

## Essays on the Coalition State of Chi-Town

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## Chi-Town Educational System

"The Coalition State of Chi-Town, It's Culture and Society" A Collection of Essays by Dr. Daniel Treadaway, University of Lazlo

The Coalition State of Chi-Town, known as the seat of the Coalition's power. It is the self-proclaimed last bastion of humanity in North America. Others know it as an oppressor of non-humans. None dispute it is the largest human war machine on the continent. Chi-town is a place that conjures hate, invective and fear in most citizens of North Americas more enlightened civilizations. Many of us know all too well the military face of the CS. From the soaring SAMAS power armor to the Skull-visaged foot soldiers. But most of us never bother to look any deeper, to see the people of the Coalition. Few bother to ask "What is life like in the CS, for the average person?". It is a question that must be asked, or we run the risk of vilifying the citizens of Chi-Town in the same fashion that their leaders vilify non-humans and magic users.

Chi-Town proper is a massive fortress city with 40 levels. It's population is one of the largest for any single city on Post-Apocalyptic Earth. The vast majority of Chi-Town citizens are normal people, much like you and I. Maybe some of you reading this wonder how that can be. You say to yourself 'I would never support such a man as Emperor Prosek and his Regime.' The sad fact of the matter is that good people have supported evil regimes all through history. With that in mind, we should look at their society; from the educational system to popular culture, from economic practices to their method of governance, in the hope we can find common ground. Since much of the way we view the world is formed by the age of 12, the educational system plays an important role in the development of that paradigm. Therefore we will turn our attention to that are of life in Chi-Town first.

### School and Education in Chi-Town

With the enforced illiteracy of Chi-Town many would question how the CS can educate its citizens. While some will scoff at the Chi-Town Educational system, the fact is it works. Perhaps only the NGR and Lazlo educational system work better. Unlike our system here in Lazlo where the objective is to enlighten and teach the student to learn, Chi-Town attempts to produce good citizens. And they do that job well. They produce citizens dedicated to their ideals, willing to work and perform whatever job assigned, who don't question or disobey.

### Structure

The Chi-Town Educational System (CTES) is based on a combination of a Pre-Cataclysm German and American educational models, modified to suit the needs of the Coalition. The CTES has 5 levels; Foundational, Elementary, Standard, Technical, and Advanced. All Chi-Town residents go through the first three levels of education. With only those who show promise going to Technical Level education facilities and only the best and brightest being allowed into the Advanced Level institutions. Let's take a look at each level.

#### Foundational Level

Foundational level schools are similar to the old American Kindergarten through Fifth grades. These are small schools with typically less than 200 students, located in the various neighborhoods on each level. Naturally the Lofty Foundational Schools have better equipment, better instructors, prettier surroundings and a more demanding curriculum, but the same basic lessons are taught. This level of school is provided by the State at no charge as it functions a vital role in the proper socialization of the youngsters. Children are taught their colors, how to read a clock, and the basic iconography used by the many machines of the Coalition States.

The rooms are often decorated with pictures of the Emperor and Joseph the First. Just before nap time they are told tales of the heroic men and women in the Army who fight off the nasty creatures who lurk in the shadows. They pledge allegiance to the Emperor in the morning, Chi-Town at lunch, and the Coalition States in the afternoon. They sing simple songs and learn rhymes that reinforce their loyalty to the State and the Emperor. Propaganda disguised as Fairy Tales, called Truth Tales by the Coalition, teach the children of the evilness of Magic and the Supernatural.

A favorite of the Foundational Schools is the tale of Little Red Riding Hood. With a few adjustments. In their version, Little Red is an innocent farm girl, who works on a Coalition owned cattle ranch. She is on her way to visit her grandmother who once served in the CS Army. On her way she is continually tempted by a Wolfen Mage, whom she resists. Upon her arrival, she discovers her Grandmother has been taken control of by the Wolfen, who is devouring her alive. Once the Wolfen finishes his meal, he turns his attention to Little Red. She is nearly seduced by the Wolfen's offer of power, as she has not paid attention to the instruction she received in school on how to resist such magics. Fortunately a CS Psi-Stalker and his Dog Pack happen by, and sensing the magic energy, rescue Little Red and destroy the Mage rather handily. Other favorites include versions of Hansel and Gretel and Snow White.

