

Government of Tanaska

(post War of Unity)

The King/Queen

The King (or Queen) of Tanaska is the ruler of all Tanaskan claimed territories. He has ultimate authority over all other governmental bodies in the realm. He maintains a standing army which, in times of peace, is deployed throughout the realm where needed. The kingship itself brings with it no land other than the palace and its grounds which it is located in the city of Seareach. It is not unusual though for a king to inherit land through marriage, and so over the years, the holdings of the king have grown to include substantial areas of land scattered throughout the kingdom. Upon the death, or abdication of the ruling monarch, the crown is passed to the eldest child. If the King/Queen has no progeny, the crown is transferred to their closest living relative, usually a sibling, or the child of a sibling.

Dukes

The country of Tanaska is divided into smaller geographic areas which are administered by Dukes (or Duchesses). Tanaskan Dukes are hereditary "governors" of these large areas of Tanaskan territory. They have ultimate authority over all other forms of government within their region. A Duchy often contains numerous villages, towns, Earldoms and Baronies. A Duke does not own all of the land he oversees, but usually has large tracts of personal holdings. Dukes will usually maintain an army of troops separate from the king's army which are used to keep the peace and enforce the laws of the Kingdom. Each Duke is responsible for collecting the royal taxes and sending them to the king every year.

The laws of royal succession apply to the succession of Dukes in the same manner.

Earls

Earls are landowners who have been granted a charter by their governing Duke to administer the law in the Duke's name. An Earldom typically consists of the lands owned by the Earl and his family as well several small villages or towns that may exist on or near the Earldom. Earls are responsible for collecting the royal taxes from the communities in their care. They have the authority to enforce the laws of the Kingdom and to adjudicate disputes between people within their Earldom.

The title of Earl and its associated privileges are not hereditary in law but tend to be so in practice. An Earl chooses a successor who will take ownership of his lands and title upon his death. This naming must be approved in writing by the ruling Duke who has the option at that time to revoke the title or bestow it upon another landowner. Revoking the title of Earl does not require forfeiture of lands owned by the Earl, but it may result in forfeiture of properties or business interests that the Duke determines to be owned by the state by reason of acquisitiobn or maintenance through the expenditure of taxes.

An Earldom will usually maintain a small standing police force headed by a sheriff.

Barons

Barons are landowners who have people working or living on their lands and so have been granted judicial privileges over those people. In all other respects they are simply wealthy landowner. The chartering of a Barony is typically done by the Duke in whose realm the Barony will exist, however in special circumstances, the King may grant the title and privileges.

A Barony may exist within the borders of an Earldom, but the Baron is subservient only to the Duke who issued the charter, and is exempt from any levies that the Earl may enact.

Taxes

The Tanaskan royal government only collects taxes from registered landowners. There are various tax rates applied depending on the type of land owned so that a merchant's city property is taxed at a higher rate than a farmer's field. Land ownership is registered with the ruling Duke who is ultimately responsible for providing the tax rolls and collections to the King. A portion of the royal taxes are kept by the Duke as compensation for administering and executing the collection.

There are large tracts of "unowned" land in the country of Tanaska, which simply means that no one has registered a formal claim to that land. Inhabitants of this "free" land are not subject to royal taxes, but neither do they have any legal claim to the land in the event that it is registered for ownership by someone else. In the small, outlying rural vilages, very few commoners register their own land.

In addition to the royal land tax collected by the Dukes or their agents, there may exist local taxes which are determined by the ruling powers of that area. For example many towns and cities have their own system of taxation to help fund public works and civil services. These local taxes must be approved by the Duke before they can be legally collected and reports of the money taken in and what it was spent on must be submitted to the Duke annually.