

Terran Society

A New Social Contract

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Terran Society

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Dedication

Nothing in the world is softer and weaker than water; But, for attacking the hard and strong, there is nothing like it! For nothing can take its place. That the weak overcomes the strong, and the soft overcomes the hard, That is something known by all, but practiced by none. Therefore, the Sage says: To receive the dirt of a country is to be the lord of its soil shrines. To bear the calamities of a country is to be the prince of the world. Indeed, Truth sounds like its opposite!

Tao Teh Ching #78

Translated by John C. H. Wu

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Terran Society: A New Social Contract

Introduction

Terran Society represents a comprehensive framework for human governance designed to protect individual rights, ensure accountability, and create sustainable prosperity. Unlike traditional systems of governance that concentrate power, Terran Society distributes authority across multiple tiers and branches with built-in checks and balances.

The foundation of this system rests on two pillars: the Rights of the People and the Basic Principles. These establish the core values that guide every aspect of Terran Society's operations. From these foundations emerges an organizational structure spanning three tiers—District, Region, and World—each with specific responsibilities and limitations.

Core Objectives

Terran Society exists to:

1. **Protect the Rights of the People** - Every member's fundamental rights are guaranteed and actively defended
2. **Meet Basic Needs** - Ensure all members have access to clean food, water, air, shelter, safety, privacy, information, travel, and healthcare
3. **Provide Just Governance** - Create transparent, accountable systems for collective decision-making
4. **Enable Peaceful Resolution** - Establish fair processes for resolving disputes without violence
5. **Ensure Common Defense** - Protect the society and its members from external threats

6. **Foster Sustainability** – Build systems that can endure for generations while respecting the natural world

Why a New System?

Current governance systems worldwide share common flaws: concentrated power, lack of transparency, erosion of individual rights, and structures that serve special interests rather than the people. Terran Society addresses these systemic problems through:

- **Decentralization** – Power is distributed across regions and branches, preventing dangerous concentrations
- **Transparency** – The Fair Witness branch ensures all Society operations are recorded and public
- **Direct Accountability** – Most major positions are directly elected by the people they serve
- **Rights-First Approach** – The Rights of the People cannot be legislated away
- **Practical Scale** – Regions are sized for responsive governance (maximum 20-25 million people)

How to Use This Book

This book provides a comprehensive guide to Terran Society's structure and operations. It is organized to build understanding progressively:

- **Basic Principles** – The fundamental values guiding all operations
- **Rights of the People** – The complete enumeration of protected rights
- **Organizational Structure** – Detailed explanation of each tier and branch
- **Roles and Responsibilities** – Clear definitions of every position and duty
- **Processes and Procedures** – How elections, legislation, courts, and other systems operate

Throughout this book, terms appearing in the Glossary are capitalized when referring to specific offices or institutions (e.g., “Administrator” for the office, “administrator” for the general concept).

Basic Principles of Terran Society

These eight principles guide all operations and decisions within Terran Society. They serve as a philosophical foundation ensuring that systems remain focused on member welfare, transparency, and sustainability.

Principle 1: Operations Transparency

Terran Society operations need to be open, transparent and accessible to all members as the base of power is the informed individual.

This principle recognizes that an informed citizenry is the only reliable check on power. All meetings of governing bodies must be observed by Fair Witnesses, and records must be freely accessible. Secret legislation or hidden agendas cannot exist in this system.

Principle 2: Member-Centric Design

Terran Society services and systems must be designed, developed and administered for the benefit of all members.

Society management exists to serve the people, not the other way around. Every system, service, and structure must be evaluated based on whether it benefits all members. Policies that advantage one group at the expense of others violate this principle.

Principle 3: Environmental Stewardship

We are caretakers in this wonderful world shared with many other beings, pollution of air, water and land is to be avoided and cleaned up.

Humans are part of a larger ecological community. Our survival depends on clean air, water, and soil. This principle establishes environmental protection not as an optional add-on, but as a core requirement. The Environmental Guardian role exists at both Regional and World levels to enforce this principle.

Principle 4: Equal Regional Treatment

Services provided to Regions must be administered equally per Region.

No Region should receive preferential treatment in the allocation of resources or services. This ensures fairness and prevents regional rivalry. World-level services are distributed equally per Region regardless of population, wealth, or political influence.

Principle 5: Sustainable Infrastructure

Permanent structures & facilities shall be designed to last for future generations, have minimal maintenance and be as energy independent and efficient as is practical.

Short-term thinking creates long-term problems. Terran Society requires that infrastructure be built to last generations, minimizing the burden on future members. This principle encourages renewable energy, durable materials, and efficient design.

Principle 6: Regional Self-Sufficiency

Each community and region should be self-sufficient in a sustainable way for meeting their basic needs.

Resilience comes from local self-sufficiency. While trade and cooperation between Regions are encouraged, each Region should be capable of meeting its own basic needs. This prevents cascading failures and reduces vulnerability to disruption.

Principle 7: Single Branch Service

A Person may be on the staff of only one branch of World, Regional or District management or the Defense Force at a time.

To prevent conflicts of interest and ensure focused service, individuals cannot simultaneously serve in multiple branches or tiers. This also distributes leadership opportunities across more people.

Principle 8: Inviolable Voting Rights

Voting rights and benefits cannot be revoked as punishment or penalty.

