

Press

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ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES, AND SECRET SOCIETIES A FREE PREVIEW

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ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES, AND SECRET SOCIETIES

Introduction

Welcome to the free preview of Organizations, Agencies and Secret Societies, a supplement for the 1948 Campaign setting. This free preview features four of the Allegiances that can be found in the Organizations, Agencies and Secret Societies supplement. The Department of Psychotronic Research, the Knights of Malta, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the Nazis, along with the three section headings, are presented here as a free peek at the content of Organizations, Agencies and Secret Societies.

Organizations, Agencies and Secret Societies contains nearly 50 unique organizations, government agencies and political ideologies that are prevalent in most early 20th century RPGs. If you are not planning to use this supplement with the 1948 Campaign Setting, feel free to modify or adjust these groups to fit your particular style of game. If you plan to use this supplement with the 1948 Setting, understand that these are merely descriptions of allegiances that the players and NPCs can select for their characters. More campaignoriented information regarding some of these groups will be included in the 1948 Campaign Primer, which is forthcoming.

There are three types of allegiance detailed in this supplement. The first group discussed **is government agencies** such as the various occult bureaus or the Department of Psychotronic Research. The second group is secret organizations that are usually centered on some other idea such as religious beliefs, organized crime, nationalism, or vigilantism. The Thule Society, the Knights of Malta and the Black Dragons all fall into this second category. The last group of allegiances described here is composed of those that are national, political or **ideological** in nature, including such concepts as capitalism, fascism, and communism.

All characters in the **1948** setting must select one or more allegiances. For most, this means selecting one political/philosophical allegiance such as the Allies, the Nazis or fascism. However, many elite characters also have allegiances to one or more secret societies or government agencies such as the Illuminati, the Golden Dawn, the OSS, Skull and Bones, or the Black Dragons.

OGC

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RELATED MATERIAL

Over the next few months and years there will be a continuing stream of books for the 1948 Campaign Setting published through Bloodstone Press. Some will be short like this one; others will be quite long. Some will be adventures or short stories while others will be complete campaign guides.

Although the groups presented in this supplement are intended to function as allegiances in the d20 rules system, this material does not actually use d20 mechanics and therefore could be easily adapted to any early 20th century RPG. However, if you do plan to use these rules as intended, you will need a copy of the d20 Modern Core Rule Book, published by Wizards of the Coast.

CLARIFICATIONS

Despite the long hours spent developing and honing this material, clarifications may still be in order. If you have any questions or need clarification concerning these rules do not hesitate to contact us at questions@bloodstonepress.com. We will do our best to get you an answer and we will try to make suitable adjustments to future releases of this material.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Bureaucratic governments have a penchant for creating agencies, offices, and departments of experts with highly specialized tasks. A commission for transportation and safety, a board for education, a council on wetlands, these and dozens of others are spawned by governments across the globe. Some agencies are especially related to the war effort; a few of those are also top secret. Some of the more significant agencies are discussed below.

DPR

In the wilderness Northeast of Moscow there is a heavily-guarded, top-secret paranormal research center known as B-12. Although the Soviets have several psychic research facilities set up around Leningrad, Irkutsk, Vladivostock, and other cities, the facility at B-12 is the most preeminent. It is also the headquarters for the Department of Psychotronic Research (DPR), which oversees all

paranormal research conducted in the U.S.S.R. An elite team of psychics, government agents and researchers operate from B-12, dedicating their efforts to developing methods of mind control, astral projection, and clairvoyance for purposes of espionage and counter intelligence.



involves the society contacting the prospective member, the initiate being sponsored by a current member, or the initiate being born into a family that is already involved with the society.

Junior members of secret societies often know very few of the organization's secrets or goals. Only after proving their mettle and loyalty are they allowed to rise through the ranks. With each new rank they attain, they swear greater oaths and become more deeply involved with the society's functions. Some secret societies, like the freemasons, have more than 30 levels of membership.

