

Houston Area Model United Nations Crisis Committee

The Martian Colonial Assembly



Crisis Director | Owen Butler
Houston Area Model United Nations 50
February 6 & 7, 2025

Note to Delegates

Delegates,

Welcome to HAMUN 50 and “The Martian Colonial Assembly.” My name is Owen Butler, and I am your Crisis Director this year. Currently, I am a senior at the University of Texas majoring in International Relations. In my free time, I like to hang out with my friends and watch movies, but I also pass the time writing and engaging in politics. I have six years of experience attending HAMUN, and this is my fourth year chairing a committee. When I was in high school, I had always loved Model UN, and I’m glad to be involved in any way possible to keep this tradition alive.

This year you will be tasked with creating a government to last the test of time on a blank slate—Mars. You will have to solve unique challenges with long term consequences, all the while balancing cultural, political, and social crises. I encourage each of the delegates to research into the subject outside of the crisis committee, and into the nations or cultures that you will take on to best immerse yourself in the committee in order to equip you with the tools to have the best possible MUN experience.

Reach out to me via the email below if you have any questions or are in need of clarification on the topics. I look forward to seeing everyone in committee.

Good luck.

Owen Butler

CD of the Martian Colonial Assembly,
HAMUN 50

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Background

The First Martians

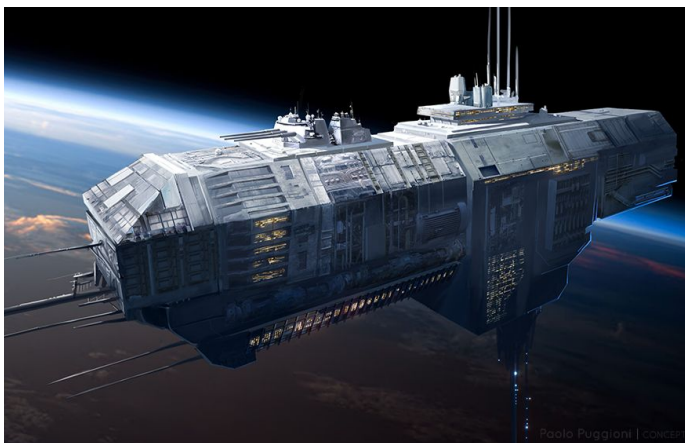
Most would argue the 2030s, specifically the 2036 successful completion of the American Odyssey Missions, represented the maturing of the Space Age. This era morphed from satellites, data gathering, and early spacefaring, into something truly unique—mankind leaving its home planet of Earth to colonize another.

While some colonies would form on the moon for the purpose of facilitating further interplanetary transportation and asteroid exploitation, Mars would be the first colonized planet of the modern space race.

A Western alliance of NAPTO (North Atlantic-Pacific Treaty Organization) powers sponsored the first two colonies on the Red Planet, followed in rapid succession by an overwhelming wave of international powers and their colonists.

Within only four years, twenty-five colonies with representatives of every continent and every major religious group had achieved not only space flight, but a level of permanent habitation on Mars.

Different nations have prioritized various purposes for each of their colonies, with specializations like bureaucratic, scientific, and military focused colonies.



New Planet, Old Problems

Despite founding a new civilization on Mars, these settlements have not been perfect utopias. They suffer from the unique challenges of the Martian atmosphere and resource scarcity, not to mention internal (and now external) tensions that have permeated every aspect of the colonies.

Politics on Earth have further fanned these flames. Recent reports on Mars talk of a skirmish between Indian and Pakistani miners on the cusp of the North Pole.

This comes as the border conflict over the Kashmir region on Earth continues to escalate and both countries declare general mobilization.

The Second Cold War Goes Hot

The outbreak of the Fifth Taiwan Strait Crisis in May of 2036, only 6 years after the disastrous invasion of Taiwan by the People's Republic of China, brought the Western powers and their allies in East Asia into crisis.



