

CHAPTER



1.1

Introduction

Utopia is a dreamy island with sand beaches, palm trees and mostly warm and sunny weather. On its inner side there are forests and mountains. The inhabitants of Utopia live in different settlements: Harbour City is the most populated place. Seaside Village lies at the coast in the east and Mountain Village in the mountains, southwest of the island. There is also a settlement that changes places, as its inhabitants are roaming Nomads. A camp of refugees lies at the south coast, where former

1.1-4

1.2

inhabitants of the neighbouring island Tutela live. The island was hit by a Tsunami a few months ago, making it completely uninhabitable. No one knows if the refugees can ever go back. Currently, they live in tents which are not winterproof.

All inhabitant groups pursue specific economic activities: Harbour City is the gate to the world, both for import and tourists; Seaside Village is famous for its viticulture and as a hotspot for tourism. The economy in Mountain Village is based on agriculture and animal farming. The Nomads are well known fishermen and women.

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Until last month, island Utopia was ruled by King Dysto. Before him, his mother had been the Queen of the island, and before her, Dysto's grandfather had been the King. Some inhabitants of Utopia adored their ruler for all the good he did for the island and them. Most other utopians called him a dictator, because he ruled with absolute power. Through the media many people learned about other countries without kings or queens, but the people ruling themselves. This led to the creation of a democratic movement that wanted to abandon the utopian monarchy in favour of a democracy.

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This movement did not go unnoticed by King Dysto. The smartest people on the island wrote texts about the benefits of a democratic system and marginalised groups started to raise their voices and complained about their situation under the King's rule. There were posters in the streets demanding the King to be removed.

1.1-4

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2.1

The Utopian Council

As King Dysto became old, the monarchy was questioned on the whole island. The democratic movement saw their chance to realize a democratic system and organized demonstrations to force the king to resign. King Dysto understood that appointing a successor could have severe consequences, maybe even lead to civil war. Dysto even began to fear for his personal safety and fled the island. The future of Utopia now lies in the hands of the democratic movement.

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The democratic movement chose you - players - as the representatives of the four traditional inhabitant groups: Mountain Village, Seaside Village, Harbour City and Nomads. Together you form the Utopian Council. Your ambitious goal is to pave the way for a democratic political system on Utopia. You have three years to establish the conditions for the first democratic elections on Utopia by implementing rules on the future political system, while also dealing with Utopias policies.

2.1-2

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4.1

Viticulture

During the summer or beginning of autumn the utopian wine grape is usually ripe. It is famous around the world and its export an important economic factor for the whole island. It can be sold at higher prizes when harvested at a perfect state of maturation. But, waiting to long might lead to overripeness or frost damage, if cold weather sets in. The grapes are harvested by hand. Depending on its season, nomads, mountaineers and refugees can help as day labourers and earn good money with that work.

4.1



CHAPTER



5.1

Road Network

People on Utopia depend on roads to travel around the island. Unfortunately many roads are in bad condition. Damaged road sections are annoying since it costs the islanders resources to pass them. For many years people have been demanding road reconstructions, but King Dysto, against all promises, never took any action. Now the king is gone and the council is responsible, the calls for road reconstructions rise again.

5.1-2

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For the Mountain Villagers the situation is especially bad. Only the mountain road connects them with the rest of the island. Since the road is old and in very bad condition its very costly to pass. When it rains its even worse, and when it snows the road even becomes unpassable. The Mountain Villagers feel more and more trapped in their village.

5.1-2



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10.1

Quality Of Schools

Educating the utopian children is an important task. Good education will lead to a better quality of life. That is why all groups are interested in sending their kids to school. Every year all groups must reach the next educational level. The schools on Utopia are different regarding how many teachers work there and the quality of the education they provide. The more teachers a school has, the better the education is and the quicker you reach the next educational level.

10.1-2

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There is a good and well equipped school in Harbour City. There is another school at Seaside Village with a shortage of teachers. The school in Mountain Village had to be shut down due to its critical condition. It could be re-opened if new teachers were hired. The council might consider to invest in the hiring of new teachers.

10.1-2

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13.1

Health Services

There is only one hospital on the whole island near Harbour City. Diseased people from all over the island need to travel there to be treated. The hospital is well equipped and employs excellent doctors, but its capacity is limited and sometimes people must be rejected. While Harbour City is generally happy with the situation, people from other villages complain about the travel distance. Voices are rising that ask the council to take action and build a new hospital.

13.1

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17.1

Council Budget

The council's budget consists of the remaining treasury of the monarchy. An additional source of income is required for the council to remain solvent in order to pay for future implementations, like new infrastructure and new laws. King Dysto installed a fixed tax system, in which every inhabitant group payed taxes at the end of each year proportional to their group size.

17.1-2

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The nomads were freed from any tax payments, since they are mostly poor and don't have permanent places of residence, which makes taxing difficult. This seems unfair to some people, since taxes are a significant burden for the other inhabitant groups. Others say it's okay that way, since the nomads with their traveling lifestyle don't profit as much from the system and its infrastructure.

17.1-2



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26.1

Who Constitutes The People?

In the new utopian democracy "the people" must govern themselves. It is a fundamental right of a person in every democracy to vote and decide how their society is shaped. That is why elections and, more generally, popular votes are at the core of every democracy. Therefore Utopia, like every democracy, has to answer the question: Who constitutes "the people" and has the right to vote?

26.1



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33.1

Nomad Settlements

The Nomads are different from the other groups living on the island. They do not have a permanent place of residence. This comes with different consequences. They - for example - can not be represented when representation is based on geographical location of residence. They move around the island and have different opportunities and challenges depending on where they settle at the moment.

33.1-2

33.2

Their children can visit schools when they settle next to one of the villages with a school. They can help with the harvest, if they are near the grape or crop fields. They can fish if they settle somewhere along the coast. Over time they have established a fixed route around the island with fixed settlement points. Their persistence was guaranteed by King Dysto. People on the island are used to this. However, there are groups that want to deny the nomads the right to settle at specific locations and the nomads might have to consider new settlement places.

33.1-2

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45.1

Representation

In democracies, the voters entrust the largest part of the political decisions to a group of persons, who represent them in the political decision-making processes. The voters choose these representatives for a limited number of years through elections. The representatives form the parliament, where most political decisions are made. It is not feasible for a society that are the size of Utopia to decide every question with a popular vote.

45.1-2

45.2

Elections are conducted every several years. The members of the parliament can lose their seats or be re-elected. After the question "who has the right to vote in the new democracy?"; the next questions that have to be answered are: Who should be represented, based on which criteria and how many representatives should they have?

45.1-2



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49.1

Last Month In Office

3 years ago the Utopian Council was installed to realize an ambitious goal: Pave the way for the first democratic elections on Utopia. After 3 years of hard work the council's mandate is slowly coming to an end.

The are only 2 chapters remaining until the game ends. Seize your chance to make a difference choosing the right agenda or actions.

49.1



CHAPTER

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50.1

Last Week In Office

The utopian people are becoming impatient and want to see results.

The next chapter will be the last before the game ends. Last chance to put the right decisions on the agenda or conduct last actions!

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