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This document is based in part on the Peru chapter of *Shadows of Latin America* by José Fernando Barbe and Hugo Medina.

## PERU

### >>>> BEGIN FACTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC BOX

**Peru:** Pi-ruw

**List of Regions:** Amazonas, Ancash, Apurímac, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Callao, Cusco, Huancavelica, Huánuco, Ica, Junín, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Lima, Loreto, Madre de Dios, Moquegua, Pasco, Piura, Puno, San Martín, Tacna, Tumbes, Ucayali

**Population:** 34,500,000

**Prominent Languages:** Spanish, Japanese, Quechua, Aymara

**Government Type:** Presidential Republic

**Bordering Countries:** Amazonia, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador

**Geography:** The central and southern coastlines are subtropical deserts, which rise gradually from the Pacific Ocean into the Andes Mountains. A portion of Peru lies on the eastern side of the Andes in the Amazon Basin, and contains part of the Amazon Rainforest.

**Notable Features:** Amazonian Rainforest, Andes Mountains

### >>>> END FACTS AND DEMOGRAPHICS BOX

## A BRIEF GEOPOLITICAL HISTORY

With the destabilization of the United States of America, its primary trade partner, Peru, actively worked to develop strong connections with the rising star of the Japanacorp and the Japanese Imperial State. The presence of the Japanacorp, who were given a fairly free hand by the Peruvian government in Lima, made it one of the most economically stable of the Latin American nations during the tumultuous decades following the Awakening.

Political instability in the region became so severe that when Amazonia was formed in 2034 and began to aggressively expand its borders, the Japanese Emperor ordered the Imperial Marines to supplement the Peruvian military—and, in particular, protect the Peruvian Amazon rainforest and the Japanacorp facilities there—against the threat of Amazonian expansion and revolutionary movements.

Peru's relatively peaceful and prosperous period ended in 2061, when the Ring of Fire eruptions caused the new Emperor to recall the Imperial Marines. Without their support, rebel and Ghost Cartel activity in Peru increased dramatically, with the government mostly powerless to combat it. This state of affairs continued until 2068, when the region of Loreto was seized by rebels of the Shining Path, a Neo-Communist group known for committing several massacres and atrocities.

The government and a coalition of Japanacorp pooled military forces to retake Iquitos when the Amazonian army invaded Loreto from the west, brutally crushing the rebels. Amazonia has declared Loreto, and in particular the Peruvian Amazonian Rainforest, as a joint protectorate of Amazonia and Peru.

## MAJOR CITIES

**Lima** is the capital and largest city of Peru; both the seat of government and of Japanacorp power and influence. A busy seaport, Lima sprawls along a coastal plain that slopes gently up into a trio of mountain river valleys, which provide the metroplex with hydroelectric power and drinking water. The city contains nearly half of the Peruvian population and the bulk of its industry.

Renraku and Mitsuhamas dominate the Japanacorp influence in Lima, with their factories producing a broad variety of Japanese trade goods. The Japanacorp have invested heavily in Lima's infrastructure to meet their needs, including the *Lima Chikatetsu* (subway), coffin motels for dayworkers, and full wireless Matrix access. Shantytowns still exist on the outskirts of the city and in pockets within Lima proper, but most are due for demolition in 2073 to make way for a series of corporate arcologies Renraku is building for several AA and A Japanacorp.

Plans are also underway for a fusion power plant built by Shiawase Atomics to provide power and purer drinking water for the growing population, but the operation has faced several unexpected setbacks from the Neighborhood Defense Committees—vigilante groups little better than the gangs they're supposed to protect against.

Politics in Lima remain an area of abiding national interest. Peruvian politicians are often charismatic and trideogenic individuals whose exploits and scandals feed the *caudillismo* (leader worship) of the populace and the Peruvian screamsheets and daytime trideodramas. As the regional, provincial, and national capital, with degrees of overlapping influence, Lima politics are very much the national pastime.

**Iquitos** is the regional capital of Loreto and the largest city in the Amazon Rainforest, only reachable by plane or boat (with a single road to a nearby town). Local infrastructure is limited because of the concern for the ecological impact on the surrounding region, particularly the rivers, and traditional industries like oil and rubber production have been severely curtailed by Japanacorp-backed environmental laws.

As a port city on the Amazon River, Iquitos is a natural outlet for villages on the interior looking to trade tesmas, reagents, crafts, and other natural products for iodized salt, mosquito netting, firearms, and modern medicines, as well as research groups and corporations looking to explore and exploit the rich ecology of the area. Shiawase, Yakashima, and Evo corporations all have significant biotechnology interests in Iquitos, cataloging and experimenting with the flora and fauna of the Peruvian Amazon rainforest, though these activities have been more restricted due to the Amazonian military presence.

