

**DIVERGENT WORDSMITHS
GALLIFREY HISTORIA: TRIAL BY ORDEAL**



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“THE OLDEST CIVILISATION... DECADENT, DEGENERATE AND ROTTEN TO THE CORE!”

PROACTIVE INTERVENTIONISM: THE CIA COUP

The quick successions of Presidents began to create discontent amongst the public, exacerbated by the secrecy surrounding the fate of Borusa and departure of the Doctor. A fundamental lack of transparency between the activities of the ruling government and their people had begun to take its toll on every aspect of Gallifreyan society. From the highest spire of a Gold Usher's machonite study to the lowliest slumping ghastrwood that made up the Shobogan taverns. Their isolationism had proven increasingly trivial of late and there was a growing sense that the halcyon days of the Time Lords as noble giants striding across the continents and seas was waning. In this situation, the Celestial Intervention Agency saw an opportunity.

Within the Interventionists a new opinion had taken root. The CIA should take a more proactive role in the cosmos, to prevent threats that may attack Gallifrey before they could arise. However such a change in policy required a compliant President. Borusa had refused to hear the Agency's case, fearing a proactive CIA limiting his own authority as future dictator. The interventionist organisation had deemed the Doctor too fixated on moral implications and Flavia too limited by the Non-Interference Doctrine, so did not make approaches to either. They needed a new candidate, and they found a surprising amount of sympathy within the High Council for such a move. Weary of the multitude of crises Gallifrey had endured, the Council were composed of two notable ideologies. On the one hand, careerist councillors who Borusa had installed to form a weak opposition to his will and thus had no loyalty to Flavia. On the other, older councillors who were not inherently hostile to Flavia, but wished for a return to the days before the Worldquake and the Imperator, when crises were few and resolved with discretion. The idea of a radical CIA to insulate Gallifrey from future crises, as well as regain Time Lord supremacy amongst the time-active powers, appealed greatly in the tired halls of the Capitol. Ultimately, the Council's desire for stability came second to dedication to their non-interference policy. The CIA found their candidate from these ranks, Cardinal Niroc, a relatively young politician known chiefly for his ambition. The CIA persuaded him that they could assist his rise and ensure him a long and stable rule, in return for him allowing them the free reign they sought. Niroc saw his chance and took it.

Under the CIA's discrete political advice, Niroc sent Flavia a warning that the Council feared the public mood turning against the Presidency should this line of rapid succession continue. He suggested an election might help to restore legitimacy to the position, as well as act as an affirmation of Gallifreyan democracy after the ordeal of Borusa. The public were in need of reassurance, but it was important not to forget that their own councillors had begun to weary much the same. The message played directly on Flavia's ideals and she, having already noticed the mood in the public herself, conceded to his suggestions. Flavia issued a directive for an electoral contest to take place, offering herself as a candidate and opening the floor for rival candidates to name themselves. To her genuine surprise, Niroc stepped forward and challenged her on a campaign rooted in the stagnation of the Inner Council. A direct attack on not only her office, but the office of her peers. The election that ensued was full of accusations and counter-accusations of corruption. In the end, perhaps to no great surprise, Niroc was triumphant. In retrospect, the subtle backing of Council factions and the CIA had made his victory assured. He assumed the highest office, as Flavia returned to her longstanding role as the Council's High Chancellor. The Agency had their President and the High Council hoped for a return to the stability and supremacy Gallifrey was once famous for.

The CIA took full advantage of the freedom now afforded to them. Full Timeline Mapping, based on psychohistorical projection, was carried out on species the CIA deemed the greatest threats in the universe. Among the first of these were the Cybermen. Their predictions identified a point in time on Telos when the forces of the Cyber-Controller would obtain control of a timeship, constructed in secret by a lesser temporal power, and attempt to alter the course of history to save Mondas. The CIA discreetly guided the Doctor to ensure the failure of this plot, and upon his success presented the operation to the High Council as evidence of the new proactive regime's success. They also announced their predictions had mapped a future where the Cybermen became one of the most peaceful races in the universe; a future they would now work to safeguard from external interference. The High Council applauded this effort and Niroc publicly welcomed the project as evidence of the return of Time Lord supremacy over the timelines, under his guidance.



Many such operations were conducted during this time to the veneration and approval of the Time Lords. Intervention, it seemed, could be accomplished without cosmic disaster so long as the right hands were at the wheel. While Renegades were in all practicality integral to the success of these operations, Gallifrey's attitude towards them began to shift dramatically, prompted perhaps by the fall of President Borusa. The seemingly harmless, almost romantic notion of Renegade absconders had begun to evaporate in the zeitgeist of the Time Lords. Replaced by something considerably darker. A belief in members of their own kind that had gone native and embraced the savagery of the wider universe. Of leaders who would callously abandon their own People to pursue their own ambitions. During this time, an attempted conquest of Gallifrey by stellar engineer Omega through Earth's Fusion Energy Research Network in Earthtime 2056 was thwarted by the Doctor. An incident averted, the President alleged, through the High Council's timely application of the Renegade known as Drax, assisted by a K9 computer unit and a Tellurian native of the era. Renegade had defeated Renegade. An undisputed success. However, the implications of such an invasion, even forestalled, were troubling. The High Council of the Time Lords began to consider the possibility that Renegades may collaborate together against the interests of Gallifrey. The Doctor himself continued to appear at crucial staging points in the continuum, facing the handiwork of agents like Anzor on the planet Magnus and Vipod Mor on the station of the same name. If the Agency were able to foment recruits, why not a Renegade like the Doctor?

