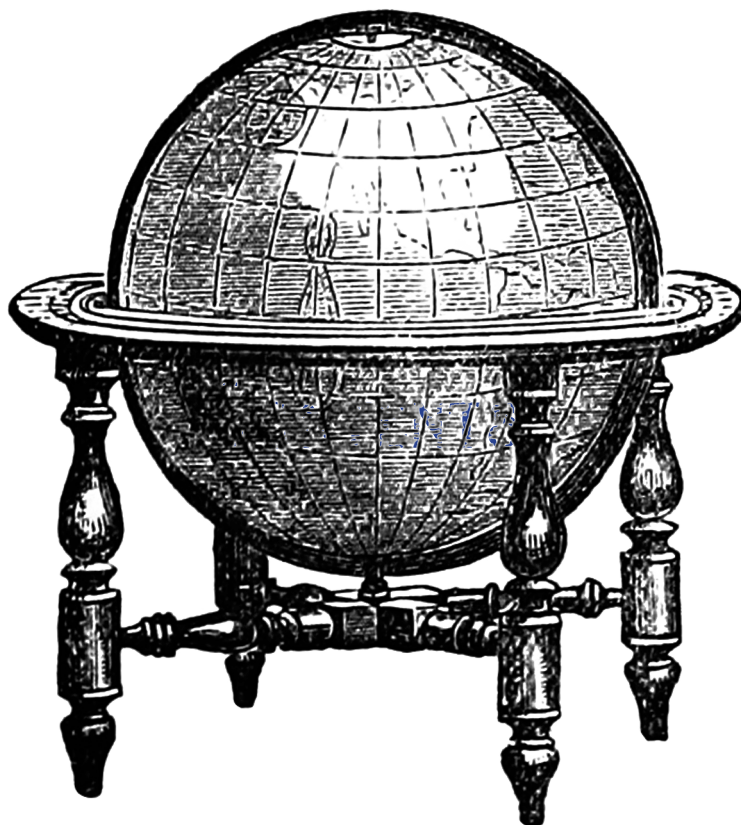


MISS PERIL'S GUIDE TO THE GLOBE

THE NATIONS OF GRÜNEWALD, ILLYRIA, MAYDA, AND
RURITANIA DEPICTED FOR USE WITH **CASTLE FALKENSTEIN**



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THE REPUBLIC OF GRÜNEWALD



Population: 40,000 •
Government: Republic •
Alliances: Bayern, Austria •
Enemies: Prussia • **Position:**
Quiet Germanic republic

A minor German state located just to the south of Bayern, Grünwald represents one of the New European countries most changed by the wave of revolutions that swept the continent in 1848. As with France, the revolution in Grünwald replaced the monarchy with a republic. Unlike France, however, Grünwald remains a republic to this day.

As a country, this tiny republic possesses few unique qualities to recommend it to a visitor. While the rolling hills, babbling streams, and steep-bottomed dells of Grünwald hold great and tranquil beauty, these features also exist in abundance in many other Germanic nations. Should one visit, they will find the locals quite hospitable so long as their values are not denigrated. It should be noted there exists little the people of Grünwald value more than the virtues of hard work and physical labor.

The capital of Mittwalden, the only settlement of any appreciable size, is likely too small to be properly classified as a city. It still bears scars of the revolution in the form of the burnt remains of the royal palace as the government has continually decided to spend meager funds on other projects, such as modernization of infrastructure, over demolition and reconstruction. The city's best hotel, oddly enough, is managed by Otto Friedrich, the former Prince of Grünwald, who has renounced the throne and seems quite happy with the position. His wife, once Princess Seraphina and now simply Seraphia Friedrich, currently stands as Mittwalden's elected mayor.

THE KINGDOM OF ILLYRIA



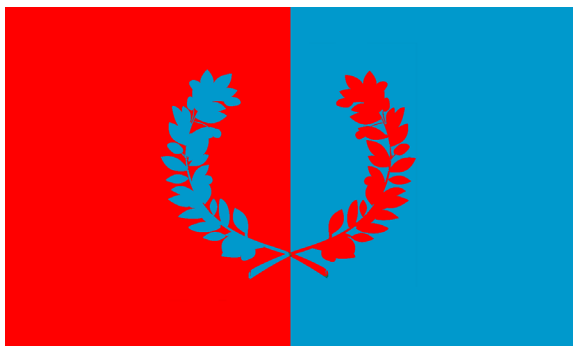
Population: 110,000 •
Government: Monarchy •
Alliances: France, Ottoman Empire • **Enemies:** Russia
• **Position:** A small nation torn between monarchy and democracy.