Note that many of these secret societies have had varying degrees of confrontational or cooperative relationships over the years. The Masons, the Templars, the Illuminati, the Golden Dawn and others have influenced one another for centuries.

Information on secret societies is presented in the

following manner.

Formed: Indicates the year the society was officially formed

HQ: The place where the society is headquartered.

Locale: Indicates where the society operates and where it has active cells or agents.

Objective: The basic goal and purpose of the society.

Symbol: The images that most readily identify the society, its members or property.

KNIGHTS OF MALTA

Formed: 1020 HQ: Rome

Locale: Europe, Americas

Objective: Protect Christians, defend Christendom,

serve the Pope. **Symbol:** Maltese cross

Originally known as the Hospitallers, these knights served as guides and protectors of the pilgrims during the crusades. Unlike the Templars, the Hospitallers were not strictly militaristic. They sought to provide comfort, assistance, healing, and guidance to the pilgrims, rather than just protection. In later years, they were pushed out of the Holy Land by the Islamic armies and eventually set up their headquarters on the island of Malta in 1530. They remained there for nearly 300 years until Napoleon arrived in 1790. On May 16th of that year, the knights were betrayed by their commander,

SECRET SOCIETIES

In 1948, there are hundreds of secret societies operating all over the globe. Secret societies are known to exist, but have members, meetings, rituals and goals that are kept secret. They often have "public" facades and pass themselves off as innocuous social clubs. In reality, the leaders of these societies consist of an inner circle of powerful individuals who often engage in rituals and secret pacts. Most of these societies operate above the law and behind the scenes. Some of them control large corporations, crime syndicates or national governments. Becoming a member of one of these societies usually



who surrendered to Napoleon without a fight. They fled Malta and were scattered across Europe. During the 1800s, many of the orders were suppressed by national governments, which seized their property and limited their political power. The Maltese Knights went underground and became a truly "secret" society - holy warriors in an increasingly secular world. Today, there are four cells of Maltese Knights operating in Europe and the Americas. Many of the knights are elite soldiers or intelligence operatives working for Allied countries. The Pope appoints the Grand Master and the order serves him as special agents and soldiers. Their headquarters are in an ancient convent in Rome, which also houses their tombs, libraries, and riches.

Traditionally, Maltese Knights hold the following eight vows: live in truth; have faith; repent of sins; give proof of humility; love justice; be merciful; be sincere and whole-hearted; and endure persecution

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

Formed: 1928 HQ: Unknown

Locale: Middle East, Europe, Africa, Asia

Objective: Social and moral reform based on Islamic

beliefs

Symbol: Crossed swords and the Koran



This society originally started as a religious movement aimed at social and moral reforms. However, the Brotherhood quickly became politicized. In 1939, the Muslim Brotherhood officially became a political force and its members became active in several plots assassinate, overthrow or control political leaders in Egypt and other Middle Eastern

countries. During the 1940s, the Brotherhood has seen a huge increase in its membership and by 1948 boasts more than 5,000 chapters throughout North Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

POLITICAL/IDEOLOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS

There are many different political and ideological allegiances available in the 1948 setting. Most of these are simply a value system or set of opinions that are collected into a sociopolitical agenda. Some involve economic concepts, such as capitalism or communism, while others are more philosophical in nature, such as good and evil.

Regardless of the nature, all of these allegiances are easy to join - one need only decide which concept fits with his opinion and behave in a way that supports and promotes that allegiance. In some areas, however, people are advised to take certain specific political/ideological allegiances, such as in Germany, where Nazism is *strongly* encouraged.

NAZISM

Nazism is a form of fascism, characterized by opportunism and violence. Nazism rules Germany and many of the party leaders are members of the secret Thule Society. The followers of Nazism embraced the communists and socialists early in its day, but later attacked them when they were no longer useful. Nazism as a political philosophy plays to the disaffected in the

populace. It promises an expulsion of foreigners from Germany, reinstatement of the German Army, mandatory work, nationalization of industries, a return of German territory, hatred of Jews and several other points. The Nazis also believe in strict police forces and harsh punishments for criminals.



