

NS Cliches: Rebooted

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Topic locked

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Mechyrdia
Lobbyist

Posts: 24
Founded: Jul 30, 2016
Corporate Bordello

by **Mechyrdia** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 3:46 pm

Res Publica Solaris wrote:
is thread dead? thread must not die

Another cliché I see everywhere on NS FT empires (and unfortunately in most soft "science" fiction) is the Feudalism/IN SPACE trope. Like, if everything else progressed, why has the political de-evolved back into the nightmare of the dark ages?

To be fair, though, it's entirely possible for some aspects of a society/s advancement to move in a certain direction while other aspects move in a different direction. For instance, human history in general sees growing technological progress (though the speed at which it grows may change), while political liberalization tends to swing up and down; increasing as any certain civilization becomes controlled by the politics of money, and then decreasing as the power of money fades away in that civilization's imperial stage of life. The idea that "liberal democracy is inevitable in the future" is just another utopian eskhatology that doesn't deserve to be seriously considered.

[Factbook Index](#)
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[Political Parties](#)

< **CIARSTUO MEHURDIAS** > < *the EMPIRE of MECHYRDIA* >
< **KJARSHAM MECHEURDIASRAM** >

An interstellar federation that calls itself an Empire, beset on all sides by enemies both within, without, and beyond, is on the brink of either utter destruction or a new golden age

A rising horde that revels in barbarity - A fragment of a shattered power, trying to find its own path in the shadow of history -

Remnants of the ancients that thirst for reconquest

OOO Kotlin enjoyer; WH40K, ST:DS9, Fo:NV fan; Oswald Spengler simp; on Discord @ Ianius trolling#2247

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Holy Federation of Stars
Lobbyist

Posts: 15
Founded: Apr 19, 2021
Civil Rights Lovefest

by **Holy Federation of Stars** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 5:03 pm

Res Publica Solaris wrote:
is thread dead? thread must not die

Another cliché I see everywhere on NS FT empires (and unfortunately in most soft "science" fiction) is the Feudalism/IN SPACE trope. Like, if everything else progressed, why has the political de-evolved back into the nightmare of the dark ages?

Nerd Rant

† Holy Federation of Stars †
We shall march through the storm, Jesus by our side.

In a galaxy where humans were lifeseeded on 12 planets, a federation with a

ceremonial religious head of state has united 8 of them. Religious, Ethnic, and Political conflicts are practically an every day thing and the threat of alien invasion has caused paranoia and xenophobia among the population.

Wexas' attempt at FT. No funni powerwank/"sexy" aliens for me.

IC Year: 2410 | No NS Stats

Not really for/against Christianity or any political ideology, I just thought the idea was neat.

I like TGs, give me them. (You get a cookie if it's Semi-IC/Lore-Related)



Ceranapis
Bureaucrat

Posts: 63
Founded: May 18, 2018
Ex-Nation

by **Ceranapis** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 5:14 pm

Mechyrdia wrote:

The idea that "liberal democracy is inevitable in the future" is just another utopian eskhatology that doesn't deserve to be seriously considered.

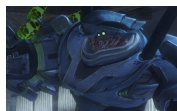
And even Francis Fukyama of "The End of History" fame doesn't believe this anymore.

Also I think Foundation and especially Dune bear a lot of the blame for Feudalism in Space Trope. Foundation was highly inspired by *Decline and Fall of The Roman Empire*, and as I remember Dune is feudalism in space. Feudalism made sense in Dune because of how their society restricted technology, but later works inspired by the series didn't always take the same effort. At any rate, both made a huge impact on the SciFi world, and so other authors copied the themes until they became a part of the shared cultural consciousness, and so people replicate those tropes/cliches whether they're aware of them or not.

The worst NS cliché, IMO, are the Wehraboos. They're either 2edgy4me or just plain boring, and in either case, I don't find them fun to play with or engage with. The German-inspired countries that are based on Austria/The Habsburgs, or the Hansa, or Bavaria, or the EU, are more unique, almost always better thought out or written, and I enjoy seeing them. But open any thread and it's a surprise when a Prussian-inspired country doesn't show up. Folks, there's more to German culture (and there was more to [Prussian culture](#)) than wanking about military tech.

