

Strategy Guide

Hera
























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16 Vils Georgians Healing Scout Rush

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	7		Send 7 villagers to sheep		7			7
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		8			8
	3		Send 3 more vils to boar under TC		11			11
	-		[Highly Recommended] Lure deer with scout and use mule cart to explore					
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then mill on berries		12			12
	1		Send 1 vil to get second boar		13			13
	3		Send 3 more vils to hunt under TC		16			16
	-		Either get loom or make one more villager and send to hunt under TC					
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 8:00)					
	-		Right away send 8 vils from hunt to woodline where you position your mule cart	8	8	0	0	
	-		Send 3 more vils from hunt to berries for 4 total on berries					
	-		Send 2 villagers to make a barracks once you are 50-60 percent up to Feudal					
	-		Queue up loom if you opted for an extra vil in Dark Age					
	-		Make a stable					
	-		Research Double-Bit Axe					
	-		Start walling both sides of your base using the stable builders (one to each side of the base, wall with a mix of houses and palisade walls)					
	-		Make 3 scouts and harass your opponent					
	-		Research Horse Collar					
	-		Seed farms with all new vils. If you lack the wood, keep the vils on straggler trees and make a farm as soon as you have 60 wood					
	-		Once you have 13-14 farms, send the next 7 vils to gold and make a mule cart					
	-		Make a blacksmith					
	-		Click up to Castle as soon as you can (if you make extra vils send them to wood)					
	-		Decide what you want to do, usual plan is either 2 stable knights or castle and Monaspa spam					
	-		When your berries run out, make farms with the berry vils around the mill					
	-		Research Bloodlines, Forging, and Scale Barding Armor					
	-		Research Gold Mining upgrade					
	-		Spam either knights or Monaspas					
	-		Research Bow Saw					
	-		Make a fortified church in the best location for your vils					
	-		Make monks for relics					
	-		Make a second TC on another woodline					

16 Vils Georgians Healing Scout Rush continued...

Introduction

- Georgians have an insane early game, where they get access to a free mule cart at the cost of -50 food
- We will abuse this bonus by scouting with the mule cart and using our scout to lure deer (optional but highly recommended)
- We don't need to gather a single wood in the early game and so the build is super simple and easy to follow
- Cavalry healing bonus is the main thing we will use to survive Feudal Age. We will make exactly 3 scouts (+1 initial) to rush our opponent, then wall up as shown in the video tutorial
- The idea is to spend as little time as possible in Feudal Age, and get max value with those few scouts as we hit then run around and heal then hit again. If needed we can tower or make some more scouts or even a range for skirms to defend, but we will never do anything just for the sake of attacking
- **We either get loom or make an extra villager and up with no loom.** I choose to take a risk and go no loom. Since we're going up fast I'd rather get the extra 50 res that villager would gather on the way up, and simply pick up loom first thing in Feudal before any threat comes our way
































What's next?

- From here we try to control the game with our cavalry, our knights heal 10hp/min so if they are weak just run them around and wait before fighting, can use monk healing to speed it up
- Add siege if needed for either defense or offense
- You can go for more TCs and more churches to expand economy, and you can go heavy on stone for big Castle Age plays
- The usual Imperial composition is going to be cavalry + skirm/hand cannoneer

17 Vils Japanese Man-at-Arms Rush

Introduction









































- Many civs can do a good man-at-arms rush, but few can do one as quickly as the Japanese.
- The objective of this build is to put immense pressure on our opponent as early as possible
- We want our first punch to be the quick man-at-arms, and we want to follow up as fast as possible with archers + fletching
- This build is tight and leaves very little room for walling or adaptation, so we have to make sure we always have the initiative
- After our initial push with men-at-arms + archers, we can wall and go to castle age if we are ahead or try to stabilize if we are behind
- Immediately after luring deer, we'll try to find the opponent fast. Check this video for tips: [How To Find Your Opponent FAST](#)

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	2		Send 2 villagers to wood	2				8
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			9
	1		Send 1 more vil to boar under TC		8			10
	-		[Mandatory] Lure at least 2 deer					
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then go back to the hunt under TC		9			11
	2		Next 2 vils to hunt under TC (get the second boar during this time)		11			13
	1		Send 1 vil to make a barracks in the front of our base					14
	2		Send 2 more vils to food under TC		13			16
	1		Send 1 villager to wood	3				17
	-		Research loom					
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 8:25)					
	-		Immediately send 2 vils from hunt to gold and make a mining camp	3	11	2	0	
	-		Make 3 militia then send them across the map to the enemy asap					
	-		Send 4 vils from under TC to the initial lumber camp	7	7	2	0	
	-		Make an archery range right away and start producing archers					
	-		Research Man-at-arms. Target enemy vils with the men-at-arms + scout					
	-		Make a blacksmith as soon as you can afford it					
	-		Research Double-Bit Axe (may need to idle TC for 10 seconds to afford)					
	2		Send 2 villagers to gold			4		19
	1		Send 1 vil to berries and make a mill		8			20
	-		Slowly add vils to farms/berries before sheep run out completely					
	-		Research fletching as soon as you can afford it (Idling TC for 15-20 seconds is okay to prioritize fletching)					
	-		Send your archers across the map and group with remaining MAA. This army can kill vils behind palisade walls + break buildings					
	-		Keep making archers at home for defense + follow up					

What's next?

