THE TWELVE COLONIES OF KOBOL

Campaign Notes:

Political Information:
Official Name: The United Colonies of Kobol, or The Twelve Colonies of Kobol

The Twelve Colonies were settled two thousand years ago by twelve tribes of humanity who fled their home world of Kobol after a war with the Gods, or Lord of Kobol. A thirteenth had fled before the War, settling -- according to some tales from the Sacred Scrolls -- on a world called Earth. The United Colonies of Kobol were created by the Articles of Colonization, which formed a central government in response to the rebellion of their machine servitors, the Cylons.

The central government has three branches: an executive headed by the President of the Colonies; a bicameral legislature with the lower house -- the People’s Council -- comprised of directly elected representatives who represent a select amount of people/districts, and the Quorum of Twelve -- appointed representatives that speak for the individual world governments; and a judiciary called the Inter-Colonial Court.

The seat of government is in Caprica City on the world Caprica, the judiciary is in Themis on Libran. The headquarters of the Colonial Fleet -- the central military agency -- is at Perkinston on Picon, with the main training base being the Pindarus Military Complex.

The official language of the government is Caprican. Most people speak Caprican and it’s a rare one who does not. Other languages frequently spoken are Gemense, Tauronese, and Leonese.

There are several political parties in the Twelve Colonies, many that are specific to a particular planet. The major intercolonial parties are: the Federalist Party, which sought the unification of the colonies during the Cylon War and which has as its central platform the retention a strong central government; the main opposing party is the Democratic Republic Party, which is also pro-Colonial government, but seeks more devolution of power to planetary governments; the last major party is the Popular Orthodox Party, a strong social conservative, big government, heavily theocratic party that is most popular on Gemenon and Sagitarron, but also runs decent returns on Scorpio and even Tauron.

Strong local contenders are the Democratic Alliance of Canceron (often allied with the Democratic Republic), Restoration, a party seeking to end the Colonial government (Tauron with Sagitarron affiliations), the Sagitarron Freedom Movement, which is closely allied to Restoration. The Monarchist Alliance on Virgon.

Stellar Information:
The colonies are located in the Cyrannus star system (or cluster.) It is comprised of four stars, two binary systems comprised of a G-class primary and a K-class secondary star. The two binary systems are gravitationally bound together and orbit a central point with a period of 546,892 years. The two pairs are .16 light years apart. Each star is named for the Kobol lord of the Sun, Helios.

HELIOS ALPHA: Class G2V, Mass 1.0
Seven worlds orbit Helios Alpha. Closest is Icarus -- a small, hot world that is just short of molten metal. Picon follows on a sharply inclined orbit, Caprica and Gemenon share a mutual orbit with a common barycentric point and which they orbit every 28.2 days and the two worlds are 493,000km from each other. Between Caprica/Gemenon and Zeus, a massive gas giant, is the Erebos asteroid field. Zeus is massive, with a diameter of 153,000km and boasting 74 moons (the largest being Nike and Hebe.) Lastly is Persephone, a small iceball that has a long period, eccentric orbit.
PICON
Ancient Name: Pisces
Distance from Star: .75SU
Population: 1.4 billion
Patron God: Poseidon
Capital: Queenstown

“The Ocean Colony”, as it is known, Picon is a temperate to tropical world with 75% of the surface being water. The sharp orbital angle and axial tilt of the world mean that the southern hemisphere is perpetually warm, often hot, while the northern hemisphere maintains a small ice cap and experiences short, but surprisingly cold winters.

A former colony of Virgon, Picon is now an affluent world with a progressive and permissive society (much like Virgon) that frequently clashes with the military establishment. Picon provides subsidized health care, education, and housing -- something critics remark is possible only due to the massive military-industrial monies that pour in. Picon is, for this reason, often viewed with scorn by other colonies that would like a larger piece of the Colonial Fleet pie.

This is rarely allowed to get out of hand, as the largest employer on the planet is the Colonial military, whose Picon Headquarters is located in Perkinston, only a few miles from the massive Pindarus Military Complex, where much of the advanced officer training takes place. Queenstown, the capital, is also home to a thriving entertainment industry second only to Caprica, and which has earned the colony the nicknake “Little Caprica”.) Picon Laboratories, one of the major technology companies, is based in Pailyn.