Children are also taught about Dog Boys and Psi-Stalkers and how important it is to cooperate with ISS Peacekeepers. They are given toys fashioned after the latest CS Armor and Vehicles. Again, using stories, play time, songs and a continual barrage of images, the CS teaches loyalty first to humanity. That the group must be put before the individual. Games are designed, or rigged for the more cynical, to prevent an individual from winning. The rules of the game force teamwork and group efforts. Of course all children wear state provided uniforms to school. The uniforms look very much like CS Army uniforms, with a bit more color and not quite so many skulls.

Discipline is also strict. Infractions of the rules result in harsh paddlings, but those who follow them are given much praise. Students never question their teachers. A class full of five year olds setting at their desk, quietly drawing or listening raptly to their teacher without ever squirming can be a frightening site. Physical activity is encouraged and even at this young age competitive team sports are played among classrooms.

In fact, competition is an important aspect of the curriculum. Students know that those who do poorly will be sent to lesser Elementary Schools. Those who excel are rewarded with toys, candy, vids of popular cartoons and the like. This is also a calculated move to instill an early value of materialism in the children. The CS rightly supposes that if they become caught up in the pursuit of goods and creature comforts, they will be willing to do whatever it takes to protect those creature comforts.

The State also begins testing for aptitude at this stage. However, this is mostly preliminary data collection to be used as a barometer in the next phase, to see how well the child is developing and how well the doctrine is taking root. Occasionally a child who is not learning his lessons of loyalty is held back. Additionally, testing for psionic potential begins at this age. This is done in two ways. First, a great many teachers possess some minor psi-sensitive powers to begin with and are constantly on the lookout for other psychics. Teachers are rewarded for alerting Psi-Net to potential psychics, especially those with the potential to be Master Psychics. Second, Psi-Net sends an officer to each classroom at least once a year to talk to the students about avoiding odd looking people, the dangers of magic and what to do if they should see a supernatural creature. While the officer is there she will also do intensive scans, looking for children with potential that the teacher may have missed.

## Elementary Level

Elementary Level schools are the equivalent of old American Junior Highs or Middle Schools. At this level, things become more competitive and the courses harder. Team Sports are even more heavily emphasized. Coalition History is studied, and the History of Chi-Town is studied as well. Students learn about the system of government and about the CS Army. They learn about important Generals and battles, and a bit about other Coalition States.

The methods used to teach these classes are quite varied, since text cannot be used. The most often used tool is simple verbal communication and rote memorization. The teacher will recite the stories over and over again, often in the form of a poem or using other mnemonic devices. Music is also frequently used as it aids memory. Computers are voice activated and simple machines use icons to identify such functions as the on/off button. Chi-Towners often have phenomenal memories, much like preliterate cultures throughout history.

Some elective classes are now allowed. Mostly these are music classes, home economics, sports and a few art classes. Students are encouraged to take these electives. They have found that by funneling the students' creativity into artistic endeavors aggrandizing the state, it increases patriotism and loyalty. One should realize that these are carefully controlled classes where students are not encouraged to branch out. Rather they are kept within strict guidelines of what is or is not acceptable. For example, most music classes involve learning how to play state approved songs, marches, and popular tunes. Sculpting and drawing classes focus entirely on the Emperor, the Army, and associated symbols.

As in earlier grades, uniforms are still required. And the education is provided entirely free of charge. Students also continue to earn rewards for achievement. Those who excel are given music and vid discs, toys, tickets to popular movies, clothes and any number of other items. Again, this reinforces the materialism of the State and makes the citizen that much more willing to protect what is theirs.

Testing takes a greater role at this level. Tests determine which of three types of Standard school they will attend. One group of Standard school for those who will attend Technical Schools, another set of Standard Schools for those destined for the Advanced Level schools and lastly those Standard schools for those who will go no further. The vast majority go to the last type of Standard School.

