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Country Profile : The Republic of Utopia

Shemella, Paul

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COUNTRY PROFILE: THE REPUBLIC OF UTOPIA

Seminar participants will be engaged in six simulation exercises throughout this course. Each simulation focuses on one aspect of crafting a civil-military response to terrorism in an imaginary country, the republic of Utopia. The present fact sheet offers some basic information on the Republic of Utopia. Seminar participants should read this fact sheet prior to the start of the first simulation exercise.

Geography

Area: 40,000 square miles (103,600 square kilometers)
Capital City: Eldorado (pop. 1,800,000)
Climate: Generally Moderate, with a wet and dry season
Regions: The country has three provinces, Minerva in the north (capital, Perfidia), Fortuna in the center (capital, Eldorado) and Diana in the south (capital, Forestville). However, the administration of government and services is centralized

Economy

Per Capita GDP: US\$ 8,600, though there are variations among the ethnic groups.

Agriculture and natural resources: The country is mainly agricultural. It produces olives, citrus fruits, almonds, grapes, cotton, and copper.

Industries: mining, textiles, fishing and food. Most industrial development is located in the province of Fortuna.

Services and tourism: Utopia derives substantial revenues from tourism, and has done so for decades. In the 1980s it became a favored retirement spot for middle-class immigrants. The banking industry is robust, fueling speculation that drug money is being laundered routinely.

Infrastructure: Provincial capitals are connected by a paved highway system. Secondary roads tend to be gravel or dirt, washing out frequently during heavy rains. There is a rail system between the capital city of Eldorado and neighboring Mosella (via Perfidia) over which Utopia sends much of its commerce. There is a major port in the southern city of Lusitania.

Industrial Facilities: Although Utopia lacks modern industrial facilities, factories primarily engaged in the production of small arms and munitions as well as some overhaul of military systems remain in existence but generally unused since the overthrow of the military regime in the 1975.

People

Population: 5,300,00 (1997 est.)

Ethnic groups: Whites (farmers and government officials) 80%; Arab traders 10%; Hindu merchant class 10%; African businessmen 3%. Ethnic groups are fairly integrated and spread uniformly across the three provinces, except in Minerva, where there is a sizeable Mosellan minority.

Religions: Christians (primarily Roman Catholic) 78%; Muslims 14%; Hindus 8%.

Languages: English is the official language, but many others are spoken.

Security Issues

Utopia has an extended coastline, and shares borders with Mosella and Olympia. Utopia enjoys amicable relations with its neighbors, but judgments regarding historic territorial claims by Mosella are pending in The Hague.

Remote borders and coastlines have challenged Utopian authorities, faced recently with the transnational threats of illegal immigration, narcotics trafficking, and terrorism. The Armed Forces have a significant role in border security, which leaves them ill-prepared for other roles more suited to military forces.

The Utopian armed forces are 33,000 strong, including conscripts (Army: 20,000; Navy: 4,000; Coast Guard: 2,000 (under Navy for war, Ministry of Merchant Marine in peacetime); Air Force: 7,000). Utopia maintains no Reserve force structure. The command structure includes 120 flag officers who tend to perform duties other than command (partially because enlisted personnel are so poorly trained). There is no core of Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) in the force. Utopian officials have talked about moving to a professional force that would entail the abandonment of conscription. Current major force structure for the Utopian Armed Forces is as follows:

Army

- 4 Infantry Brigades (one per province, one in Eldorado)
- 1 Support Brigade (one Battalion per province)
- 1 Artillery Brigade (one Battalion per province)
- 3 Peacekeeping Battalions
- 3 Military Police Battalions
- 1 Engineer Battalion

Navy

- 4 Corvettes
- 4 Maritime Patrol aircraft
- 12 Coastal Patrol boats

Coast Guard

2 Corvettes
4 Coastal Patrol Boats
1 Harbor Security Unit

Air Force

1 fixed wing squadron (6 Jet Fighters)
1 rotary wing squadron (12 Helicopters)

Basing (see map)

Army forts in each province, plus capital
Naval base in Lusitania, plus capital
Air Force base in capital

Schools

War Colleges for each Service
Peacekeeping school (Army Base Eldorado)

Medical Facilities

1 Army Hospital (Eldorado)
1 Naval Hospital (Lusitania)
1 Air Force Hospital (Eldorado)

National Police (Interior Ministry)

5,000

Utopia is an active member of the United Nations and has developed a small peacekeeping force, which it now deploys to Slobonia, a nearby country emerging from civil war. Utopia also enjoys the political benefits of contributing to regional and global peace efforts but only has a limited capability to do so.

The Utopian National Police (UNP) has a centralized administration, but it is divided into three regional components. The UNP augments and assists local law enforcement personnel when required.

History

Utopia was historically a crossroads between East and West. It was dominated by successive peoples and cultures from the time of the Crusades. In the 19th century it became a British protectorate and then a colony. Utopia became independent in 1922 and adopted a presidential system of government (much to the chagrin of the British). Its first government was popularly called “the professors’ club”, given that several cabinet members were academics at the University of Eldorado. Government by “notables” was a constant feature of Utopian life for approximately forty years. Utopian democracy relied on support from three important players:

- 1) the Catholic church, whose significant wealth was tax-free. The government also obtained the support of the church by giving it control over education.
- 2) the landowning and business interests, whose support the government obtained by passing legislation that perpetuated their privileges.
- 3) the military, which supported the government because the government allowed the military to maintain complete autonomy over defense matters. The government also allocated a fixed percentage of GDP to defense.