The cliché I don't really understand are the nations that seem like they'd rather be playing a different game. The ones that spend a really long time writing a factbook about the country's leader and then write like nothing about the society that they govern, often times, they make an anime portrait of the leader. Whatever floats your boat I guess, and they don't bother me like the Wehraboos do, but why are you playing NationStates if you seem to really want to create a character and not a country?

Everybody works but the [VACANT LOT](#)- for the remedy read [HENRY GEORGE](#)



Valentine Z
Postmaster-General

Posts: 11602
Founded: Nov 08, 2015
Democratic Socialists

by **Valentine Z** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 5:30 pm

Ceranapis wrote:

...but why are you playing NationStates if you seem to really want to create a character and not a country?

Oh shit, they are onto me. *Runs*

[Val's Stuff](#) ≡ ^_^ ≡ [For You](#)

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Western Fardelshufflestein
Senator

Posts: 4744
Founded: Apr 21, 2020
Civil Rights Lovefest

by **Western Fardelshufflestein** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 5:37 pm

Valentine Z wrote:

Ceranapis wrote:

...but why are you playing NationStates if you seem to really want to create a character and not a country?

Oh shit, they are onto me. *Runs*

Oh no--*Sprints after you*

The Constitutional Monarchy of Western Fardelshufflestein

[Always Has Been.](#) | [WF's User Be Like](#) | NSG is Budget Twitter | Yo, Kenneth Branagh won an Oscar

Tiny, Shakespeare-obsessed island nation northeast of NZ settled by HRE emigrants who thought they'd landed in the West Indies. F7 Stuff Somewhat Not Canon; RP is in real time; Ignore Stats; Still Not Kenneth Branagh.

[Links](#)

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Holy Federation of Stars
Lobbyist

Posts: 15
Founded: Apr 19, 2021
Civil Rights Lovefest

by **Holy Federation of Stars** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 5:43 pm

Ceranapis wrote:

The cliché I don't really understand are the nations that seem like they'd rather be playing a different game. The ones that spend a really long time writing a factbook about the country's leader and then write like nothing about the society that they govern, often times, they make an anime portrait of the leader. Whatever floats your boat I guess, and they don't bother me like the Wehraboos do, but why are you playing NationStates if you seem to really want to create a character and not a country?

bro, you can't do that. you just called out like 90% of F7.

Luckily for me, I am in the 10% that primarily works on nation building. Though I will admit writing's character is fun.

Last edited by **Holy Federation of Stars** on Thu Jul 08, 2021 5:46 pm, edited 1 time in total.

† Holy Federation of Stars ♦

We shall march through the storm, Jesus by our side.

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IC Year: 2410 | No NS Stats

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I like TGs, give me them. (You get a cookie if it's Semi-IC/Lore-Related)



Western Fardelshufflestein
Senator

Posts: 4744
Founded: Apr 21, 2020
Civil Rights Lovefest

by **Western Fardelshufflestein** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 5:51 pm

Holy Federation of Stars wrote:

Ceranapis wrote:

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Imagine not accidentally turning your nation into a vessel for serial installments of character writing.

The Constitutional Monarchy of Western Fardelshufflestein

[Always Has Been.](#) | [WF's User Be Like](#) | NSG is Budget Twitter | Yo, Kenneth Branagh won an Oscar

Tiny, Shakespeare-obsessed island nation northeast of NZ settled by HRE emigrants who thought they'd landed in the West Indies. F7 Stuff Somewhat Not

Canon; RP is in real time; Ignore Stats; Still Not Kenneth Branagh.

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Ceranapis
Bureaucrat

Posts: 63
Founded: May 18, 2018
Ex-Nation

by **Ceranapis** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 5:56 pm

Holy Federation of Stars wrote:
bro, you can't do that. you just called out like 90% of F7.

oh no

Runs in the opposite direction of the last two

Everybody works but the [VACANT LOT](#)- for the remedy read [HENRY GEORGE](#)



Holy Federation of Stars
Lobbyist

Posts: 15
Founded: Apr 19, 2021
Civil Rights Lovefest

by **Holy Federation of Stars** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 5:56 pm

Western Fardelshufflestein wrote:

Holy Federation of Stars wrote:
bro, you can't do that. you just called out like 90% of F7.