## Standard Level

Standard Level schools are the equivalent of old American High Schools, with students entering at age 14 or 15. The exception being that there are three different types of Standard schools, but they all share a few things in common. Uniforms are still required and the by now familiar faces of the Emperor and Joseph the first are still omnipresent. The State still pays the full amount of the schooling at this level. Students are now allowed to participate in individual sports such as wrestling and boxing. They have by this point been tracked to what their occupation will be. The different curriculums prepare them for those occupations.

Most (88%) Standard schools teach a variety of occupations, from farming to delivery of goods, from service sector jobs to retail jobs, but no factory worker or waste disposal jobs, as these are done by 'bots. These schools prepare the average Joe Coalition citizen for his job. Elective classes have been effectively discontinued and most students are cooping. That is they attend classes part of the day and work in an apprenticeship program part of the day. Voice activated computers using vid documents teach the students the basics of the chosen profession, they are also required to participate in simulations of real life business transactions. The Army and ISS do most of their recruiting for basic positions from these schools and are quite successful. For these Standard Level students the course of study lasts between one and two years.

The second type of Standard Level schools prepares the 10% that attend them for Technical level schools. The curriculum is designed to find which Technical profession the student is most suited for serving in. The fields include basic machinery repair, medical assistants, teachers, and the like. For these students Standard Level typically lasts only a year. Just enough to determine their exact position.

The third and fewest in number are the Standard Level schools that prepare the 2% of students that will go on to Advanced Level education. The most important aspect of education at these schools is the fact that the students are taught to read and write! They are taught basic leadership skills and the principles of the scientific method and logic. Although 90% of the students in these schools are from Lofty families, young people from lower levels who show potential are allowed to attend. There is no class restriction on these schools.

### Technical Level

The Technical level schools are designed to prepare nurses, secretaries, teachers, repair people and robot operators for their occupations. These students are some of the luckiest Chi-Towners. Serving Lofties and high level government officials, they fill important midlevel functionary positions. Training is hands on, with a computer terminal always nearby. These voice activated computers can answer questions and administer tests. Competition is fierce, as those whose performance is the best can expect high paying jobs that allow them to live in the better neighborhoods. Each Technical Level school focuses on one field and students travel to the school they have been assigned to attend. There is a cost associated with these schools, in that the State requires students to pay 20% of the expenses.

### Advanced Level

Basically these are the Colleges and Universities. The two most famous are the University on the 40th level and the Military Academy where Army and ISS officers are trained. This is where doctors, engineers, high level administrators and the executives of the few private industries. They are literate and know more of Pre-Cataclysm times than your average citizen. They are also the most loyal citizens, for they have the most to lose from a changing of the guard. The students attend classes, party, and take part in extracurricular activities much like university students have throughout the ages. Course work is extremely demanding. Students often have 50-100 pages of material to read for each class each night. Failing grades are considered anything less than 80% so most students spend much of their time studying to avoid that fate. All students take rhetoric classes and the course of study is broad. If they are to be the leaders of Chi-Town they will have to wear many hats in their lives and the University prepares them well for it. Physical education classes are also part of the curriculum, as the CS believes that a strong body strengthens the mind. These who are the elite of the elite, the privileged few who will be Lofties, are grateful for the opportunity presented and generally excel. There is a cost associated with Advanced Level schools, in that the State requires the student to pay for 50% of the expenses. This is done to keep too many low levelers from climbing the social ladder.

### **Burbs Education**

Education in the Burbs is much more catch as catch can. Other than the established communities of Hillcrest and Cityview, there are no formal educational systems. The youth of the Burbs are taught what their parents and friends know and that is the sum of their education. The occasional Rogue Scholar will try to educate these poor folks as best he may, but most have little time for such luxuries. They are too busy trying to scrape together a living. Hillcrest and Cityview have educational systems similar to that of Chi-Town, the main difference being there are no Advanced Level schools.

Having looked at the way in which citizens of Chi-Town are educated, it is little wonder the Emperor has been able to find support. Through calculated gambits that would have made Machiavelli proud, he and his regime have constructed an educational system that uses natural human tendencies to control the populace has worked. From the time they enter school until the time they enter the workforce, they are taught the importance of humanity first and that the Emperor and his Regime are the only means to protect their way of life.