Bolstered by the first strike action taken against Omega, the CIA repeated their psychohistorical mapping technique on the Nestene Consciousness and from that identified the necessity of eliminating the Nestene presence on Polymos. A fleet of War TARDISEs, newly commissioned under Niroc's scheme to reassert Time Lord supremacy, were dispatched under the personal command of Coordinator Vansell to attack Polymos in the 101st Century (Humanian Era). The Consciousness evaded the CIA's attack on a sub-etheric beam through the Time Vortex, deemed to be due to the direct interference of a Type 40 TT Time Capsule—the Doctor. The CIA's attention was thus drawn back to the Renegades, and at the same time the High Council were also beginning to officially reevaluate Renegade policy due to the emergence of the Valeyard.

ANTIGONISH: THE EMERGENCE OF THE VALEYARD

It's not uncommon for Gallifreyan history to encounter history's effect before its cause. Some say that, if the legends of Rassilon's Dark Design are true, it was the product of an awesome responsibility precipitated by a predestination paradox. He not only had to rule over the present, but the past and future as well, with no means of guiding any aspect beyond his own observations. Indeed, his descent may have begun from the slow realisation following an attack by the Order of the Black Sun on the eve of Qqaba's detonation. A retaliatory strike for the murder of a Black Sun delegate by one of Gallifrey's parahumans. A killing that had yet to occur. It was such the same with the emergence of a being that would almost single-handedly reshape Time Lord society. He became known as the Valeyard.

Not much can be explicitly confirmed regarding the Valeyard's origins. The ray-phase shift within the Matrix seemed to have damaged a significant percentile of information linked to his biodata. What can be confirmed is that he was discovered, feral, mute and alone, by scavengers on the moon of Etarho. Upon discovering his Gallifreyan lineage, they dispatched him to his Homeworld, where he was received and examined by the Hospitaliers. Confronted by the skein of madness that ran through the man's mind, they elected to confine him within one of the Shadow Houses and await any pending results regarding his future. Unfortunately, as with most bureaucracies, the transfer of that information was botched and the Valeyard's case forgotten. He spent centuries in those black nurseries among the alleged cripples and grotesques of Gallifreyan society. During that time, he befriended a former Time Lord with an unusual condition. In attempting to prevent his own regeneration, this paradoxical fellow had jumped back across his own timestream and broken the chain of causation. He convinced the Valeyard to study the sciences and histories of Time Lord regeneration in the hopes of one day using that knowledge to revenge against those who had incarcerated them there.

A few centuries is not a particularly long time by Gallifreyan standards, but it was long enough for the Valeyard to regain his psychological equilibrium. With access to certain systems, he was able to track down his own records in the Matrix and make a unique discovery. His biodata was an exact match to that of a Renegade Time Lord known as the Doctor. A figure who had grown to be of considerable infamy among his own people. He had recently possessed the rank of President, so with many of the necessary credentials already in place, the Valeyard gained an audience with the High Council. Analysing their existential anxieties, he was able to



determine they feared one thing—the increasing number of Renegades leaving Gallifrey and the planet’s own place as a temporal and galactic power. In his vital filibuster, the Valeyard posed as the survivor of a cold future, one that had been precipitated by the Renegades and turncoats that flocked to the stars beyond the Homeworld. Unless they were curtailed, he insisted, Gallifrey would meet with untenable anarchy not witnessed since the Dark Times.

His warnings split the High Council. One half was stirred to action by the patterns of history. The Time Lords had long since preacted to events of cataclysmic proportions. The other was moved by the tragedy of his circumstances and the unfortunate nature in which he’d been treated from his arrival. Wisdom and empathy. Either way, the decision was unanimous, the Time Lords would act. The Valeyard, however, already had a proposal that may interest them. Long have they as a People watched over the younger races and adjudicated as appropriate, it was now time to do the same for their own. To wit, a Court of Inquiry that would address the actions of Renegade Time Lords across all time and space. Documented and undocumented. All he would require was the conversion of a time station into a courtroom and the authority to act as prosecution on behalf of Gallifrey. Both these requests were granted, freely, befitting the controlling atmosphere of the world at the time. These trials were the central axis around which much of the Valeyard’s controlling influence orbited. Far from the lowly position of a scrutiny archivist, his reputation among the legal cloisters of Gallifrey grew to the point of notoriety, bolstered by an unshakeable record. Fame and prestige that put him in good stead for his rise from humble augur to spearpoint provocateur. However, it would not be until the Ravolox Affair that he would gain access to the heart of Time Lord power itself.

THE AWAKENED: THEFTS FROM THE MATRIX

During this increasingly cosmopolitan period of spatiotemporal travel, many factions rose to match or challenge the technological prowess of the Time Lords. Scientific think tanks like the Third Zone’s Space Station Camera sought to use the ingenuity of Professors Kartz and Reimer for the intellectual achievement. Commercial interests such as the Galatron corporation and its subsidiaries sought to exploit a previously untapped consumer base through their supply of zeiton ore. One faction, however, stood distinct among its peers. It had no name, no base-of-operations, but the group would later gain infamy under the name of the Sleepers of Andromeda—techno-pirates with the ambitions of Prometheus, an Earth mythological figure who stole combustion from his deities.

The Sleepers are a difficult force to quantify. At the height of their power, they comprised seven major entities in total, each from radically differing timestreams but all existing as aspects of the same individual. These “individuals” embodied several million tiny permutations in possibility condensed down into seven major probabilities. All separated by at least one major distinction—a differing species, gender, class, background, and so on—but all united by a curious antipathy to the passage of Time. Through their own unusual distillation and their joint alignment in a single timeline, the Sleepers were left unaffected by many of the temporal laws that governed N-Space. “Sleeping,” as it were, through many major disturbances in history. Such a group could easily have found itself as the scientific control in a number of temporal experiments. Unaltered. Immovable. However, their aspirations lay elsewhere and, unlike the Time Lords, they were not adverse to cooperating with the up-and-coming temporal powers. They did so not out of profit, but because they believed it their duty to redress the balance of temporal science. In their eyes, an elite had imposed the rules of the Web of Time, which by cosmic fluke they were apart from, and so it was right to give others the means to challenge these rules. The rules of Time should be decided by the many, not the few.

