SETUP

- 1) Deal each player 3 races and choose 1. Or simply choose outright. Take planet card(s).
- 2) Remove Supernova and 4 blank space tiles. Shuffle the rest, deal each player 8 tiles. *Option*: Remove wormholes and related cards.
- 3) Remove Action and Objectives (see below).
- 3) Players take turns placing tiles until all tiles have been placed.
- 4) Player homeworlds are in the 2nd ring across from each other.
- 5) Shuffle objective cards, deal to each player: 1 phase I public, 1 phase II public, 2 secret objective. These will all serve as secret objectives for the player.
- 6) Setup the rest of the public objectives according to the *Age of Empire* variant. This includes putting a token next to the 1st Public Objective card as a game timer, which will advance each Status Phase and will end the game when it gets to the *Mecatol Rex* card.
- 7) Remove trade agreements from the game.

TILE PLACEMENT SUMMARY

each player adds system tiles to the board

- Can't add systems to the next ring until the inner ring completes.
- You must place a system tile having at least 1 planet if the prior tile you placed did not.
- Do not place Red border tiles adjacent to each other.
- Place your Home in front of you as soon as you can, along with another tile.

MODERATE DISTANT SUNS

put chits on the board after creating the galaxy

Remove biohazard, industrial society, radiation, and technological society chits and shuffle the rest. Randomly put the remaining tokens face down on each planet.

REMOVE OBJECTIVES

Stage II cards

- Domination! I control the Home Systems of 2 other players.
- **Supremacy!** I control 18 planets outside my Home System.
- I control planets with a combined total influence greater than the combined total influence of all the planets controlled by my 2 neighbors.

REMOVE ACTION CARDS

- Strategic Shift (excluded in 3-4 players)
- Influence In The Merchants Guild
- Master Of Trade
- Political Stability
- Ruinous Tariffs
- Trade Stop

When drawn evaluate if a card is a Trade card. If so show and discard it, draw a replacement.

ACTION CARD CHANGES

- Council Dissolved: "Player who chose Political Strategy does not draw any Political Cards."
- Determine Policy: "Choose any 3 Political agendas from draw pile, discard pile, or any laws in play. They are voted upon instead of choosing 3 random cards."
- **Disclosure:** "Look at all of your opponents Action Cards and take 1."

RACE ABILITY CHANGES

due to no Trade Agreements, Trade card changes

Emirates Of Hacan

They lose their special trading ability.

- Begin with 1 trade good at start of game.
- Get 1 free trade good any time the Trade Strategy Primary Ability is activated by either player without spending a Strategy Counter.

Mentak Coalition

Change Ability: Steal 1 Trade Good from other player if they have at least 3 in their inventory.

VICTORY POINTS

- 1) Players may qualify for 1 public objective per game round; may go for any in any order.
- Players may also qualify for 1 of their secret objectives per game round. Players may not qualify for opponent's secret objectives.

LENGTH	1 st Player To	TIME (minutes)
Short	6 VP wins	60-90
Medium	8 VP wins	90-120
Long	10 VP wins	120-180

STRATEGY CARDS

- 1) **Initiative**: Not used. Speaker token simply alternates. As the last step of the Status Phase the current speaker hands the speaker token to opponent.
 - **Option:** Whichever player has the Speaker Token does not need to spend tokens to perform the Secondary Ability of other Strategy Cards.
- 2) **Diplomacy**: No change.
- 3) Political: Change Primary ability: "Draw 3 action cards, receive 1 Command Counter from your reinforcements. Then draw the top 3 Political Deck cards and resolve their agendas one at a time in order. After completing the agendas look at

resolve their agendas one at a time in order. After completing the agendas look at the next 4 cards, then place 1 face down on the bottom of the deck and the rest face down on top of the deck in their original order."

Secondary ability remains unchanged.

- 4) Logistics: No change
- Trade: Change Primary ability: "Immediately receive 3 trade goods." There is no Secondary ability.
- 6) Warfare: No Change.
- 7) Technology: No Change.
- 8) **Imperial**: Change Primary ability: "Immediately receive 1 VP." Secondary ability remains unchanged.