Voting rights and membership benefits are fundamental and cannot be revoked as punishment. Even those convicted of crimes retain their voice in society. This prevents the creation of a permanent underclass and ensures that everyone maintains a stake in the system.

Rights of the People

These 31 rights form the cornerstone of Terran Society. They are inalienable, meaning they cannot be legislated away, suspended, or revoked. Every law, every Society action, and every institution must respect these rights.

Foundational Statement

We are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable Rights, among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. These Rights are not to be violated by institutions, organizations or individuals. Our duty is to protect these Rights.

The Rights

Right 01

Each Person is a unique individual, therefore all People have a Right to their own beliefs, thoughts emotions and the free expression thereof through speech, song, writing or other art of self expression, including in the Public Space. However, a Person can be held accountable if their speech or self expression directly causes physical harm or violates the Rights of another person.

Right 02

Life begins at conception.

Right 03

People retain the Right to their body and therefore control of the consumption and use of foods and medicines. Forced medication, implantation, injection, medical procedure, poison or related harm is prohibited. Children may not be sexually mutilated or be given gender modification drugs or related surgery.

Right 04

People have the Right to adorn, dress and present themselves as they choose in that clothing attire may not be mandated or prohibited by law. Private establishment dress codes and designated uniforms are voluntary by use and membership.

Right 05

As Humans, we have a symbiotic relationship with the cannabis plant, the only known plant which by itself can sustain Human life and civilization. People have the right to possess, grow, use and have access to cannabis.

Right 06

As Humans we share a relationship with all life of which our Biosphere is composed and have a natural right to responsibly use, cultivate and/or farm animals, plants, fungi, algae and such.

Right 07

People have the Right to be free of harmful substances added to food, water, air and soil including toxic herbicides, pesticides and chemical fertilizers and food additives.

Right 08

People have the Right to a healthy and safe living, working and playing environment as is practical. But they may choose to take risks upon themselves or participate in activities which can never be totally free of danger or potential harm.

Right 09

People have the Right to peaceably assemble.

Right 10

People have a Right to access and/or use Public Space without fee and managed use must be by a fair and open system.

Right 11

People have the Right to Travel as is practical. Public roads and public forms of transportation must be available to all.

Right 12

People have the right to be secure in their person, home, papers, thoughts, digital media, effects and private communications, against unreasonable search and/or seizure.

Right 13

People have a Right to self defense and to defend others if necessary. Therefore People have the right to keep and bear arms and learn martial arts. This is does not include the use of excessive force. Weapons of mass destruction, need to be under secure military control.

Right 14

People have the right to be quiet and to not accuse themselves. Forced confession and attempted forced confession is forbidden.

Right 15

A Person shall be free from double jeopardy. There shall not be a hearing held twice for the same offense. A momentary single act cannot result in multiple criminal charges.

Right 16

A Person may be accused and brought to trial only for acts which have violated the Rights of another Person, an actual injured party.

Right 17

A mother and father will have joint custody of their children, even in a separation, unless they agree to another arrangement between themselves or through a mediator.

Right 18

People are not property. Involuntary servitude, including taxation of an individual's labor or services rendered is prohibited.

Right 19

Chromosomes, genes and genetically engineered life forms are not private intellectual property and may not be patented.

Right 20

A legally defined organization of people is not a person and cannot have legal standing as an actual person.

Right 21

People have the Right to contract freely with others as long as the enforcement of that contract or agreement does not result in harm to the individual. People also have the Right to terminate their consent to a contract or agreement.

Right 22

People have the Right to know the organizational structure, roles and responsibilities of any organization they are a member of, employed by or work for.

Right 23

People have the right to data and information collected or stored about themselves by any person, group or organization. This includes the right to review, challenge, and amend such information.

Right 24

No group or organization may be granted powers which result in the violation of the Rights of the People.

Right 25

If any Person shall accept, claim, receive, or retain any title of nobility or honor, or accept and retain any present, pension, office, or emolument, from any emperor, king, prince, or foreign power, such person shall be ineligible to hold any office of public trust within Terran Society to avoid conflict of loyalty.

Right 26

No single law created by any elected legislature can be too long or complex. If it takes more than 20 minutes for a person of average reading ability to read and/or is not in clear, understandable language, that law is null and void.

Right 27

Any person elected or appointed to office who violates this Bill of Rights is subject to recall and a new election held for their office or legislative seat as soon as is practical.

Right 28

Truthful authorship of any pending law or treaty has to be made public before any binding vote for approval can take place.

Right 29

No law or treaty can be valid which has not been made public and read aloud in the legislature with a quorum present, at least three times. These readings must be spaced apart in time at least one day, before being voted on for approval.

Right 30

No treaty or binding agreement with an outside party may be made which violates these Rights.

Right 31

This defining of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the People.

Organizational Structure Overview

Terran Society is organized into three tiers, each with specific roles and responsibilities. At the Regional and World levels, these tiers are further divided into branches that provide checks and balances on each other.