A standoff between the Russian–Chinese bloc and the NAPTO nations transpired, and the “Third World War” (as it was called in the press) concluded in only twenty hours.

The threat of Chinese satellite nuclear missiles—and the willingness to use them—was fully displayed after China detonated these missiles over the south Pacific. This marked a clear warning of their intent should the alliance respond. NAPTO was ultimately cowed by this threat and had no choice but to stand down.

Though the Republic of China survives in exile (and in space), the island of Taiwan remains firmly under mainland Chinese control. Global markets are in tatters, and both nations stand on the precipice of war.

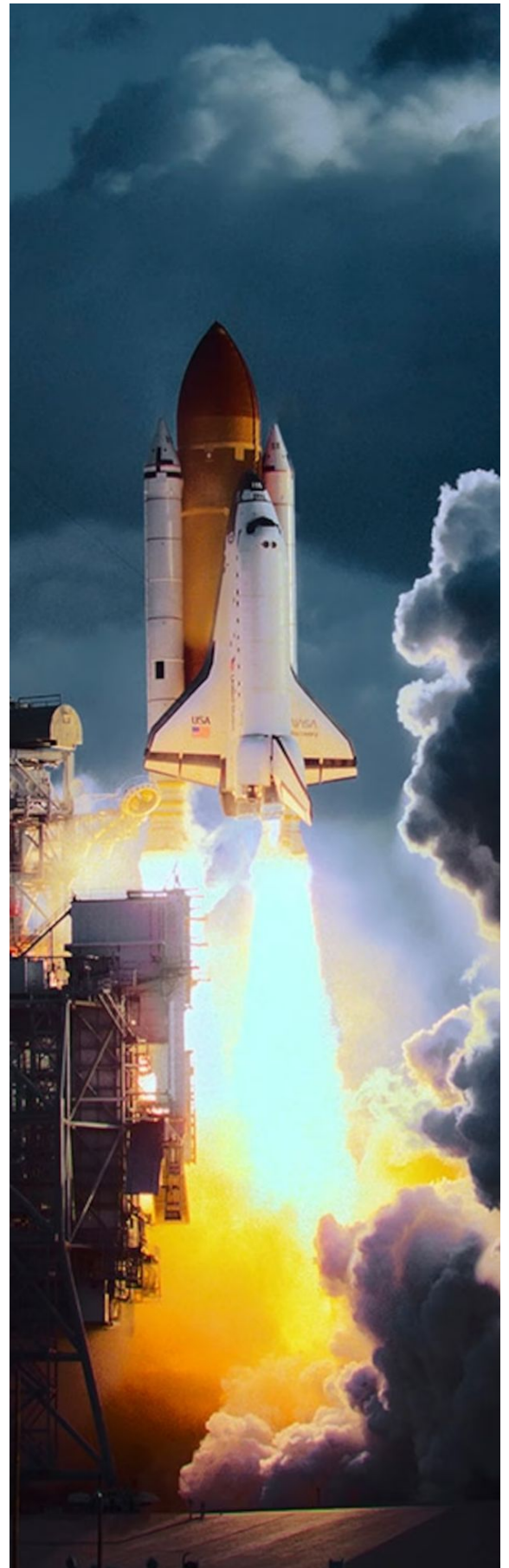


Looking Forward

The politics of Earth still permeate the conversations and actions of the colonies of Mars, and worries abound. Though at the moment mankind has survived the landing and first years with their basic needs secured, this situation is clearly untenable. Conflict is bound to emerge in such a chaotic and explosive situation. Mars is not big enough for the egos of Earth, and so its future will be settled by either destruction or agreement...

It seems like today, the only unity that is felt in the Martian colonies is their combined worry about the future. Where once humanity's fresh start on the Red Planet was seen as a chance for change, now many worry that it may only be their demise.