GEMENON
Ancient Name: Gemini
Barycenter Distance from Star: 1SU
Population: 2.8 billion
Patron God: Hera
Official Language: Old Gemenese
Capital: Oranu

“The First Colony”, as it calls itself, Gemenon appears to have been the first world that the refugees from Kobol landed on, and archeological evidence bears this out. Gemenon is an arid and xeric world that shares its orbit with Caprica. Lower gravity and air pressure make the world subject to greater extremes of climate -- from cold, arctic regions, to frigid mountain ranges, and vast deserts. The world has a small hydrosphere, as well -- only 56%.

It is one of the poorer colonies and known for its religious fundamentalism, both poly- and monotheist. Gemenon's second-largest city, Illumini, was built around a large Pantheon complex, composed of buildings intended to worship and celebrate every deity in the Sacred Scrolls. Another major city was Kryptos, home of the Kobol Colleges.

The Gemenese are known for their literal interpretations of the Sacred Scrolls, but also for a monotheistic religious movement from the deep deserts, and made infamous by a terrorist group known as “Soldiers of the One.” Very traditional, Gemenese value family above all else. Abortion is considered a sin both by the poly- and monotheists of Gemenon and the strong emphasis on family means many Gemenese homes are multigenerational – with children and grandchildren taking care of the elderly. Extended families tend to be close in a way that Capricans are not. Gemenese consider Capricans, at best, arrogant and decadent, and sinful at worst. There is enmity between the two worlds, as Capricans have held power – both financial and militarily – over Gemenon even after the signing of the Articles of Colonization. Another aspect of the strong familiar bonds of Gemenese society is rampant nepotism and corruption in the financial and governmental sectors.
CAPRICA
Ancient Name: Capricorn
Barycenter Distance from Star: 1SU
Population: 4.9 billion
Patron God: Apollo
Capital: Caprica City

The Capital of the Colonies, Caprica is a lush and wealthy world that until recently was only moderately developed. Metropolitan areas on the planet included the Caprica City, as well as Delphi – a major hub of culture and communications, Olympus, Phobos, and Thyrea.

Caprica is regarded (by Capricans) as the center of Colonial civilization, even long before the First Cylon War. Graystone Industries was one of the Colonies most influential technology developers and had a hand in creating the very first Cylons.

After the war, the planet became the seat of politics, culture, art, science, learning, as well as the Colonial government. It is also one of the wealthiest colonies. Capricans tend to be more permissive, religiously, and secularism is most prevalent on this world. Many Capricans of religious bent will do pilgrimage offworld to Gemenon for training.

TAURON
Ancient Name: Taurus
Distance from Star: 1.3SU
Population: 2.5 billion
Patron God: Ares
Official Language: Tauronese
Capital: Hypatia
Major Cities: Minos, Olympia, Tauron City

The main colony world of Virgon and Leonis in the Helios Alpha system until 890 years ago. The Taurons or Tauronese, are known as a tough, violent, and troublesome people. This is partly due to the harsh, cold climate and their history of being a subject world, and even after their independence, being the center of political and economic machinations, the last of which was the Heraclitus regime from the year before the Cylon War. Tauron is an arid world that was heavily dependent on agriculture until relatively recently, but is now an industrial and technological powerhouse, rivaling Caprica. The ornery nature of Tauron people and politics, and their new found wealth and influence, has continued to cause friction with the other worlds and the Colonial government.

The original resistance fighters to the Heraclitus regime morphed into one of the most prevalent and violent criminal organizations in the Twelve Worlds, the Ha’La’Tha. It is this group, more than anything else, that has cemented the image of Taurons as thugs and criminals. The Tauronese are passionate people, by turns maudlin, or violent. Family and friends are a very important element of Tauronese society, and like the Gemenese, many Taurons live in multigenerational arrangements. One trait of Taurons is the use of tattoos to chart their lives. Many get tattoos to mark important life events and relationships – the birth of a child, a marriage, a death. The darker side of this is the Tauronese habit of holding grudges: feuds between families, or family members, has led to centuries of bloodshed. Tauronese is the main language of the colony.

