The Herder Theocracy:

*“In hoc signum, vincere.”* Emperor Constantine I

The great temples and magnanimous messages of the Herders belie the true brutality of their rule. They have engaged in a lengthy, Costly and destructive war with the Uul for centuries. And they show no signs of stopping. Their civilian population lives in mortal terror of the great Inquisition and foreigners, both human and alien are treated with hostility and suspicion.

History:

The herder revolution was a great event in Earth history as it marked the end of the great expansion of earth territory. The governments of three separate worlds had entered into a pact of mutual protection however these government officials had become suppressive and highly corrupt essentially using there people as slave labour. A hard line religious faction calling itself the Herders began to sow dissent among the lower classes for many years until they managed to stage a bloody coup and overthrow the governments of the separate worlds. This was a joint effort between many civilian groups however in the end it was the hard-line Herders who, through violence, intimidation and targeted assassination managed to come out on top in the following struggle. With their dominance secured the Herders expressed a desire for independence from the ECSC and their protection services they believed they could do better on their own, away from the “godless influence of the ECSC.” The ECSC debated but eventually reached the conclusion that retaking the worlds would prove far too costly. Reluctantly they agreed to give the colonies currently under Herder control independence from ECSC control.

The Glorious Crusade:

After their formal recognition by the ECSC many other colonies petitioned the council for independence however it was during this period that the Herders began to build a massive space fleet and awaited the ECSC decision. When the ECSC decided to allow those colonies wishing for independence to become independent they immediately began to invade their neighbours in order to bring “the light of god and his holy word” to the various disparate colonies. In this way the Herders were able to secure large sections of territory faster than virtually any other power. This time of conquest is recorded by them as the Glorious Crusade.

The Uul Jihad:

Xian, one of the outlying colonies who had become independent of the ECSC was under threat to join the Herders, but not wanting to submit to their theocratic rule they opted to petition the neighbouring power of the Uul cooperatives. The Uul consented and sent a fleet to guard their newest acquisition. When the Herder fleet arrived to conquer the world they found a large Uul fleet already installed and the construction of a star base well underway. The Herders were not happy about this and made several threats to the Uul that if they did not give up the world which they claimed was rightfully theirs to be part of “god’s new dominion” they would use force. The Uul did not back down. The ensuing battle went disastrously for the Herders resulting in a crushing defeat before the far superior technology of the Uul. It was after this that the heads of the Herder government declared a holy war against the Uul declaring them to be demons opposed to the will and light of god. The war was long and brutal but ultimately resulted in a stalemate and an eventual cease fire between the two races since neither could gain a decisive advantage. This situation has shifted and continues to shift to this day with both the Herders and the Uul breaking treaties in order to get back at each other.

New history:

Since the inception of the new Pope Andricus VII the Herders have entered into a largely peaceful stage and have, for the most part, respected their treaty with the Uul. The Creeping Darkness has yet to affect any of the Herder’s systems but that may change in the near future.

Government:

The Herder government is run very similar to the Catholic Church of the middle ages. There is a direct ruler in the form of the pope and below him a council of Cardinals who are responsible for the actual running of governmental affairs. The common citizens are regarded in the same way as medieval serfs and have about the same amount of rights. Most are illiterate unless they serve in government positions. The military is under direct control of the church and the “Sanctus Paelia” legions answer to the higher religious leaders.

Note: the actual Catholic Pope has disavowed the Herders calling them a bunch of blinded extremists.

Military doctrine:

The Herders possess a very medieval mindset when it comes to warfare. They act similar to the Orieni in that they will use their weapons to bomb worlds. They have no issue attacking and killing civilian targets if needed. They believe that god guides their action and that their righteous fury and zeal will lead them to be able to dominate the galaxy. The Sanctus Paelia Legions fight with unmatched fervor when engaged in combat and at no point is surrender ever an option.

Herder Technology:

Glory Device: This device is basically a large scale suicide bomb which is equipped to each Herder vessel. It is to be used in order to avoid capture by enemy forces however it has been known to be used as an offensive weapon in rare cases in order to demoralize an enemy.

Hellwhips: A plasma/ laser combo weapon which was devised for battling the Uul, this weapon trades large scale damage for special properties and distance. Note: a Hellwhip has both non-interceptable benefit of lasers and the half armour benefit of plasma weapons.

Questions or Comments:

Email: bj\_meijers@laurentian.ca