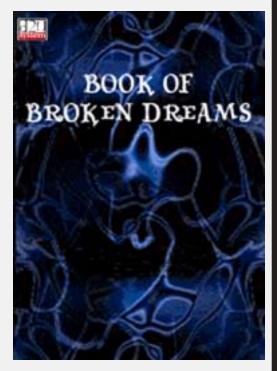
Other Supplements

The Book of Broken Dreams

The **Book of Broken Dreams** features 50+ pages of optional rules for adding realistic effects of trauma, psychosis and personality disorders to **your d20 game.**

Chapter 1 outlines the crippling psychological effects of traumatic stress and details the most common disorders that afflict trauma survivors: **post traumatic stress disorder** and dissociation.

Chapter 2 introduces a system of personality development that produces **thousands** of realistic, believable and diverse personalities which span the spectrum of sanity. From the mildly avoidant to the **severely anti-social**,



these personalities will bring a vivid new dimension to your role-playing games.

Chapter 3 discusses what *really* happens when characters become insane. **Schizophrenia**, dementia, manic-depression and more are all discussed in clear, game-mechanic terms. Add these options to your game for a dose of **harsh reality** and an accurate depiction of madness.

Chapter 4 includes dozens of **new spells** like *burden of proof, elude, labyrinthine conundrum, normalcy,* and many, many more.

Chapter 5 of the *Book of Broken Dreams* covers three new prestige classes, the mentalist, the **lunatic**, and the dream weaver. It also presents several new feats including Lucid Dreaming.

Add these options to your game today and watch your characters writhe in the grip of disorder, **trauma** and madness!

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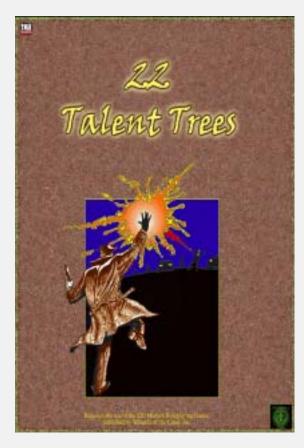
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ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES, AND SECRET SOCIETIES

22 Talent Trees

Are you bored by the dearth of **talent trees** presented in the Modern core rules? Do you wish your heroes had more options? Do you pine for **Offensive Driving** and and a little **Domination**?

22 Talent Trees presents 86 new talents
(grouped into 22 trees) for the core
classes. With this supplement you can play
Strong heroes who use their Mighty
Hurling talents to throw objects extreme
distances. Or perhaps you prefer a Fast
hero who can use the Quicker than the
Eye talents to gain a blur or displacement
effect! Or would you rather play the Tough
hero with FX Resistance and withstand
the power of magic? What about the
Quick Thinking Smart heroes who can
use their talents to take action before other
characters even figure out what is going
on? Maybe you would prefer a Dedicated



hero, devoted to the service others and able to donate their will power, their financial resources, and even their very **life** to another person in **need.** And finally, who could resist the pulchritudinous Charismatic hero with her **Stunning Beauty**?

These and **dozens** of other innovative ideas fill the pages of this supplement!

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

22 Talent Trees also features a new feat and a new use for the Treat Injury skill, **Transplant Surgery.**

You get all this:

- •86 talents grouped into 22 Talent Trees
- •A new **feat** to perform lifesaving transplants
- $\bullet 6$ stunning images depicting the talents in action

A \$5.00 value for not \$4, not \$3, but only

\$2.88!

