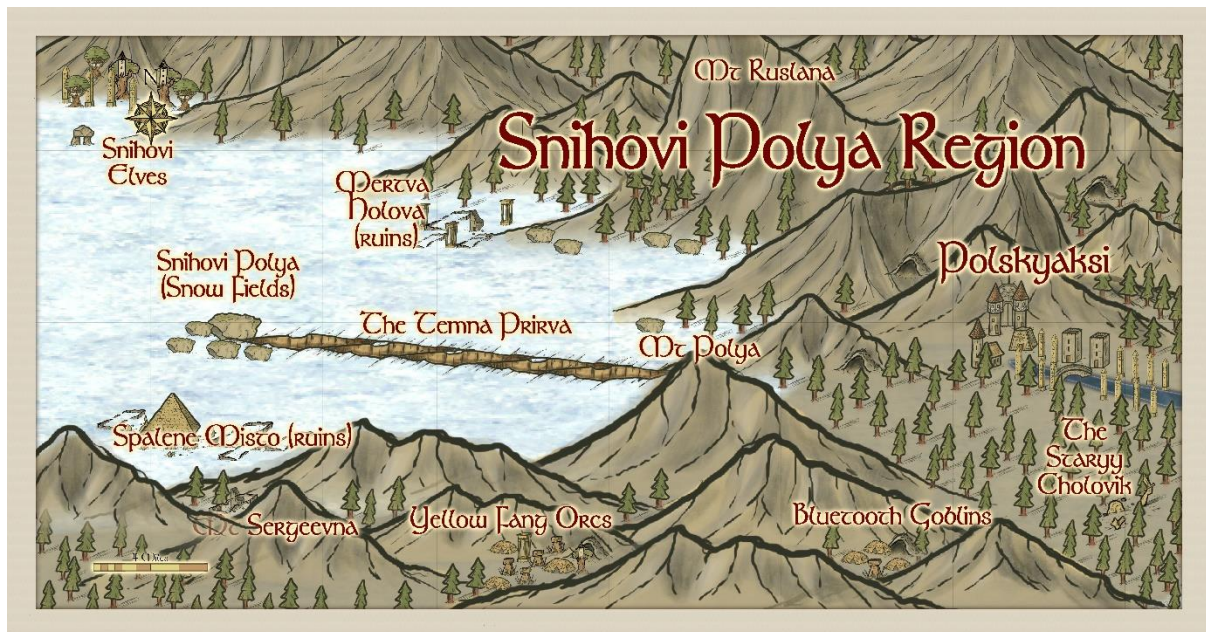


Snihovi Polya



General Notes:

A region bounded by rugged snow-clad mountains in the east and a large snow plain in the west that in the brief summer melts to expose the underlying tundra, when all the profuse wildflowers of many colours come to life, along with small birds and annoying insects.

Polskyaksi: A large dwarven kingdom, but a very isolationist one. It does little trade with dwellers in the outside world, but trades with various humanoid entities of the underworld – even orcs and more sinister creatures. They produce weapons of the finest steel and beautiful craftsmanship.

The Scaryy Cholovik: A dense coniferous forest, of dark and sinister atmosphere, inhabited by vicious carnivorous birds that tear limbs from any creature human size or under, by bloodsucking bats, and monstrous ‘wasps’ lurking in their treetop nests. In its heart is a ruined statue – actually the source of the evil that exists in the forest.

Bluetooth Goblins: A cannibalistic clan of fierce goblins, who regard anyone but themselves as a wonderful banquet. Better to be killed by them than captured alive. They use blowdarts tipped with paralyzing poison to capture their prey. All the other humanoids in the area fear these little monsters.

Yellow Fang Orcs: An almost civilized clan of Orcs who practice animal husbandry, and who rarely raid other settlements. They are the prime target of the Bluetooth Goblins, and the border between bears witness to the continuous fighting between the two groups. Their tolerance for other settlements and peoples does not extend to elves, however.

Spalene Misto (ruins): A ruined religious and funerary settlement, abandoned when the climate became too cold to continue, although some buildings were badly

scorched, suggesting a raid was the precipitating cause. What is in the medium sized pyramid is anyone's guess.

Mertva Holova (ruins): Another ruin, and perhaps the main human settlement of the region till it too was abandoned – this time definitely due to invasion. All monuments were overthrown and buildings burnt to their foundations. What is most shocking is that it is obvious it was the work of the Snow Elves. The cause for their furious destruction of the city is unknown, but elvish signs denouncing traitors and despoilers are everywhere. Many skeletons still lie in the snow, many decapitated – but nowhere near enough to account for the population of the town – Where are the others?? Da...da

Snihovi Elves: A subrace of Elves adapted to freezing conditions, actually quite fat, but still obviously elven. They are an unsmiling people, and not very favourably disposed either to any humanoid or even humans, and definitely loathe the dwarves but covet their weapons. They were responsible for the destruction of Mertva Holova because of some unspeakable 'crime' the humans of that town had committed. None will speak of it. An initiation ceremony for young elven adults, of both sexes, is to spend a night alone in the ruins of Mertva Holova, and in the morning, to urinate and defaecate on one of the skeletons. So great is their hatred. And grisly skulls of humans and humanoids are on all the poles that surround the city – some ancient, some very recent. These elves are the strongest military force in the region, and they actually hate everybody.

Mt Polya: The tallest mountain, and home to the gigantic Snow Eagles. Occasionally, one is tamed and used by the Snow Elves as transportation, and for battle against the humanoid camps – which they engage in as a form of sport.

Mt Sergeevna: A lower peak, but home to the famed Snihovi goats, which have long curved horns, that gleam iridescent blues, purples and reds. Their meat is prized by the Yellow Fangs, and the horns used as décor for their temple and also the horns of their chieftains.

Mt Ruslana: Another large mountain, home to the giant black bears that are carnivorous and love to eat the meat of the small deer that cohabit the mountain slopes. Recently, they have developed a taste for Elven flesh – and the Elves have developed a liking for the furs of these creatures

The Temna Prirva: A long narrow, but deep gorge that breaks the snow plains, and is semi-protective for the Yellow Fangs against the Snihovi elves. But recently the Elves have developed a fling cavalry of 7 eagle-riding elves, and they have carried out several raiding parties and killed nearly a score of orcs, and burnt several of their buildings. In reply, the orcs managed to kill one of the giant birds, which caused the rest to flee, despite the furious efforts of the elves to turn them Back. The gorge contains many small crab-like critters, which come over the top and spread over the plains for some distance – they are blue in colour, and mate at night, then return to the depths. The occasional night traveller who has been bitten by one suffers painful paralysis of the site for several months.