Organizational Hierarchy

The structure operates on clear hierarchical principles:

District Level: - Council of Elders (7-9 members) - District Representative (to Regional Council)

Regional Level: - **Executive Branch:** Five offices, each headed by an elected official with subordinate staff - Office of Regional Administrator (with Deputy, Directors of Elections/Infrastructure/Public Services) - Office of Regional Treasurer (with Deputy, Directors of Budget/Audits) - Office of Regional Sheriff (with Deputy Sheriff, Marshal, Chief Investigator) - Office of Regional Environmental Guardian (with Deputy, Directors of Monitoring/Restoration) - Office of Regional Ambassador (with Deputy, Economic Development Director, Consular Officer) - **Legislative Branch:** Regional Council of the People (one Representative per District) - **Judicial Branch:** Three offices - Office of Guarantor of Rights (with Rights Investigator) - Office of Facilitator of the Court (with Court Administrator) - Office of Public Arbitrator - **Fair Witness Branch:** Regional Fair Witness Council

World Level: - **Executive Branch:** World Executive Council plus five offices (Administrator, Treasurer, Ambassador, Sheriff, Environmental Guardian) - **Legislative Branch:** Council of the Regions (Regional representation) and World Council of the People - **Judicial Branch:** World Court (handles inter-Regional disputes) - **Fair Witness Branch:** World Fair Witness Council - **Military Branch:** World Defense Force, Defense Force Intelligence, Defense Force Council

The Three Tiers

District

The District is the most local tier of Terran Society, composed of a Council of Elders and a Representative to the Regional Legislature. Districts typically range from 5,000 to 21,000 people, providing a human-scale community where residents are likely to personally know at least one Elder.

Region

The Region is the primary governance tier, with full executive, legislative, judicial, and Fair Witness branches. Regional boundaries are set to not exceed 20-25 million people, ensuring responsive and accountable governance. Each Region manages its own public services, resources, and administration.

World

The World tier provides planetary-level coordination for matters that cross regional boundaries, including defense, inter-regional commerce, environmental standards, and the Fair Witness system. It ensures equal treatment of all Regions and coordination of world-wide challenges.

The Branches

At the Regional and World levels, governance is organized into distinct branches, each with different responsibilities:

Executive Branch: Administers daily operations, public services, and implementation of legislation

Legislative Branch: Creates laws, approves budgets, and provides oversight of other branches

Judicial Branch: Provides dispute resolution, rights protection, and justice through courts

Fair Witness Branch: Independent record-keeping, observation, and transparency oversight

Military Branch: Planetary defense and intelligence gathering under civilian oversight

District Level Governance

The District is the most local tier of Terran Society, designed to be small enough that residents personally know at least one Elder. Districts typically range from 5,000 to 21,000 people.

Council of Elders

The Council of Elders serves as the primary governance body at the District level. Its focus is on community cohesion, family welfare, and peaceful dispute resolution.

Composition

- Seven to nine elected Elders, depending on District population
- Three-year terms with staggered elections (one-third up for election each year)
- No term limits
- Candidates must demonstrate compassion and love for children
- Preferably at least 55 years of age

Responsibilities

Conflict Resolution: Peacefully resolve disputes between District members before escalation to Sheriff or Courts

Family Support: Provide counsel and guidance to families in need, help restore family unity in crisis situations

Child Welfare: Maintain safe haven for children in distress, oversee care of orphans and adoption process

Community Assistance: Help people who are struggling to adapt to Terran Society or access benefits and services

Youth Guidance: Address juvenile misbehavior through mentorship before involvement of authorities

Community Liaison: Maintain good information flow to residents about District matters and Regional issues

Social Cohesion: Facilitate simple social events that encourage neighbors to know one another

Safe Haven

Each Council of Elders maintains a safe haven—a secure location where children or family members in crisis can temporarily stay. This provides immediate protection while the Council works to resolve the underlying issues and restore the family unit.

Limitations

The Council of Elders: - Cannot tax or charge service fees (funded through Regional budget allocation) - Cannot compel anyone to appear or enforce decisions (unresolved issues escalate to Sheriff or Courts) - Serves a voluntary mediation role—parties must agree to Council involvement

District Representative

Each District elects one Representative to the Regional Council of the People. This provides direct representation in Regional legislation and ensures District concerns are heard at the Regional level.

District Elections

District elections occur on a three-year cycle. The Administrator's Department manages the election process, ensuring:

- Transparent candidate disclosure
- Public forums for debate and questions
- Physical ballots verified by voters
- Ballots counted publicly and retained for 10 years
- No party affiliation required

- No money in campaigns

Regional Executive Branch

The Regional Executive Branch administers daily operations, public services, and implementation of legislation. It consists of five major offices, each headed by an elected official with supporting staff.

Office of Regional Administrator

Manages Regional operations, facilities, staffing, elections, and public service infrastructure

Regional Administrator

Chief administrative officer managing Regional operations and infrastructure

Key Responsibilities:

- **Government Operations:** Administer regional government buildings, facilities, operations and related staffing
- **Election Administration:** Ensure clean, well-managed election process with public forum for candidate debate
- **Equitable Services:** Ensure equitable distribution of benefits and services across all Districts
- **Infrastructure Management:** Oversee communications, networking, and infrastructure services and systems
- **Public Service Cooperatives:** Facilitate creation of Public Service Cooperatives for utilities, ports, transit, etc.
- **Medical Facilities:** Assure proper medical facilities and resources are available throughout the Region
- **Fire Services:** Maintain Fire Stations and conduct fire safety inspections and enforcement
- **Cooperative Templates:** Prepare organizational templates for cooperatives for legislative approval

- **Cooperative Assistance:** Assist people and organizations in applying for and launching approved cooperatives

Subordinate Roles:

- **Deputy Administrator:** Assists Administrator and may act in their absence
- **Director of Elections:** Manages clean, transparent election process including public forums for debate
- **Director of Infrastructure:** Oversees communications, networking, and infrastructure systems
- **Director of Public Services:** Coordinates creation and oversight of Public Service Cooperatives

Office of Regional Treasurer

Manages regional budget, taxation, benefits accounts, audits, and financial oversight

Regional Treasurer

Chief financial officer managing regional budget, taxation, and financial oversight

Key Responsibilities:

- **Budget Preparation:** Prepare budget proposals for legislative approval on 1, 2, or 3 year cycles
- **Benefits Accounts:** Maintain a benefits account for each person residing in the Region
- **Tax Administration:** Administer taxation and collection as defined by legislation
- **Regional Bank Oversight:** Appoint five-member Board of Directors of Regional Bank, subject to legislative approval
- **Cooperative Financial Support:** Assist in conversion/creation of cooperatives from the financial perspective
- **Audit Authority:** Authority and duty to audit regional management, registered businesses, and cooperatives

- **Forensic Investigation:** Conduct forensic audit as part of criminal investigation when required

Subordinate Roles:

- **Deputy Treasurer:** Assists Treasurer and manages specific financial departments
- **Director of Budget:** Prepares budget proposals and monitors budget execution
- **Director of Audits:** Conducts audits of regional management, businesses, and cooperatives

Office of Regional Sheriff

Protects Rights of the People, conducts investigations, maintains public safety, and emergency response

Regional Sheriff

Chief law enforcement officer responsible for protecting Rights of the People

Key Responsibilities:

- **Rights Protection:** Responsible for protecting the Rights of the People as primary duty
- **Physical Fitness:** Ensure officers are physically fit, trained in self-defense and safe non-lethal subduing techniques
- **Criminal Investigation:** Conduct criminal investigations and maintain forensic laboratory capabilities
- **Emergency Response:** Maintain accessibility and ability to respond to emergency calls of all types including rescue
- **Inter-Regional Coordination:** Coordinate with World Sheriff on matters involving inter-regional crime
- **Whistleblower Protection:** Provide protection to members who report official misconduct or serious crime

Subordinate Roles:

- **Deputy Sheriff:** Senior law enforcement officer assisting Sheriff in operations
- **Marshal:** Field law enforcement officer trained in non-lethal force and investigation
- **Chief Investigator:** Leads criminal investigations and forensic laboratory operations

Office of Regional Environmental Guardian

Environmental protection, pollution monitoring, ecosystem restoration, and enforcement of environmental standards

Regional Environmental Guardian

Chief environmental officer for regional environmental protection and restoration

Key Responsibilities:

- **Environmental Protection:** Conduct regional environmental protection and ecosystem restoration operations
- **Pollution Testing:** Pro-actively test for pollution and environmental damage
- **Data Consolidation:** Consolidate environmental monitoring data and report to World Environmental Guardian
- **Methods Development:** Develop and evaluate environmental protection techniques, methods, and technology
- **Waste Management:** Ensure toxic industrial byproducts are rendered stable before release to environment
- **Resource Standards:** Ensure natural resource extraction conforms to respectful, legislatively-determined standards
- **Complaint Investigation:** Receive and investigate environmental concern reports from members
- **Remediation Planning:** Determine plans for environmental repair and restoration, then implement them

- **Resource Coordination:** First point of dispute resolution and coordination regarding resources within Region
- **Technical Assistance:** Provide information and technical assistance to organizations with environmental impact
- **Standards Proposal:** Propose environmental and health safety standards to the Council of the People

Subordinate Roles:

- **Deputy Environmental Guardian:** Assists Environmental Guardian in environmental operations
- **Director of Environmental Monitoring:** Oversees pollution testing and environmental damage assessment
- **Director of Restoration:** Plans and implements ecosystem restoration projects

Office of Regional Ambassador

Promotes commerce, tourism, economic development, and assists regional members traveling in other Regions

Regional Ambassador

Chief diplomatic officer promoting commerce, tourism, and regional interests

Key Responsibilities:

- **Commerce Promotion:** Promote commerce, tourism, and other economic development
- **Traveler Assistance:** Assist travelers in far away Regions and help residents vote when away from home
- **Regional Image:** Promote a positive and unifying image of the Region
- **Inter-Regional Trade:** Promote economic development and inter-regional trade opportunities

Subordinate Roles:

- **Deputy Ambassador:** Assists Ambassador in diplomatic and economic development functions
- **Economic Development Director:** Promotes commerce, trade, and economic opportunities for the Region
- **Consular Officer:** Assists regional members traveling in other Regions

Executive Council Coordination

The five elected heads of the Regional Executive offices form the Executive Council. This council coordinates executive operations, discusses inter-departmental matters, and ensures unified implementation of Regional policy.

Executive Authority:

- Implement laws passed by the Regional Council
- Manage Regional budget and operations
- Provide public services to all Districts
- Sign or veto legislation (First Executive)
- Appoint department heads (subject to Council approval)
- No authority to remove elected officials

Executive Accountability:

- All executive officials are directly elected by the people
- Subject to impeachment by Regional Council for cause
- Operations observed by Fair Witnesses for transparency
- Budget and spending subject to legislative approval

Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch is the primary law-making and oversight body within Terran Society. It operates at both District and Regional levels, with elected representatives directly accountable to the people they serve.