Selecting Strategy Cards

Beginning with the speaker players alternate selecting an available strategy card until both have taken 2 strategy cards. 1st player in the action phase is determined by who holds the lowest number strategy card. The 3 unpicked strategy cards each get a bonus chit.

BATTLES

- 1) Winner of a space battle gains 1 trade good.
- 2) Winner of a planetary invasion battle gains 1 trade good (even for a neutral planet).

POLITICAL ACTION

in detail

- A player activating the political phase as his action takes the top 3 cards of the political deck and puts them in any desired order. Then read them aloud in order and vote on the 1st one.
- 2) Each player counts up their total available influence and then takes that number of spare tokens or cubes (don't use trade good tokens) to use as votes.
- 3) Players secretly place zero or more tokens in their fist then simultaneously reveal their vote. Ties count as defeat in the case of laws, "discard to no effect" in the case of elections.
 - **Option:** Ties are broken by the current Speaker.
- 4) Player who picked Political strategy then selects the next agenda which is voted on using votes players have left. Then the 3rd agenda is voted on using the same method.
- 5) At any point up to the moment votes are revealed players may exchange trade goods for vote tokens with each other. Thus bribes are binding because once planetary influence has been converted to tokens they may be bought and sold.
- 6) **Option**: Active player then reviews the top 4 Political cards and puts any 1 on the bottom and 3 on top without changing their order.

STATUS PHASE

- 1) Each player checks if they can qualify for **one** of their Secret Objectives.
- 2) Each player checks if they qualify for any **one** of the Public Objectives.
- 3) Advance Status Phase token ahead 1; put it by the next Public Objective. If token advances to the Mecatol Rex objective the game ends; player with high score immediately wins.
- 4) Speaker Token is given to the other player.

Design Notes

Props to Aarontu since I built on his design. After playing his variant and also learning how the political phase in 2 player Warrior Knights works I feel this is another rich experience for 2. I have played this twice using 8VP. Both played differently and were lots of fun.

A goal was to keep much of the original game in place. I was stumped as to how for the political phase until I read the Warrior Knights rules and realized this was the perfect fix. The next time we play a full game of 5 - 6 I may try the political phase the way it is handled in Warrior Knights.

Another goal was to get more money in the game to facilitate bribing and to speed up technology advances and buildup of forces. The prospector-ish Trade card helps with this as does the reward for battles, as does the more positively skewed distant suns planetary tokens.

My last main goal was to try and avoid the mechanical #1-#8 cycle that could threaten to really dominate a 2 Player game. This is why I threw out Initiative Strategy and just cycled the speaker token. It would cycle anyway but at least a player would not have to use one of their choices to make it happen. In the game we played we also found we had plenty of command counters so that having to pay for all of the secondary abilities wasn't bad at all. In a 6VP game players will probably try to choose the ISC as often as they can. In 8VP and 10VP games you can probably afford to skip it once or twice in lieu of gaining the benefits of a different strategy card.

One thing we discovered about the Diplomatic card was that its value was huge in 2 Player. You picked it if you definitely did not want to go to war, or if you definitely wanted to guarantee a war.

It took 2 ½ hours but we were discussing what we liked and didn't like as we went. We began the game with the Initiative Strategy and without the Diplomacy Strategy. Midway through we chucked the Initiative Strategy and brought the Diplomacy Strategy back in. I think our next 8VP game will definitely come in under 2 hours.

Today my friend Steven and I sat down to play my 2 Player version. Steven was evil Mentak civilization and I was altruistic intellectually-minded Jol-nar. After setup we compared influence and resources and discovered that Mentak had 4 resources to fund their imperialistic war machine and a measly 1 influence to spend on politics. The enlightened Jol-nar had 3 resources to spend on textbooks for their universities and 5 influence to make things right in the galaxy.

Turn 1

The diabolical Mentak choose Technology and Trade strategies. The friendly Jol-nar take Imperial and Political. After some basic expansion and building the turn ended. The 3 laws that came before the Senate were so obviously evil attempts at limiting the freedoms of the people of the galaxy that Jol-nar had no choice but to block them and vote them down. By the end of turn one the benign Jolnar had 4 resources and 8 influence. Belligerent Mentak had 6 resources and 12 influence thanks to their newly acquired technology of Stasis Capsules, suspicious starting fleet of cruisers, and greedy capture of Mecatol Rex.