- After all this aggression, it's a good time to slowly set up some defenses:
 - Against scouts, add a few spears when you can afford them and wall up
 - Against archers, just wall up asap and if they attack you, defend with archers + a tower if needed
- If your early aggression did a lot of damage, feel free to just wall up and defend until Castle Age once your forward army is gone
- If your early aggression didn't do much then you'll need to try to adapt and find another win condition, since we invested a lot into it
- Once you get to Castle Age, play it like any archer build and follow the same principles

18 Vils Ethiopian 2-Range Archers for Team Games

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	2		Send 2 vils to wood and make a house with one of them	2				8
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			9
	-		[Recommended] Lure 1-3 deer with your scout once you found all your sheep					
	6		Next 6 vils to hunt under TC (get the second boar during this time)		13			15
	1		Send 1 vil to make a mining camp on gold			1		16
	2		Next 2 vils to hunt under TC		15			18
	-		Research loom					
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 8:50)					
	-		Move 7 vils from under TC to your lumber camp	9	8	1	0	
	-		Move 2 vils from under TC and send them to make a barracks and a house	9	6	1	0	
	-		Move 2 vils from under TC to collect stragglers	11	4	1	0	
	-		Make 2 archery ranges and start producing archers					
	-		Use one of the range vils to make a blacksmith and send the other to food	11	5	1	0	
	-		Use the blacksmith villager to make houses and small walls					
	7		Send 7 villagers to gold			8		25
	-		Send 2 villagers from straggler trees to food under tc	9	7	8	0	
	-		Get fletching and start attacking with archers					
	6		Send 6 villagers to berries		13			31
	-		When sheep run out, slowly add farms until you have 7-8 farms					
	2		Send 2 villagers to wood	11				33
	3		Send 3 villagers to gold			11		36
	-		Make a market and sell stone to go up to castle					
	-		If you are short food, continue adding villagers to whatever resource you need					
	-		Try to be fully walled around this point or at least well defended					
	-		Research Castle Age (perfect landing time: 19:00)					
	-		Research double bit axe					
	-		Research gold mining					
	-		[OPTIONAL] Get horse collar					
	-		Make a second lumber camp and send 6 vils to another woodline					
	-		Continue attacking with your archers, but DON'T lose them					
	-		Get crossbow and bodkin arrow					
	-		Research bow saw					

18 Vils Ethiopian 2-Range Archers for Team Games continued...

Introduction

- Easiest with the Ethiopians but it works for other strong archer civs too. Slower civs usually have to go up 20 pop instead
- The objective of this build is to get as many archers as possible right away
- We sacrifice economy in favor of army to be able to gain an early game advantage
- We use the market to get up to castle age faster by selling stone
- Our goal is to win either in feudal or early castle, or get such a lead that we can fall back and add economy until we can eventually win
- This build is a lot stronger for a team game flank player because your pocket's scouts can cover your weakness to skirms

What's next?

























- Get university right away to go for ballistics and all-in to end the game
- Add some siege to help push or defend against their archers and skirms
- Add a monastery and collect relics or convert knights
- Alternatively simply just buy back 100 stone when you wanna add another TC and play it out normally!

18 Vils Feudal Drush

Recommended Civs Malians, Lithuanians, Japanese, Britons, Vikings

Introduction

- The objective of this build is to go up quickly, but ensure we get the first punch by making 2 militia while we are on the way to feudal
- 2 militia + a feudal scout has the potential to do a lot of damage, we are mainly looking to harass villagers
- You can use your scout to block villagers as they run back to the tc, or to prevent quick walls, while your militia do the main damage
- Another advantage is that we can see exactly what our opponent is doing before having to commit to our feudal age followup. This way we can properly react to what they are doing
- It is difficult to afford more than 2 militia initially, but we can optionally add more militia or even man at arms upgrade once we are in feudal
- Compared to a pre-mill drush, this build exerts more pressure with the stronger scout and allows a faster followup
- This build is best executed with civs that have early game economy/infantry bonuses, since it can be hard to afford it without those