Regional Council of the People

Representative legislative body with one seat per District, passes laws, approves budgets, charters cooperatives

Structure and Composition

The Regional Council consists of elected Representatives, with one Representative per District. This ensures direct representation of local interests at the Regional level.

Roles and Responsibilities

Representative

Elected representative from a District to the Regional Council of the People

- **Budget Approval:** Approve regional budget on 1, 2, or 3 year cycle
- **Cooperative Development:** Work with Executive Council developing organizational models for Public Service Cooperatives
- **Cooperative Chartering:** Charter and fund approved public and private service cooperatives
- **Investigative Hearings:** Hold public investigative hearings as needed
- **Environmental Standards:** Legislate environmental protection standards for use of natural resources
- **Resource Allocation:** Allocate land and water resources fairly with objective standards

- **Impeachment Authority:** Impeach and remove elected officials of Executive, Judicial, or Fair Witness for cause
- **Contributed Service Rules:** Establish objective rules for Administrator to manage Contributed Service
- **Veto Override:** Override Executive Council veto with three-fourths majority vote
- **Penalties Definition:** Define major/minor violations and specify appropriate maximum and minimum penalties

Administrative Roles

Council Speaker: Presides over Council sessions, elected by Council members

Council Clerk: Maintains Council records, manages documentation and legislative process

Legislative Authority

The Regional Council has authority to:

- Pass laws and spending legislation within their jurisdiction
- Approve major appointments by the First Executive
- Conduct investigative hearings and compel witnesses
- Define representative districts (must be simple, not contorted)
- Impeach members of the Executive and Judicial branches for cause
- Charter organizations operating within the Region

All laws must conform to the Rights of the People without exception. All meetings must be observed by Fair Witnesses or proceedings are null and void.

Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch provides dispute resolution, rights protection, and justice through a multi-tiered court system. All judicial proceedings are public, observed by Fair Witnesses, and decided by citizen juries.

Office of Guarantor of Rights

Investigates rights violations, presents cases to Warrant Jury, watches over Sheriff and Executive officials

Guarantor of Rights

Investigates rights violations and serves as watchdog over Sheriff and Executive

Responsibilities:

- **Rights Investigation:** Investigate violations of Rights of the People
- **Warrant Presentation:** Present evidence to Warrant Jury when search, arrest, or court appearance is required
- **Executive Oversight:** Serve as watchdog of Sheriff and other Executive Branch officials for the People
- **Impeachment Evidence:** Present evidence for impeachment of officials to the legislative body

Rights Investigator: Investigates complaints of rights violations and gathers evidence

Office of Facilitator of the Court

Presides over Major and Minor Courts, manages court process, advises jury, ensures procedural fairness

Facilitator of the Court (Conductor)

Presides over Major and Minor Courts, manages court process and advises jury

Responsibilities:

- **Court Presiding:** Preside over Minor and Major Court proceedings
- **Case Classification:** Determine in which type of court (Minor or Major) the case should be heard
- **Jury Advising:** Advise the jury, clarify issues, and answer their questions
- **Case Dismissal:** Dismiss a case if that is clearly the just course of action
- **Mistrial Declaration:** Abolish a Jury ruling or declare mistrial for cause and reschedule hearing
- **Misconduct Management:** Remove anyone, even a jury member, for misconduct

Court Administrator: Manages court facilities, scheduling, jury coordination, and court staff

Office of Public Arbitrator

Provides voluntary arbitration services for dispute resolution outside formal court system

Public Arbitrator

Provides voluntary arbitration services for dispute resolution

Responsibilities:

- **Case Selection:** Choose to accept cases for arbitration hearings
- **Arbitration Hearing:** Conduct arbitration hearing and listen to all parties
- **Ruling Determination:** Determine a fair and just ruling after hearing the case
- **Order Maintenance:** Remove persons from hearing for misconduct

Court Structure

The Judicial Branch operates three types of courts:

- **Minor Courts:** Handle petty criminal cases with 7-person juries (6-of-7 verdict required)
- **Major Courts:** Handle serious criminal cases with 14-person juries (12-of-14 verdict required)
- **Arbitration Courts:** Voluntary binding arbitration for civil disputes

All courts require three Certified Fair Witnesses in attendance. Juries are selected from Citizens, and the Facilitator presides to ensure procedural fairness.

The Fair Witness Branch

The Fair Witness branch provides independent, objective observation and record-keeping for all Society operations. Inspired by Robert A. Heinlein’s “Stranger in a Strange Land”, this concept resolves a critical problem: those in power cannot be trusted to keep proper records on themselves. Fair Witnesses are trained to be impartial, non-biased witnesses with linguistic mastery and keen observation skills. Their independence ensures badly needed credibility, fairness, and openness.

Purpose and Independence

Fair Witnesses resolve the problem of record-keeping through absolute independence. They are trained as impartial, non-biased witnesses with linguistic mastery and keen observation skills. Their role is strictly observational—they have no other authority. This is not a police role.

It is a criminal act to influence a Fair Witness in any way that could compromise them. This would be a violation of Rights where the victim is the whole Society. Fair Witnesses are the only designated group with such protective status.