Besides biotech, Iquitos' major industry is tourism, and the city is the major launch point for guided tours of the Amazon River. Ground tours were generally discontinued when Awakened predators made themselves known. Iquitos has the largest non-metahuman sapient population of any city in Peru, with naga making up approximately three percent of the local population, organized into a community around the Amazonian consulate. The naga village is designed without steps and with lower buttons that can be pushed by a snout or tail tip as well as a metahuman foot, and is becoming something of a tourist attraction itself.

## SPECIAL LOCATIONS

**Arequipa**, formerly the second most populous city in Peru after Lima, was buried in volcanic ash in 2061. Survivors of the disaster, smugglers, and rebel groups have continued to live and operate in the intact ruins and build new structures, and Arequipa is considered a feral city.

The ancient Incan capital of **Macchu Piccu**, high in the Andes Mountains, is a major tourist draw and a World Heritage cultural site. Unfortunately, the massive inundation of tourists has irreparably damaged the site's astral shadow. Arcanoarcheologists who have examined the site insist that the dry stone structures hold nothing of its original emotional resonance, and unlike many Incan ruins, the temples hold no appreciable magical power.

Near Macchu Piccu is a ruin called Killawasi (the Halls of the Moon). Formerly open to visitors, the steep trail was deemed unsafe and finally closed. Experts have since discovered that it retains some of its original astral imprints and magical power and is being studied with the aid of local acllas (Neo-Incan magicians).

The **Nazca Lines** are a series of large, man-made geoglyphs in the Nazca Desert that also correspond to mana lines, and occur at a junction between several mana lines of the Ring of Fire. A large part of the Nazca Desert is an astral shallow, making the mana lines visible to tourists. Japanacorp interest in the Nazca Lines has been significant, particularly Mitsuhaman Magic, which is working with the Peruvian government to repair some of the lines that were damaged prior to the Awakening.

> Let's make this clear: the Amazon Rainforest is one of the few places that managed to avoid the Resource Rush, mainly because Awakened forces took Amazonia. By taking the initiative (and the Imperial Marines), the Japanacorps secured Peru from Amazonia's expansion pretty much for the sole purpose of exploiting the hell out of Peru's little corner of the Amazon.

> Ecotope

> Two Ghost Cartels have significant interests in Peru, the Andes Cartel (south, Lima) and the Morales Cartel (north, Iquitos). Both of them deal in BADs and work with villages to produce cocaine and refine it into novacoke or paco. The Andes also have a line on genetic infusions which are fairly popular with the locals. Needless to say, smugglers and hit men can find plenty of work.

> Marcos

> Or on the other side of things, you can go into business for yourself as a talislegger. The border with Amazonia, never very clearly demarcated or patrolled, is even looser with the establishment of the joint protectorate. Iquitos has become the prime jumping-off-spot for sneaking into Amazonia. Make a few friends with the locals, trade 'em some rifles and ammo for magical compounds, and make your way back to realize a fat profit.

> Glasswalker

> The Japanacorps are the big corporate players in Peru, though, and with their links to the regional trade families and government can provide a lot of support for a foreign team—particularly if you're targeting their rivals or any of the rebels.

> Kia

> Speaking of which, keep an eye out for the Shining Path—those bastards are loco. They'll go into a village and kill all the old people and animals, dismember them, and leave them in piles to scare the populace, then demand food and shelter. Evo and Yakashima have taken to hiring mercenaries to flush out rebel groups in the rainforest, but the rebel bases are surrounded by a maze of low-tech traps, desecrated corpses, and ambush zones that are hell to go through.

> Picador

> Probably doesn't help that the Shining Path reputedly uses blood magic, too.

> Sticks

> The Shining Path aren't the only rebels. Tupac Amaru's Fist (TAF) split from the Shining Path when they decided to start killing civilians; the TAF just commandeers villages to make cocaine to fund the war effort and sell kids as sex slaves to the Morales Cartel. The TAF is led by a female metahuman (exact species unclear) called "Victoria," other women in the TAF command structure apparently use the name to obfuscate the real Victoria's identity.

> Marcos

> The "real" Victoria is a human *mestizo* woman with jade-inlaid teeth. Fifty thousand nuyen and my eternal gratitude if any of you manage to kill her and bring me her head. There are some crimes for which there is no forgiveness.

> Goat Foot