# Chi-Town Culture and Society

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Having examined the Chi-Town Educational System and the way in which youngsters are socialized, it is time to focus on the social lives of the citizens of Chi-Town. Much can be learned from how people spend their money and their time. With that in mind this essay will focus on the daily rituals and important events in the lives of Chi-Towners. The ceremonies they use to mark significant milestones and how they enjoy themselves are the questions this essay will attempt to answer.

## Vidcasts

One thing all Chi-Towners have in common are the vidcasts presented by the Imperial Broadcasting Service. Most of these vidcasts are in the form of speeches or propaganda promoting the stance of the State on whatever issue is at hand. From warnings about the dangers of books and magic, to commentary on how the latest campaign against marauding D-Bee communities is coming along. As the State controls the IBS, nothing critical of the government is ever presented. Shows about politics are mostly shams, with the viewpoints of the commentators carefully planned by state approved speech composers. These types of broadcasts take up a full 50% of broadcast time.

The next type of programming, the most popular by far, takes up 35% of broadcast time. These are various sporting events, from Wrestling to Basketball, Football to Boxing, Chi-Towners love sports. And the more competitive, the greater the contact, the better. Demolition derbies and hovercycle races are also popular at all levels of society. While popular, athletes are not seen as heroes. That status is reserved for CS military heroes. This is accomplished by keeping the salaries of athletes comparatively low (most live on levels 10-15). The teams are owned by Lofties of with excellent reputations and the State retains the right to change owners whenever it wishes to do so. Athletes are rarely allowed to be interviewed without a state censor standing nearby. Advertisers are also prohibited from using athletes as endorsers of their products. The CS realizes the potential power a popular athlete could have over public opinion and has therefore taken these steps to prevent that from occurring.

Next comes entertainment programming, like comedies, soap operas and dramas. These make up only about 10% of programming on the IBS. The shows are insipid for the most part. The story lines are mostly CS propaganda disguised as a plot, similar to the old After School Specials and teen programs used by the American Empire in Pre-Cataclysm times. Action-adventure shows focus entirely on the efforts of the Army and the ISS to defeat the inhuman threats that could destroy the CS. Soap Operas are little more than soft-core sex shows with a bit more plot than most pornography. They primarily focus on the bed-hopping and conniving schemes of the Lofty main characters. Most of the stories are written by government appointed writers and then censored by a separate agency. The actors are treated in the same fashion as athletes, for the same reasons. It's not uncommon for a Chi-Towner to see an actor or actress from their favorite vid-show picking up vegetables at the corner grocery store.

Commercials make up only a small fraction of programming time, around 5%. The small percentage of time devoted to commercial advertisements stems in part from the IBC not being a commercial venture. The funds raised by this small amount of advertisements are sufficient to defray the cost of operation. The government also considers the propaganda value of the IBC as more than worth any additional cost. Additionally these advertisements are tightly monitored, with strict regulations as to what claims an advertiser may make.

## Music

Concerts and music are an important part of the life of most Chi-Towners. Whether it is a few good friends playing at the neighborhood bar or the rare large scale concerts in sports arenas, music is alive and well in the Coalition States. Naturally, there are strict rules about what the lyrics may say. The fact that anyone can turn a musician in, combined with stiff penalties, and most musical entertainers don't dare risk it. Of course, with the ease of making recordings in the modern age, there are some protest and antigovernment songs that seep through the cracks. The biggest market for these is in the Burbs, as few citizens agree with the protests, let alone are willing to risk prison just to listen to such music. Any music published or distributed inside Chi-Town has to first be approved by CS censors. Again, this is to protect the citizens from dangerous ideas. As for the types of music, there are three main varieties that are popular: Jazz, Classical, and Rock and Roll.

Jazz is the music of everyone, from Low Levelers to Highbrows, Chi-Towners love Jazz. Most of the state controlled radio stations broadcast Jazz music as the main feature of their programming. The style of Jazz ranges from slow, sensuous torch songs, to up tempo dance music. Another thing Chi-Towners love is dancing, even dances for youngsters are happening affairs, with none of the girls on one side, boys on the other side that occurs in many places. From an early age, Chi-Town children are taught by their parents to dance, either in the home or through classes. The state encourages this for several reasons, discussed later. The popular dances are energetic and physical, reminiscent of that from 1920's pre-Cataclysm America.