Training Hierarchy

Fair Witness Trainee

Qualified person accepted into Fair Witness training program

Qualified persons accepted into the program undergo 3-7 years of highly demanding training. Curriculum includes observation skills, memorization techniques, recall accuracy, documentation standards, linguistic mastery, and ethical conduct. Must pass all required coursework and testing. Graduates announced in public ceremony.

Fair Witness Apprentice

Graduate of training program qualified to assist Certified Fair Witnesses

Apprentices have completed schooling and testing but need real-world experience. Assigned to Certified Fair Witness mentor for duration and criteria set by Senior Fair Witness Panel. Not ready for independent assignment. Mentor reports to panel when ready for Certification. Certification announced in public ceremony.

Certified Fair Witness

Certified observer qualified to record proceedings and maintain public records

Full rights and privileges to assume role with trust of the People. May be assigned to independent duty with unrestricted access to Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. Creates and maintains records, meeting minutes, logs for all Citizens. Must wear badge/symbol/attire for open identification. Must remain sober and independent. Life appointment unless compromised, resigned, or retired.

Senior Certified Fair Witness

Senior Fair Witness with extensive honorable service

Eligible to serve on Fair Witness panels after specified years of CFW service. Retains CFW status. May be temporarily relieved for panel duties. Manages libraries and support staff. CFWs too demanding for managerial duties - SCFW handles administration. Hires and manages Citizen support staff who assist with day-to-day library tasks.

Fair Witness Panels

Fair Witnesses are governed by a two-tiered panel system consistent with the Regional and World structure. These panels oversee administration of the branch, with full authority to de-certify, reprimand, or order additional training of Certified Fair Witnesses.

Regional Fair Witness Council

Nine-member elected council managing Fair Witness operations, training, and certification in the Region

Regional Panel Structure: Nine-member panel serving staggered 9-year terms with three members elected every three years. Only Senior Certified Fair Witnesses and Certified Fair Witnesses with 1+ year local service may vote. Panel members must have completed minimum three years as CFW. Responsible for administration, criteria implementation, performance reviews, and de-certification authority within the Region.

World Fair Witness Council

Twenty-seven member council elected from Senior Certified Fair Witnesses for nine-year terms

World Panel Structure: Nine Senior Certified Fair Witnesses serving staggered 9-year terms with three elected every three years. Only SCFW eligible to vote, preventing politicization. Panel sets criteria, training, testing, and performance standards for entire world. Selects panel leader each three-year cycle. Panel members may serve maximum 12 years.

Fair Witness Responsibilities

Fair Witnesses serve as record keepers and librarians for all Society operations:

- **Unrestricted Access:** Fair Witnesses have unrestricted access to Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branch operations
- **Record Keeping:** Prepare and maintain meeting minutes, logs, and all manner of records
- **Library Management:** Create and maintain freely accessible libraries of records for all Citizens
- **Linguistic Mastery:** Must be fluent in all languages used in Society operations
- **Observation Only:** No other authority beyond observation and documentation

- **Identification:** Must wear visible badge, symbol, or attire to openly identify their presence

Accountability and Recall

While Fair Witnesses hold life appointments, they can be removed for breach of trust through a careful process designed to prevent political abuse. A Citizen complaint must be endorsed by both a Regional Representative AND the Regional Executive, then approved by majority vote of the Regional Council. This same-tier requirement ensures Fair Witnesses cannot be removed for political reasons while maintaining accountability to the People.

World Level Governance

The World tier coordinates matters that span Regions, including planetary defense, inter-Regional disputes, world-wide infrastructure, and relations with other civilizations. The World level mirrors the Regional structure with Executive, Legislative, Judicial, Fair Witness, and Military branches.

World Executive Branch

The World Executive administers planetary-scale services, infrastructure, and operations. It coordinates between Regions and manages relations with external parties.

World Executive Council

Five-member council coordinating world-level executive functions with rotational leadership

Key Responsibilities:

- Sign or veto bills approved by World Legislature
- Appoint Senior Military Officer (pending Senate approval)
- Primary civilian oversight of the Military
- Coordinate world-wide infrastructure projects
- Space exploration and off-planet civilian operations

Office of World Administrator

Coordinates standards, best practices, and inter-regional administrative matters

Office of World Treasurer

Manages world currency, coordinates regional financial systems, oversees world budget

Office of World Ambassador

Manages relations with external entities and coordinates inter-regional diplomatic efforts

Office of World Sheriff

Coordinates inter-regional law enforcement, assists with crimes spanning multiple Regions

Office of World Environmental Guardian

Coordinates world-wide environmental monitoring, sets world environmental standards

World Legislative Branch

The World Legislature consists of two bodies: the Council of the Regions (similar to a Senate) representing Regional interests, and the World Council of the People providing direct representation.

Council of the Regions

Legislative body with equal representation from each Region

Authority:

- Approve Senior Military Officer appointment
- Approve treaties before submission to Citizens for ratification
- Provide oversight of World Executive operations

World Council of the People

Population-based legislative body representing all members of Terran Society

Legislative Authority:

- Military oversight and resource allocation
- World-wide standards (weights, measures, timekeeping)

- Laws of world commerce and infrastructure
- Charter organizations operating on planetary scale or in space
- Define structure and procedures of World institutions

World Judicial System

The World Court operates differently from Regional courts. It handles disputes between Regions or between Terran Society and external parties. It is not a criminal court.