Before targeting Gallifrey itself, their piracy began with small scale salvage. The Time Wars of old had left temporal technology scattered in distant corners of the cosmos, where damage to local space/time would prove highly toxic to the health and sanity of any lifeforms which dared enter. Any lifeforms, except those who stood apart from the passage of time that is. The Sleepers were free to enter these temporal battlefields and found components of War TARDISEs, bowships, and many more ancient weapons and time machines. The Sleepers collected what components they could; dematerialisation circuits, temporal navigation maps, dimension dams and mercury links among them. They would then make contact with lesser species who were seeking to break through the temporal barrier and give their scientists these items and designs. These gifts would often be enough for conceptual designs to become working prototypes, effectively pushing scientists in the right direction to achieve time travel of their own design. However the Sleepers were now finding that the new proactive CIA was actively investigating any species developing time travel without their approval, and sabotaging it. The Sleepers' frustration at this suppression changed their aims from simply redressing the balance to now actively targeting the Time Lords.

In their salvage operations, the Sleepers were able to collect together records, missives and other ephemera from aged TARDISEs that painted a distinctive picture of old Gallifreyan life and its weaknesses. The Time Lords had never shown fondness for classically robotic lifeforms, considering them primitive and inauthentic in the face of their own syncretic technologies (used to create the drudges of the Great Houses and similar such automatons). Despite their attitude, the Keeper of the Matrix and his cohort were keen to protect their charge from outside intrusions and, thus, occasionally commissioned an external cosmic power for what was coyly referred to as "routine maintenance". In reality, species such as the Elzevirs of the micromachine world Leptonica were assigned to systematically break into the Matrix, outline any potential weaknesses and report them directly back to Gallifrey. Thereafter, they would assist the Gallifreyan technicians in isolating and repairing the faults. It was during one of these attempted incursions that the Sleepers were able to make their move. They adapted the L-series robotic colonisation system—consisting of a rudimentary L1 cargo loader, the L2 analytic probe robot, the L3 survival maintenance robot, the L4 organic socialisation robot and the immobile L5 controlling intelligence—to meet their own ends. Despite the Keeper's efforts, the Time Lords' disinterest in robotics provided the Sleepers with a tactical advantage in their projected theft. One of the Elzevir machine clusters was implanted with a computer worm that embedded itself in the Matrix's APC Net and used the reference index to hijack one of the ancient matter transmission terminals kept in the Capitol. From their staging point on Earth, the Sleepers and their Andromedan helpers transmatted the L2 and L4 robots into one of the service areas at the base of the city where, unable to permeate the Matrix's defences digitally, they would approach their larceny from a more conventional angle.

Their artificial structure and comparatively crude engineering rendered them invisible to the sophisticated sensory equipment of the Time Lords and the cosmic gaze of the Matrix Lords. No Chancellery Guards were dispatched to intercept the intrusion. No secret orders passed through coded channels to the unknowing ear of the CIA Coordinator. The two L-series machines travelled throughout the city unnoticed, unremarked and unhindered as they made their way to the Archive Tower. Unlike the established technologies of other lesser species, the Matrix did not exist in a server complex or on a series of cycling palettes, but rather as a construct similar to a datasphere. A microuniverse framed up into an "atmospheric layer", to loosely apply the physical terms of space, that permeated through relative dimensions accessible only by means of sophisticated cranial linkage hardware and centuries of training to resist psychosomatic feedback on the mind. To hard-nosed brigands and larcenists across the cosmos, the system was an unconquerable and unfathomable mystery, yet it had one fatal flaw. In the event of an emergency in which the Time Lords were forced to retreat,

the APC Net could transfer high-priority partitions of the Matrix into an external storage device such as a competent living mind or a dedicated data-slice. The Sleepers utilised their education from the wreckage of the Time Wars to transform the groomed L4 into a dummy psyche to receive the data and the rotund L2 into a source of mutually assured destruction for the Matrix.

The two robots infiltrated the Temporal Scanning Service together, wiping the mind of two unfortunate Monitors in the process and installed themselves into the linkages. There, the L2 hijacked a Matrix Door and unleashed a series of self-cannibalising, open-ended psychotechnological code from a forgotten war that overrode the minds of hundreds of deceased Time Lords within the Matrix. They were given the order to destroy, but without a target to bind the order down. They struck at each other, at themselves, at the schematics of the Matrix itself. Their mausoleum rose up in a frenzied madness in a force known now as the Afterhorde. Terrified and enraged, the Time Lords predicted that unless the situation were contained, a cascade failure across all systems would be inevitable. The Matrix activated its failsafes to preserve whatever library information the Time Lords could from corruption or destruction. Tricked into believing the L4 to be a local data-slice, the Sleepers' machine received more information in a single download than its creators could have ever dreamed possible. Its reflex circuitry and motor functions were irreparably slowed by the massive absorption of information. The two robots fled. In the fray, the L2 was found and destroyed by the Chancellery Guard, defending its peer from direct attack, but it was too late for the authorities of Gallifrey. The L4, while near-comatose from a sheer overload of data, had reached its objective and returned via the transmat reception area to the Sleepers in Andromeda. The Time Lords launched a full inquiry into the debacle while the Matrix itself underwent a time of healing and recovery from the incursion. Scapegoats and genuine culprits alike found themselves under CIA interrogation and sentencing in the Court. The resulting trail of evidence led them to the Elzevirs and the Keeper was forced to tow the party line. He immediately severed all ties, their minds wiped of all Time Lord knowledge, rather than risk deposition from his position for incompetence.