Classical music is mostly popular among Lofties, though many official state songs have Wagnerian overtones (Think 'Flight of the Valkyrie'). Many of these songs are quite popular among even the Low Levelers. Lofties like the elegance of the more somber classical music and enjoy formal concerts and balls that would rival those of Elizabethan England. In fact few Lofty parties are considered complete without a string quartet to play at the affair.

Lastly, and perhaps not surprisingly is Rock and Roll. Although it tends to be the music of the young and Low Levelers, Rock and Roll still permeates Chi-Town. Of course, some of the teeth have been removed from the music form as Chi-Town censors insure the rebellious overtones are kept out of the lyrics. Most songs are hard driving songs, with heavy base lines and an emphasis on guitar not vocals or lyricism. As with everywhere and everywhen else in the Megaverse, speed-junkies like PA and Robot pilots love it.

## **Holidays**

The other side of the coin, in the private lives of most Chi-Towners are the ceremonies that mark the important milestones in their lives. While the CS government forbids religion of any sort, they realize how important ceremony is to everyday citizens and have responded accordingly. From holidays marking important CS events, to the everyday ceremonies the Chi-Towners celebrate as hard as they work.

There are five major holidays in Chi-Town. First is New Years, still January 1st little has changed from the American version from pre-Cataclysm times. The evening before is spent in drunken merry making to greet the New Year.

The next major holiday is known as Thaw Out, a celebration of the return of Spring in March. The day is meant to recognize the re-growth of human civilization. Formal ceremonies, usually races of all kinds from sprints to hovercycle racing, emphasize the point of Humanity moving forward. The Emperor gives a speech and recounts the triumphs and struggles overcome since the last Thaw Out. Then the rest of the day is spent, by those of age, in the arms of a lover. This serves as a type of fertility ritual, emphasizing the importance of birth and growth. Many a child is born in November, the happy outcome of a Thaw Out well spent.

In late May, Freedom Day is celebrated, by spending time with the family. The Emperor again makes a speech about Humanity standing triumphant against the dark forces that assail it from all sides. Parades are common in every neighborhood and people gather to have picnics and play sports with their friends. Most business are closed and ISS and Army troops are given a bonus in their paycheck and additional vacation time for serving on this day.

At the end of August, Chi-Town celebrates the anniversary of the attack by the Federation of Magic and The Campaign of Blood in 12 P.A. This is the most somber of holidays. Vidcasts focus entirely on the ISS and the Army, talking with honored generals and showing footage and commemorations of important battles. The Emperor gives a speech and in a formal ceremony awards the Imperial Medal of Honor for recipients from that year. People spend the time thinking about loved ones and friends lost in the battle against the supernatural, as everyone knows somebody who has served. The day has is a somber occasion.

The last important celebration is Emperors Day in December. Mostly, this is just a week long vacation, spent with friends and family, eating and thinking about the bounty of the past year. No formal ceremonies, but people exchange gifts to represent the gifts of prosperity and security the Emperor has given to the people.

## Sex

Besides sports, music, dancing and parties there is one other important aspect of Chi-Towner social lives that needs to be considered and that is the attitude towards sex. Much can be gleaned from a societies' attitude toward sexual matters, as they touch on the fundamental issues of how a people view themselves. To gain a proper prospective one must look back at the early days after the Cataclysm and move forward.

In the first years after the Cataclysm humanity was concerned only with survival. Population was down to near extinction levels, and the primary concern was maintaining the population, in order to insure future generations. Of equal concern was insuring genetic variety. To this end, many communities adopted a policy of each child birthed by a woman was to have a different father. Children were raised by the community, and even though the institution of marriage survived, it no longer held monogamy as a central tenet. Of course many communities adopted differing strategies, but by all accounts, this was the policy adopted by the community that would become Chi-Town.