World Court Structure:

- **Conductor:** Elected by sitting Regional Facilitators, must have served at least one full term at Regional level
- **Jury:** 21 jurors selected from Citizens who served at least one term in World Legislature
- **Verdict:** Requires 19-of-21 majority vote
- **Fair Witnesses:** Three Certified Fair Witnesses required in attendance
- **Purpose:** Serious dispute resolution between Regions, or between Terran Society and outside parties (other civilizations, non-humans)

The World Court's decisions are binding on the parties. Treaty disputes may be resolved here, but any resulting treaty still requires ratification by vote of all Citizens.

World Fair Witness Branch

The World Fair Witness Council operates at planetary scale, setting standards and criteria for all Fair Witness training, testing, and certification.

Twenty-seven member council elected from Senior Certified Fair Witnesses for nine-year terms

See the Fair Witness Branch chapter for details on the World Fair Witness Council structure and authority.

Military Branch

The Military Branch exists solely at the World level and operates under strict civilian oversight. It is responsible for planetary defense and intelligence gathering.

World Defense Force

Unified military organization for world defense with minimal active duty and large reserve force

Key Principles:

- **Civilian Oversight:** Senior Military Officer appointed by World Executive, approved by Senate
- **Unified Structure:** Single organization with departmentalized functions
- **Defensive Purpose:** Primary mission is planetary defense, not offensive operations
- **Limited Authority:** Cannot act without civilian authorization
- **Transparency:** Operations observed by Fair Witnesses where practical and appropriate

Defense Force Intelligence

Intelligence collection and analysis for world defense, subject to oversight

Defense Force Council

Nine-member council commanding the Defense Force with mixed civilian and military membership

Military Accountability:

- Resource allocation controlled by World Legislature
- Operations subject to World Executive approval
- Personnel bound by the Rights of the People
- Subject to impeachment and removal for violations

Processes and Procedures

Terran Society operates through clearly defined processes that ensure transparency, fairness, and accountability. These processes govern elections, judicial proceedings, and Fair Witness certification.

Election Processes

District Council of Elders Election Process

Three-year election cycle with staggered terms. One-third of Elders up for election each year. Seven to nine Elders depending on District population. No term limits. Candidates must demonstrate compassion and love for children, preferably at least 55 years of age. Physical ballots verified by voters, counted publicly, retained for 10 years. No party affiliation required, no money in campaigns.

Regional Council Representative Election

Each District elects one Representative to Regional Council of the People. Provides direct representation in Regional legislation. Elections managed by Administrator Department with transparent candidate disclosure, public forums for debate, physical ballots verified and counted publicly.

Judicial Processes

Regional Minor Court Procedure

Handles petty criminal cases. Seven-person jury requires 6-of-7 verdict to resolve case. Facilitator of the Court (Conductor) presides, manages process, advises jury, ensures procedural fairness. Three Certified Fair Witnesses must be in attendance. Jury selected from Citizens.

Regional Major Court Procedure

Handles serious criminal cases. Fourteen-person jury requires 12-of-14 verdict to resolve case. Facilitator of the Court presides. Three Certified Fair Witnesses required. More serious matters with higher threshold for conviction.

World Court Procedure

Handles disputes between Regions or between World Society and outside parties. Twenty-one person jury requires 19-of-21 vote. Jury selected from Citizens who served at least one term in World Legislature. Three Certified Fair Witnesses required. Conductor elected by sitting Regional Conductors, must have served at least one full six-year term as Regional Conductor.

Fair Witness Processes

Fair Witness Training and Certification Process

Phase 1: Trainee - Qualified applicants undergo 3-7 years training in observation, memorization, recall, documentation, linguistics, ethics. Graduate in public ceremony. Phase 2: Apprentice - Assigned to mentor for real-world experience, duration set by Senior Panel. Phase 3: Certification - Mentor reports readiness to panel, public certification ceremony grants full CFW status with unrestricted access and life appointment.

Election Processes

Fair Witness Council Election Process

Regional: Nine members, staggered 9-year terms, three elected every three years. Only SCFW and CFW with 1+ year local service may vote. CFW with 3+ years may be nominated. World: Nine SCFW members, same term structure. Only SCFW may vote or be nominated. Prevents politicization. Panel selects leader every three years.

Fair Witness Processes

Fair Witness De-certification Process

Citizen complaint of breach of trust submitted to Fair Witness Panel. If unresolved, requires endorsement by Regional Representative AND Regional Executive. Only with majority vote by Regional Council and First Executive signature can Fair Witness be stripped of status. Same-tier endorsement required to prevent political abuse. Life appointment otherwise.

Glossary

Arbitration: A method of dispute resolution where parties voluntarily agree to have an Arbitrator hear their case and make a binding decision.

Arbitrator: An elected official who conducts arbitration hearings and issues binding rulings.

Certified Fair Witness: Certified observer qualified to record proceedings and maintain public records

Chief Investigator: Leads criminal investigations and forensic laboratory operations

Consular Officer: Assists regional members traveling in other Regions

Cooperative: An organization owned and controlled by its members or workers, operating for mutual benefit rather than profit.