Conscious of the risks on the planet, Mars' local leaders have come to the conclusion that some sort of dialogue on the new planet must be achieved (even if it is non-binding) in order to secure the peace. The New Years Martian Total Demilitarization Treaty in 2035 was signed on Earth and seems to have survived the conflict between NAPTO and the People's Republic of China, but will it continue? Will there be a future of cohabitation of this planet, or only of its conquering?





Timeline

March 7th - October 22nd, 2030: Fourth Taiwan Strait Crisis

May 12, 2031: First Martian Landing (USA)

January 1st, 2035: Martian Total Demilitarization Treaty Signed

May 6, 2036: First NAPTO Colony

June 2nd-3rd, 2036: Fifth Taiwan Strait Crisis; “WW3”

January 23rd, 2037: First Chinese Colony

December 1st, 2037: First Russian Colony

March 18th, 2038: First Indian Colony

October 20th, 2038: First Pakistani Colony

February 22nd, 2039: Japanese confirm cellular life at poles

April 30th, 2042: India and Pakistan begin fighting at borders

May 12th, 2042: First Central Colonial Council Meeting



Committee Brief

It was the Americans who first landed and walked upon Martian soil on the night of May 12th, 2031. Within five years, the first Martian colony, consisting of a crew of scientists and astronauts from the Western powers, touched down at a point near the original Phoenix lander site. By 2040, however, twenty-five almost entirely self-sustaining Martian colonies had been established by the governments of every inhabited continent of the Earth, and the seeming domination of Mars by the West had become not just questioned but was overturned.

The world has changed significantly in the last few years, and those who landed in the colonies on Mars have often represented breaks in continuity with their previous customs, nations, and beliefs. Following the escalation of the Fifth Taiwan Strait Crisis, many in the colonies began questioning their roles in international affairs. In order to guarantee that no future conflicts may take place between the colonies or on Mars, all settling powers reaffirmed a ban on military weapons in space and set up a Central Colonial Council at the site of the first landing for the purpose of discussing Martian affairs. The continued success of the Martian project may depend upon it.



Your Goals

What is the role of the Martian colonies in relation to their homelands?

It is clear that the political climate on Earth is unsustainable and that devastating conflict could soon emerge. Though politics on Earth may presently influence the behavior of the colonies, should they? Should escalations in the colonies also influence politics on Earth?

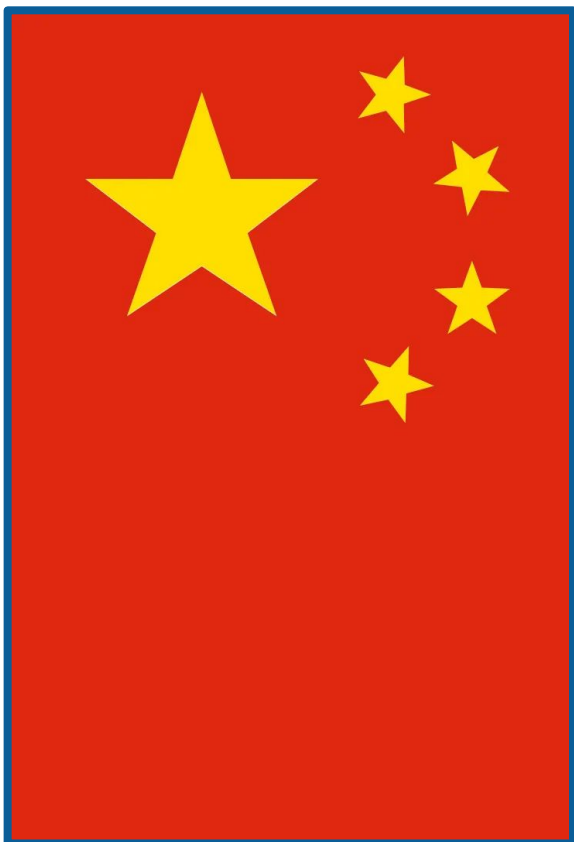
How should intercolonial diplomacy be structured?