These early practices have had a long-lasting impact. Chi-Towners are generally of the opinion that sex is to be discussed openly and freely and practiced in much the same manner. Recreational sex is considered a healthy and normal part of life, and there are very few Chi-Towners with hang-ups about sex. This attitude stems not just from their history, but from their present as well. First of all, children, even those born out of wedlock, are always considered a blessing. Humanity has a world to conquer and it cannot do that without a sufficiently large population. The state insures that children are taken care of, adopting those that cannot be properly cared for by their parents in many instances. Secondly, effective contraceptives have made accidental pregnancies a thing of the past, so few people ever have undesired children. Third, between Psychics and advanced drugs, most social diseases have been eliminated or can be easily cured. Lastly, Chi-Town teaches a humanistic philosophy. Morality is based on what best ensures the survival of the state and humanity and monogamy is not necessary to ensuring that goal.

This is not to say that Chi-Towners have no rules about sexual relations. They treat rapists and molesters harshly, having contempt for someone who would violate another human in such a manner. Exclusive homosexuality is frowned upon for one reason; such unions don't produce children and are therefore seen as less than desirable. However it is not illegal and few people have any problem with people who are bisexual, or with someone who has the occasional homosexual tryst. Of course, sexual relations between Humans and Psi-Stalkers are technically illegal, but that law is rarely enforced unless the couple attempts to marry or is too flamboyant. The same is true of human-dog boy relationships, only those laws are enforced. The dog boy usually being put down and the human sent to reeducation.

Naturally, the rich live by a different set of rules. Interspecies trysts among Lofties are quite common. Many are bored and have nothing better to do than experiment, and as long as it is done discreetly there are no negative repercussions. Lofties rival the ancient Romans in their freewheeling sexual practices. Perhaps surprisingly, marriage is an important part of Chi-Town society. Most people marry and stay with their partner for their lifetime, raising their children as married couples have down through the ages. Divorce is rare. As both men and women are more accepting of a sexual dalliance by their partner and are conditioned that sex for recreation is acceptable. Due to that fact, sex outside the marriage is frequent. On the other hand, long term affairs seldom occur.

The last aspect of sexuality in Chi-Town that needs examination is Chi-Town's 'sex industry.' Prostitution is legal, albeit regulated. Brothels are restricted to certain areas and must meet zoning regulations. The facade of the building has to be tasteful, no overtly advertising the business that goes on inside. No flashing neon signs or XXX banners are allowed. Additionally, all prostitutes, both male and female, must pass monthly physicals, both through traditional medical techniques and psychic methods.

On the lower levels, unlicensed prostitutes and brothels are fairly common. And even licensed the licensed brothels are of a lower quality than their counterparts on the upper levels. These LL prostitutes are looked down upon, seen as low class walking disease factories. However, men and women of the upper levels who are sex professionals are well respected. Going to a brothel on the upper levels or arranging for an 'escort' from one of those brothels is considered socially acceptable.

In conclusion, Chi-Towners aren't much different from people of other technologically advanced enclaves in the way they spend their free time. But one cannot forget the influence of the state and the way in which even recreation is used to enhance those traits it considers desirable.

## **Chi-Town Politics and Government**

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### **Coalition States Government**

It is common knowledge that the Emperor and his War Council rule the Coalition States with a tight grip. It is also little secret to the learned that Emperor Prosek has modeled himself after Adolph Hitler, infamous ruler of the German Empire in Pre-Cataclysm times. It is then little wonder that he has attempted to model his government and society after that of Nazi Germany. It has taken years to achieve this goal, but the Emperor has succeeded.

While the current CS regime is a mix of socialism and totalitarianism, that was not true in the past. Chi-Town started out as a benign community with a socialistic government. To survive in the changed environment, the community that would become Chi-Town had to focus on the group and not the individual. The community had a mayor and a council. The mayor was generally a man or woman who had demonstrated their ability to lead the community against threats of all kinds. From demons to monsters to D-Bee raiders. While the mayor held a great deal of power, it was not absolute. He acted much like a tyrant did in ancient Rome. During a war or an emergency the Mayor held near absolute power, able to command the resources of the community in whatever manor he or she saw fit. However, once the emergency or war came to an end his power was greatly diminished.