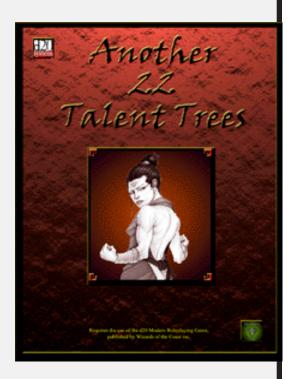
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Another 22 Talent Trees

So you have the original 22 Talent Trees, but still you need more options for your d20 Modern heroes? Do you wish your Fast heroes could strike with **Critical Precision**? Does your Tough hero need **thicker skin**? What if your Dedicated hero was **devoted** to mastering a weapon?

Another 22 Talent Trees presents dozens of new talents (grouped into 22 trees) for the core classes. With this supplement you can play a Strong hero and use the **Tackle** and **Grip of Iron** talents to break your puny opponents in half! You can also enjoy the speed of the Fast hero with the

Lightning Fists talent tree. Or perhaps you would prefer the Tough hero, with hardened flesh and a punishing **Battle Endurance**. If you prefer a little **magic** in your modern games, you might enjoy the **Arcane Secrets** talent tree, designed for the Smart hero. With these mystical talents,



the Smart hero can gain all sorts of special abilities including **bonus spells**. The Dedicated hero, devoted to the **mastery** of a single weapon, is also a formidable character. Just imagine your hero brandishing his beloved **Weapon of Choice** and blasting his enemies! Dedicated heroes can also choose talents from the **Zen** Talent Tree and become **One with the Universe.** Of course we can't forget about the Charismatic hero and his terrifying showmanship when he uses the **Grand**Weapon **Display** talent!

These and **dozens** of other innovative ideas fill the pages of this supplement!

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

Another 22 Talent Trees also features four new martial arts feats including the devastating One Ton Kick and the fiendish Devil's Finger.

You get all this:

• Dozens talents grouped into 22 Talent Trees

•Four new martial arts feats

•7 stunning images depicting the talents and feats in action A \$5.00 value for not \$4, not \$3, but only

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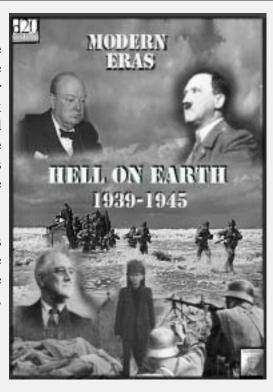
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Modern Eras

Modern Eras (1939-1945) contains all the information you need to take your d20 game to the beaches of Normandy, the streets of Krakow, or the jungles of Burma. Whether you prefer cloak and dagger spy missions, commando raids behind enemy lines, daring dogfights, or enduring the horrors of German and Japanese camps, this supplement can bring epic history to your game table!

Chapter 1 of **Modern Eras** (1939-1945) introduces the **WWII** campaign setting and includes a timeline and a discussion of dozens of adventure **possibilities**. It also discusses a list of Alliances, including sinister groups like the **Thule Society**. Chapter 2 presents **nine** advanced classes that are related to the setting. Commandos, Demolitions Experts, **Nazi Occultists**, and Spies, among others, are covered in detail.



Chapter 3 discusses dozens of new feats necessary for waging war in the early 20th century including Combat Flight, **Nighttime Operations**, Crash Endurance, Advanced Calculations, Concentrated Fire, and Hopeful Vigor.

Chapter 4 covers much of the equipment available during **WWII**. Tanks, 16-inch guns, battleships, aircraft carriers, fighter planes, submarines, gliders, half-track motorcycles, torpedoes, **V-2 rockets**, and "J-guns" are only a few of the vehicles, weapons, and equipment covered in this chapter.

Chapter 5 discusses the possibilities of **FX** in the **WWII** setting. It describes new **magic items** such as the **Spear of Destiny**, and other items sought by the Nazis. This chapter also includes several **new spells** designed for **evil** spell casters. A handful of fiendish monsters round out this chapter, including foo fighters and **gremlins**.

Whether you want to relive history's most **crucial** turning points or rewrite the history books entirely, if you're ready to fight for your homeland, struggle to survive, and die for ideals, **Modern Eras** (1939-1945) can provide the battles, the horrors, and the glory you **crave!**

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