
Worksheet 9:4 A Short History of The Great State of Totario

The Rebirth of a Great Nation

From the ashes of a politically corrupt and economically disastrous nation the great Totario was born. Having suffered great casualties and destruction from the War of the Oceans, the old leaders were unable to rebuild the nation and its economy. Through the mishandling of money, several bribery scandals, and an inability to maintain order the people lost faith in the old government. During this time of unease, military hero General Victor Landon could be heard speaking out against the mishaps of the government and formed a pro-Fascist party that gradually gained support. He felt the Prime Minister was betraying the people of the nation and its past excellence.

The financial crisis reached a breaking point; the monetary system collapsed under the tremendous hyperinflation. It was at this point that the old government lost all authority and Landon made his move. Leading a group of armed followers he occupied the Parliament Building and demanded that the Prime Minister resign immediately. The Prime Minister responded by sending tanks and soldiers to surround the building. In a bold move, Landon walked out the front of the building and persuaded the army regiment to join his cause to create a new order that would solve the problems of Totario and make the army and people proud to be Totarians. Landon's reputation as a military leader was enough to convince them. Within days, individual soldiers, officers, and even entire regiments declared their allegiance to General Landon.

The weeks following the coup were filled with chaos. Citizens across the land had to choose between the traditional government that had served Totario for a hundred years or the rogue military leader that promised a better life. In the end the brutal force used by Landon's growing army convinced most of the nation that Landon would succeed in securing the leadership. The date of the coup was made a national holiday and is celebrated each year with parades and great feasts.

As General Landon consolidated his power, he appointed himself the Supreme Magister. His pro-Fascist party, Together our People (TOP), became the only political party with any power. Opposing political parties found themselves outlawed, their leaders hiding or running for their lives. The Supreme Magister hand selected men from the Party for all of the top ministry and military positions. The two ministries that ultimately became the most influential were the Ministries of Justice and Propaganda. These governmental bodies would influence and control the population.

*Worksheet 9:4 A Short History of The Great State of Totario**Life in Totario*

Ten years after the Supreme Magister took command of the nation, life had certainly changed. The traditional political, economic, and social organizations had been redefined. Religion was eliminated and was freedom restricted. The people were assigned housing units based upon their skills and work ethic. The brightest workers who showed their dedication with long tireless hours were rewarded with the nicest housing. However, even the most upscale worker housing did not reach the standards that had been enjoyed under the previous government. Government money was being funneled to projects that would expand the economy and the military. All citizens were members of the Party, but those who held appointed positions enjoyed numerous advantages and benefits.

The general population lived in fear. The Ministry of Justice employed a secret police force that constantly searched for those who conducted actions that did not support the Party and the Supreme Magister. All those under suspicion were followed and under constant surveillance. The Ministry of Justice reported directly to the leaders of Party, these reports included not only information on those individuals who were conducting themselves in a manner that was against policy, but also information on those who assisted the Party in maintaining absolute control. As a result, many citizens turned in their neighbors on real or fabricated charges to enhance their own standing in the Party.

Military

Having served in the army before its loss in the War of the Oceans, General Landon knew the potential of the Totario military. He personally oversaw the expansion of the army, navy, and air force. From the time of the coup to now, Totario went from the sixth largest military in the world to the second. Only Freedonia, on Totario's southern border, has a larger army. Justinople has a significantly smaller army, but a larger navy. Totario's ally, Brigado, has the fifth largest military.

	Totario	Brigado	Justinople	Freedonia
Overall Military Strength	2 nd	5 th	4th	1st
Size of Army	9,000,000	2,500,000	2,000,000	9,500,000
Size of Navy/ Number of Ships	2,000,000/245	500,000/100	4,000,000/500	2,500,000/300
Planes in Air Force	8,000	2,500	5000	10,000

Worksheet 9:4 A Short History of The Great State of Totario

Additionally, large fortifications are currently being built along the border with Justinople and Freedia. Unknown to the other nations on the continent, General Landon has plans to overtake several of the weaker nations on Totario's eastern border, including Janan, Letoi, and Giam. He intends to wait until the military might of Totario surpasses Justinople's, that way he will be able to keep the other nations at bay while he takes what he wants in the east.

Industrialization

The War of the Oceans decimated the industrial sector of Totario. The Supreme Magister believed expanding the industrial base of nation would lead it to future domination. In the last ten years, the workers of Totario have increased production ten-fold. Factories have sprung up in the outskirts of every major city, producing military armaments, farming equipment, cars, and other household commodities. Strict adherence to discipline and production policies in the factories is demanded. Workers who do not fulfill their quotas, produce faulty materials, or speak out against the conditions find themselves placed in work camps or worse. However, the products being built are well-designed and trade with all neighboring countries has increased, even Freedia and Justinople.

The Ardens

Hundreds of years ago the great empire of Arden dominated the continent. Their rule was brutal, terrorizing the citizens of captured territories. After numerous attempts, a coalition of nations, including Totario, defeated the great Arden army at the Battle of Normangee. The empire was divided among the coalition members. The ethnic Ardens found themselves residents of several different nations. Over the years, many Ardens had attempted integrated into the mainstream of the nations of Freedia, Justinople, Brigado, and Totario. However, a historical hatred of the Ardens continues to exist, based on the historical crimes and the fact that many Ardens maintain their cultural and religious customs, which differ from most of the nations on the continent. Within Totario, Ardens make up about 2% of the population. They mostly live in the larger cities. While their numbers are small, 25% of the small upper class and 35% of the middle class are Ardens. Many non-Ardens resent them because of their differences and class position.

Once General Landon took control of Totario, he removed all Ardens from government positions, citing them as security risks. The initial resistance movement against Landon included many Ardens, however the Ardens have become ideal citizens of Totario. Recently, rumors that the Ardens across the continent were attempting to overthrow their respective governments and revive the Arden Empire were spreading rapidly. While the Supreme Magister knew any such movement could be crushed, he used these rumors to suppress the movements and activities of the Ardens. He mentioned in several national speeches that the problems faced by Totario have Arden roots.