Nevertheless, despite every action the Gallifreyans could take in response to the theft, the astonishing fact remained immutable. The Sleepers of Andromeda had stolen away the secrets of the Matrix and reduced Time Lord power to a barterable trade. The chemical formulae for memory acids, the means to manufacture Thanaton-Q nerve gas (not used since the Emperor Presidency), the construction of the APC Net, even perhaps the means to grow TARDISEs themselves were all at the mercy of a foreign power. The limits of the theft were unknown, and the Elders of Gallifrey, who knew the deepest secrets of the Matrix, feared what ancient lies may now be exposed. Worse, the Sleepers had anticipated temporal adjustment from the Time Lords and hidden themselves and their secrets on the nexus planet of Earth. Safe from such means of attack. As panic gripped the High Council, the Valeyard once again sat like a raven above the bust of Rassilon and offered a solution, Operation: Ravolox. It would begin with agents in carefully selected timezones disseminating rumour of an unremarkable planet in the Andromeda constellation. Enough to become the subject of gossip in smugglers' coves and black market refuelling stations. The Time Lords would then use the Magnetron to transport the Earth to its new mythical locale in Andromeda. The Sleepers would fail to be recovered and the ensuing fireball would eradicate any local witnesses so the secrets would remain buried and the whole ordeal could be forgotten.



The plan was approved. Earth became Ravolox and the Time Lords committed an act that they themselves had condemned the Cybermen for attempting only a short while ago. While the Sleepers would be able to transfer their bounty to more easily transported datacases, their long-awaited rescue from their peers would never come. The massive displacement in space of Ravolox had one very simple side effect. Over time, the L5 controller suffered terminal corrosion in its behavioural core, severing many of the higher functions that would have assisted the L3 and L1 robots from adapting the stasis conditions of their masters. With no soul, mechanical or otherwise, left functioning to make intuitive adjustments to the equipment, the Sleepers' living conditions began to decay. They perished from agonisingly slow malnutrition and their Marble Arch hideaway shambled in a fugue state through what few routines were left available to it. In the violent upheaval that followed, the Andromedans lost sight of their original objectives, generational decay in their records transforming them from intergalactic hired help to the tribe of Marb Station. Everyone associated with the operation was eliminated. Whatever knowledge they had died with them.

However unscrupulous, the results spoke for themselves. The Ravolox Affair and the continued success of the Valeyard's legal enquiries placed him in a role that the Doctor would have likened to Stalin. At the beginning, he was only a humble advisor, asking for any new business. Now, he was the de facto ruler of the High Council. A seat was made permanently available to him and, in his habitual proxy war with the Master, favours were called in. However, it wasn't until the Doctor's trial that he was placed in the position of having to exercise some genuine clout. He wanted to appoint the prosecution for this latest Renegade's trial and he wanted it to be himself.

CLEANING HOUSE: THE ODAENATHUS DIRECTIVES

Propelled by the souring attitudes of the time, the arrival of the Valeyard proved to be a significant catalyst for changes in Gallifreyan foreign policy. Up until then, the status of a Renegade was largely apolitical. They were individuals permitted to conduct themselves beyond the Homeworld as they chose, provided that they obeyed the Laws of Time and conducted themselves in a manner befitting their former rank. Persons rarely worthy of concern, if notice. However, Gallifrey's increased prevalence in cosmic politics and scientific development, noted as far wide as Riften-5, Archetryx and Space Station Camera, provided the necessary pressure for the current High Council to pass an entirely new policy. One of repatriation. Hermits, exiles, sundowners and rovers who had previously conducted their expatriate existences on their own terms were drawn in for allegedly impartial enquiries under the Odaenathus Directives.

In reality, these inquiries were what the Tellurians would describe as "kangaroo courts". Means and opportunity to detain, try and sentence any and all political agitators who could pose a possible threat to the increasingly authoritarian edicts of the current government. Treason was a common enough charge, though not one heard since the attempted coup of the Heirs and the Presidentialists at the beginning of contemporary history. It is unclear how many exile Time Lords befell such inquiries. There are reports that Renegades who represented "public interests" were given the opportunity to swear fealty to the High Council, their TARDISES collars and otherwise left undisturbed. Rumour among some of the surviving Renegades is that those who were acquitted became deniable agents for the High Council. Those who failed to meet the criteria posed during the inquiries were sentenced "as

befit[ted] the crime.” Despite being regarded as a civilised means of sentencing, it was believed that memory erasure by mnemonic acid was considered an increasingly unreliable practice. Research into eyewitness accounts indicates that dematerialisation and vaporisation were common forms of sentencing.

Unfortunately, it’s impossible to clarify every instance of trial and sentencing in detail. Much of the recordkeeping held solely aboard Space Station Zenobia, the conducting court of these inquiries, were quickly classified by the Celestial Intervention Agency following the Doctor’s trial to prevent what was described as a “contamination of motive” during the revolts and counterrevolts that followed. Two facets of history, the Valeyard’s direct relationship to the Doctor swaying the final enactment of the Odaenathus Directives and the preexisting rivalry of the Master and the Valeyard during these trials, were thoroughly expunged by subsequent “ideological containment” efforts by the Agency and High Council. However, historians have found consensus in the fact that the abduction of the Sixth Doctor from Thoros Beta was one of the last, if not the last instance(s) of the Valeyard’s Court of Inquiry in action.

