed. The Confederation has granted Wuxing exclusive rights to harvest the unique elemental radicals discovered in its South China Sea Territories, an operation which remains threatened by Shiawese' nearby mining operations in Vietnamese waters.

> The Canton Confederation is fistful of assholes more than willing to stab each other in the back if it'll give them a leg up on the others. They've opened their arms (and bent over and spread) for the Pacific Prosperity Group, the Japanacops, the Korean corps, and every gwailo corporation they can by making sure it's cheaper and easier to build their crap here and ship it back to their own countries. Shadowrunners in the Canton Confederation might not get the choicest jobs or the highest pay, but there's enough corps and dirty politics here to keep a 'runner going until they meet their ancestors.

> Sticks

> Then there's the Triads—and they are all over the Confederation, with most of the provincial governments deep in some lodge master's pocket. The **White Lotus Society** has the biggest influence, running gambling, prostitution, and protection rackets throughout the Confederation, fuelling the vices of its 225 million residents. The White Lotus Society is strongly associated with the Fulan Gong spiritual movement, which was persecuted under Communist China. To secure and maintain their dominant position in the Confederacy's underworld, the White Lotus Society relies on heavily on magical practitioners and assets.

The main rival of the White Lotus Society is the **Red Dragon Association**, an international criminal organization with reputed ties to the dragon Lung. In the Confederacy,

the Red Dragon Association is active and prolific in smuggling, especially in Guangdong around Macao, but lacks the ties to provincial governments that let the White Lotus operate openly.

> Lei Kung

> Instead, the Red Dragons have developed strong ties with the weak central government and the military. Rumor has it that the Red Dragons use their military contacts to smuggle nuclear technology out of the country and sell it to any warlord willing to meet their price...or so I heard.

> Stone

> In Fujian, Jiangxi, and the bordering Coastal Provinces, the **Phoenix Lodge** occupies a nice little niche dealing mainly in Matrix crime, white collar crime, and racketeering. Since none of those areas are ones that the White Lotus Society has much interest in, the two Triads are on generally amicable terms and sometimes even cooperate. The activities of the two corps do overlap when it comes to prostitution, but the Phoenix Lodge exclusively runs high-class call girls, leaving the brothels and street walkers to the White Lotus. Unlike most Triads, females dominate the top leadership of the Phoenix Lodge.

> Kia

> I knew there was something I liked about them.

> Mihoshi Oni

> The **Black Chrysanthemums** originated in Macao, reputedly as a subset of the White Lotus Society that was harvesting organs from Fulan Gong practitioners while the latter were still alive. Whatever the truth of it, the Black Chrysanthemums have spread out and diversified, running heroin and Awakened drugs like tempo from the Golden Triangle and Latin America to Hong Kong, cheap Kong Better-Than-Life chips to Taiwan, and knock-offs of the latest Ares firearms from illegal Macao factories to the Guangxi military, and the nastier sorts of kidnapping, extortion, and murder-for-hire. I've had...dealings with them in the past. Not the sort you want to doublecross. I've known vampires with less of a taste for blood.

> Butch