The winds of change that affected most of Europe and the United States in the 1960s also touched Utopia. During this decade, the country witnessed student activism, increased labor activism, the polarization of the electorate, the renewed strength of leftist parties with an anti-Western anti-capitalist agenda, and separatist rumblings in one of the country's provinces, Minerva. Partly as a reaction to all this, in 1968, Utopia suffered a military coup. The military government, which lasted until 1975, abolished the parliament, repressed leftists, controlled the press, but brought substantial economic development to Utopia. This came in the form of American aid, in exchange for the use of Utopian ports by the US Navy. The military government used U.S. funds to develop the infrastructure around the tourism industry.

Led by the charismatic General Bullitt, the military regime attempted to perpetuate its rule by creating a single party, the Movement for National Unity (MONU). The ideology of this movement was deeply Catholic, anti-leftist, and socially conservative. The military government even attempted to legislate social behavior at beaches and nightclubs, which brought a reduction of tourism. This in turn created a rift between the military government and business elites. The military government also faced opposition from the left, from the students at the University of Eldorado, from Minervan separatists, and from the junior ranks of the military as an institution. The younger officers were disgusted at the corruption of those senior officers serving as government officials.

In the midst of social unrest and political instability, General Bullitt died of a heart attack while playing golf. The military regime lost its will to rule once its leader was gone. However, the military still hoped to negotiate the terms of the transition to democracy. This was not possible for two reasons. First, all opposition parties banded together under a 'Platform of Democratic Convergence', demanding a return to the 1922 constitution with no conditions. Second, Amnesty International became increasingly vocal in its protests of the military's handling of student demonstrations at the University of Eldorado.

Under the weight of all this, the military government simply collapsed.

From the transition to democracy to the end of the Cold War and Beyond

Following a caretaker government by the Platform of Democratic Convergence, the 1922 constitution was re-installed, and national elections were called. Utopia has enjoyed continuous democratic rule since then. The government can no longer be described as a government of "notables". All social forces are now incorporated into the political

system. The Catholic Church lost control of education and is now partly subject to taxation. Leftist parties compete for power and are represented in the unicameral legislature. De-regulation has created a market economy, and the increasing openness of Utopian society has led to a lively free press.

However, lawlessness associated with political trends, both new and old, threaten to derail Utopia's economic and social progress. Due to the terrorism-related reduction in tourism and lower commodity prices, the government of Utopia does not have the financial resources to maintain its armed forces at their current reduced level. There is growing recognition within the civilian leadership that a major defense restructuring effort is needed.

In a joint effort with its three neighboring countries, Utopia developed a tri-national agreement, known as The Industrial Triad which would revitalize the unused industrial facilities and make Utopia, along with its three neighbors, prime suppliers of small arms, munitions and other military equipment. This plan, formulated in the late 1980s never took hold, primarily due to the inability to secure foreign direct investment in the project. Another challenge that Utopia faced was a steadily mounting national debt. Utopia envisaged a decrease in its debt (accumulated since the closure of American bases in Utopia) by privatizing existing albeit mostly unused industrial facilities.

Though the threat of armed invasion has receded, there is instability in the region. Utopian territory is being used as a transit zone for the smuggling of illegal narcotics from Central Asia and South America. Utopia's small national police force has had difficulty stopping this activity and has recently called for the military to support their counter-narcotics efforts throughout the country (the armed forces are already acting as a constabulary in Minerva Province).

The recent discovery of international terrorists from 'Millenarian Army Faction' (MAF), hiding in the rural areas of Diana Province, has forced the government (particularly the police) to devote additional resources to investigation and surveillance. Relatively little is known about the MAF group, but its members have claimed responsibility for attacking civilian as well as military targets. MAF operatives are recruited from the fringe of other societies and move throughout the world under the banner of their leader, Slobonian mystic healer Darth Knezevic (known as 'Dr. K'). Based upon Knezevic's statements about "wars of national liberation", international police authorities have assumed linkages among nationalist movements and MAF, but the details are difficult to uncover (since MAF operates according to a cellular command structure). No terrorist attacks in Utopia have taken place to date, but intelligence reports the possibility that these elements could become active against Utopian citizens.

Meanwhile, in the province of Minerva, the Mosellan minority wants annexation with Mosella. In the 1960s, these claims led to the emergence of an armed organization, the 'Ethnic Liberation Army' (ELA). The government of Utopia has battled ELA violence ever since. Prior to the emergence of narcotics and terrorist threats, the Utopian government had focused the majority of its security sector resources (the Ministries of

Defense and Interior) on that situation, depriving other ministries of the resources they need. Although the ELA is currently refraining from military attacks, the government remains concerned. Intelligence reports indicated that ELA is short of weapons. And that there are extremists in their ranks who would like to resume terrorist activity. Utopia's successful coalition-building has led to a substantial reduction in international support for ELA's political aspirations. Mosella has indicated a willingness to negotiate with Utopia over its historical claims in Minerva. The ELA leadership has thus far resisted the Utopian government's offer to renounce violence completely and join the political process as a legitimate party.