



## THE DERVERNI SENATE

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The Senate of Derveni is one of its main governmental bodies, and a large part of its functions are vital to the continuing high society that the colony lives in. Most senators are chosen based on status, wealth, military background, or deeds done in favor of the Colony. It is estimated that there are about four hundred senators. The emperor and the elders also partake in meetings, with one elder being a 'Magistratum'.

The senate usually gathers for meetings at the start of each month to discuss the affairs of the colony at a senatorial building. These can include wars, borders, economy, and other internal affairs that may require their attention. It is important to note that, should the senate be undecided in a decision with two equally disagreeing sides, a public assembly is called for citizens of Praefect to vote for the decision.

Certain senators may be voted to represent a specific region of the colony, these are called "Praetores". They possess the ability to speak for their section of the senate and to try and convince other sections for their support for a major decision. Usually, Five Praetores are selected once a decade, with emergency votes happening should a Senator die.

Senators are elected for limited terms in office, but typically they are re-elected unless they prove unpopular in their district. Voting in a district's Senator is public, and every citizen in that district is able and encouraged to vote.

Senatorial Hierarchy  
History of the Senate  
Attires of the Senate  
Outside Influences  
Notable Incidents  
Senate Regions  
Imperial Influence

Type  
Governmental, Senate/Parliament

### SENATORIAL HIERARCHY

The senate has an organized hierarchy set in place during its founding, namely created by the elders. Although the current senate is largely different from its first iteration, its functions and roles have largely stayed the same with some exceptions.

Once a citizen is voted into office, they become part of the Outer Council and given the title of 'Inferius Consilio Senator', a selection of lower senators divided into the specific section of their entire region as smaller senators usually come from various smaller cities.

A senator from the former city of Aderti would be part of the Central Section for example due to their proximity to Praefect. Their positions in the senatorial building usually are at the back of the Senate, but this does not lower their value as a senator despite their lower status.

The second title a senator can hold is of "Superiore Consilio Senator". A senator now part of the Inner Council, these senators have either been re-elected twice or have proven some form of diplomatic, economic or military skill to be promoted in the senate. The Inner Council has more speaking time and benefits compared to the Outer Council, and they usually tend to be at the front of their designated seats unless they choose to stay at the back.

The Third Title for a Senator is of "Praetores", these are usually voted in by the inner and outer councils of a region, and they represent the combined interests of a region when it comes to major decisions. This is done to expedite the process and to make the voting more effective, as old methods of voting delayed important decisions upwards of weeks due to disagreements on all sides. A Praetores effectively has more benefits than any other senator with the exception being the "Consul Bellis" and "Servus Procyphaeus", these include higher pay and better access to the elders of Derveni.

The Fourth Title and a special one made only after *The Chainless Revolution* is of "Servus Procyphaeus". This title is given to a representative put in by the Elder Callus alongside the support of Elder Hostilianus. The current member holding this title is former slave "Hiram", who had effectively led the Chainless Revolution against Derveni. Although his position has been questioned multiple times and several attempts have been made by older senators to remove this position, the Servus Procyphaeus is a valuable member, assisting in dictating the slave laws in Derveni to avoid another war and managing most slave affairs in the colony.

The Fifth Title is of "Consul Bellis". Although a rarely used one, it is a title given to commanders summoned by the senate to take charge of all Derveni Legions. Usually, the title is very temporary with only some exceptions, such as during the most intense moments of the Rhakot Raids, where the Consul Bellis was forced to stay active for more than a decade due to the risk of an incursion into the Central Region.

The final title of "Magistratum" is the one currently held by one of the Elders, Callus. The Magistratum is in charge of all Senatorial affairs such as what decisions require voting, to hear the reports and words from all regions. Although originally this title did not exist, its necessity arose once senators began toicker and argue more than make decisions, which led to several issues in the regions.

Aside from the Senate, there is the public assembly, a special organization of the senate that is linked to its hierarchy. It is the administration in charge of commencing a public vote over issues the senate cannot agree upon. With limits on who can vote, typically only full citizens are allowed to vote, but exceptions may be given to certain members of the colony. The senate can also decide to let the population vote on certain issues.

With all this in mind, each senator serves a purpose in the scheme of all things, and the Colony would not be as powerful as it is without the guidance of several minds and innovations brought forth by the introduction of the Senate. Whether it be through Decrees, laws, or acts. The senate has and continues to be the most important part of the Colony's Government.

Senators are usually given tasks to do in their own districts, such as public games, judgments, financing, training of legions, and more. All senators are expected to do their duties in a timely manner, lest they be replaced at the end of their term.

### HISTORY OF THE SENATE

Although some details are muffed after centuries of progress, the Senate has a very extensive history. Beginning with the founding of Praefect, the Senate at first served as just a council of advisors to the elders, as at the time, the level of issues were much smaller than they stand today. Though this changed quickly given the relatively fast expansion of the Colony.

This added to the fact Senators rarely were removed from office at the time, and a boom in the economy and social status of Derveni led to long-lived senators who cared for little else than filling their own coffers and maintaining that wealth. This compounded further as the Elders decided to let the senate take charge of the daily goings of the time, unlike the beginning of the Colony.

With unrestricted power, the senate began to expand its influence and wealth across the expanded regions and districts. Whether it be through natural resources or through slavery. It helped the Colony grow and rise from the ground to face future challenges, even if these decisions would later be the cause of challenges of their own making.