Score: Jol-nar 1VP Mentak 0VP

Turn 2

At start of turn 2 Mentak predictably picked Warfare and Imperial strategies while Jol-nar picked Logistics and Technology. This turn proved to be a major turning point in the game. Mentak entered a Jol-nar controlled system and contemptuously destroyed all their science vessels. Jol-nar meanwhile conducted classes on possible peaceful uses of Stasis Capsules. After picking up a distress call in the beleaguered system Jol-nar sent their entire fleet consisting of a transport, a fighter, and a

dreadnaught (only as protection from space pirates) to the system. They found Mentak visiting atrocities upon the populace of one of the planets and sent a few warning shots across the bows of 2 Mentak cruisers. Using some kind of alien power the cruisers were able to destroy the fighter and damage the dreadnaught even before the battle began. Jol-nar attempted to send a transmission but were mercilessly gunned down. In a mighty explosion the dreadnaught disappeared and the carrier with all hands (and science equipment) was lost. Mentak then using some military hocus-pocus (Warfare strategy) were able to move their cruisers again and take one Jol-nar homeworld, destroying the PDS and space station docked there. At end of turn 2 Mentak had 13 resources and 19 influence and Jol-nar had 4 resources and 5 influence.

Score: Jol-nar 1VP Mentak 4VP (ISC, 1 public objective, 1 secret objective)

Turn 3

To begin this turn the persecuted Jol-nar picked Trade Strategy and Imperial Strategy. The rapacious Mentak snatched Political Strategy and Logistics. Immediately Jol-nar valiantly rallied the community spirit of a distant planet from their homeworld and built a new spaceport. No sooner was the spaceport completed but Mentak marauders entered the system and destroyed everything. Jol-nar leadership knew that if there was to be a future for their people they must appease their new overlords and agree to eternal servitude. The Supreme Mentak readily accepted this new arrangement.

Observations

The political phase "Warrior Knight" style is extremely fun and will be a must for every TI3 game we play in the future regardless of the number of players.

Balance and advantage can turn on a dime in 2 player TI3. Players are well advised to be cautious and not risk everything on one battle because that will give the game away if things go wrong. (And wrong they went!) No other players exist to ally with or to make your opponent feel threatened by.

Total play time was 90 minutes when the Jol-nar conceded. It was fast and enjoyable. An excellent way to get an expensive game to the table more often!

Comments

Works really well. The best is we used the triangle alien chits as 5s and flags as 1s – No pennies!

We took out wormholes and related cards. Politics strategy worked well. Played 10 VPs, game lasted 3 hours, over 5 rounds, though the other player was learning the rules. We had a blast!

I would prefer less unpredictability and randomness - your 3 Political card rule for the Political Strategy action adds even more capriciousness than original TI3. Cards like *Public Execution / Alien Artifact* can devastate in a 2 player game (they were for me).

Question: With the Political Strategy action, can you choose in which order the 3 Political cards are resolved, or do you draw and resolve them one at a time?

Roland Wood

Player who picked the political phase gets to choose the order but both players know what the 3 laws are before any are voted on so someone can save their votes for one that matters most.

You are correct about devastating results that can happen in 2-player TI3. It has happened to us and we usually just call the game after because it is impossible in most cases to recover. TI3 truly is optimal with multiple players, but this is a fun enough variant to play when there are just 2 of you and you are feeling like you need to actually play your \$70 purchase.



Spend 1 Command Counter from your Strategy Allocation area

Secondary Ability ECONOMIC STIMULUS

DIPLOMACY

Primary Ability

DIPLOMATIC ENVOY

Name an opponent. For the

you nor they may activate a

system containing units of

the other player (including

Ground Forces and PDS).

rest of this phase neither

Spend 1 Command Counter from your Strategy Allocation area to draw 1 Action Card.