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	3		Send 3 villagers to wood	3				9
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			10
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then go back to the hunt		8			11
	-		[Recommended] Lure deer with your scout once you found all your sheep					
	4		Next 4 vils to hunt under TC (get the second boar during this time)		12			15
	1		1 vil to make a barracks in the front of our base and a house next to it					16
	1		Add 1 more vil to hunt under TC		13			17
	1		Send 1 villager to wood	4				18
	-		Research loom					
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 8:50)					
	-		Make sure you find where your opponent is asap with your scout					
	-		Make 2 militia right away then send them to your opponent's base					
	-		Send 4 vils from under TC to the initial lumber camp	8	9	0	0	
	-		Move 1 vil from under TC to berries and make a mill	8	9	0	0	
	-		Use your feudal scout and militia to harass opponent and pick off villagers					
	-		If they fight back with vils, simply run away if they have more than 2					
	-		Research double bit axe					
	-		[Optional] Get horse collar					
	-		Make your follow up based on what your opponent is going for					
	-		Start to slowly wall up your base with 1-2 villagers using houses and walls					

What's next?
































- Based on your scouting, you can do the following:
 1. If you see a stable, make 1-3 spears at home, look to go archers for yourself, and make fully walling a priority
 2. If you see a range, either follow up with scouts to maintain map control or go for a range yourself and make defensive skirmishers while walling and going up to Castle Age
 3. If you see them adding a lot of militia/man at arms themselves, you can either add more militia to match or add a range and play into archers
- Make sure to adjust your economy to whichever follow up you go for. If you follow up with scouts/skirms, add a few more vils to berries and start seeding farms, whereas if you go archers you should send 3-4 vils to gold
- If your drush finds a lot of damage you should plan an aggressive followup, if not you should play more defensively until you can wall
- From here you can either commit to more military, add monks/siege, or simply drop 1-2 more TCs and continue developing. Try to be flexible and really consider your options to find the best approach

18 Vils Korean Spear Skirm Rush

Recommended Civs Koreans, Byzantines, Lithuanians

Introduction

- The objective of this strategy is to harass your opponent with cheap yet effective units as soon as possible
- Allows you to be flexible by either adding a lot of spears vs scout rush, or a lot of skirms vs maa or archer play
- You can transition into alot of things since you dont commit to gold early, you aren't spread as thin compared to an archer build
- Amazing for lower elos because trash units are very effective there

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	2		Send 2 villagers to wood	2				8
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			9
	2		Send 2 more vils to boar under TC		9			11
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then mill on berries		10			12
	1		Send 1 vil to get second boar		11			13
	-		[Optional] Lure deer					
	2		Send 2 more vils to hunt under TC		13			15
	3		Send 3 more vils to berries		16			18
	-		Research loom					
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 8:50)					
	-		Send 3 vils to initial lumber camp and make a second lumber camp with 5 more vils	10	8	0	0	
	-		Make a barracks when you can afford it					
	-		If needed, move a few from sheep to straggler tree temporarily for extra wood					
	-		Make an archery range					
	-		Make spears ASAP and send them forward					
	-		Research Double-Bit Axe and Horse Collar					
	-		Make skirms ASAP and send them forward					
	-		Make farms until you have 14-16					
	-		Harass opponent and mix spears/skirms as you see fit					
	-		After that send 7 vils to gold and make mining camp					
	-		Make a blacksmith during that time and get fletching					
	-		Finish walling your map with houses and palisades					
	-		After 7 to gold, send vils to wood until you can click up					
	-		When berries run out, send them to either gold/wood/farms as you see fit					

What's next?

- That's the end of the build. Here's a few options to continue the game:
 - Send 2 more to gold and play 2-range crossbows if opponent is going longwords or heavy knights
 - Stay on skirm/spear and get the elite skirm and the pikemen upgrade. Also recommend getting armor for infantry in this case
 - Switch to knights (or camels if you are Byzantines) if opponent is super open or if he's going mainly siege
 - Simply add 2 more TCs and get a monastery to pick up relics if nothing crazy is happening
 - Send 8 vils to stone on the way up to castle age and go for a guard tower rush or a castle drop

18 Vils 1-Stable Scouts

Recommended Civs Franks, Huns, Lithuanians, Magyars, Malians

Introduction



























- The objective of this build is to go up quickly and start putting pressure with scouts
- Our goal is to use our mobility and be the first to attack our opponent
- After the initial few scouts, if the opponent is mainly on archers/spearmen, we will make a tech switch into skirms to have scouts and skirms on the field
- Once we secure map control, we should look to fully wall our base to stay safe from counter attacks
- If the opponent goes for militia/maa aggression, make it a priority to clean their army before attacking them. Do this by using your vils and scouts and 1 spear to take their infantry out
- This build is best executed with a civilization that has bloodlines, because ideally we want to go into knights in castle age, and we want to have the option to go heavy scouts in feudal