HELIOS BETA: Spectral Class: K1V, Mass 0.79
The worlds of this star, Virgon and Leonis, were much more successful in recovering from colonization than the other worlds. The collapse of population and technology that most of the Kobol refugees suffered only held these worlds but for a few hundreds years, and a 1000 years ago, the Leonis and Virgon Empires spanned the four stars, lasting several hundred years.

Five planets orbit the sun: Troy, a heavily mined world rich in metals and radioactive; Pallas, a world that once had an atmosphere and supported life, but now dead; Leonis, which is separated from Virgon by the
Ouranos asteroid belt, and lastly the gas giant Hera. Hera is the third largest world in the colonies and has 24 moons, the largest being Iris and Euboea.

**LEONIS**
- **Ancient Name:** Leo
- **Distance from Star:** .65SU
- **Population:** 2.6 billion
- **Patron God:** Artemis
- **Official Language:** Leonese
- **Capital:** Luminere

The first world to experience the industrial renaissance, Leonis was one of the most powerful worlds among the twelve, and was the first to return to space. Leonis and Virgon were at first allies, then rivals for prestige and power. The Leonis-Virgon War ended with the collapse of both world’s interstellar empires. Frequently called the “Heart of the Colonies”, Leonis is generally credited with returning Man to civilization, although this would be disputed by the more uncharitable of the Colonies.

Leonis is the largest of the Twelve Colonies, and is a major vacation spot for those looking to get away from it all. The Colonial Marine Corps had large training areas on Leonis that allow for huge wargames. The world has a very small axial tilt and has very defined areas of climate -- from a small arctic region to very warm tropical. The weather is fairly stable, and the vast plains provide a wealth of agricultural riches. Leonis is the largest exporters of food in the colonies, and the vineyards are legendary. Leonis is also a major producer of pharmaceuticals -- legal and otherwise.

**VIRGON**
- **Ancient Name:** Virgo
- **Distance from Star:** 1.7SU
- **Population:** 4.3 billion
- **Patron God:** Hestia
- **Capital:** Boskirk

“Imperial Virgon” is often called “the Blue Colony” for the massive oceans and blue-colored plant life on the main continent. The climate is cool temperate with large arctic regions. It is the birthplace of the Colonial language (yes, Caprican is actually... Virgonian.) Boskirk was the first major city in the Colonies, and remained the largest until after the Leonis-Virgon War. While Virgon has steadily ceded the cultural field to Caprica.

Virgon is noted for its open (or to some of the worlds, decadent) culture, and their reputation for sexual promiscuity is well-earned. The world is the only one of the twelve where polygamy is the norm – with group marriages often acting to spread the wealth for massive extended families. Virgon is home to the only monarchy still in existence, and the aristocracy -- while it still holds some sway in society -- is mostly vestigial. Art, literature, and cinema are key parts of the Virgonian economy, as is tourism.

Virgon has a moon called Hibernia that is barely habitable and is home of the Celtan -- an ethnic group that was enslaved by the Virgonians in the past.

**HELIOS GAMMA:** Spectral Class G9V, Mass 0.9
Helios Gamma was settled late in the Exodus from Kobol, and due to the distance from Helios Beta, remained outside of the control of Leonis and Virgon until the later years of their empires.

Gamma has five planets: Thanatos, a vicious, tidally-locked hot world with a sulphur dioxide atmosphere; Libran, which has an eccentric orbit that takes it past both sides of the Acheron asteroid belt; Scorpia, Sagittaron, and the gas giant Ophion.
LIBRAN (or LIBRIS)
Ancient Name: Libra
Distance from Star: 1.75SU
Population: 2.1 million
Patron God: Athena
Capital: None (Themis)

"The Colony of Justice" is a sparsely settled, lush but violently-so world. It’s eccentric orbit gives the colony sharp swings in climate between winter and summer, creates massive storm fronts, and the thick atmosphere make it a tough place to live; it is general cool and stormy. It was one of the last worlds to be settled and was still barely industrial while others were spacefaring. So it was a surprise when Libran was chosen as the seat of the Intercolonial Court system, located in the one city of any size, Themis.