Though the first Martian Central Colonial Council is an opportunity to settle certain critical matters that face the colonies on the planet, will this council be repeated in the future? Will a different system of government for the planet be needed?

How should future assemblies be arranged, empowered, or governed?

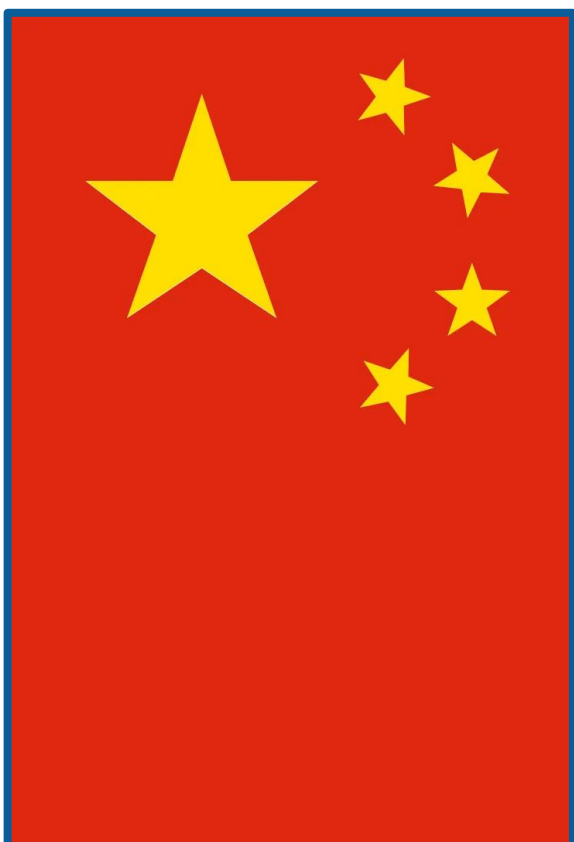
To what degree will each colony have, or not have, representatives on the new planet? Will there be an elected leader or council of leaders to rule the planet?

Characters



Zhao Ning (People's Republic of China)

Chief Executive of the Martian SAR Zhao Ning has been the public face of the government of mainland China on Mars for five years. She arrived with the first Chinese colonists and maintained her preeminent position of power over the other colonies, though functionally only in name. Her rivalry with Chen Hao and distrust of the military on the planet has weakened her ability to control other leading members of the Party on Mars. Beijing is always a call away—and a 9-month shuttle.



Chen Hao (People's Republic of China)

Originally a nuclear physicist and great ally of Premier Ning, Hao was elected as her colonies' local administrator in the second year of their settling. She has publicly made overtures to work with other local colonies on research matters and shared resources with a team of American scientists whose shuttle had crash landed nearby, which drew fierce criticism from other Party members who accused her of having Rightist sympathies. The only reason she has maintained power is through the loyalty she has inspired from her colonists.

Characters



Huang Zhenyu (People's Republic of China)

The Fourth Taiwan Strait crisis and its failure left a deep mark on Chinese society, not in the least upon General Huang Zhenyu. Despite being only a junior commander at the time, his career has been deeply affected by the events, and he has worked tirelessly to achieve his current position as the head of the PLA on Mars and head of a colony. These previous failures have publicly made him a fanatical supporter of the PRC, but privately the General seems to be more critical.



Mei-Lin Zhang (People's Republic of China)

Mei-Lin Zhang is the newest arrival on the Red Planet out of China. She has been sent as a vanguard of a new Chinese settlement to study the cellular life forms found only three years prior to see if they pose any biological threat to Earth, as well as to see their potential for industrial and research purposes. Mei-Lin lost three brothers in the Fifth Taiwan Strait Crisis, and so the victory rung somewhat hollow as she prepared to leave her home planet. Perhaps she is able to do it because she leaves nothing behind.