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	2		Send 2 villagers to wood	2				8
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			9
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then mill on berries		8			10
	-		[Recommended] Lure deer with your scout once you found all your sheep					
	6		Next 6 vils to hunt under TC (get the second boar during this time)		14			16
	2		Send 2 villagers to wood	4				18
	-		Research loom					
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 8:50)					
	-		Either send 4 vils to the initial lumber camp (8 total, more aggressive) or 5 vils to make a new lumber camp (9 total, more defensive)	8	10	0	0	
	-		Move 4 vils from under TC to berries	8	10	0	0	
	-		Move 1 vil from under TC to make a barracks 60% of the way to feudal	8	9	0	0	
	-		Make a stable with 2 vils	8	7	0	0	
	-		Research double bit axe					
	-		Research horse collar					
	-		Use the 2 vils that build the stable to wall opposite sides of your base					
	-		Start seeding farms as soon as you have extra wood in the bank					
	-		Keep adding scouts and use them to attack your opponent or defend					
	-		[Optional] Make 1-4 spears if you are scared of enemy scouts					

What's next?

- If opponent is on mainly arch/spear, we can add a range and make skirms
- If opponent is on scouts, then we can continue adding scouts and a couple more spears until we are fully walled, once fully walled take all your military units and attack them
- We will naturally want a blacksmith, so pick that up when you can
- If game is hectic in feudal age, pick up bloodlines once you have 7-8 scouts, then pick up armor/attack on them
- Pick up horse collar (if you skipped it) and gold mining upgrade after you click up to castle age
- Once in castle age we have a ton of options, I recommend going 2 stable knights as a default, but also going elite skirm from 1 range if they has a huge mass of xbow
- Light cav is a great option if you have a bunch of left over scouts or if you want to counter their monks
- Prioritize blacksmith upgrades depending on the situation
- Get bow saw
- From here you can either commit to more military, add monks/siege, or simply drop 1-2 more TCs and continue developing. Try to be flexible and really consider your options to find the best approach

19 Vils Eagle and Range Feudal Rush NEW

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	2		Send 2 villagers to wood	2				8
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			9
	2		Next 2 vils to hunt under TC		9			11
	-		[Recommended] Lure 3 deer with your eagle scout once all sheep are found					
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then make a mill					12
	4		Next 4 vils to hunt under TC (get the second boar during this time)		13			16
	1		Send 1 villager to berries		14			17
	2		Send 2 villagers to wood	4				19
	-		Research loom					
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 9:15)					
	-		Send 5 vils from hunt to make a second lumber camp	9	9	0	0	
	-		Move 1 vil from hunt to initial woodline	10	8	0	0	
	-		Move 2 vils from hunt to berries	10	8	0	0	
	-		Send 1 vil from hunt to make a barracks when you're around 50% up					
	-		Send 3 from hunt to make a mining camp on gold	10	5	3	0	
	-		Research double bit axe (skip horse collar for now)					
	-		Start making eagles					
	-		Make an archery range with 2 villagers and use those to wall your base with houses and palisades (1 to each side and wall slowly but consistently)					
	-		DECISION: If you want archers, send your first 4 vils that come out of tc to gold, if you want skirms then send the first 4 villagers to straggler trees					
	-		Start seeding farms as soon as you have extra wood in the bank					
	-		Keep pumping eagles + archer/skirm and start to develop farm eco					
	-		Make a blacksmith when you can					
	-		Research Fletching					

19 Vils Eagle and Range Feudal Rush continued...

Introduction

- The objective of this build is to put pressure with 2 different units, making it hard for your opponent to have a counter
- We will start making eagles right away in feudal and also make a range for archers or skirms
- Once you make 2 eagles (+1 initial) and 3 ranged units, you can attack your opponent with an army he basically cant stop at this point
- The hard part is deciding what you want to make, we can either make archers vs man at arms/scouts, or you make skirms if up against archers
- This way we always win the early fights, archer + eagle should beat scouts (mix in 1 spear if needed) and skirm eagle will destroy archers
- With this build we are also building up alot of eagles, so if you dont lose many of them you can keep them until castle age for a dangerous eagle warrior all in

What's next?


























- Thats the end of the build order, but i will leave you with a few options on how to proceed with the game from here:
 - If you still have alot of eagles left, you can get infantry armor and/or forging if you still wanna pressure hard in feudal
 - If needed make 1-2 spears to attack or defend against scouts
 - Make a market if needed (since it's a hard build it's okay to go early market + it can let you sell stone for all in eagles in Castle Age)
- Pick up horse collar + gold mining upgrade after you click up to castle age
- Once in castle age you can either go all in eagles + monk/siege or you can go for range unit upgrade + bodkin arrow and play a regular game
- Get bow saw early castle no matter what
- Left over eagles are great to break into enemy base with ranged option, or to scout map and play for relics. Can also snipe enemy monks and siege very easily
- Going into late game try to secure extra golds or relics since meso is not amazing without gold