Investigating a discrepancy between the records of Gallifrey available from his own TARDIS and the reality of Ravolox, the Doctor stumbled quite innocently into the last surviving evidence of the Sleepers and their stolen Matrix secrets. Roughly at the same time that two of the Master’s agents, Sabalom Glitz and Dibber, had arrived to retrieve the datacases for their handler’s own ends. The Ravolox debacle, in addition to being used by the Valeyard to upgrade the inquiry to a trial, was also employed to provide private evidence to those on the High Council aware of the coverup that the Doctor was indeed complicit in the planet’s rediscovery. Any Time Lord of rank who wished to defend the caged wanderer would be too preoccupied trying to dissociate themselves from the Ravolox operation to provide any true opposition for the Valeyard or his supporters. The innovative developments in cranial transplant surgery developed by Crozier on Thoros Beta acted as yet another exemplar of the current government’s proactive intervention policies. Namely, the hazards and pitfalls of a Renegade operating outside the maxims of the organisation and the damage that could be wrought from their actions. It’s known now that the account was heavily distorted to portray the accused in a deliberately criminal manner. A means of character assassination that continued through to the Doctor’s own defence, his actions and activities aboard the *Hyperion III* and the death of the Vervoid species. Deliberately omitting a vital aspect of the account, the prosecution charged his counterpart with genocide and direct contravention of the Laws of Time.

Fortunately for the Doctor, the Master’s enduring feud with the Valeyard provided him with a means of extricating himself from his lethal sentencing. Having identified his rival’s powerbase as being in the



Matrix, the Master had physically infiltrated the microuniverse in his TARDIS equipped with a copy of the Key. There he'd born witness to the trial and the tampering of the evidence by the prosecution—giving him an opportunity to embarrass the Valeyard and collapse his influence on Gallifrey. As Time Lord technology was all linked to the Matrix at a basic level, the Renegade was able to use Zenobia's resources to his own ends. The Public Register Video began broadcasting the Court's deliberations direct to Gallifrey, the Matrix's records of the Ravolox Affair and the trial were leaked into the public domain and two witnesses from the events on Ravolox and the *Hyperion III*, respectively, Glitz and Melanie Bush were forced to the Court via the space station's time corridor to support the Doctor's accounts. The Master addressed the Court himself, proving the fallibility of the Matrix's defences and introducing a crucial point of contention between the Doctor and the Valeyard. Namely, that they existed as part of the same entity, a conflict of interest that eroded the immediate legitimacy of the trial in the eyes of the public and forced the Valeyard to flee into the Matrix. The Doctor and Glitz pursued, aided by the Master who took the opportunity to bribe Glitz to retrieve the Valeyard's copy of the data the Sleepers had stolen. As word reached the Court of civil unrest on Gallifrey, the Master addressed them again offering to help them restore order—he would take the Valeyard's place as the Council's dark advisor. As further leverage he brandished the Sleepers' secrets that Glitz had recovered. However the Master had underestimated his rival's preparations; when he attempted to access the secrets via his TARDIS their contents proved to be a disguised limbo atrophier which paralysed him, Glitz and his timeship. The Valeyard was finally confronted by the Doctor in his Matrix powerbase, a construct of the Fantasy Factory. The Doctor thwarted the learned prosecutor's attempt to assassinate the Court and blame the ensuing carnage on his other self. The damage inflicted upon the particle disseminator weapon caused a massive rupture in the Matrix. The councillors' lives were saved, the Doctor and Mel returned to their allotted positions in space and time following a mind wipe. However, while the Valeyard himself had disappeared, seemingly engulfed in the rent, unfortunately for the Time Lords, the problems caused by his actions remained.

THE ZENOBIA REVOLUTION: GALLIFREY AFTER RAVOLOX

The Shobogans had resisted the Time Lords for centuries. Revolutionary fervour limited to minor acts of sabotage. To the people of the cities, the Shobogans were a radical minority of dissenters. The Gallifreyans across the planet who had accepted Time Lord rule far outnumbered them. As a result, the Shobogans' arguments against the centrality of Time Lord society to wider Gallifreyan culture gained no traction, no sympathy. The exposure of the Ravolox affair and the Master's singular scandalisation of the Valeyard were to change this in one decisive measure. The Matrix had leaked, and the leaks were to be a catalyst to set alight the public and trigger the Zenobia Revolution.

The leaks were almost designed to undermine the very cores of Gallifreyan society. Private transtemporal politicking became inescapable public knowledge. Available on any public terminal for perusal. No longer capable of being buried. The sacred repository of all Time Lord knowledge had been compromised by an alien power and, in an attempt to cover it up, the High Council had discarded the ancient non-interference doctrine and torn asunder another world's history and very position in the cosmos. The Doctor, former President and a hero of the Vardan Occupation, had been put on trial for discovering this outrage. The leaks were a call to arms. The old order had failed, a new one had to rise. A difficult sentiment to digest for the stagnant Time Lords, but the Shobogans saw their moment had come and the outraged populace were willing to listen for the first time in millennia. The elites of the Time Lords were divided. Those complicit in the High Crimes had a choice; fight or suffer the inescapable stain of scandal and non-personhood. A fate worse than the final disintegration of the body. Worse than death. Inescapable and immutable disgrace. The decision seemed obvious, however this was not a war that the High Council was prepared for. They fought their battles in protocol and

filibusters and were caught unawares by the resenting savagery that had spread among the Shobogans. This first revolution wasn't a straightforward war of Time Lord against Time Lord as the ruling government had anticipated, but a war conducted almost exclusively between the High Council and the Gallifreyan lower classes. Capitolpolitik versus Low Town.

