

Themisia, Land under Siege

This small monarchy of mainly Hellenic humans, is led by a very worried monarch, King Phillipos II. His land is eyed greedily by two major powers – his immediate neighbours. The Irisian City States to the south has made no secret that it wishes the monarchy to join the City States as a full member of the Confederation, offering it protection from the other threat to the north. That is the Leoner Imperium, a militaristic empire with expansionist aims. This would be a takeover complete, and subjugation as a vassal province. The recent conquest of Themisia's neighbour by Leondar, the erstwhile Free City of Mikrokouthion has done nothing but increase tensions. The King wants to be independent, and fears the invasion of Leondar, even if (?especially if) the Kingdom joins its territory to the Irisian City States in exchange for protection from the tyrant to the north.

And here the spectre for a full continental war raises its ugly head – for the Minotaurs of the Magumul Empire are in the process of concluding a military alliance with Leonder, especially aimed at the conquest of Verinress'ArI, the dark Aeifa (Elf) nation between Magumul and Leonder. The Light Aeifa of Elen Daelarion could either support their cousins in Verinress'ArI, or even join against them. The other Hellenic nations would nearly certainly join Irisia, who already has a defensive treaty with Verinress'ArI, and is on hostile terms with Leonder already, engaging in a bitter trade war.. The near future is beset with grim uncertainty.

Themisia has a few interesting features. Strong fortifications dot the borders, and coast. There is an outpost of the secretive Order of Holy Spiros on an island in the Typhonion Reefs, the Monastery of Holy Gamandas. The southern border is demarcated by the mysterious Aristider Lake and swamp, and the wild Moliazo Hills, where an evil Sorcerer is reputed to have his dwelling. And those hills also hide ancient monoliths, and rumours of a secret sect of wizards guarding a powerful portal to other planes.

The major cities are Archesyne, the capital (pop 21,000); Helena, the main port (pop 18,000); and Kalantha, an army-dominated town near the border with Leonder. (pop 9,000).