19 Vils 1-Range Archers

Recommended Civs Britons, Mayans, Ethiopians, Tatars, Vikings

Introduction

- The objective of this build is to go up rather quickly and start massing archers right away
- We commit to just 1 range because we value the faster Fletching more than the second range and more army
- This allows for a faster Castle time, or transition into scouts as a response to our opponent having a lot of skirms
- This build is best executed with a civilization that has both Arbalest and Bracer because that is what we are scaling into
- It can also be done with a cavalry based civ, however, we will have to transition in mid Castle/Imp into a completely different unit class, which could make things awkward

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	3		Send 3 villagers to wood	3				9
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			10
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then mill on berries		8			11
	-		[Recommended] Lure deer with your scout once you found all your sheep					
	6		Next 6 vils to hunt under TC (get the second boar during this time)		14			17
	2		Send 2 villagers to wood	5				19
	-		Research loom					
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 9:15)					
	-		Move 5 vils from under TC and make a lumber camp on a second woodline	10	9	0	0	
	-		Move 2 vils from under TC and send them to straggler trees	12	7	0	0	
	-		Move 1 vil from under TC and make a house >barracks >back to food	12	7	0	0	
	-		Move 2 vils from under TC and make a mining camp on the gold	12	5	2	0	
	-		Get Double-Bit Axe (we will skip Horse Collar for now)					
	-		Make a range and start producing archers asap					
	2		Send 2 villagers to gold			4		21
	-		Make a blacksmith and get Fletching when you can afford it					
	-		[Optional] Make 1-4 spears if you are scared of enemy scouts					
	-		Move 4 more vils from TC to berries (5 total on berries)	12	5	4	0	
	-		Start making farms as soon as you have the wood for it					
	-		Start walling with 2-3 vils using a mix of houses and palisades					

What's next?

















- The goal from here is to get up to Castle Age with a healthy mass of 10-15 archers and simply get Crossbowman/Bodkin
- However, if your opponent is attacking you with many skirms and your walls aren't up yet, you can add a stable and use a few scouts to defend alongside your archers
- When you click up to Castle Age, you can add another production building (either a 2nd range or a stable)
- When you get to Castle Age you have a ton of options, you start by getting bow Bow Saw/Bodkin/Crossbowman then you can either add TCs for your economy, or invest more into military by adding a monastery/university/siege workshop
- The choices are many and depend a lot on your personal style, on the civ matchup, and on the position in the game. Try to be flexible and really consider your options to find the best approach

19 Vils + 3 Fishing Ship Build

Recommended Civs Italians, Japanese, Vikings, Lithuanians, Malians

Introduction

- The objective of this build is to setup a strong early game economy with prescence on water
- By adding 3 fishing ships in Dark Age, we are gathering more resources per second, and the longer they stay alive the more advantage we get
- This build also sets us up nicely with a dock, which lets us fight for water more easily
- Very adaptable build, can be used for any hybrid or water map with deep sea fish
- Leads to a variety of strategies in Feudal Age

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	5		Send 5 villagers to wood	5				11
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			12
	1		Send 1 vil to make a house then a dock (then take shorefish usually)		8			13
	1		Add 1 vil to boar under TC		9			14
	1		Send 1 vil to get the second boar		10			15
	-		Make fishing ships (up to 3) as soon as your dock is up, usually you also have to make a house right after your first fishing ship					
	4		Add 4 more vils to food under TC		14			19
	-		Research loom					
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 9:15)					
	-		Right away take 7 vils from sheep under TC and make a 2nd lumber camp on another woodline	12	7	0	0	



















What's next?

- That's actually the end of the build, not because I can't go further, but rather because there are way too many variations of this build
- I will give you some tips for the most common variations
- For galley/fire galley rushes, take the rest of your sheep villagers and send them to stragglers initially, then send 3 to gold for galleys, or 5 to gold for fire galleys. Make 1-2 extra docks and get ready to fight for the water as soon as feudal kicks in
- For maps like Four Lakes where you want to fight on land while having a dock, I recommend adding a barracks on the way up, and then if you go archers, send 3 of the remaining sheep vils to gold. If you want skirms or scouts just keep them on sheep
- General tip for water maps is to always add in fishing ships if you have control of the water and there are plenty of deep sea fish remaining
- Avoid fish trapping unless your water is super super safe
- In big water go galleys and micro, in smaller ponds go for fires/demos
- Using the market to sell stone and buy food is a good way to get to Castle Age fast without needing a ton of farms on water maps
- In Castle Age onwards demo ships are crazy OP so take advantage of them as much as possible

