



## State Charter, Constitution Amended

### Most Significant Changes Since Year 1

PA – The long awaited amendments to the Constitution of the Year I were promulgated this month, along with minor changes to the State Charter, the latter having been a complete surprise. These represent the most significant alterations to the Principality’s governing system since the abolition of the Autumn Constitution, and in some instances, undoes foundational norms untouched since the Summer Constitution.

Perhaps the most striking of these amendments is the complete removal of the original Chapter XIII Welfare, leaving the state with seemingly no obligation to provide for its citizens. This is a major repudiation of the Pillow Fortress’s founding monarcho-socialist ethics, and while there had been signals the Princess sought to move the Pillow Fortress in a more rightward direction, nothing so stark could have been predicted. Nor, indeed, could the demotion of Her Majesty’s own Libertine Party from sole ruling party to just “premier party”, a term, largely undefined but seemingly means the Party will have an

institutionalized role within government, making the Princess’s will known in legislature or serving as a safeguard against tyranny of the majority while leaving open the possibility for some other party to govern.

Another small change that will have a major impact, if not now than in the future, is the removal of birthright citizenship. Citizenship is now determined by one’s parents or one’s naturalization status. The lack of territory under effective Fortressian control means that for the time being this may be a moot point, but has the potential to completely change the character and massively impede the growth of the Principality. But with the constitution also now defining punishments such as flogging, whipping, and caning as not being cruel and unusual and therefore acceptable, who would even want to have their child born in the Pillow Fortress?

In contrast to the amendments to the constitution, the state charter received only minor edits, making the state less committed to the provision of welfare for its citizens. Both documents also received aesthetic changes, incorporating the fonts Bebas Neue and Calibri.

## Government Cracks Down On Unauthorized NGOs

### New Royal Decree Mandates Registration

PA – A new royal decree was promulgated last month requiring all non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including independent businesses, to register with the government, excepting those associated with the Libertine Party. Until now, the Principality has operated

with an almost laissez-faire attitude, with the School for Extant Mathematics, *The Fortressian Letter*, and others able to exist and participate in Fortressian society unhindered due to the lack of laws regarding businesses within the Pillow Fortress Code. With work on replacing that legal code underway, it is not at all surprising that regulations regarding NGOs would change.

Reactions from the Pillow Fortress’s business community have largely been positive. “Two minutes filling out a single form and then we’re back in business. Other media

conglomerates wish they had it so easy!” said an executive of Fortressian Letter Media Empire, the company that publishes *The Fortressian Letter*. The reaction from the School for Extant Mathematics was more measured. “Educational institutions ought not be lumped in with corporations for bureaucratic purposes,” said its Dean of Art and Philosophy, “a larger but ultimately still finite amount of time should have been spent thinking this through, and a second, perhaps even a third, though not nearly a 💎, number of forms would be better.”

## IDs Coming To Principality

### New ‘FIC’ Established To Keep Track of Citizens, Subjects

PA – The government began rolling out its new system of citizen and subject identification numbers last month. All current citizens, as well as subjects meeting certain criteria, have received the first “Fortressian Identification Code(s)” (FIC), with new FICs to be automatically given to all new citizens going forward. Appearing some number of days before being officially announced, FICs were first seen in form *PPF-REG-CEF-001-B*, used for registering civil entities and NGOs.

“Fortressian Identification Codes will allow for a more streamlined participation in civic and civil life for all Pillowans and subjects with meaningful connections to the state,” said a spox for the Throne, “it represents the next phase of the Principality’s evolution towards macronational status.” Information regarding which government organ is responsible was not as forthcoming, however. “The exact details of how to assign responsibility for the granting of FICs are being worked out. As you can probably guess, there are many interested parties. For now, though, the Department of Population has that authority.”

## New Royal Seal Adopted

PA – The Office of the Princess unveiled a new royal seal for use by the currently reigning Princess and by all future Princesses, intending more to symbolize royal authority rather than one specific individual. “This was a much needed addition to our state’s official symbolic language,” said the seal’s designer, “just one more element among many more to come that will make the Principality as beautiful and grandiose as any other monarchy.”

Taking clear inspiration from the Imperial crest of Japan, the royal seal is said to be a stylized depiction of a cactus flower, though of what species there has yet to be an identification. Said the designer of their process, “I chose a cactus flower based on an offhand mention the First Princess made about seeing them through her bedroom window as a child. The number of petals and other elements were chosen to reflect aspects of her Eusocian faith, at least as I understand them.”

So far, the royal seal has seen sparing use, mostly on the Pillow Fortress Wiki.

## Review: Brave New World

Perhaps one of the most famous literary dystopias, the novel *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley is more interesting as a look into the human condition rather than a serious prediction of the future, at least not a future that has at all manifested nearly a century after publication.

Set in the globe spanning World State, human beings are not born, they are grown ectogenetically, that is, via artificial wombs. As one may design different machines for different purposes, so to are the people, with various interventions in the gestation process, crafting them for specific jobs in society, with multiple tiers, alpha, beta, gamma, delta, and epsilon, based on cognitive ability. Education in the World State is such that each tier is taught that theirs is superior, and to be grateful that they aren't anything other than what they were made to be. In the event that such conditioning fails, there is the ever present wonder drug "soma", used recreationally by all levels of society and making bearable anything from long days doing menial labor, to mild embarrassment.