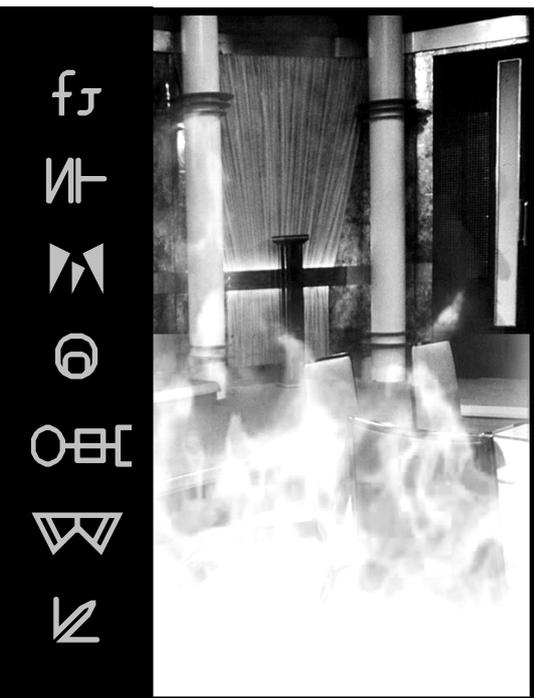
Between the High Council and the Shobogans, the Time Lords themselves wrestled with the disastrous truth that their government had turned Renegade. Suppressing other Interventionists while being Interventionists themselves. Some came to assist the Shobogans in their efforts, believing that change had to come from a new caste of Gallifreyan thought. Others stood to oppose them, believing them to be taking advantage of the confusion to impose ideologies equally abhorrent as those enforced by the formally abolished, yet informally ruling Council. Unfortunately, that initial shock among the criminal High Councillors rapidly dissipated. Unfamiliar though they were to such combat being fought within the hallways of the Homeworld, they were, nevertheless, excellent students of the carnage they had inflicted by proxy in the wider cosmos. They rallied the traditionalist Chapters to resist the revolution and attempted to reassert their lost authority.

The CIA were initially dumbstruck by this crisis. In the Agency's history, no intervention had been publicly exposed and inspired such ferocity. Though the Criminal Council petitioned, even publicly, for the CIA to act to contain or even retrospectively negate this crisis, the Agency stayed its hand. It was assumed the same divisions that plagued Gallifrey were even within the dark towers of the CIA. After all, many of their agents abroad had been Renegades themselves. With news of the civil unrest rapidly expanding, many acted true to their characters and used the opportunity to flee. No longer willing to tolerate a boot upon their neck. The Agency's ranks likely dwindled substantially as a result.

One side effect of this mass desertion was a greater focus on what had initially been only a cursory investigation into the field of robotics. The oversight that had so egregiously crippled them during the Ravolox Affair. Not long before the crisis, the CIA were investigating means of creating their own K9 mobile computer units to be used in conjunction with their field operatives. The original K9 Mark I, left alongside the offworlder Leela of the Sevateem during the Sontaran invasion, had been recruited by the Agency as one of their foremost agents. It proved resourceful in many exoterrestrial missions vital to the Web of Time. Uncovering the disappearance of the Rigelian Seventh Fleet, overseeing the delicate construction of artificial planetoid, Vega 3, and investigating a series of fluctuating stars near Karn's solar system. In return for his cooperation in duplicating his systems, K9 Mark I would receive an upgrade that would put his abilities on par with his later models. However, concerned about the misuse of his programming tapes and specifications under the new regime, he was assisted by Leela to break into the CIA Watchtower and destroy the construction plans before they could be used.

Whilst the revolution raged, members of the elites who abandoned the Criminal Council began manoeuvring. As the Ravolox leaks initially spread, a group of elite Time Lords convened to form the Council of Administration. The Council's aim was simple, to preserve the old order from the revolutionary fervour being rightfully inflicted upon the criminals. Its members included High Councillors not implicated by the leaks, including ousted President Flavia and Inquisitor Darkel, who by her own account had put aside the ambitions of her career and been vital in the exposure of Ravolox during the Doctor's trial. Unknown to the public, the group's formation was brought about by the Shayde of Borsusa, who had been released by Rassilon in a mental incarnation prior to his insanity to aid Gallifrey in its moment of crisis.

Letting the Shobogans visit their rage upon the Criminal Councillors, the Council of Administration set about negotiating the new order. Negotiations opened between the Council, the Chapters who had



abandoned the criminals and the leaders of the Gallifreyans and Shobogans. From these negotiations, a provisional government was quietly agreed. The Council of Administration hoped the revolutionary zeal would be satisfied with the deposing of the old High Council and that they could preserve some form of the original order whilst publicly promising reforms. The Declaration of the Provisional Government was issued, the most radical political document since the Denouncement of Morbius. The document proclaimed the election of Niroc illegitimate and thus struck from the record the subsequent actions of his Presidency and High Council and denied Niroc the Right of Succession. It branded the moving of Ravolox a High Crime and declared those involved guilty of treason against Rassilon's Law of Non-Interference. Finally the Declaration announced by agreement of the Council of Administration and their loyal Chapters, the Low Councils of Gallifrey and the Revolutionary Council of the Shobogans that Flavia was to reassume the Presidency. The Council of Administration was to serve as High Council until new elections could be held. A new order had been formed, greatly resembling the old, but it was stable and growing in influence.

It's difficult to gauge how long the Zenobia Revolution ultimately lasted, but the civil turmoil of the planet Gallifrey was extensive enough to place them in informal quarantine for some time. Long enough for other temporal powers to grow wary at their silence towards the greater cosmos. Developments in time technology did not lessen in this period so much as slacken. Achievements were made with a greater sense of deliberation, undisturbed by the increasing pressures of an omniscient eye. The Third Zoners, in particular, while already cosmopolitan in their approaches, were among the first to suggest a scientific coalition united by the pursuit of temporal theory. Whether practical or theoretical. On Gallifrey, the Time Lords entered the final days of their unrest. Guerilla warfare eventually culminated in the Siege of the Dealer in Hope, the central complex in which the High Council conducted their sessions and from where they retained master control dominator for the Matrix. In a pitched battle, Niroc and his Criminal Council were eventually dragged from the presidential conference suite. While denounced publicly, such was the former President's continued influence with the CIA that he was never formally found guilty for his actions. Nevertheless, the outcome of the revolution was indisputable. Never before had the low classes of Gallifrey inflicted such a blow to the Capitolpolitik and the Council of Administration soon discovered there would be no easy way back.