ACTIVE

INACTIVE

2 POLITICAL

Secondary Ability SEEK DESTINY

top 3 Political cards and resolve their agendas one at a time in order. After completing them look at the next 4 cards: place 1 face down on the deck bottom, the rest face down on top in their original order.

Command Counter from your reinforcements. Then draw the

Draw 3 action cards and take 1

Primary Ability GALACTIC COUNCIL

2 POLITICAL

Primary Ability

Counters from your

Receive 4 Command reinforcements.

Secondary Ability

DOMESTIC MANDATE

You may spend influence to receive Command Counters

ACTIVE

INACTIVE

S) LOGISTICS

from your reinforcements.

Receive 1 Command

Counter for each 3

influence you spend.

COMPREHENSIVE **OPERATIONS**

3 LOGISTICS





your Command Pool. **Secondary Ability PATROLS** Spend 1 Command Counter from your Strategy Allocation area to choose 1-2 of your Destroyers and/or Cruisers on the board anywhere. Each may now move to an adjacent non-Home system. Then place a Command Counter

5 WARFARE

Primary Ability

MAJOR OFFENSIVE

Immediately retrieve 1 of your

Command Counters from the

board and place it back into



Spend 1 Command Counter from your Strategy Allocation area and spend 8 resources to get 1 Technology advance for which you have the necessary PQs.

TECHNOLOGY Primary Ability TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH Receive 1 Technology advance for which you have the necessary PQs. **Secondary Ability RESEARCH AND** DEVELOPMENT





S IMPERIAL II

Primary Ability

IMPERIAL CLAIM

A) In upcoming Status Phase

you may qualify for any number

of Public Objectives. Also, gain

1 VP If you control Mecatol Rex.

B) You may execute the secondary

ability of this card for free. No other

player may execute this secondary.

Secondary Ability

RAPID MOBILIZATION

Spend 1 Command Counter from your

Strategy Allocation area to build at

one of your Space Docks (even if

This does not activate the system.

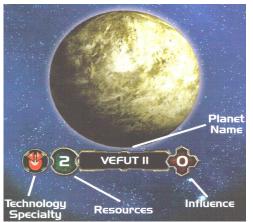
the system is already activated).

Choose either A) or B).



INITIATIVE

TWILIGHT Imperium III



ACTION PHASE ACTIONS

STRATEGIC	must do once!

- 1) Perform your Primary Ability
- 2) Others clockwise may use the Secondary for 1 Strategy CC

TACTICAL costs 1 Command CC

- 1) Activate 1 non-activated system
- 2) Move ships into system
- 3) PDS Fire
- 4) Space Battles
- 5) Land on planets in system
- 6) Invasion Combat
- 7) Produce units

TRANSFER costs 1 Command CC

- Activate 2 friendly non-activated systems
- 2) Move ships between the systems
- 3) PDS Fire
- 4) Land on your planets in systems
- 5) Invasion Combat (if necessary)
- 6) Produce units in 1 of the systems

ACTION CARD if "play as an action"

PASS no more actions this round

Р гапетѕ	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
Resources	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
Influence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

#	ЦПІТ		Cost	Move	Ваттье	Race Bonus	Tесн Bonus	OTHER Bonus	SPECIAL
3	Space Dock 1 per planet		4	_	_				3 Capacity <i>for Fighters</i> Build up to resource value +2 units
∞	Ground Force	\$	1x2	_	8				Required to take over a planet (but not after to hold a planet).
6	PDS 2 per planet	þ	2	-	6				Planetary Shield Space Cannon Invasion Defense
∞	Fighter	May.	1 3x2	_	9				Pay 1 to build 1 <i>or</i> Pay 3 to build 2
8	Destroyer		1	2	9				Anti-Fighter Barrage x2 before Space Battle
8	Cruiser		2	2	7				
4	Carrier		3	1	9				6 Capacity for Fighters, PDS, and GF, same as War Suns
5	Dreadnought		5	1	5x2				1 Bombard <i>if no PDS</i> and <i>if GF invaded</i> Sustain 1 Damage
2	War Sun		12	2	3×3				6 Capacity Ftr/PDS/GF 1 Bombard ignore PDS Sustain 1 Damage