20 Vils Chinese Fast Feudal

Introduction

- The objective of this build is to get you familiar with the most awkward start in aoe2, the chinese
- We will do a fast feudal so you can easily go for scouts or archers using this opening, and can also adapt it to fit man at arm rush, and even a tower rush
- Chinese opening seems difficult, but once you get the hang of it, its actually quite simple
- The goal of the civ is to be up 2 villagers once feudal kicks in, so as long as nothing bad happens, were basically ahead by default vs the average civ

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 vils to sheep right away (no houses needed)		6			6
	-		Research loom					
	1		Send 1 villager to sheep		7			7
	3		Send 3 villagers to wood	3				10
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		8			11
	1		Send 1 vil to make 2 houses then mill on berries		9			12
	-		[Highly Recommended] Lure deer - food runs out quickly with Chinese					
	4		Next 4 vils to hunt under TC (get the second boar during this time)		13			16
	4		Send 4 villagers to berries		17			20
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 8:25)					
	-		Move 2 vils from under TC to first lumber camp	5	15	0	0	
	-		Move 5 vils from under TC and send them to make a second lumber mill	10	10	0	0	
	-		Build a barracks when you can afford it					

What's next?

































- If going scouts then simply make a stable in feudal and get both eco upgrades
- If going archers then on the way up send 2-3 vils to gold and make mining camp, might be worth taking straggler trees with remaining vils on hunt. get both eco upgrades
- If you wanna do man at arms, then make 3 militia when barracks is up and send them forward. get man at arms upgrade soon as u hit feudal, plus bit axe
- If you wanna tower rush then you can send 4-5 vils forward and make the barracks close to enemy base, so you can reinforce with spears + range for skirms. Man at arms tower rush wont work with chinese, not enough res to afford it early on
- After you stabilize in feudal its a regular game and were up 2 vils, so if nothing bad happens were in the lead, and thats why chinese are insane on land maps!

23+2 Vils Fast Castle Boom

Recommended Civs Burgundians, Poles, Bohemians, Portuguese, Bengalis

Introduction

- The plan is to get to castle age as fast as possible with enough resources to start booming with extra TCs and eco upgrades
- ONLY do this if you will be safe from early pressure (arena/hideout/walls, etc), this is the best way to develop for late game
- We want to be as efficient as possible in dark age when it comes to resources gathered and try to have 0 idle TC time
- Pro tip: farming around the stone/gold TC first is ideal because we want more wood/food than minerals in early castle age

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	3		Send 3 villagers to wood	3				9
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			10
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then mill on berries		8			11
	-		[Highly Recommended] Lure 3 deer with your scout into your tc					
	2		Add 2 more to hunt under TC and grab second boar		10			13
	4		Send 4 more vils to berries		14			17
	-		Seed 4 farms with sheep villagers when the boars run out	3	14	0	0	
	4		Send 4 more villagers to wood (only 1 lumber camp)	7				21
	2		Send 2 villagers to gold			2		23
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 10:30)					
	-		When food under tc runs out, send remaining vils to straggler trees					
	-		Send 1 villager to make a blacksmith					
	-		Send 2 villager to make a market (usually the ones on straggler trees)					
	2		Send 2 more villagers to wood (only 1 lumber camp)	9				25
	-		Research Castle Age (perfect landing time: 14:00)					
	-		Research double bit axe					
	-		Research horse collar					
	-		Send 1 villager from a straggler tree to the main lumber camp	9	14	2	0	
	-		Seed farms with remaining straggler vils	9	14	2	0	
	-		Make 1 TC on a woodline away from your lumber camp					
	-		Research bow saw					
	-		Make another TC on secondary gold or main stone if possible					
	-		Use market to buy food or wood whenever you can afford it					
	-		[Optional] Get heavy plow					

What's next?


- We want to continue booming and prioritizing economy for a few more minutes
- Get wheelbarrow around 18 farms, get handcart whenever you can afford it afterwards
- Feel free to start mining stone and adding a 4th TC whenever you want
- Ideally we go for imp after booming, however feel free to add in military if your opponent is pushing or if you want to push
- Once you finish booming, pick a good composition and commit to it (general rule is 1 gold unit, 1 trash unit, 1 siege unit)
- Pro tip: keep making vils until you reach 200 pop (not 200 vils!), you can always delete them or use them to make risky castles. Don't slack on creating military!