PALE BANNERS AND RED NOSES: THE BLOODLESS COUPS

On appearances, the Ravolox Affair was quickly resolved by President Flavia's new administration; Niroc and the Criminal Councillors who had not perished in the Revolution were publicly tried for their actions and Space Station Zenobia was sanctioned for decommission as a formal gesture of the prior government's disassembly. Work also occurred in secret; Borusa oversaw corrections to Earth's timeline and the Master and Sabalom Glitz were recovered from the Renegade's TARDIS in the Matrix. Unwilling to face his own People, the Master killed the technicians responsible for his release and escaped in his Ship. Glitz himself was returned to his home timezone with scattered memories of his time aboard Space Station Zenobia.

However, the machinery of change often proceeds in its own time and the bureaucracy of the Time Lords ensured that many of the old guard's elements remained in circulation during the transition. On the planet Torrok in the Meson system, aggrieved and disturbed by the distorted memories of his trial, a self-exiled Doctor was once again pressed into service for his People. A small operation with altruistic ends that wished to test the limits of the Celestial Intervention Agency's hold on their Renegade agents. The Doctor succeeded in saving some of the lives of those on the station, leaving the events with a new companion, Grant Markham, and a gingerly desire to return to his travelling. His incarnation spent a great deal of time, both in the company of the young human and alone, attempting to come to terms with the prospect of his future as the Valeyard. An avoidance that would keep him as a low-key figure for the majority of Flavia's new Presidency.

The same could equally be said for the Valeyard, though his exile was far more proactive in his dealings. During their confrontation, the Doctor had left his darker counterpart for dead in his Fantasy Factory construct within the Matrix. In the confusion, shortly prior to the rupture of the particle disseminator, Zon, the Keeper of the Matrix, had arrived to contain the build-up before it caused irreparable damage to the supercomputer. The Valeyard used the opportunity to merge with the Keeper and escape, while still retaining a sizable degree of his personal power. Unfortunately for the former prosecutor, the public scandal of his link to the Doctor and the subsequent assassination attempt had wiped out any clout he'd once had with the High Council. Down among the ruins, the figure once known as the Valeyard schemed his return to power, but first, there was preventative action to take. It's known that there were several attempts made on the Doctor's life during this period. Notably through bounty hunter duo, Sha'ol and Karthakh; the Darchalph tracker, Sinergin'Hirokawa; the effervescent Yeeshic's Family of Mists; a corrupted Omniperceptient; and Catran assassin, Rashaa. The failure of Rashaa, after so many others, prompted a more direct approach from the assassins' utiliser.

In the final ratification of Zenobia's decommissioning, right before its practical disassembly was to take place, the Valeyard was captured. To be tried in the Court and judged by Inquisitor Darkel, at her own personal request. In an ironic turn, he requested the Doctor as his defence. His trial was believed to be a front for the Council of Administration to learn the truth of his origins, however what little information the Valeyard disclosed transpired to be little more than a trail of breadcrumbs leading to a deadly trap—a petty act of revenge on the Doctor and Darkel, which neither actually fell victim to. Nevertheless, the revelations of the Court succeeded in further muddying the Valeyard's involvement with the previous administration and his level of autonomy within it. The past would not be left to lie undisturbed and the character of those presiding over or attending the Court was further placed in doubt. The Valeyard himself escaped and went on to arrange a complex scheme to transplant versions of himself over every Time Lord in existence. He formed an alliance with the psychic Nathemus creatures and began linking them to the Matrix, incubating them in the Doctor's mind. A psychic warning from his future self who had seen the Valeyard's insane plot unfold caused the Doctor to let his TARDIS be struck by focused beams of radiation, fired at it in an unrelated plot by the Rani, initiating his sixth regeneration and killing the Nathemus before they could complete their preparations. This sacrifice to



preserve the Time Lords would go completely unrecognised, with even the Doctor himself not understanding the full circumstances. As far as the Council of Administration was concerned, the Valeyard had simply vanished.

On a deeper level, Flavia's Presidency proved inauspicious in dealing with the aftermath of the Revolution. The disconnections in Gallifreyan society and questions of Gallifrey's role in the cosmos that the Ravolox Affair had exposed were unresolved. Though she promised reforms, Flavia herself was no reformist and found herself in the position of being willing to bear the weight of her duty, but not wholly embracing it as her peers often had. To her mind, dedication bred corruption it seemed. Conservative influences began to resurface as the CIA sought to discreetly reassert itself. The first move was the banishment of Borusa. His role in the Council of Administration was not public knowledge, and a discreet message from a heavily redacted source threatened to expose his role and his true nature. The Shayde of Borusa retreated to the Dark Tower, leaving a message for Flavia extolling his belief Gallifrey was on the right path again and his work was finished.

The High Council elections, purposefully delayed by the Council of Administration until after the official closure of the Ravolox Affair in the hope of revolutionary sentiment dying down, finally arrived. The elections were everything the Council had feared. The Chapters were wary of the public mood, and so returned a wave of councillors of a reformist tendency. Among them included two former Renegades linked closely to the Doctor themselves. The former was Romana, a companion who once had rejected her summons back to Gallifrey, now returned after an extended exile in E-Space. Her containment of Agonal and the retrotemporal Yarven Affair involving Vampire sympathiser Lady Ruath, the latter deliberately interfering in the absolute past of the Doctor's timestream, rewarded her with a position on the High Council. The latter, Irving Braxiatel, former unofficial ambassador to the Time Lords and architect of the Armageddon Convention, who was rumoured to possess familial ties to the Doctor, though nothing could be proven. In the midst of these new inductions, panic began to set in amongst the conservative members of the now Advisory Council of Administration, turning on Flavia as having failed to contain the situation. The Council's anger was intensified by a temporal incident involving the Doctor.