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Though I will admit writing character is fun.

Imagine not accidentally turning your nation into a vessel for serial installments of character writing.

I don't have to 🤔

... Mostly because my main focuses when writing a nation are about the people living in them *in general*, rather than specifics. Most of the time, I'd rather write a factbook about the weird worldview some nation has than the leader of said nation. This nation has been a pain in my butt though. It's a lot of graphic design and formatting, which I suck at.

Ceranapis wrote:

Holy Federation of Stars wrote:
bro, you can't do that. you just called out like 90% of F7.

oh no

Runs in the opposite direction of the last two

I am calling the F7 police. You better run.

Last edited by **Holy Federation of Stars** on Thu Jul 08, 2021 5:56 pm, edited 1 time in total.

† Holy Federation of Stars ♦

We shall march through the storm, Jesus by our side.

In a galaxy where humans were lifeseeded on 12 planets, a federation with a ceremonial religious head of state has united 8 of them. Religious, Ethnic, and Political conflicts are practically an every day thing and the threat of alien invasion has caused paranoia and xenophobia among the population.

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I like TGs, give me them. (You get a cookie if it's Semi-IC/Lore-Related)

by **Kiu Ghesik** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 5:59 pm

Ceranapis wrote:



Kiu Ghesik
Powerbroker

Posts: 9373
Founded: Aug 25, 2020
Democratic Socialists

...but why are you playing NationStates if you seem to really want to create a character and not a country?

Not saying that I do this per se, because tbh most of my nations *are* world building exercises that just happen to focus on nations through an individual's lens, but I personally prefer the community I've found through NS as a means of writing criticism as opposed to a dedicated writing site, as honestly those writing sites' criticisms are... bad. Someone like Hammy gives me far more reliable critique than generic wattpad authors do. Also wattpad is stinky.

Honestly, though, I just think a lot of people prefer to write characters as opposed to tax policy.

Last edited by **Kiu Ghesik** on Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:01 pm, edited 1 time in total.

☐ Brief
☐ Caller
☐ Clans

* THE GREAT KIU - EJADRIR DEGHEU GIYEF
KHUDEYVH. *

☐ Strife
☐ Words
☐ Faith

[Produce Content](#)



Russkiya Svyachena
Chargé d'Affaires

Posts: 414
Founded: May 10, 2019
Right-wing Utopia

by **Russkiya Svyachena** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:00 pm

Ceranapis wrote:

The cliché I don't really understand are the nations that seem like they'd rather be playing a different game. The ones that spend a really long time writing a factbook about the country's leader and then write like nothing about the society that they govern, often times, they make an anime portrait of the leader. Whatever floats your boat I guess, and they don't bother me like the Wehraboos do, but why are you playing NationStates if you seem to really want to create a character and not a country?

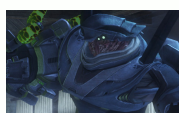
This is true, but from what I have observed most of those tend to stay in character RPs and not much other activity. I don't think it's necessarily bad even though it may not have been what NS was intended for, but then there's the clichés of leaders being the player's ideal sex fantasies (for female monarchs mostly) or self inserts (male monarchs)

Russian and Proud!

Наркотик не класс, я еду не хардбасс

This nation is an alternate Russia where Gorbachev never collapsed the USSR, and instead slowly transitioned to a free market

[Political Beliefs](#)



Valentine Z
Postmaster-General

Posts: 11602
Founded: Nov 08, 2015
Democratic Socialists

by **Valentine Z** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:01 pm

Plus, it's a point of fascination to look at someone's very evaluate work and see what they respond to what they don't respond to.

For me, I like characters, yes, but I also like writing about a nation and the general characteristics (pun unintended) of it. I like geography, demographics, culture, and the economy stuff, BUT make me do politics and legislation, and I will start fizzing out. Ironically, I came to the political simulation game to not talk about politics eventually.

Last edited by **Valentine Z** on Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:01 pm, edited 1 time in total.

