How about an illuminati cult thing that's manipulating things behind the scenes?

One of four cults could emerge. #1; An spirituralist cult of fanatics {Like of course the Illuminati, #2; A Materialist cult of philosophers {Like the freemasons}, #3; A Zenophile Cult that worships a certain species over yours, and #4; A Zenophobic cult that wants to destroy all life in the galaxy.

You could have an event that says that one of your leaders is part of "Insert Cult name here". You could choose to discreetly assasinate him and suffer the cults wrath, Lure other cult members using him as bait with a 50% chance that the cult is compromised, or Join him and suffer unhappiness across the empire and an ethics change.

You could have an event that the "Insert Cult name here" Are taking over. You could choose to play along and your empire would change its ethics to match the cult's or you could supress the cult and prepare for war.

dpe\_scandal.15.name:0 "[root.GetRulerName], [root.GetRulerTitle] or a puppet of the cult?"

dpe\_scandal.15.desc:0 "Belief in science and progress has always been at the heart of [root.GetSpeciesAdj] society... Which is why society is shocked to the core by the revelation that the daughter of a notorious cult leader carries considerable clout over [root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName]. It all started when this so called “guru”, [random name], had her laptop repaired at a local shop. Dozens of highly confidential government documents were found in it, including the State of the Union Address the [root.GetRulerTitle] was about to make. Press soon got the wind of it, and further investigation revealed more details that exceeded the wildest assumptions: The [root.GetRulerTitle] has been taking lessons from [random name] for years, and relied heavily on her regrading domestic policies. Almost all of [root.GetRulerName]’s speeches would go through [root.Ruler.GetHisHer] “spiritual compass”. There were even vague evidence suggesting that [root.GetRulerTitle] had once deliberately delayed the rescue of a wrecked civilian ship to offer the souls of the passengers as sacrifices to the cult’s God. Protests demanding [root.Ruler.GetHisHer] to step down and face trial have spread throughout [root.GetRulerName], the [materialism faction]’s voice being the loudest. However, the spiritualism group has a more mixed reaction. \n\nWhat should be done about the situation?"

dpe\_scandal.15.A:0 "Explain to the country that [random name] is just a close friend and nothing more."

dpe\_scandal.15.A.tooltip:0 "Populace will be very upset."

dpe\_scandal.15.B:0 "Maybe we can work out a ceasefire."

dpe\_scandal.15.B.tooltip:0 "[root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName] will be more supportive of materialism in exchange for the faction’s forgiveness and endorsement. "

dpe\_scandal.15.C:0 "[root.GetRulerTitle] [root.GetRulerName] must pay for what [root.Ruler.GetSheHe] did."

dpe\_scandal.15.D:0 "Spiritualism is the truth. It’s time for [root.GetSpeciesAdj] to return to the herd of God."