Characters



Li Qiang (People's Republic of China)

Stretching back to the Red Guards of the Cultural Revolution, Li Qiang's family has been fervent supporters of the Chinese Communist Party. Qiang has had a long career, notably surviving familial intrigue by denouncing his brother for anti-Party activities and securing his place within the intelligence community of China. On Mars, Li's motives lie fully with the party, and he would rather die than see the Western powers get any advantage over his homeland.



Sergei Antonov (Russian Federation)

General Antonov was always a supporter of Russian interests. Under Putin, he fought in Ukraine, becoming injured twice. Under the next three presidents, he further honed his craft, successfully taking and permanently destroying Grozny during the Third Chechen War of 2035. This new command over Russia's first colony on Mars represents a chance to support Russian interests in the Solar System, as well as announce his retirement. His grandfather retired to the mountains of Georgia, himself to the Red Planet. Perhaps they'll name a building after him.

Characters



Roman Vasilyev (Russian Federation)

Professor Vasilyev began his career as a young student of the former Professor Nosovko, who together replicated molecular life found in the permafrost North of Yakutsk. As such, following the Japanese discovery of life on Mars, he was selected as one of the leading scientists in the field of Xenobiology and Archaeobiology to travel to lead a new colony on the Red Planet. Hopefully with his experience, he will be able to further study this groundbreaking discovery.



Vladimir Gorsky (Russian Federation)

Always a stern individual, Vladimir Gorsky saw the collapse of Russian rule in Chechnya. As his comrades were killed by the rebels, he fought his way out with his family to the relative safety of Dagestan as the Russians attempted to restore order. In the subsequent years, he led the persecution of the Chechen people, earning his position now as the head of Russian intelligence, and now of a colony. The first few years were a struggle, but without struggle there can be no elation and joy—not that he has ever been a particularly joyful person.

Characters



Elias Rahimi (Iran)

The counter-revolution never came: the revolution simply died. The transition to democracy in Iran never happened, but neither did the opposite occur. Today, the Ayatollah is more of a figurehead than supreme ruler, and the president has the most power. Mr. Rahimi was tasked with preserving the authority of the Iranian government specifically from the Ayatollah, who hopes to reclaim his power someday. Now, if only the people would listen...



Diego Rocha (South American Space Agency)

The continual infighting of the South American states would seem to make the possibility of a unified space agency slim. However, the creation of an economic union (long thought farfetched) in 2031 allowed for the seeds of this organization to be sown. Currently, the greatest contributors are Argentina and Brazil, which is where Doctor Rocha comes in. Despite being on a tight budget and having secondhand American shuttles, they were able to successfully establish a colony on Mars just last year. While cooperation on Earth is difficult, in space it's necessary.

Characters



Lucas Okafor (West African Federation)

Governor Okafor was not the first choice of leaders of the West African Federations' only colony. He was also not the second-or third. He was, however, connected to the president of the Federation by family relation. As such, Okafor has made up for his lack of skill with an increased allowance for unilateral actions. This is perhaps why he has been somewhat successful in his governing: that is, when he actually decides to govern. Can Mr. Okafor make his colony (and himself) successful?



Cohen Crenwelge (Israel)

