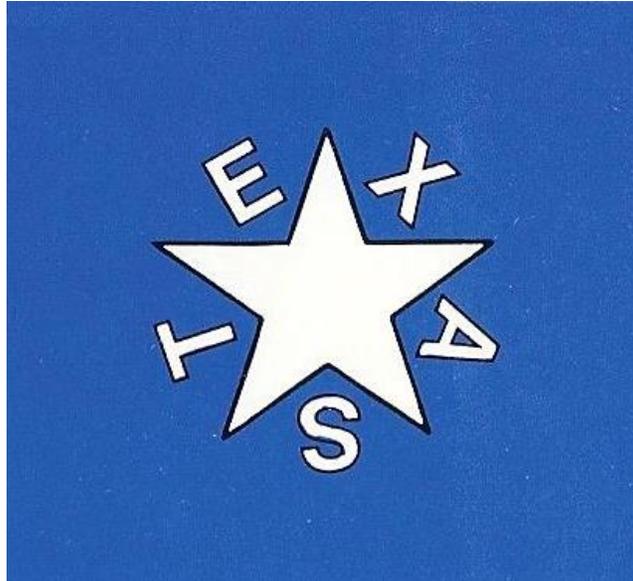


FLAGS OF *LONE STAR PLANET*



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1. The Anglo-American Solar League

a) *An Anglo, American, and Federation Parallel*

In H. Beam Piper's *Terro-Human Future History*, his near-future universal state is called the Terran Federation. Its history appears to be modeled on British history; the Uller Uprising is based on the Sepoy Mutiny in India,¹ planetary corporations like the Chartered Zarathustra Company parallel chartered corporations like the British East India Company,² and the Federation has a Parliament.³ However, American history is included, because the Secession of Venus appears to be modeled on the American Revolution,⁴ the System States War on the US Civil War,⁵ and in addition to a Parliament, the Federation also has a US-style "Constitution".⁶ Thus, the Terran Federation parallels both the British Empire and the American Union; a combination of historical models.

This combination is also seen in Piper's novel *Lone Star Planet*. There, his near-future interstellar democratic organization is called the "Solar League".⁷ Like the Federation, the League contains American and British elements. Among the former, the attempted z'Srauff invasion of New Texas parallels the invasion of the Republic of Texas by the Mexican Army under Santa Anna,⁸ and the annexation of New Texas to the Solar League parallels the annexation of Texas to the United States, prior to the Mexican and Civil Wars.⁹ Santa Anna invaded in 1836, and Texas joined the Union in 1845; this seems to put *Lone Star Planet* in a future parallel of the mid-Nineteenth Century.

At the beginning of the story, the Solar League has adopted more aggressive policies, which are openly called "imperialism",¹⁰ and which are implied will turn the organization into a "Galactic Empire".¹¹ This parallels the Nineteenth Century, during which 'imperialism' was not only *not* a dirty word, it defined the age; the Age of Imperialism. And the greatest empire in the world was that of Great Britain. In the early part of the century, Britain had led the coalition that toppled Napoleon, its overseas territories expanded continuously, and it officially became an empire in 1877, when Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India. By the end of the century, Britain was "the Greatest Empire the World Has Ever Seen";¹² one on which it was proudly proclaimed "the sun never set." The British element of the Solar League is also seen in Space Navy personnel like Space-Commander "Stonehenge", a name indicative of Salisbury Plain, and "Admiral Sir Rodney Tregaskis", 'sir' being a title of nobility.¹³

However, the new imperialism of the Solar League, proclaimed just before the annexation of New Texas, also appears to be modeled on Manifest Destiny, the American version of Nineteenth Century imperialism. Manifest Destiny originated just before the Texas Annexation, and was in fact related to that historical event. "The term, which first appeared in print in 1839, was used in 1845 by a New York journalist, John L. O'Sullivan, to call for the annexation of Texas. Thereafter, it was used to encourage American settlement of European colonial and Indian lands in the Great Plains and the west." Manifest Destiny was "the belief that the United States was destined, even divinely ordained, to expand across the North American continent, from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific Ocean...Advocates of Manifest Destiny believed that expansion was not only ethical but that it was readily apparent ("manifest") and inexorable ("destiny")."¹⁴ The Manifest Destiny of the United States was of course fulfilled in the mid-Nineteenth Century, with the annexation of the Oregon Territory (1846) and the Southwest (1848).

The expansion of the Solar League is therefore 'inexorable', and it is 'readily apparent' with the annexation of New Texas at the end of the story. It is also 'ethical', because in Piper, the end result is a universal state; a unified and peaceful interstellar organization, with no external enemies.