During peace time the method of governance was fairly simple. The council members ran for office and were elected by a simple majority of voters. All adults were allowed to vote. The Council could not create laws on their own. Rather, their job was to suggest laws. The citizens would then vote on those laws and in order for them to pass the law had to be agreed to by 2/3 majority. Once the laws were enacted, it was the job of The Council to enforce and carry out those laws, acting more as administrators than as rulers. Their powers were limited since they could not act outside the bounds set forth by the laws enacted by the citizenry. The Mayor acted as a chairman for the council, maintain order at the meetings. The community tended to enact laws that distributed its resources to those who needed it most.

Much like the Ancient Roman Empire before it, this system of government had within it the seeds of its own destruction.



By 01 P.A. Chi-Town had grown large enough to require a more complex system of government, basically the early system with several more levels added to it in a pyramid scheme. The city was divided into various sectors. Each sector had a mayor and a council. The Mayor and one Council member from each sector made up a High Council. From within that council one member was elected High Mayor. By this point the military had become a separate organization. Even though the leaders of the military technically answered to the High Council, more often than not the two worked together. In fact, military leaders often held seats on the High Council. However, it wasn't until 10 P.A. that the High Council and the Military leadership realized the ease with which they could manipulate the system.

Up until this point the CS had a small division of magic users, mostly Line Walkers and the occasional Mystic. Chi-Town had not taken a stance totally against magic, though they were weary of it. This wasn't to last. As the power of the Federation of Magic grew, and the military and civilian leadership began to feed information about the goings on in the ruins of Chicago, the citizens became less accepting of magic. The citizens eventually decided to outlaw the study and use of magic. And in so doing the leadership realized how easy it would be to seize power. Then came the attack by the Federation of Magic.

Gen. Joseph Prosek used the old war powers act from Chi-Town's past to assume absolute control during the war. By the time the war was over, the Federation of Magic routed and the Campaign of Blood finished, Joseph the First was so popular that when he declared himself Emperor for life there were few voices of protest. Joseph the First used his new power to do several things. First, he strengthened the military, making the Army even more powerful. He also began to restructure the government, a task his son, Karl, has since completed. It was thanks, in large part, to the achievements of his father that Karl has been able to mold the Coalition to fit his vision of conquest.

The present Coalition government has taken several elements from its roots in the old Chi-Town system of Mayor and Council. Several changes and additions have been made. While the military has always played an important part in Chi-Town government, in the current system it predominates. Secondly, government control of industry, economy, and personal freedoms has greatly increased. Lastly, the current system is bifurcated, that is it has two separate divisions that answer to one central body.

All the power of the current government rests in the hands of the Emperor, and to a lesser extent, the Executive Council. The Administrative Arm and the Bureaucratic Arm both emanate from the Executive Council. The two Arms have differing goals and means to carry them out. They are not intended to be equal, in fact the AA has a great deal more power than the BA.

The Bureaucratic Arm is based off the old system. Each level of the Fortress City elects a council and a mayor. The Emperor and Executive Council have to approve the elections and may remove someone from office for any reason. Elections occur every two years. Additionally, every five years the Emperor and Executive Council select one member from each council and one of the lofty mayors to be on the High Council and to serve as High Mayor respectively. The High Council and Mayor serve as a liaison between the Executive Council and the lower councils. And the positions are little more than a reward for service to the state. The council and the mayor implement the orders of the Executive Council on a local level. They also pass suggestions along to the Executive Council. Of course the suggestions are rarely anything controversial. The councils and mayors serve another important function. It makes the people feel involved in governing themselves, even though they aren't. Often the Emperor and the Executive Council use the lower councils to begin an initiative, leading the people to believe that the government is responsive to their desires instead of the government dictating to them.

The Administrative arm is composed of all the organizations headed by members of the Executive Council. The Executive Council meets each week to discuss business and the Emperor may call a meeting at any time for any reason. Part of the Counsel is made up of various military heads and the rest are in charge of various civilian departments. Each of the Departments represented have some measure of control and answers to the Emperor.

