Bledal

Summary

Bledal is a northern electorate on the Continent of Osnines, situated between the eastern terminus of the Central Sea and the northern coastline. It is bordered to the north-west by the Kingdom of Berenicia along the River Dunkle, with Smaenia to the east and Bleiria to the south-east. Its southern border is defined by the River Leathan, which separates it from Nagar. Bledal functions as a critical junction for international trade, particularly through its capital, Breite, where the Great East Road meets the Central Sea.

Description

Political Structure and Governance

Bledal is governed as a loose collection of relatively small counties, organised into a hierarchical electorate. The nobility is divided by precedence into Landgrafs, Markgrafs, Burgrafs, and Grafs, with a smaller number of Visgrafs. These lords assemble as a Diet to elect an Archgraf, who serves as the supreme authority for the nation. This decentralised system allows for significant local autonomy while maintaining a unified front for international trade and border security.

Geography and Topography

The nation's landscape is diverse, dominated in the west by the hilly eastern shore of the Central Sea and the southern extension of the Dipthorn range. The Great East Road runs along the River Leathan on the southern border, carrying a constant flow of traffic. The interior is a network of fertile farmlands and small villages, while the eastern border regions transition into wide, open steppes. To the north, the River Dunkle forms a natural frontier with Berenicia, with the town of Mornham serving as a primary checkpoint for cross-border trade and commerce.

Economy and Industry

The economy of Bledal is built upon a foundation of agricultural exports and mercantile service. The fertile central farmlands produce grain, wool, and wine, while the eastern steppes support semi-nomadic cattle and horse farmers. Breite is the industrial and commercial heart of the country; as a busy port serving both river and sea traffic, it collects a customs charge on all goods in transit. This revenue is sufficient to keep domestic taxes remarkably low. The nation also possesses modest mining operations in the west. Significant settlements include Wolfburg, a community situated just north of the Great East Road known for its proximity to major trade routes.

Urban Centres and Demographics

The majority of the population is concentrated in the south and centre, particularly along the Dunkle and Leathan valleys. While the western and central regions are densely dotted with market towns every ten miles or so, the east remains sparsely populated by semi-nomadic tribes. The culture is one of pragmatic commerce, influenced by the nation's position as a “middleman” for eastern and western goods. Despite the presence of rogues and spies who frequent the trade routes, such as Rolf Wolfson, the electorate maintains a reputation for stability that is beneficial for business.

Breite (Capital)

- **Estimated Population:** 24,000
- **Role:** Capital and primary customs terminal.
- **Key Features:** Sited at the junction of the Great East Road and the River Leathan. It serves as a clearing house for international commodities.

Wolfburg

- **Estimated Population:** 11,000
- **Role:** Inland trade hub.
- **Key Features:** Positioned north of the Great East Road, it is a frequent haunt for merchants, spies, and independent heroes.

Mornham

- **Estimated Population:** 8,500
- **Role:** Border checkpoint.
- **Key Features:** Controls the trade flow along the River Dunkle valley on the Berenician frontier.

Relationships

People

- Rolf Wolfson: A notable hero and occasional merchant from Wolfburg who frequented the nation's trade routes for decades.
- The Archgraf: The elected head of the Bledal Diet and supreme administrative authority.
- **The Landgrafs and Markgrafs**: The high nobility who comprise the electoral college.

Places

- Breite: The capital city and primate port at the mouth of the River Leathan.
- Wolfburg: A settlement in the south-west, just north of the Great East Road.
- Kingdom of Berenicia: The western neighbour and occasional military rival.
- Great East Road: The primary economic artery running along the southern border.

- Nagar: The southern neighbour situated across the River Leathan.

Skyss - Story Background	Characters	Skyss - Places	Pantheons of the World	Other Background

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