Since the Valeyard's disappearance, the Council of Administration had arranged for the Doctor's timeline to be monitored for any signs of corruption, under President Flavia's authority. A series of incidents across the Doctor's timeline were detected and analysis suggested the future eighth incarnation of the Doctor was visiting his previous selves; a blatant breach of the Laws of Time. Flavia had faith the Doctor would not endanger his personal timeline for anything but the most serious of reasons, and ordered the situation be observed. Ryoth, a militantly conservative member of the Council of Administration who had joined its ranks late in the Revolution and had a particular feud with the Doctor, was outraged at her lack of action. The CIA invited him to take action by himself, not wanting to be seen to defy the President but still seeking to punish the Doctor's temporal criminality. Ryoth was equipped with the Time Scoop, which had been damaged by Ruath in the Yarven Affair and subsequently restored by the Interventionists in secret, to do as he saw fit. The Agency's choice proved himself to be dangerously reckless, as he immediately dispatched a Raston Warrior Robot to the next temporal distortion, when the Eighth Doctor encountered the Fifth Doctor at the Eye of Orion, however the Doctors used their identical brainwaves to confuse its operating system. Doubling-down, Ryoth dispatched a platoon of Sontarans, which the Doctors tricked into entering combat with the Robot. Frustrated, Ryoth foolishly dispatched a Drashig before realising the Doctors had devised a way of generating temporal feedback, redirecting the monster back to him. By the time the Chancellery Guard dealt with the beast, it had eaten Ryoth and the Time Scoop. The CIA's attempt to circumvent the President had failed, and Flavia allowed the Doctor's meddling in his own timeline to be completed

and took no action against him. With the leadership furious at her lack of action, the CIA began assisting the conservatives in agitating the public against Flavia. Details were leaked of the Yarven Incident where Flavia herself had failed to prevent Ruath, a follower of the ancient enemy, gaining access to the Time Scoop. For the second time in her political career, Flavia was ousted. With few friends in either the conservative or reformist factions, she had no one to turn to and resigned in the face of the crisis. On the advice of the Council of Administration, she named one of their number, Rubrum, her successor and finally retired from both the Presidency and her recurring role as High Chancellor.

Rubrum had been a mainstay of the High Council prior to the Revolution. A statesman and a member of the city of Findoclare beyond the Capitol. To an interloper, such as the Doctor, his distinctive bristling red sideburns would have put him in good stead with the historical Ambrose Burnside. His succession to the role of President was remarkable for its, at the time, unremarkable induction. There were no charges, no boycotts, no protests. Such had been the weariness of the Gallifreyan population with unrest that a clear line of succession was welcomed with open arms. During his tenure, Rubrum existed as a man of dichotomies. A Time Lord aristocrat who had never quite discarded his humble Shobogan origins and thus retained a certain gruff nature that proved instrumental in his policymaking. One unfortunate Time Lord, a Gold Usher, compared sessions to being verbally beaten about the head and shoulders with the rough end of a Drudge. Another, a Castellan, disputed any strawman depiction of the man, citing that Rubrum would never be constructed of anything less than hardwood. Nevertheless, despite his lack of refinement, Flavia's decision would bear out. The conservative elements, whilst not entirely comfortable with Rubrum's personality, accepted his eccentricities as a necessary evil to keep the populace happy and maintained a strong influence on his policies. The reformists found a populace weary of changes in power and Rubrum's populist style difficult to oppose, so began to reconcile themselves to his rule in hope of gaining his ear. Gallifrey would begin to stabilise for a short time under this intractable President.

However, among Rubrum's eccentricities was a penchant towards vice and that ultimately proved his downfall. At the Feast of Othermas, Rubrum engaged in a night of heavy drinking, draining the Presidential collection in its entirety. The details of what followed were subject to contradictory gossip and outrage, but the conclusion of the evening was Rubrum was found freshly regenerated (which he would later clarify was perhaps an over-dramatic response to his previous self feeling ill due to intoxication) and wearing the Sash of Rassilon. This was the opportunity the reformists needed. Rubrum's night of vice had ended with the degradation of a sacred relic. The conservatives struggled to defend Rubrum, finding this one line crossed to be one too far. The issue for the reformists was now to find a candidate to challenge Rubrum. It was decided a fresh face was required, and Romana was approached.

Romana was still very inexperienced in Capitolpolitik, her brief tenure on the High Council having been an immensely atypical one, and was at first reluctant to take up the position. In closed chambers she was persuaded by various Councillors, including Braxiatel, and most notably the intervention of a retired President, Wadeburlatch. Romana accepted the benefits of her candidacy and agreed to challenge Rubrum. Romana's Right of Challenge was an unexpected blow to the conservatives. After Rubrum's night of vice, the Advisory Council of Administration had expected a challenge but had not counted on Romana. As a relative newcomer to the political scene, there was very little baggage to be used against her and bringing up her travels with the Doctor only invited sympathy due to his role in the Ravolox Affair. Her inexperience was reduced as an issue by the endorsement of Wade and Braxiatel, whose long political careers carried sufficient weight to assure the public Romana would be well-advised in Gallifreyan affairs. Rubrum struggled with the fresh scrutiny of an election. The

legitimacy issues of him being a new incarnation and the scandal of the night of vice dogged the campaign at every turn.

The election ultimately divided on partisan lines, resulting in a victory for Romana with 53% of the vote to Rubrum's 47%. Rubrum retired in disgrace as the reformists triumphed. Gallifrey had emerged from a period of great ordeal into a new dawn. However they were to find conservative resistance far harder to combat than any of them could have expected.