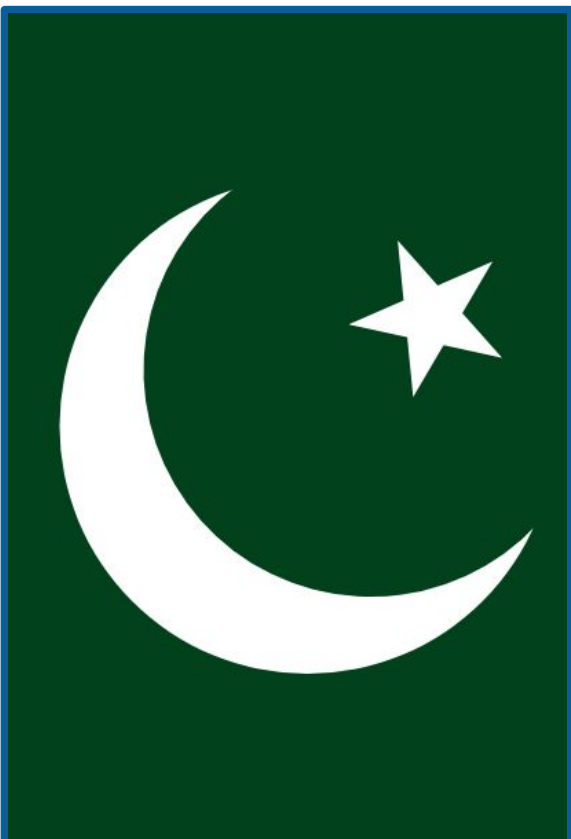
Having previously worked in the EU Space Agency, Dr. Crenwelge has returned home to help modernize and advance the fledgling Israeli Space Force. He was chosen to lead the Israeli colony on Mars just before the launch of the mission, having previously been slated as being too old for participation. Though he may now be the oldest man on Mars, he is only 62 and still hopes to have a good few decades left. He leads research and the colony, hoping to maintain a semblance of peace on the Red Planet and back home, though with affection for the West.

Characters



Nisha Patel (India)

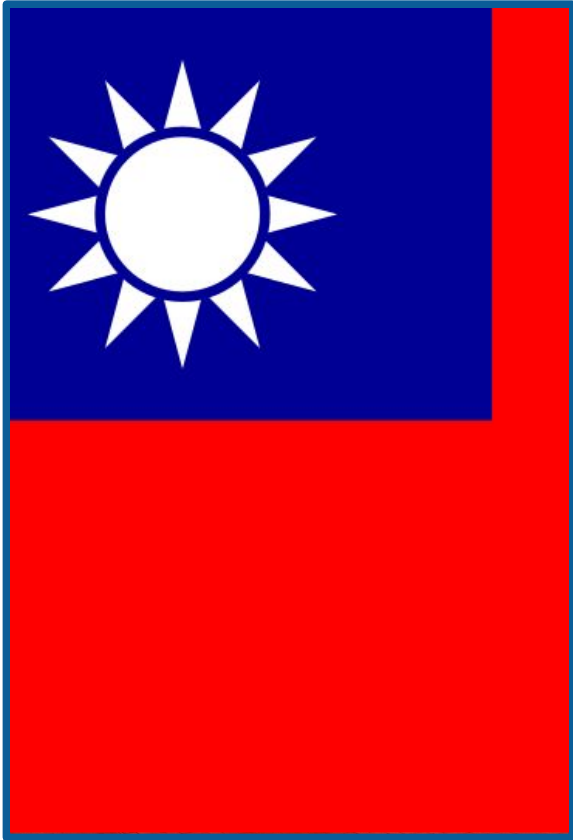
Though originally a scientific mission to Mars, the arrival of the Pakistani colonists later this year resulted in a large increase in military spending around the Indian colony to guarantee its continued safety. Nisha was originally also a scientist, but due to these shifting obligations and ongoing hostilities she was drafted into the Indian Space Force. It remains to be seen whether the ongoing conflict back on Earth will spill over to Mars. But if it does, she must be ready and resolute.



Sundar Banerjee (Pakistan)

