

JACI THE SYNOPSIS

JACI is the fourth book in the saga BEYOND THE PALE. Untainted by European influence, the Western Hemisphere, or Amerindian as it's known by the indigenous people, developed naturally, borrowing from this and that culture but always retaining its distinct way of life. That is until the spring of 5781 (ED - European Date - 2021), when the power hungry leader of the European Community, Horst Küssel, decided the time was ripe for global domination. Having already conquered his former partners, Italy and England, he manipulates the game of power politics and lays claim as undisputed ruler of Europe and most of Africa and Asia, as well. Küssel now seizes the opportunity to control all of it - something no maniacal monarch has ever achieved.

Two obstacles block his intended path of global domination, the Imperial Empire of Japan and Our Confederated Peoples (OCP). Still nominally an EC partner as a signatory of the Tetrarch with Germany, England and Italy, the Empire's leadership feels increasingly isolated and vulnerable in the wake of Rome and London's subjugation. Worse, it isn't as if Japan's hands aren't stained with imperialistic ambitions. Zhongguo, which the EC calls China, was vanquished for the most part before the Tetrarch fell into disarray, and the Empire received all of Korea as their booty for its complicity in the conquest. Because of the OCP's centuries-long relationship with China, the mutual alliance that they would normally seek with the OCP against an EC threat is tenuous at best.

To further exacerbate Japan's problem, paid informants have reported that the Germans are nearing the end of their research to produce a nuclear weapon. Mineral-starved, which is the precise reason for Japanese conquests, Japan has not kept up with the industrial might or the combined research and development capabilities of the European Community. Neither the civilian nor military commands of the Empire have been able to penetrate the OCP's program, or even confirm they have such a program. What spies KMAKA doesn't catch, the OZKI finds and prosecutes.

It is then in the fourth year of the Era of Shiji (ED 2022) a politically divided Imperial Empire of Japan finds itself faced with a powerful enemy with no real expectations of finding a willing ally. It's up to the Emperor or the Shogun to forge new alliances before it is too late for either their group or the nation. But the sands of the hour glass continue to slip through the world's vessel, numbering the options available for war or peace.