

The Known World and Its Three Kingdoms

There are three kingdoms named for their geographical location in the world, bequeathed to the three sons of the late King Jurien in the year 834: Eckart, Roland, and Marcel of the North, South, and Middle respectively. The three kings quarreled for 10 years with each other after their father's death. While none of the territories or political boundaries changed, many people died in battle or from starvation. In 844, Roland and Marcel united against their fourth, illegitimate brother, Felix, who had been given the failed colony of Tel Fortura east of the mountains. Those displaced by the generation's previous war, took up arms against the kingdoms of the west and rebuffed them.

Felix initiated his own campaign against his brothers in 846. His subjects wanted retribution for the destruction of their homes and families and readily enlisted. He also paid orc mercenaries to raid the Southern Kingdom, where he knew his troops could not survive the marshes and crags. Two years into his campaign, he had razed the villages just west of the mountains and monopolized the supplies of iron and salt, limiting his opponents' abilities to provision weapons or preserve food.

However, before the west were starved or their armies depleted, Felix was assassinated by his Queen, Arma Banu Andira. She revoked all her titles, declared that none had masters, and restored the west's access to salt. She sent food and missions to rebuild villages and envoys to demand peace. Eckart acknowledged and so he alone regained rights to mining in the north. All other mines were destroyed. Disarmed, the Middle and Southern Kingdoms also acquiesced. Arma renamed Tel Fortura the Armored City and she welcomed all to the city-state as citizens or challengers.