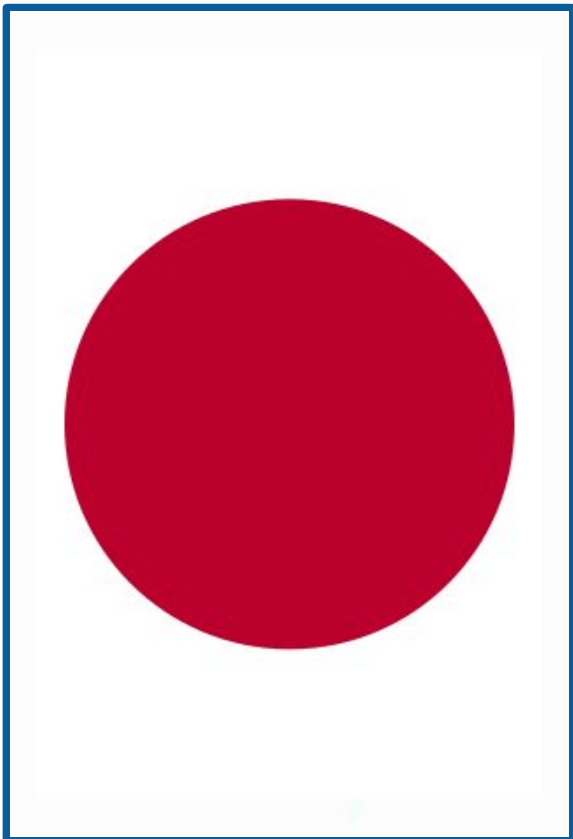
The Indians may have beaten them to the Red Planet, but General Banerjee is convinced that Pakistan will ultimately prevail. Always a loyal soldier, he has fought in several border conflicts with India back on Earth, which now he may have to do so on Mars. He was not appointed to this post—no, he earned the post. He earned it over decades of blood, sweat, and tears. He will make sure that his people will triumph, that they will be safe, and that they will achieve the future that they deserve. International relations on Earth may be anarchic... what about on Mars?

Characters



Chen Wei (Republic of China in Exile)

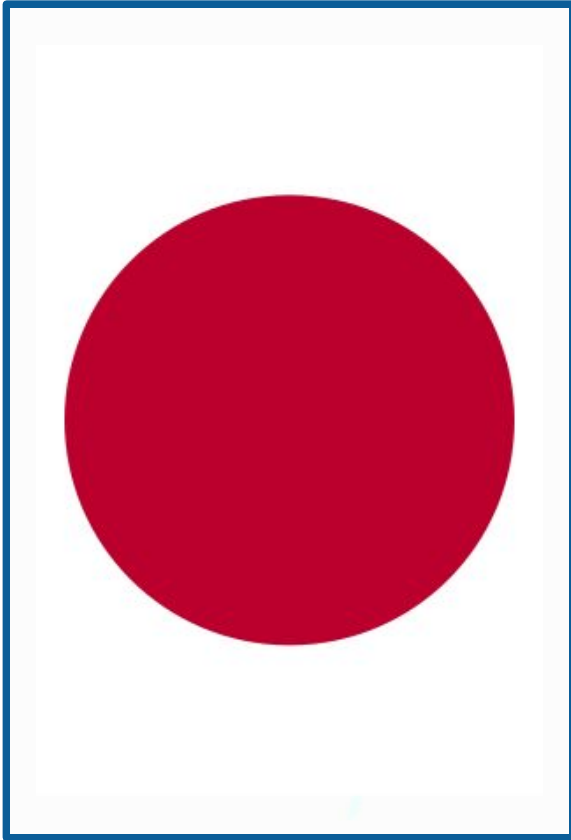
The Republic of China may only exist in a small block-sized complex in a Washington DC embassy, but the only area it maintains real authority over is its colony on Mars. Overnight, Chen Wei has been catapulted from a garrison leader into the commander of the government of the Republic of China. One day his people may return home, but not him. He knew when he signed up that he would never see his homeland. But must those back home also have to make this deal?



Kaori Shimizu (Japan)

It is a new phenomenon for a nation to die of old age. Kaori worked at several prestigious universities and laboratories for over a decade to become an expert geneticist and human sociologist. As such, Kaori Shimizu was sent to Mars to guarantee the existence of the Japanese state; his being a cousin of the emperor ensured the continuation of the spirit of the nation. Through this, the Japanese people, and by proxy humanity, would continue to survive should the situation on Earth become untenable. He's like insurance. A really, really, expensive insurance.