25+2 Vils Fast Castle into Unique Unit

Recommended Civs Spanish, Turks, Mayans, Burgundians, Mongols

Introduction


































- The objective of this build is to get to castle age and drop a castle right away
- A castle is one of the strongest buildings in the game, offering excellent defense and the ability to create your unique unit
- The goal is to play safe early on, and then look to attack once we mass a few of our unique unit, and we can attack with all of them since we have the castle as defense
- This build works best when we have a unique unit that's great even without many upgrades, such as conquistador, coustillier, mangudai, janissary, the list goes on there's a bunch. Check out this unique unit tierlist: [The BEST Unique Units - Tierlist](#)
- This build is also excellent on nomadic maps, as you usually go for a fast castle on those since we stock up alot of res early on

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	3		Send 3 villagers to wood	3				9
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			10
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then mill on berries		8			11
	-		[Highly Recommended] Lure deer to your tc if any are nearby					
	3		Add 3 more to hunt under TC and grab second boar		11			14
	4		Send 4 more vils to berries		15			18
	-		Seed 3 farms with hunt villagers so we dont eat our sheep too fast	3	15	0	0	
	5		Send 5 more villagers to wood (only 1 lumber camp)	8				23
	2		Send 2 villagers to gold			2		25
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 11:20)					
	-		When sheep runs out, send 4 vils to stone to make a mining camp	8	11	2	4	
	-		Send the other 3 vils to straggler trees and then make the feudal buildings	11	8	2	4	
	-		Send 1 villager to make a blacksmith					
	-		Send 2 villager to make a market (usually the ones on straggler trees)					
	2		Send 2 villagers to stone				6	27
	-		Research Castle Age (perfect landing time: 14:50)					
	-		Research double bit axe					
	-		Research horse collar					
	-		Drop the castle with stone villagers and play from there					
	-		Research bow saw					
	-		When berry villagers go idle, send them to whatever resource you need					

What's next?

- Now that you have a castle and are in the castle age, you have a few options
- First option: we can make our unique unit then slowly add in town centers, in this case send 2-3 vils back to stone but the rest send to mainly farms/wood
- Second option: continue mining stone with all 9 vils, make your unique unit to gain map control, and then 2-3 mins later you can go forward and drop a second castle in his face to easily win the game early on
- Third option is to go off stone entirely and 1 tc push with unique unit and siege, in this case after the vils build the castle send them to wood/gold/farms
- Regardless what you go for, make sure you get some value from your unique unit, or at least make sure the defensive castle accomplishes something, or else we just fall behind as we delay our town centers by going for that castle drop early

25+2 Vils Fast Castle Light Cav Relic Control

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	3		Send 3 villagers to wood	3				9
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			10
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then mill on berries		8			11
	-		[Highly Recommended] Lure 3 deer with your scout into your tc					
	3		Add 3 more to hunt under TC and grab second boar		11			14
	4		Send 4 more vils to berries and make another house		15			18
	-		Seed 3 farms with sheep villagers when the boars run out	3	15	0	0	
	5		Send 5 more villagers to wood (only 1 lumber camp)	8				23
	2		Send 2 villagers to gold			2		25
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 11:20)					
	-		When food under tc runs out, send remaining vils to straggler trees					
	-		Build a barracks					
	-		Send 2 villagers to make a stable					
	-		Send 2 villagers to make a market					
	2		Send 2 more villagers to wood (only 1 lumber camp)	10				27
	-		Research Castle Age (perfect landing time: 14:50)					
	-		Research double bit axe					
	-		Research horse collar					
	-		Send the 4 villagers who made the buildings back to straggler trees	10	15	2	0	
	-		Seed a few more farms after horse collar finishes					
	-		Make 2-3 more scouts					
	-		Add a monastery right away					
	-		Research bow saw					
	-		Make a TC when you can afford it					
	-		[Optional] Get light cav if opponent is also contesting relics					

25+2 Vils Fast Castle Light Cav Relic Control continued...



































Introduction

- This build order is excellent for arena, but can also be used in other maps that are a bit more slow paced and defensive, like hideout, gold rush, yucatan, etc
- The goal of this build is to get control of the relics asap, and then also keep an eye on your opponent
- The very minimal investment into light cav + monks lets u match enemy boom pretty well, while also having map control
- Those units are also really effective at small skirmishes, which is what you are looking for

What's next?

- Add more light cav + monks if opponent is contesting relics, otherwise just add a 3rd tc and boom up while taking all 5 relics
- Patrol light cav around the map, to keep an eye on your opponent once youve won the relic war. On arena this means patrolling their walls to see what they move out with
- Add a 4th tc if needed, and just boom till imperial age
- Pro tip, if you get pushed and they are going faster to imp, move your relics to the back so you dont lose them, then try to hold their push. If you succeed, you auto win late game cuz of the 5 relics in your control