I cannot, in good conscience, recommend visiting the country of Illyria as, presently, the stability of the government remains questionable. In 1848, the reigning monarchs, King Christian I and Queen Frédérique entered exile in the face of revolution. A new ruling Diet was established and resisted several attempts by monarchists to restore power to the throne until recently, when it quite suddenly collapsed. Rumors suggest Ottoman agents hastened the ruling body's demise for fear that a successful parliamentary body in the Balkans might spur rebellion in the region.

King Christian II, unfortunately, died before he could retake his crown. Officially, his demise was due to "natural causes," but whispers circulate about his appetites for drink, food, and women and the impact such vices might have on his health. In Christian's place, his son Léopold sits upon the throne with his mother, Frédérique as his regent. Their position remains tenuous as multiple attempts have been made on their lives by anti-monarchist forces.

Illyria possesses a single port, hardly more than a small bay obscured by cliffs, on the Adriatic Sea. The country's position opposite Italy means a strong and vocal Italian minority augments its mostly Balkan citizenry.

THE KINGDOM OF MAYDA



Population: 300,000 •
Government: Imperial
Monarchy • **Alliances:** Britain,
Prussia, the United States
• **Enemies:** Bayern, France
• **Position:** A midway point
between the hemispheres.

The nation of Mayda has been much romanticized in sailor's tales, and with good reason. After all, this crescent-shaped isle's story inspired one of the most beloved play of no less an august writer than the Bard himself! According to official Maydan history, the first inhabitants of the island were the followers of an Algerian Witch, who used Magick to transport them to a land where they could avoid persecution. Sometime later, a Roman Sorcerer similarly used Magick to carry his entire village to Mayda after being accused of treason by the Senate. The two groups clashed at first, but a wedding of the Witch's son and the Sorcerer's daughter united them into a single kingdom under their rule.

The outside world discovered Mayda when a Dutch trading vessel ran aground on shoals near the island in 1602. The island's geographical position meant it quickly gained fame and wealth as a useful port of call midway between New Europa and the Americas. As for would-be conquerors or pirates, they discovered that Mayda was not without defenses. The royal family, descended from the Witch and the Sorcerer, remained well-versed in Magick and proved quite capable of summoning storms to destroy enemy vessels and of enlarging normally small native beasts to serve as calvary should the battle come to shore.

Since 1602, the population of the island has increased due to the Maydan law of freedom. The law requires any vessel that docks on the island to surrender any slaves or indentured servants aboard. Those so freed were given the choice to either become citizens or to depart on the next vessel that

would carry them. Many chose to stay and, as a result, it is not uncommon to hear Latin and Berber, the original languages of the kingdom as well as English, Gaelic, and a variety of West African languages spoken while traveling through the city of Rotundia.

The status of Mayda's sovereignty currently hangs in doubt due to a recent coup by the Minister of State, who took advantage of the death of the former king to seize the throne. His niece, the rightful heir, managed to escape by using Magick to transform herself into a bird and is currently in New Europa, seeking support to retake her crown.



THE KINGDOM OF RURITANIA



Population: About 500,000

• **Government:** Imperial Monarchy • **Alliances:** None •

Enemies: None (Officially) •

Position: The bridge between Central and Eastern New Europa

Said by some to be the gateway between Central and Eastern New Europa, Ruritania occupies a unique position as a state that is both Polish and Germanic. This dichotomy shows in the architecture of the capital city, Strelsau, the names of Ruritania's citizens, and even the local language, with a pidgin of both languages being common in day to day use.

Ruritania occupied the attention of the entire world recently when Queen Flavia, the widow of Rudolf V, married the deceased king's distant cousin, the Englishman Rudolf Rassendyll. Rassendyll now rules beside Flavia as prince-consort.

When visiting Ruritania, one might well believe themselves to be traveling backwards through time. With the exception of a smattering of telegraph lines, modern innovations such as automotives and analytical engines are so rare as to be almost nonexistent. Many matters, ranging from personal affairs to those of business and politics, follow traditions laid down centuries ago. One exception to this is in the realm of education, a cause Queen Flavia has taken to with great zeal as she wishes all citizens, no matter their age, social class, or gender, to be intelligent and capable.

Several scholars have speculated as to why Otto von Bismark ignored Ruritania during the 1866 attempt to unite Germany under Prussian rule. Some believe any effort to conquer Ruritania would be seen as a provocation by Russia, which considers Poland to be in its sphere of influence. Others think Bismark has no desire to add a nation containing such a large Catholic

and Polish population to the ranks of a new German Empire. Still others point to two different affairs, the kidnapping of King Rudolf V in 1870 and the assassination of Rudolf V in 1871, as evidence that Bismark has not ignored Ruritania at all, but pursues a more subtle strategy in obtaining the nation.

At present, Ruritania practices an intense policy of strict neutrality in world affairs.