Council Clerk: Maintains Council records, manages documentation and legislative process

Council Speaker: Presides over Council sessions, elected by Council members

Council of Elders: Primary governance body at the District level, focused on family welfare, dispute resolution, and community cohesion

Council of the Regions: Legislative body with equal representation from each Region

Court Administrator: Manages court facilities, scheduling, jury coordination, and court staff

Defense Force Council: Nine-member council commanding the Defense Force with mixed civilian and military membership

Defense Force Intelligence: Intelligence collection and analysis for world defense, subject to oversight

Deputy Administrator: Assists Administrator and may act in their absence

Deputy Ambassador: Assists Ambassador in diplomatic and economic development functions

Deputy Environmental Guardian: Assists Environmental Guardian in environmental operations

Deputy Sheriff: Senior law enforcement officer assisting Sheriff in operations

Deputy Treasurer: Assists Treasurer and manages specific financial departments

Director of Audits: Conducts audits of regional management, businesses, and cooperatives

Director of Budget: Prepares budget proposals and monitors budget execution

Director of Elections: Manages clean, transparent election process including public forums for debate

Director of Environmental Monitoring: Oversees pollution testing and environmental damage assessment

Director of Infrastructure: Oversees communications, networking, and infrastructure systems

Director of Public Services: Coordinates creation and oversight of Public Service Cooperatives

Director of Restoration: Plans and implements ecosystem restoration projects

District: The smallest tier of Terran Society, typically 5,000 to 21,000 people, governed by a Council of Elders.

Economic Development Director: Promotes commerce, trade, and economic opportunities for the Region

Elder: Member of the District Council of Elders serving the community

Elder Council Chair: Coordinates Council meetings and agenda, elected by fellow Elders

Facilitator of the Court: Presides over Major and Minor Courts, manages court process and advises jury

Fair Witness: An independent, certified observer who records Society proceedings objectively.

Fair Witness Apprentice: Graduate of training program qualified to assist Certified Fair Witnesses

Fair Witness Trainee: Qualified person accepted into Fair Witness training program

Fair Witness Training Academy: Rigorous training program for observation skills, memorization, recall, documentation, and ethical standards

Guarantor of Rights: Investigates rights violations and serves as watchdog over Sheriff and Executive

Jury: A group of citizens who decide the outcome of court cases.

Marshal: Field law enforcement officer trained in non-lethal force and investigation

Office of Facilitator of the Court: Presides over Major and Minor Courts, manages court process, advises jury, ensures procedural fairness

Office of Guarantor of Rights: Investigates rights violations, presents cases to Warrant Jury, watches over Sheriff and Executive officials

Office of Public Arbitrator: Provides voluntary arbitration services for dispute resolution outside formal court system

Office of Regional Administrator: Manages Regional operations, facilities, staffing, elections, and public service infrastructure

Office of Regional Ambassador: Promotes commerce, tourism, economic development, and assists regional members traveling in other Regions

Office of Regional Environmental Guardian: Environmental protection, pollution monitoring, ecosystem restoration, and enforcement of environmental standards

Office of Regional Sheriff: Protects Rights of the People, conducts investigations, maintains public safety, and emergency response

Office of Regional Treasurer: Manages regional budget, taxation, benefits accounts, audits, and financial oversight

Office of World Administrator: Coordinates standards, best practices, and inter-regional administrative matters

Office of World Ambassador: Manages relations with external entities and coordinates inter-regional diplomatic efforts

Office of World Environmental Guardian: Coordinates world-wide environmental monitoring, sets world environmental standards

Office of World Sheriff: Coordinates inter-regional law enforcement, assists with crimes spanning multiple Regions

Office of World Treasurer: Manages world currency, coordinates regional financial systems, oversees world budget

Public Arbitrator: Provides voluntary arbitration services for dispute resolution

Public Service Cooperative: A chartered organization that provides public services like utilities, transit, or ports.

Region: The primary governance tier, with complete executive, legislative, judicial, and Fair Witness branches. Maximum population 20-25 million.

Regional Administrator: Chief administrative officer managing Regional operations and infrastructure

Regional Ambassador: Chief diplomatic officer promoting commerce, tourism, and regional interests

Regional Arbitration Court: Voluntary dispute resolution forum with binding arbitration

Regional Council of the People: Representative legislative body with one seat per District, passes laws, approves budgets, charters cooperatives

Regional Environmental Guardian: Chief environmental officer for regional environmental protection and restoration

Regional Executive Council: Coordinating body of the five executive departments, sharing leadership on a rotational basis

Regional Fair Witness Council: Nine-member elected council managing Fair Witness operations, training, and certification in the Region

Regional Fair Witness Councilor: Elected member of nine-person Regional Fair Witness Council

Regional Major Court: Handles serious criminal cases with 14-person jury (12-of-14 verdict required)

Regional Minor Court: Handles petty criminal cases with 7-person jury (6-of-7 verdict required)

Regional Sheriff: Chief law enforcement officer responsible for protecting Rights of the People

Regional Treasurer: Chief financial officer managing regional budget, taxation, and financial oversight

Representative: Elected representative from a District to the Regional Council of the People

Rights Investigator: Investigates complaints of rights violations and gathers evidence

Senior Certified Fair Witness: Senior Fair Witness with extensive honorable service

Training Director: Oversees Fair Witness training academy and certification process

World: The planetary tier coordinating matters that span regions.

World Council of the People: Population-based legislative body representing all members of Terran Society

World Defense Force: Unified military organization for world defense with minimal active duty and large reserve force

World Executive Council: Five-member council coordinating world-level executive functions with rotational leadership

World Fair Witness Council: Twenty-seven member council elected from Senior Certified Fair Witnesses for nine-year terms