This came to a slight stop centuries later when the Rhakot began to attempt full incursions into the Derveni lands. Although at the time not as numerous, the Senate was forced to start paying more attention towards the Military, and began to expand its structure to properly protect itself. Although it lacked a proper system, the raised militias were enough to hold the borders for now, and provided some form of protection to the border villages of the Colony, even if minuscule.

The development of the military may be a more minor fact of the time when compared to current day Derveni, but it did affect future endeavors and what would happen as the army began to expand further. With senators dividing power and controlling raised legions of their own, or 'personal armies' as some call it. This would give rise to generals that would be allowed to command national legions that were not private or under senators. Which created a rather divided military, with some legions outright being unable to serve generals unless explicitly told to do so by the legal employer of the legiones.

That said, the situation still remained very stable for the colony, and barely any worry was to be visible during meetings at the senatorial building. That is, until the slave revolt under Hiram happened. Although initially it was seen as just a mere ragtag of slaves, the situation for the senate grew weary as General Manius was killed during battle trying to quell the rebellion. This alarmed the senate to the point where they gave the title of Consul Bellis to General Galerius, who gained effective control of most Derveni Legions.

Despite the attempt to quell the rebellion, the senate did not expect Hiram to pass through the northern mountains. Most veteran legions were at the border of the rebelling region and the senators called upon them small but trained private armies to help the city militia to hold. During this, several senators also took up arms to defend the city.

As later reports showed, the battle was a bloodbath, and none were spared of the brutality of the siege. More than one hundred and twenty senators fell during the siege, effectively decimating the senate numbers by more than half at the time. This caused the public administration to go into a panic after the war, and several public services went into disarray. Despite previously not interfering with senate affairs, the Elders of Derveni felt the need to intervene.

Following the war, Callus alongside the help of Hostilianus, effectively reformed the senate post-haste, with Hostilianus helping with the diplomatic side of things. Callus set upon to restore and increase senator numbers, and quickly chose himself the senators from several cities by traveling to them personally and selecting those he saw fit for senatorial duties.

This reform of the senate saw the introduction of the two Councils, Praetores, The Servus Procyphaeus, and a Magistratum title for Callus himself, who now began to watch over the senate and also began to effectively take a much larger role in the colony itself. Although there was bickering by the old senators due to these changes, they were quickly ignored by the new senators who saw the reforms as necessary means to survive and avoid another slave revolt.

With the reforms also came new rules, including oaths to the Colony and limits on the private legions, these were made to make sure the army was effective without the reliance of soldiers awaiting permission to take up arms, while also ensuring that senators were loyal to Derveni and its values.

This boosted the army's legions to bigger sizes that allowed them to fight and defend more effectively. And with the help of more experienced lower officers who had experienced the battle at Praefect and other skirmishes, this transformed the Derveni Army into a proper fighting force, which allowed it to defeat the last slave army at the valley of the Aderti Region.

Currently, the senate stands at more than four hundred members. With the Outer Council having two-thirds of the spots and the rest being filled by the Inner Council and other roles.

### ATTIRES OF THE SENATE

Attires in the senate vary depending on personal choice and status, occasionally as well as gender. Usually, The Outer Council is entitled to have White Togas fit to a specific form they wish, such as open chested or even topless. Loincloths are also allowed as long as they cover the senator's genitalia. They are also given the right to a red sash that goes around their torso.

The Inner council is allowed the same, but they also have the option to choose either a specific color or stay with the normal blue. Their togas usually come lined with silver and in rare cases, gold. The options for their appearance are still largely the same, with the addition of a blue sash instead of red.

Praetores, Servus Procyphaeus and Magistratum on the other hand, are entitled to any sort of outfit, whether it be skimpy, fully covering or semi covering. They are given a golden and purple sash that goes around their torso or a belt of the same style should they wish to wear it around their waist instead.

But, Senators are allowed to have their own outfit either way if they so wish. But they must adhere to the Sashes and something to signify they are of a specific senatorial class. And the state will not cover the expenses if they wish to have their own attire made.



by Cahoon\_arts

### OUTSIDE INFLUENCES

During the slave revolt, the senate had, despite the warnings from General Galerius and some hints by Callus, allowed the Coerth to assist the Colony in dealing with the revolt, which gave them the rights to send missionaries and more access to Derveni itself. At first, it was seen as nothing more than just a necessity, but it snowballed into a mistake that would take generations to fix.

After the revolt, Coerth Influence began to spread more throughout the border cities, and even Praefect had an influx as missionaries performed their 'Healing' and Coerth Houses enjoyed the relative ease of visit to the Capital. This greatly worried Coerth in particular, who by now, began to see the possibility of the Senate becoming influenced by the Coerth.

Fearing this, The Elder began to set up what would be called "Princeps Senatorius Frumentum", or the First Senatorial Frumentani. A private Legion of Spies and Volunteer Legionaries who began to watch and scout all Coerth movements through and out of the Capital. Although not much else is known about this legion or all their doings, it is believed they are largely responsible for counterintelligence against the Coerth.

Following this new legion was formed, the senate building began to be more closely guarded, with both Legionaries and Frumentari acting to make sure no one enters the building without proper permission.

The safety of the senate did not just fall onto the Frumentari, as Callus used his new title of Magistratum to take more direct actions to ensure the senate did not fall to Coerth Influence. This includes the famous expulsion of Senator Agadrius, who was found with a Coerth Cross in his chest. Although this event was largely kept secret from the outside, it solidified Callus's role as Magistratum in the senate, and he received full support to continue his duties.

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