26+2 Vils Vils Armenian Spear Rush Into Fast Castle Relic Control

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	4		Send 4 villagers to wood	4				10
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			11
	1		Send 1 vil to build house>barracks>house in front and start walling slowly					12
	2		Send 2 more vils to boar under TC		9			14
	-		[Optional] Lure deer					
	1		Send 1 vil to get second boar		10			15
	2		Send 2 more vils to boar under TC		12			17
	-		Make 2-3 spears from barracks and send them to harass with your scout					
	6		Send 6 vils to berries and build a mill		18			23
	-		Move 2 vils from hunt to wall (3 total, make sure opponent can't get in)	4	16	0	0	
	3		Send 3 villagers to gold			3		26
	-		Send 5 vils from food to wood (9 total)	9	11	3	0	
	-		Start making farms as sheep run out					
	-		Research loom					
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 12:10)					
	-		Send walling vils to straggler trees when they are done	12	11	3	0	
	-		Make sure to micro mule cart to keep the woodline as efficient as possible					
	-		Feudal buildings with 3 straggler vils (Recommend to do market + blacksmith)					
	2		Send 2 villagers to gold			5		28
	-		NOTE: If you can't afford Castle Age, make 1-2 more vils or use the market					
	-		Research Castle Age (perfect landing time: 15:40)					
	-		Research double bit axe					
	-		Research horse collar					
	-		Make fortified church in a great defensive location					
	-		Spam warrior priests to get relics ASAP					
	-		Research bow saw					

26+2 Vils Vils Armenian Spear Rush Into Fast Castle Relic Control continued...








































Introduction

- Goal of this build is to harass the opponent in dark age with a unit that outruns vils and destroys scouts
- Wall up behind it and stay safe until Castle Age
- We immediately get a defensive building and one that can create a strong army to defend ourselves in Castle Age
- Warrior priest is insane vs any feudal army so its going to be easy to defend with the church
- Then we grab up to 6 relics and coast to an easy late game

What's next?

- Place your church in the position that best defends your base. Remember it shoots arrows right away with the 1 relic
- If under heavy pressure consider getting armor upgrades for your warrior priests, and definitely pick up squires asap
- Once you have dealt with enemy army go pick up all the relics on the map and start developing your eco
- Start adding TCs and develop your economy
- Harass enemy with whatever leftover priests after you get the relics, or use them to defend
- Don't overcommit to attacking early castle age, our main goal is to out boom and win in late castle/early imp and we always have relic advantage for super late imp

28+2+2 Vils Turk Fast Imperial

Age	Vils	Task	Note					Vil Pop
	6		Send 6 villagers to sheep		6			6
	4		Send 4 villagers to wood	4				10
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		7			11
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then mill on berries		8			12
	2		Send 2 villagers to berries		10			14
	-		[Required] Lure 3 deer with your scout into your TC					
	1		Send 1 villager to lure boar		11			15
	1		Send 1 vil to make house then go to berries (4 total)		12			16
	3		Send next 3 vils to gather food under TC		15			19
	4		Send 4 villagers to wood	8				23
	-		Make farms with your sheep vils gradually as your sheep start to run out					
	5		Send 5 villagers to gold			5		28
	-		Research Feudal Age (perfect landing time: 12:35)					
	-		As hunt finishes, move 1 vil to berries and 3 vils to straggler trees	11	12	5	0	
	-		Send 1 villager to make a blacksmith					
	-		Send 2 villager to make a market (usually the ones on straggler trees)					
	2		Send 2 villagers to gold			7		30
	-		Research Castle Age (perfect landing time: 16:05)					
	-		Send the vils that made the feudal buildings to farms	8	15	7	0	
	-		Research double bit axe					
	-		Research gold mining					
	-		Sell 200 stone					
	2		Send 2 villagers to gold			9		32
	-		Send 3 vils from wood to make a siege workshop and monastery					
	-		Research Imperial Age (perfect landing time: 20:05)					
	-		As berries expire, move the vils to a second mining camp	8	11	13	0	
	-		Use the market to get enough wood to make a barracks and 2 ranges					
	-		Get the first archer armor upgrade					
	-		[Optional] Make a monk and pick up relics					
	-		Keep making villagers and send them to whichever resources you need					
	-		Make hand cannoneers from 2 ranges and make 1-2 bombard cannons					

28+2+2 Vils Turk Fast Imperial continued...

Introduction

- The objective of this build is to get to Imperial Age as fast as possible and start making gunpowder units, which are the strongest units you can make that require few upgrades
- We get chemistry free with Turks, so there's no waiting time before pumping them out
- Even though we will have low economy, our units will be very strong, and our opponent likely isn't ready to deal with heavy army
- Really good strat if you're not an arena player, and just want a cheesy strategy to get free wins

What's next?

- Getting armor on hand cannons is amazing when up against enemy range units
- If enemy is going knights then you should add monks to help out with conversions and healing
- Push as fast as possible, but if you see your opponent has a lot of army trying to defend in castle age, then make sure you group up your army well before pushing, we don't want to lose any stray units
- Don't bother adding economy until way later, I'd recommend to spend the first 10 minutes in imp on 1 TC, simply adding in more army will always be best
- If opponent is trying to go imp himself, try to enter his base and target his town centers first, you never know when you can kill the one that is researching Imperial Age ;)