[Val's Stuff](#) ≡ ^_^ ≡ [For You](#)

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Holy Federation of Stars
Lobbyist

Posts: 15
Founded: Apr 19, 2021
Civil Rights Lovefest

by **Holy Federation of Stars** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:08 pm

Russkiya Svyachena wrote:

but then there's the clichés of leaders being the player's ideal sex fantasies (for female monarchs mostly) or self inserts (male monarchs)

Not only have you called out 90% of F7, but you also called out 95% of II/the NationStates forum ([This one](#))

I am calling Max Barry, I will not let this stand :angry: (jk)

† Holy Federation of Stars †
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In a galaxy where humans were lifeseeded on 12 planets, a federation with a ceremonial religious head of state has united 8 of them. Religious, Ethnic, and Political conflicts are practically an every day thing and the threat of alien invasion has caused paranoia and xenophobia among the population.

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IC Year: 2410 | No NS Stats

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I like TGs, give me them. (You get a cookie if it's Semi-IC/Lore-Related)



Fahran
Post Marshal

Posts: 17385
Founded: Nov 13, 2017
Inoffensive Centrist
Democracy

by **Fahran** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:08 pm

You can use character-driven role-play to explore broad social themes and conventions in a visceral and emotionally compelling way. It's one thing to tell people your society is exceedingly patriarchal. It's another to show them through interactions between likable and well-rounded characters.

In general, stories that have fleshed-out characters interest me a good deal more than simple world-building or bland exposition. That said, I probably spend a little too much time on characters and constructing elaborate networks of extended kinship. The latter does serve to illuminate a few major points about the tension between tradition and modernization in Fahran though, so I suppose it has thematic weight.

"They [progressives] were all corrupt." - [Kowani](#)

Good Bye



Brettenwald
Senator

Posts: 4695
Founded: May 03, 2019
Father Knows Best State

by **Brettenwald** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:15 pm

Kiu Ghesik wrote:

Ceranapis wrote:

...but why are you playing NationStates if you seem to really want to create a character and not a country?

Not saying that I do this per se, because tbh most of my nations *are* world building exercises that just happen to focus on nations through an individual's lens, but I personally prefer the community I've found through NS as a means of writing criticism as opposed to a dedicated writing site, as honestly those writing sites' criticisms are... bad. Someone like Hammy gives me far more reliable critique than generic wattpad authors do. Also wattpad is stinky.

Honestly, though, I just think a lot of people prefer to write characters as opposed to tax policy.

This x1000. Give me intrigue, drama, emotionality, and crown princes with daddy issues over economic management and infrastructure bills any day of the week. I can't get emotionally connected with interest rates, I can't deconstruct the mind of a proposal to privatize my nation's passenger rail services, but I *can* get interested in my characters & culture. It's childish and escapist, but it makes me happy, dammit.

Ruskiya Syachena wrote:

This is true, but from what I have observed most of those tend to stay in character RPs and not much other activity. I don't think it's necessarily bad even though it may not have been what NS was intended for, but then there's the cliches of leaders being the player's ideal sex fantasies (for female monarchs mostly) or self inserts (male monarchs)

I mean, at a certain fundamental level self-inserts of any gender always going to be the case. My take on sex fantasies, though, just... bruh. Why would anyone look at this website and think "oh ho ho, now *this* is where I will go into absurd detail about my totally not an imaginary waifu's humongous mommy milkers?" I know everyone's horny, a nerd, or a horny nerd on the Internet, but come on.

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This is a correct and based take.

[vibes](#)

[BRETTENWALD](#)

[more vibes](#)

[OOC](#)

[IC](#)



Western Fardelshufflestein
Senator

Posts: 4744
Founded: Apr 21, 2020
Civil Rights Lovefest

by **Western Fardelshufflestein** » Thu Jul 08, 2021
6:19 pm

Kiu Ghesik wrote:

Ceranapis wrote:

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Honestly, though, I just think a lot of people prefer to write characters as opposed to tax policy.

Who's Hammy? I'm guessing it isn't the Prince of Denmark...