Where this and perhaps all dystopias fail is that each one of its features that most would find repugnant do not necessarily follow from one another, and so can be taken or discarded as may be desired. By way of analogy, let's imagine that Aldous Huxley used his skills in service of authoritarianism. In that edition of *Braver Newer Worlder*, it may be mentioned that every four years the citizens of the many fractious nations vote for their leader. All well and good so far. Then each night everyone in society votes on what to eat and who to sleep with, and violators are punished by the ever changing digest of laws also subject to constant revision by popular vote. Even those of us living in the democracy-averse Pillow Fortress can intuit where this particular dystopic vision breaks down, and so to can we do the same for the World State, and proclaim that ectogenesis would very likely be a good in and of itself, while disavowing and even condemning the caste system and drug dependency.

No, the real heart of *Brave New World*, then, is in the painfully human characters. John, the protagonist for the latter half of the novel, was born naturally and outside the confines of the World State, living instead on a "savage reservation" in New Mexico. He is an outsider in their community and though aware of the World State through his mother, his only real connection to the outside world is a compendium of the complete works of William Shakespeare. The main conflict of the story comes when John is taken off the reservation, and returned to the World State, a place that cannot possibly meet the romantic and literary expectations he has for it.

This human element is why *Brave New World* has endured for so long, and will continue to endure, its message being rather timeless. Striving, yearning, loving; these remain relevant no matter the society. We can remove the caste system, the ubiquitous helicopter transit, the drugs, the immersive movies that utilize all five senses, and even the ectogenesis, and still be left with a powerful story of the individual who finds himself lost and alone in a world he did not create, utterly powerless to do anything about it. Sounds rather familiar, doesn't it? ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

## War In Telluria Update

TELLURIA – The war between the United States and its ally Israel versus the Islamic Republic of Iran has, as of publication, entered into a period of relative calm, with the establishment of a temporary ceasefire. Negotiations for ending the conflict have made little progress, and transit through the Strait of Hormuz remains difficult. Gasoline prices all over the world have continued to rise, along with many other commodities as the conflict's disruption of the global economy shows no end in sight.

## Pillowan Perspectives

With the new amendments to the constitution legalizing independent political parties for the first time, the future of the Principality is less certain than ever. This is uncharted territory we're entering. What do you think?

"Oh boy! I love legislative gridlock!"

-Anonymous

"The addition of new parties should bring an increased vitalism to our political process. I'm looking forward to a new era of innovation."

-Name withheld upon request

"When will the mechanism for registering parties be revealed? I'm hoping to start an agrarian reform party to represent the farmers and other agricultural workers in the Pillowans Abroad Province."

"I'll be sticking with the Libertine Party, thank you very much. They may not need my vote, but they got it anyway."

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## OP ED:

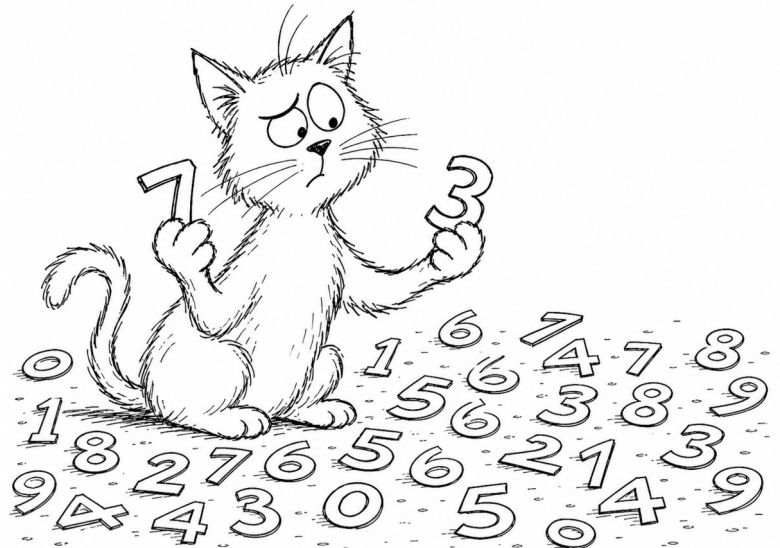
### It's Time To Make Our Claims Concrete

The recently concluded Artemis II lunar flyby is the beginning of a new era in human space exploration, one which multiple interested parties have said will include permanent human habitation on the moon. If they are serious about their intentions, it behooves the Principality to make clear just what the boundaries of the Clair de Lune Colony are. Olympus Mons Colony is defined as consisting of the entirety of the planet Mars's western hemisphere, and Proxima Sol is clearly defined as well. It will be easier for the international community to dismiss the Pillow Fortress so long as our lunar territory is undefined. Therefore, we must act now and 'plant our flag', in spirit if not in actuality.

-Julia Platz-Halter

## Cooking Tips!

Beef tallow is a delicious alternative to seed oils.



**"What do you mean we don't get to choose our number?"**