Libran is a hotbed of criminal activity, due to the awful weather, low population, and the rich vegetation that allows for the growth of illicit plants. It is also a burgeoning financial center, as the lax laws and low taxes attract those looking to escape the grind of their home worlds.

SCORPIA
Ancient Name: Scorpion
Distance from Star: 1.4SU
Population: 450 million
Patron God: Dionysus
Capital: Celeste

"The Playground of the Colonies", Scorpia is a world of thick jungles, rugged mountains, gorgeous beaches, all presided over by the world’s “tail” -- a half ring that is the remains of a moon that was torn apart by the planet's gravitational well. That it’s also quite cheap, is another draw. The thick atmosphere and high CO₂ make for a warm world.

Tourism and military industry are the two major economic areas for the world. The largest fleet shipyard, Scorpia Fleet Shipyards. The steady influx of outsiders has made Scorpians tolerant of other cultures.

SAGITTARON (or SAGITTARION)
Ancient Name: Sagittarius
Distance from Star: 2SU
Population: 1.7 billion
Patron God: Zeus
Capital: Tawa

Cold, barren, and mountainous, Sagittaron is sometimes known as “The Lone Colony.” It has been exploited by Virgon and Leonis for centuries, and following the end of those empires, has continued to be one of the poorest colonies.

Sagittaron is known for their cool resistance to oppression, their religious zealotry, and their rejection of modernity. They eschew science and technology, including medical technology. Public displays of affection, dancing, singing, and other frivolity is banned by law. The only exception is at sports events, which often turn into free-form brawls after the match is ended.

Sagittarons have actively opposed the formation of the Colonial government, and many reject service in the Colonial militia. Sagittaron has a history of boycotting votes in the Quorum, and of ignoring Colonial laws passed that run counter to their beliefs.

HELIOS DELTA: Spectral Class: K2V, Mass: 0.74
The last of the stars to have settlement, Helios Delta was ignored by the powers around Helios Alpha and Beta. Six worlds orbit the sun: Phoebe, a hot, airless world; Aquaria, which orbits sharply off of the ecliptic, just outside the Aeolus asteroid belt is Styx, which is at a sharper angle than Aquaria and orbits opposite of the other worlds in the system; then Hera -- a gas giant that sits in the same orbit as Aerilon and Canceron, which are both positioned at 30° from Hera. Orbiting beyond both Helios Gamma and Delta is Ragnar -- the second largest gas giant in the Colonies.

**AQUARIA**
Ancient Name: Aquarius  
Distance from Star: 2SU  
Population: 250 million  
Patron God: Hermes  
Capital: None

“The Ice Colony” is an apt name for Aquaria. Primarily ocean with massive ice caps, Aquaria has a single landmass, Kyros. The population is primarily seafaring types known for their hardy nature and ability to withstand hardship.

**AERILON**
Ancient Name: Aries  
Distance from Star: 1.6SU  
Population: 1.2 billion  
Patron God: Demeter  
Capital: Gaoth

“The Food Basket of the Colonies”, Aerilon is located at the L4 point of Hera. The world has a large cool to temperate zone with mild temperature and steady rains that make the world one of the rich fields over the rolling hills and prairies. There is also a fine tradition of metalworking, jewelry-making, and other craftsmanship. A small high-tech sector has started to gain traction at the University of Aerilon and Promethea A&M, but most advanced technology is imported from other worlds.

The people are poor, mostly uneducated, and have a reputation as plain-spoken and hard working.

**CANCERON**
Ancient Name: Cancer  
Distance from Star: 1.6SU  
Population: 6.7 billion  
Patron God: Hephaestus  
Capital: Hades

Canceron boasts the “Largest Democracy” in the Colonies, and has the largest population of the Twelve Worlds. It has had a working democracy for a 1000 years. Canceron is, like Aerilon, very fertile, and has a variety of environments and climates, but is mostly cool to temperate.

The planet sits at the L5 point, 30° behind Hera.

**Colonial Religion:**
Colonial religion is, by and large, polytheistic, and centered on a belief in the existence of supernatural beings known as the “Lords of Kobol.” These gods were not the creators of the universe, but were rather the children of the Titans, who did. While there were thirteen primary gods -- the Olympians -- there were also a host of other minor deities, some of which may simply be different names for the Olympians. These Lords of Kobol are believed to have a historical significance, as well, having ruled over mankind (whom
they created) on a world known as Kobol. The Twelve Colonies of Kobol represent those tribes that fled Kobol following a disastrous war with the gods.