The thing about this part NS is that it's comparatively chill--there's not an essay requirement for every post, though there are threads designed to have in-depth responses more so than others. And it's honestly a great place for character-building if you have characters to expand upon and use to interact with other characters/leaders. People aren't on NS to get financial compensation for their efforts (which, although that sounds nice at the surface, would make this way too exploitative); we're just here to hang out, have fun, and, above all, procrastinate.

Holy Federation of Stars wrote:

Ruskiya Svyachena wrote:

but then there's the cliches of leaders being the player's ideal sex fantasies (for female monarchs mostly) or self inserts (male monarchs)

Not only have you called out 90% of F7, but you also called out 95% of II/the NationStates forum ([This one](#))

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I will now attempt to assure you none of my characters thus far are sexual fantasies, at least on NS I have one OC that comes pretty close, but it's not exactly "sexual" in nature; actually, I don't know what it is. Like, my three WF MCs are old enough to be parental figures to me.

Fahran wrote:

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I love focusing on the interactions within the Royal Family, primarily between Alastair and everyone else. I probably need to include more side characters, tbh.

The Constitutional Monarchy of Western Fardelshufflestein

[Always Has Been.](#) | [WF's User Be Like](#) | NSG is Budget Twitter | Yo, Kenneth Branagh won an Oscar

Tiny, Shakespeare-obsessed island nation northeast of NZ settled by HRE emigrants who thought they'd landed in the West Indies. F7 Stuff Somewhat Not Canon; RP is in real time; Ignore Stats; Still Not Kenneth Branagh.

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Holy Federation of Stars
Lobbyist

Posts: 15
Founded: Apr 19, 2021
Civil Rights Lovefest

by **Holy Federation of Stars** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:22 pm

Western Fardelshufflestein wrote:

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Yeah... I would be shocked if any of your characters were secretly fantasies.

By the way, if I ever make a character for the sole purpose of wish fulfillment/sexual fantasy, I want one of you to shoot me.

† Holy Federation of Stars †

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In a galaxy where humans were lifeseeded on 12 planets, a federation with a ceremonial religious head of state has united 8 of them. Religious, Ethnic, and Political conflicts are practically an every day thing and the threat of alien invasion has caused paranoia and xenophobia among the population.

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I like TGs, give me them. (You get a cookie if it's Semi-IC/Lore-Related)



Western Fardelshufflestein
Senator

Posts: 4744
Founded: Apr 21, 2020
Civil Rights Lovefest

by **Western Fardelshufflestein** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:28 pm

Holy Federation of Stars wrote:

Western Fardelshufflestein wrote:

I will now attempt to assure you none of my characters thus far are sexual fantasies, at least on NS I have one OC that comes pretty close, but it's not exactly "sexual" in nature; actually, I don't know what it is. Like, my three WF MCs are old enough to be parental figures to me.

Yeah... I would be shocked if any of your characters were secretly fantasies.

By the way, if I ever make a character for the sole purpose of wish fulfillment/sexual fantasy, I want one of you to shoot me.

My characters are...I don't know.

-Alastair is my favorite because he's Alastair, and I decided to make his character become more wholesome, so at this point I just want to give him hugs.

-Marie is...eh, I haven't made her as interesting as she could be, but her

anxiety is very much self-insert-esque.

-Wilhelm is fun because he's a jerk with a short fuse, but he has the potential for the most growth when it comes to making amends with Alastair and helping him as best he can.

The Constitutional Monarchy of Western Fardelshufflestein

[Always Has Been.](#) | [WF's User Be Like](#) | NSG is Budget Twitter | Yo, Kenneth Branagh won an Oscar

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Kiu Ghesik
Powerbroker

Posts: 9373
Founded: Aug 25, 2020
Democratic Socialists

by **Kiu Ghesik** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:35 pm

I don't think any characters of mine are sex fantasies, and given that I think one is conscious of when they're writing a character as a fantasy, I suspect I'd know.

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☐ [Clans](#)

* THE GREAT KIU - EJADRIR DEGHEU GIYEF
KHUDEYVH. *

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☐ [Faith](#)



Cavirfi
Diplomat

Posts: 885
Founded: Feb 28, 2021
Civil Rights Lovefest

by **Cavirfi** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:42 pm

Hmm...are there nations here that are pretty liberal when it comes to who you are allowed to marry but are pretty conservative when it comes to how said marriages should go?