Characters



Haruto Takahashi (Japan)

Haruto Takahashi will undeniably go down in history as the most well known member of the scientific community of the 21st century. Under his leadership, and within only months of arrival on the Red Planet, single cellular organisms that were originating from Mars were found in the ice caps. His research has astonished the scientific and world community and changed the debate around alien lifeforms from “if” to “where”. This popularity sadly does not go far on Mars, however, where he exists as a more controversial figure.



Jean-Michel Rousseau (European Union)

Former MP of France Jean-Michel Rousseau was one of the leading politicians behind the unification of both the EU and NAPTO. In the time after his officeship, he worked as a chairman of NAPTO and developed the plan for the EU colonial project, which became incredibly more important after the Fifth Taiwan Strait Crisis. He seeks to further integrate allies wherever they can be found and hopefully isolate those who would be an enemy of the EU and NAPTO.

Characters



Maks Włodarski (European Union)

Following the conclusion of the Russo-Ukrainian War in 2025, the EU rapidly restructured and consolidated their military capabilities to match the Russian threat. Though their military and foreign policy generally overlaps with NAPTO, their concerns lie more with Russia. This extends to space, where they have attempted to curb the threat of Russian expansionism. Maks has lost enough friends to the Russians. Now, it's time to return the favor.



Laila Petrovic-Jones (NAPTO)

A child of Croatian, Bosnian, and English descent, Laila Petrovic-Jones understands the importance of different people working together. As NAPTO becomes an increasingly political and economic organization on Earth alongside its military purpose, Petrovic-Jones has worked to bring integration while maintaining autonomy for member states and peoples. On Mars, she wishes to maintain the balance of power between the great powers. Though, of course, she'd prefer a balance that results with her guys coming out on top.

Characters



Anika van der Meer (NAPTO)

Doctor van der Meer worked hard to achieve her placing in the EU Space Agency, and following its integration into NAPTO, she began a new role in the organisation. Once a fierce critic of an EU military and NAPTO intervention, she reoriented her politics following the Russian attacks on Ukraine. Now, she works for the organisation she opposed to produce more effective rocketry technology to ease interplanetary travel. Only through progress can we produce peace.



Colton Hayes (USA)

Admiral Hayes had been involved in the Fourth Taiwan Strait Crisis and achieved successes in the defense of Wang'an. Following the war, he applied to work on the Martian program to better serve his country. His personal dislike of space came second to his duty to support American interests. A prudent career decision became a deep regret of his following the outbreak of the Fifth Taiwan Strait Crisis—and the total destruction of his command off the coast of Okinawa. Hayes has known victories and defeats, and he certainly prefers the former.

Characters



Sarah Campbell-Hall (USA)

Mrs. Campbell-Hall began her career as a lawyer: not an overly represented job on the Red Planet. Her abilities as a lawgiver and administrator are, however, unmatched, and she has led the movement to develop more thorough relations between the different colonies on Mars. She wishes greatly to stay a part of the United States and is skeptical of Martian integration but wishes for a system of global governance to solve disputes and lay down a foundation for this new planet.



Diego Lopez (USA)

Diego Lopez is one of the great American success stories of the 21st century. Having started a career in the mailroom of NASA, he volunteered at the outbreak of the Fourth Taiwan Strait Crisis, earning acclaim for his heroics in the defense of the Republic of China. After the war, he was able to go to university and eventually join NASA once more as an astronaut. Lopez was one of the first to set foot on Mars, and due to his experience, was selected to lead a colony.

Characters



Henry "Hank" Caldwell (USA)

Hank Caldwell retired in the years following the Fourth Taiwan Strait Crisis, having succeeded in his capacity as a lead intelligence officer of the US in the conflict. The year prior to the Fifth Taiwan Strait Crisis, he rejoined the DIA but was unable to achieve the same successes due to a disbelief of China's capabilities to launch another attack. He knew that war was coming, and he knew that they must prepare if they hope to win. Perhaps now, they'll listen.

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