The central texts of Colonial religious traditions are the Sacred Scrolls, which record much of the alleged history of humanity, including life on Kobol before the great exodus, and the legend of the Thirteenth Tribe and their sanctuary, Earth. According to the texts, thirteen tribes of mankind lived in peace and harmony with the Lords of Kobol, until a single jealous god demanded to be held above all others. This led to a war between the gods and men, and a catastrophe known as "the Blaze" (which is sometimes conflated with the single god himself.) Mankind evacuated (with or without the aid of a few of the Lords of Kobol, depending on the interpretations) and eventually found a home in the star cluster the worlds now reside in. The Thirteenth Tribe escaped early in the war, or prior to it, depending on the scrolls.

Most notable among the Sacred Scrolls is the Book of Pythia, written by a priestess of Apollo, also referred to as the Pythian Prophecy. Written 3,600 years ago by the oracle Pythia, they are believed by some to foretell the destruction of the Twelve Colonies and their flight to a new home. This story is one of several that reveal the "Wheel of Time", a cyclical pattern of history that is replicated time and again. There are other authors of the scrolls, as well -- the oracle Dodona or Dione, a priestess of Zeus; Trophonius, alternately describes as a priest of Demeter or Astarte (the Sagittaron name for Athena); and the Apocrypha of the Sibylline Sisters -- priestesses considered to be tied to the Blaze, and popular with the monotheists of Gemenon.

The Sacred Scrolls have been seen as an actual, ornate scroll, as well as a book. A shortened volume (usually one of the specific oracles' writing) may be a specialized volume containing prayers and readings specific to a celebrant's use during temple ceremonies, Services for the Dead, weddings, dedication ceremonies and the like. Many versions of the Scrolls are handwritten, but print and electronic versions are also popular. Gemenese and Sagittarons believe that the book should be copied by hand to preserve the spiritual aspects of the Scrolls.

Key phrases from the Sacred Scrolls:
❖ Life here began out there... (These are the first words in the scrolls.)
❖ Their enemies will divide them. Their colonies broken in the fiery chasm of space. Their shining days renounced by a multitude of dark sacrifices. Yet still they will remain always together.
❖ The gods lift those who lift each other.
❖ And the blaze pursued them, and the people of Kobol had a choice. To board the great ship, or take the high road through the rocky ridge.
❖ And unto the leader they gave a vision of serpents numbering two and ten, as a sign of things to come.
❖ And the lords anointed a leader to guide the Caravan of the Heavens to their new homeland.
❖ All this has happened before, and all of it will happen again.

THE LORDS OF KOBOL:
The 13 gods that ruled Kobol are:
❖ Zeus: The king of the gods, Zeus was the ruler of the sky, and the dispenser of justice.
❖ Hera: The queen of the gods, she was the goddess of marriage, fertility, and was a vengeful enemy to adulterers.
❖ Hades: The god of the Underworld. He was the master of dead souls and is frequently thought by literalists of the Scrolls to have been "the Blaze" that started the war between men and the gods to fill his realm with souls.
❖ Poseidon: The god of the sea, the bringer of earthquakes, and the seducer of women.
❖ Athena: The third born of the young Olympians, she was the goddess of war, craft, science, and was usually Zeus' protector of heroes. She was, by prophesy, to be the greatest of her kind.
❖ Apollo: The god of the hunt, bringer of disease, but also a healing god. Punished for his arrogance and his part in a rebellion against Zeus, he learned compassion and humility from humans.
❖ Artemis: Twin sister to Apollo, she is the goddess of the hunt, and a vicious one. Often prayed to by militant feminists.
❖ Ares: The god of war. Unloved by his kind, he was charismatic, but weak-willed and stupid.
❖ Aphrodite: The goddess of love and fertility. She was fickle, and while married to Hephaestus, was Ares' lover.
❖ Hephaestus: The god of the smith, arts and science. Lame, he was highly inventive and created many of the special weapons and iconic totems of the gods.
❖ Dionysus: God of wine, song, revelry of any kind. Drunken, licentious, and a trickster.
Demeter: Goddess of the hearth, home, the fields. Bringer of crops. Mother to
Persephone: Goddess of the Underworld, she was kidnapped by Hades.