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CAVIRFI ONE: Revival of 2nd Crabaiaian Uprising enters Day 101; Ai



Socialist Macronesia
Negotiator

Posts: 6831
Founded: Jan 27, 2020
Ex-Nation

by **Socialist Macronesia** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 6:46 pm

i think the reason most people like to write characters on ns is because everywhere else you go to write and get writing advice, people are using their characters as sexual fantasies

i mean, have you people *seen* wattpad

ns is really only like 10% shoddily written attempts at pornographic material

wattpad is like 90%

and that's all i've got to say about that

[sig stuff](#)



Valentine Z
Postmaster-General

Posts: 11602
Founded: Nov 08, 2015
Democratic Socialists

by **Valentine Z** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 7:19 pm

Clarissa is my happy fantasy. She makes me happy whenever I talk as her on the RPs, and that is all that matters. ♥

[Val's Stuff](#) ≡ ^_^ ≡ [For You](#)

[Show Spoiler](#)



Broader Confederate States

Ambassador

Posts: 1531

Founded: Nov 11, 2018
Civil Rights Lovefest

by **Broader Confederate States** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 7:35 pm

Black Raven Movement wrote:
Think this counts as a cliché.

"Edgy" dystopian nations that try extremely hard to be serious, and in certain cases to "try and send a message" (even though that probably never happens), with barren, painfully generic leaders who eventually get memed to all hell.

make sure that they either are a third reich knockoff, a cultist shithole, or a sovietboo, otherwise it isn't the complete cliché

Do I count?

Brettenwald wrote:

Ruskiya Svyachena wrote:

This is true, but from what I have observed most of those tend to stay in character RPs and not much other activity. I don't think it's necessarily bad even though it may not have been what NS was intended for, but then there's the clichés of leaders being the player's ideal sex fantasies (for female monarchs mostly) or self inserts (male monarchs)

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Is it fundamental though? I mean... I just wanted to have a libertarian actually win an election for once in history

Last edited by **Broader Confederate States** on Thu Jul 08, 2021 7:42 pm, edited 2 times in total.

Basic Facts

haha аляска | Rewrite un-canned, expect it before 2021 March September 2030 maybe. | i honestly forgot basically every interaction i've had on these forums from before like july | [We're proud to present...](#)

Witty unattributed quote I'm using to pretend I'm more intelligent than I really am.



Fahran

Post Marshal

Posts: 17385

Founded: Nov 13, 2017
Inoffensive Centrist
Democracy

by **Fahran** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 7:40 pm

Valentine Z wrote:

Clarissa is my happy fantasy. She makes me happy whenever I talk as her on the RPs, and that is all that matters. ♥

In fairness, Clarissa is much more wholesome form of wish-fulfillment than a lot of the characters featured in this conversation. And it shows in the mood and language of your RPs. They're whimsical and pleasant.

"They [progressives] were all corrupt." - [Kowani](#)

Good Bye



Kiu Ghesik

Powerbroker

Posts: 9373

Founded: Aug 25, 2020
Democratic Socialists

by **Kiu Ghesik** » Thu Jul 08, 2021 7:47 pm

Broader Confederate States wrote:

Brettenwald wrote:

I mean, at a certain fundamental level self-inserts of any gender always going to be the case. My take on sex fantasies, though, just... bruh. Why would anyone look at this website and think "oh ho ho, now *this* is

where I will go into absurd detail about my totally not an imaginary waifu's humongous mommy milkers?" I know everyone's horny, a nerd, or a horny nerd on the Internet, but come on.

Is it fundamental though? I mean... I just wanted to have a libertarian actually win an election for once in history

I think bretten was referring specifically to sexual self-inserts; I.e. making the character who just so happens to resemble you get laid all the time and be the hottest person in the story and have everyone they're interested in falling over them and so on and so forth
In that light libertarian grandma definitely doesn't count :}

☐ Brief

☐ Caller

☐ Clans

* THE GREAT KIU - EJADRIR DEGHEU GIYEF

KHUDEYVH. *

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