The Department of Public Information is headed by none other than heir apparent, Joseph Prosek II. The Department of Public Information is responsible for insuring the IBS works smoothly and watches over it to ensure it follows the party line. This branch is also responsible for creating and executing the propaganda campaigns necessary to keep the public in line. Under Joseph II's leadership the branch has excelled. They keep the public convinced of the need for a xenophobic, expansionist policy, that reading is dangerous, and a hundred other policies.

The Justice Department is responsible for seeing to the trial and punishment of criminals. It is headed by Judge Bradley Martindale. The criminal justice system of Chi-Town is a simple and direct one, using an adversarial system. It does not use trial by a jury of one's peers however. Each level of the city has several Circuits. Any crime committed is tried in the Circuit in which it occurs. However, the actual Courts are all held in one central Justice Department building, a massive structure on level 25 of Chi-Town.

A typical criminal trial goes something like this: the accused is given a Defense Counselor and the state is represented by a Prosecution Counselor. Both the Defense Counselor and the Prosecution Counselor work for the Justice Department, albeit under separate divisions. The Prosecution Counselor comes before the judge, making the accusation and presenting the State's case. The rules for evidence are very relaxed. The accused's past, both criminal and personal, may be used against him. Hearsay is admissible and PsiNET Mind Melters are often used to 'extract' the truth from the accused. The Defense Counselor then presents a defense using many of the same tactics. The Judge presides over the entire procedure and acts to ensure the law is followed. Once both sides have presented their case, the Judge decides guilt or innocence and hands down a sentence. If convicted, the accused has one appeal. If that appeal fails, the sentence is carried out swiftly.

All relations with friendly kingdoms (NGR, Whykin, Cordoba Republic) are dealt with by the Department of Foreign Relations. This department, headed by Professor Carla Korehira, handles the staffing and dispatching of Ambassadors, establishing exploratory committees and sending negotiation teams to establish trade relations. The department does not deal with hostile kingdoms, as that is left to the military. All Ambassadors have to make weekly reports to Professor Korehira's office and she passes along that information at the regular Council meetings.

Doctor L.J. Kloniki heads up the Food and Drug Administration. The Chi-Town FDA is no mere regulation agency like its predecessor in pre-Cataclysm America. The FDA is in charge of regulating the massive farms and ranches controlled by the CS, establishing the means to distribute those food stuffs, and decisions such as which crops to grow and in what combinations. Further the FDA directs research into new drugs and their applications, including the life and youth prolonging gene treatments.

Doctor Matthew Fronval heads up the Department of Medicine, which works closely with the FDA. This Department controls all the hospitals in Chi-Town. Furthermore, anyone wishing to practice medicine has to receive a license from the Department of Medicine that must be renewed each year. In order to receive a license, the applicant must have first graduated from the Medicine School at Chi-Town University and must take a series of tests to prove not only their skills as physicians but also their loyalty to the CS Government. The department also sponsors and controls all medical research that goes on in the Coalition States.

The Department of Cybernetics grew out of the Department of Medicine into its own agency. It is headed by Doctor Thomas Clinton. The job of this department is to review requests for cybernetics and bionics, to regulate the production and distribution of those cybernetics, and to develop new cybernetic devices. This department is also responsible for approving Doctors for learning how to install and repair cybernetics and insuring that those doctors follow the party line.

Another closely related department is the Department of Science, headed by Doctor Victoria Lansport. This agency is designed to develop, test, and implement new applications of science for both civilian and military use. From the newest cleaning robots to the latest energy assault rifles, the tech was developed by the Department of Science. It is also responsible for developing new computer and robot technology. It also

decides which companies may produce high technology items and licenses the outlets that may sell such items as well.

Tyler Wilpepper is one of the most powerful civilians in Chi-Town. He heads up the Department of Industry, which controls all production and industry in the Coalition States. It is this department that owns and runs all the major industries in the Coalition States. The executives of those corporations are all appointed by this department and answer to Wilpepper who answers to the Emperor. The few privately held corporations receive their license from this agency. Any company that loses its license reverts to the control of this department. And the department can revoke a license at any time for any reason.

It is easy to see how this system allows the Emperor to maintain tight control over the Coalition States as all avenues of power lead directly to him and any who defy him can expect a quick and fatal fall. It also maintains a facade of civilian participation to keep the populace believing they have input when they do not.