DOMAIN EFFECTS for the Distant Suns game option HOSTILE LOCALS discard after successful invasion here Listed number of neutral GF attack (opponent rolls). LAZAX SURVIVORS keep this token You get +3 influence in any future votes. discard immediately **NATURAL WEALTH** Receive the indicated number of Trade Goods, if able. PEACEFUL ANNEXATION discard immediately The landing proceeds without incident. discard immediately **SETTLERS** Return all your GF to their ship. 2 reinforcement GF are put here by (1d10): 1-5 random opponent; 6-10 you. Wormhole Discovery put token in current system It connects to any other matching alpha or beta wormhole. Remove the following in 2 player games BIOHAZARD discard after a successful invasion here First GF unit is always eliminated while this remains. INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY discard immediately Build a free Space Dock here. Does not exhaust planet. RADIATION discard after 1st landing here Kill all GF in the 1st landing here. TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY discard immediately Left player gives you a tech from your deck for which you have the PQs.

STATUS PHASE

- 1) Each player checks for achieved Public & Secret Objectives.
 - 2 Player: Each player sees if they qualify for 1 Secret Objective. Each player sees if they qualify for 1 Public Objective. Advance Status Phase Token to next Public Objective. Give Speaker Token to next player.
- 2) Repair all damaged ships.
- 3) Remove all Command Counters from the board.
- 4) Refresh Planet Cards (un-activate).
- 5) All players gain 1 Action Card and 2 Command Counters.
- 6) All players redistribute their Command Counters on race sheet.
- 7) Return all Strategy Cards.

LEADERS each race has 3 Leaders

ADMIRAL

when at least one is on a ship...



- Carrying ship rolls +1 dice in any Space Battle.
- Carrying Dreadnought gets +1 Movement.
- If in attack fleet, no retreat if defender has no Admiral.

AGENT when at least one invades with Ground Forces...

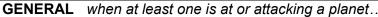


- Invading GF can't be fired on by PDS.
 Attacker after a successful invasion may
- Attacker after a successful invasion may replace existing PDS and Space Dock with their own.
- Discard Agent any time to cancel a played Action Card.

DIPLOMAT when at least one is at a planet or in a fleet...



- May delay **one** invasion of defending planet for 1 round.
- Fleet may move through systems containing opponent ships when opponent grants permission.



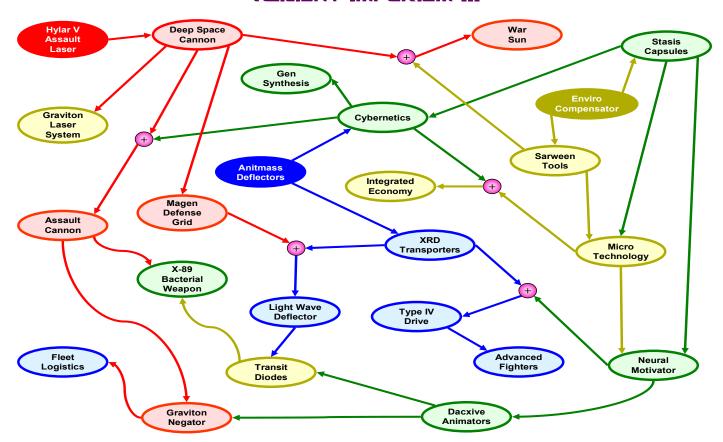
- Attacking GF may reroll up to 2d10 each combat round.
 Defending Ground Forces get +1 to combat rolls.
 - –4 Dreadnought/War Sun bombard at General's planet.

SCIENTIST when at least one is at a planet..