Another major figure is HECATE, a goddess that literary scholars believe was a “goddess” figure to the
Lords of Kobol, themselves. Early fragments of history/myth point to her having predated the Titans. She
is still a popular figure of worship for those that believe in magic. She was the goddess of magic, the
crossroads (choices.)

Colonial Calendars
The Colonial calendar is based on the landing of Galleon on Gemenon, 2000 years before the Great
Exodus. The calendar is either shown as YMxx:xx:xx – year, month, day – or day month year.

The year of some events:
YR01 (the settlement of Gemenon)
YR1949 (Articles of Colonization)
YR1948-58 (First Cylon War)
YR1996 (Adama takes command of Galactica)
YR2000 (Great Exodus)
YR2001-02 (New Caprica)
YR2004 (Earth).

The months of the year are as follows (assuming Sextilis is the sixth month, the year starts with March):
Martius/01, Aprilus/02, Maius/03, Junius/04, Julius/05, Sextilis/06, Septimus/07, Octilis/08, Novilis/09,
Decilus/10, Ianuarius/11, Februarius/12.

The days of the month are Selenes, Areos, Hermiou, Dios, Aphrodites, Kronou, Heliou. These names
come from the time when Man lives on Kobol.

Colonial Holidays

Pancolonial Political Holidays:
Armistice Day Junius 21 -- Colonial government holiday
Colonial Day Sextilis 8 -- Colonial government holiday
Colonial Fleet Birthday Sextilis 12 -- Military “holiday”

Pancolonial Religious Festivals:
Bacchanalia Martius (last weekend) -- big drinking holiday, arts, celebrations to
Thesmophoria Aprilius 17 -- Mostly a “women’s” holiday in cities. Big in farming
communities. Honors Demeter.
Diasia Junius 6 -- General Colonial government religious holiday.
Olympic Games Junius, second week every four years. Sporting competitions honor
Zeus.
Panathenea Games Julius, first week every four years [midway between Olympic Games. Military-oriented sports competitions; honoring Athena.
Thargella Sextilis 19 -- Celebrates Apollo.
Exodus Novilis 1 -- Celebrates the tribes’ leaving Kobol. Probably not the real
date.
Mars Day Novilis 11 -- Celebrates Colonial veterans.
Saturnalia Decilus, last weekend. Festivals, parties, noted for costumes and masks.
Traditionally, the rich and poor, aristocrats and servants traded places for
a day.
Posidea Decilus 26 -- Honors Poseidon. Horse racing on Leonis, Picon, and
Virgon.
Apaturia Febrarius 14 -- Known as Eros Day on Caprica, honors Aphrodite.

Colony-Specific Holidays:

Arelon: Thesmophoria, Aprilius 17 -- Honors Demeter. Farming fesitvals, known for drinking.
Independence Day, Septimus 12 -- Celebrates the independence from Virgon.

Aquaria: Hermaia, Decilus 11 -- Honors Hermes. Practical jokes, hospitality to travelers. People put out hermes, small phallic stones to bless those traveling.


Caprica: Hyacinthia, Ianarius 17-19 -- Three day holiday celebrating aspects of Apollo. Eros Day, Februarius 14 -- Apaturia on most other Colonies.

Gemenon: Heraea, Martius 10 -- Honors Hera. Diasia, Junius 6 -- General thanksgiving day to the gods.

Leonis: Daphnepehoria or “The Hunt”, Aprilus 22-24 -- Hunter’s weekend.

Libran: Athenaia, Julius 28 -- Known for sporting and craft competitions.

Picon: Pohoidaia, Decilus 28-30 -- Horse and boat races dedicated to Poseidon. Picon’s version of the Posidea.


Scorpi: Dionysia, Maius 3 -- Celebrates Dionysus. Best known for wishes hung on trees. Saturnalia, last weekend of Decilus. -- People change roles, wear costumes, etc. Popular vacation draw to Scorpi.


Virgon: Hestaia, Octilus 10 -- Worship of Hestia, involves parties at home.