- Planet's Tech Specialty gives discount of 2 instead of 1.
- Planet can build a Space Dock at cost of 2 resources.
- Planet gets +1 to PDS die rolls.
- Planet with PDS cannot be bombarded by War Suns.
- All 3 Leaders begin in your home system.
- May be transported by any ship, not counting towards Capacity.
- Must be with GF to land on a neutral or hostile planet.
- May not exist alone in space or on hostile and neutral planets.
- Leader in a failed invasion is Captured (Killed on neutral planet).
- Killed when their ship is destroyed, unless in Space Battle roll 1d10: 1-5 Killed; 6-8 Escape; 9-10 Captured
- If their planet is successfully invaded roll 1d10:
 1-5 Captured; 6-9 Escape; 10 Killed
- If their planet changes hands outside of battle then they Escape.
- Escape: Place leader on any non-blockaded friendly planet.
- Capture: May kill or give to any player during Status Phase.
- Rescue: After any successful planet invasion roll 1d10: 9-10 attacker takes their choice of 1 captive Leader defender holds.
- Invader taking player's last planet Rescues Leaders they held.

Twilight Imperium III



WARFARE

Hylar V Assault Laser

PQ: None

+1 to Destroyer and Cruiser combat rolls.

Deep Space Cannon

PQ: Hylar V Assault Laser Enemy fleet in adjacent system is in range of your PDS units.

Magen Defense Grid

PQ: Deep Space Cannon +1 to PDS combat rolls. +1 to defending GF invasion combat rolls on a planet with a PDS.

Assault Cannon

PQ: Deep Space Cannon AND Cybernetics

Before any space battle begins each of your Dreadnoughts participating may fire 1 shot. Immediately apply hits;

casualties don't get return fire.

Graviton Negator

PQ: Assault Cannon OR Dacxive Animators Dreadnoughts may bombard planets containing PDS units. Fighters may participate in invasion combat: survivors return to space after and can't establish control of a planet.

War Sun

PQ: Deep Space Cannon AND Sarween Tools You may build War Suns.

PROPULSION

Antimass Deflectors

PQ: None

Your ships may move through asteroid fields. They may not end their movement in an asteroid field.

XRD Transporters

PQ: Antimass Deflectors Carriers get +1 Move.

Light Wave Deflector

PQ: Xrd Transporters AND Magen Defense Grid Your ships may move through systems containing enemy and continue on to the activated system.

Type IV Drive

PQ: Xrd Transporters AND Neural Motivator Dreadnought, Cruiser move +1. **Advanced Fighters**

PQ: Type IV Drive

+1 to Fighters combat rolls. They may move independently (Move = 2) and don't need support of Carriers or Space Docks. Enemy ships may not move through a system occupied by your Fighters.

Fleet Logistics

PQ: Gravitation Negator As a a tactical action you may take 2 tactical actions one after another before your turn ends.

BIOTECH

Stasis Capsules

PQ: Enviro Compensator Dreadnoughts and Cruisers may carry 1 Ground Force unit.

Cybernetics

PQ: Antimass Deflectors OR Stasis Capsules

+1 to Fighter combat rolls.

Gen Synthesis

PQ: Cybernetics

+1 to Ground Force invasion combat rolls. Roll 1d10 when your Ground Force dies: on 5+ return it to a planet in your home system.

Neural Motivator

PQ: Stasis Capsules OR Micro Technology Draw 1 extra action card during each Status Phase.

Dacxive Animators

PQ: Neural Motivators On winning invasion combat: roll 1d10 for each Ground Force unit killed (yours and opponent's): 6+ put 1 GF on the planet from your stock.

X-89 Bacterial Weapor

PQ: Assault Cannon **OR Transit Diodes** Before bombs, your War Suns and Dreadnoughts may kill all enemy GF on the planet; after, discard all your Action cards.

GENERAL

Enviro Compensator

PQ: None

+1 Space Dock Production capacity.

Sarween Tools

PQ: Enviro Compensator

+1 resource to build units when a Space Dock produces units.

Micro Technology

PQ: Stasis Capsules OR Sarween Tools

For the Trade Secondary, take +1 trade good for each of your active trade agreements.

Integrated Economy

PQ: Cybernetics

AND Micro Technology Place new units built at Space Docks into any adjacent activated system which is friendly or empty; place PDS and Ground Forces on any friendly planet in this range.

Graviton Laser System

PQ: Deep Space Cannon You may reroll once for each PDS combat roll miss.

Transit Diodes

PQ: Light Wave Deflector OR Dacxive Animators

As an action: Spend 1 Strategy Command Counter, move ≤ 4 GF from one of your planets to any other planet you control.