The combined Anglo-American historical models also lead us to the deduction that, after New Texas, the Solar League begins absorbing both human-colonized and alien worlds.

b) *An Antebellum Period*

There appears to be a connection between *Lone Star Planet* and Piper's THFH novel *The Cosmic Computer*. As a parallel of the Texas Annexation, *Lone Star Planet* is set in a pre-Civil War parallel period, while *The Cosmic Computer* is a post-Civil War parallel tale. As stated, the former occurs in a period roughly equivalent to 1836-1845, placing it 16-25 years before a 'Solar Civil War'. While in the THFH, *The Cosmic Computer* takes place around an 1894-equivalent time, opening "forty years" after the end of the System States War.¹⁵ The System States War is modeled on the Civil War, and the System States Alliance on the Confederate States of America.¹⁶ Thus, in addition to its Anglo-American models,

the Solar League is an 'alternate' version of the Terran Federation, the US-parallel in the System States War. That the new imperialism of the Solar League may lead to the creation of a Galactic Empire also parallels the Terran Federation, which is—eventually—followed by the First Galactic Empire.

The deduction that the Solar League will have a Civil War is also suggested by the fact that the political organization of the Lone Star planet consists of "the *Confederate* Continents of New Texas",¹⁷ and its judiciary, the "Confederate Courts".¹⁸ The antebellum feel of *Lone Star Planet* is also evoked by characters like "Andrew Jackson Hickock".¹⁹ Andrew Jackson was of course a pre-Civil War American President (1829-37), whose life spanned the South. Born in South Carolina, he also lived in North Carolina before settling in Tennessee. In the War of 1812, he fought and defeated the Creek Nation there, and then beat the British in Louisiana.²⁰ After the war he was a major catalyst in the purchase of Florida from Spain, and subsequently became the first governor of the territory,²¹ during which he fought and defeated the Seminole Indians.²²

And the 'Hickock' obviously comes from Wild Bill Hickock. His real name was James Butler Hickock, and was born in 1837—the same year Andrew Jackson left office.²³ "Hickock came to the West as a stagecoach driver, then became a lawman in the frontier territories of Kansas and Nebraska. He fought in the Union Army during the American Civil War, and gained publicity after the war as a scout, marksman, and professional gambler."²⁴ Piper's character is actually *Colonel* Andrew Jackson Hickock, a military rank also evocative of the Civil War.²⁵ Moreover, "Between his law-enforcement duties and gambling, which easily overlapped, [Wild Bill] Hickock was involved in several notable shootouts".²⁶ On New Texas, Colonel Hickock is similarly involved in at least one notable shootout, which coincidentally is also a law-enforcement duty. His fight with, pursuit of, and cornering of the Bonney brothers in their own town jail, after they murder Ambassador Cumshaw on the front steps of Hickock's ranch house.²⁷

c) An Americo-British Empire

Imperialism implies expansion, and after acquiring New Texas, the Solar League's more aggressive policies probably involve the annexation of other human-colonized worlds. These should include "Tara" (a parallel of Ireland), "Alpheratz II, the South African Nationalist planet" (a parallel of South Africa),²⁸ and the Mormon planet of "Deseret" (a parallel of Utah).²⁹ Tara and Alpheratz II therefore parallel the 'white' colonies (also called colonies of settlement) of the British Empire.³⁰ Ireland and South Africa (or at least, the Cape Colony) were annexed by Britain in the early Nineteenth Century. In tandem with its white colonies, Britain also acquired many 'non-white' colonies (also called colonies of conquest). These areas among the White Man's Burden included vast territories in South Asia (the Raj; now India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka), and Africa (such as Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Botswana, Nigeria, and Ghana).

Thus, the Solar League's empire-building will also involve conquering the non-human aliens mentioned in *Lone Star Planet*. Indeed, one of these races is, in effect, non-white humans. "The Ambassador from Beta Cepheus VI, who could have passed for human if he hadn't had blood with a copper base instead of iron. His skin was a dark green and his hair a bright blue..."³¹ Another alien race is represented by "The Ambassador from Spica VII, a short jolly-looking little fellow, with a head like a seal's, short legs and a tail like a kangaroo's..."³² Spica is located close to the Ecliptic, seals are water creatures, and kangaroos are found in Australia. Spica VII might then be a parallel of Oceania, which straddles the equator, and most of which was also absorbed by Britain. Oceania's original inhabitants were various non-white peoples (Polynesians, Melanesians, and Aborigines), which might explain the variegated alien, a combination of several mammals.

The British Empire reached the height of its power in the later Victorian Age, after the US Civil War. "The years from 1870 to 1914 were the heyday of the British Empire, the period during which the British thought of themselves most coherently and consistently as an imperial race."³³ Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India, celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1897. In 1898, the United States defeated Spain in the Spanish-American War, and was internationally recognized as having become a world power.

Thus, the conversion of the Anglo-American Solar League into a Galactic Empire probably occurs sometime after the deduced 'Solar Civil War'. Mankind takes up what Piper actually called "the Terran's Burden",³⁴ and during this future period coherently and consistently thinks of itself as an imperial species.

But that's getting ahead of the story.

2. The Human Flags of Lone Star Planet

a) The Flags of New Texas and the Solar League

As an alternate version of the Terran Federation, the Solar League's banner may be an alternate version of the TF wreathed globe. On New Texas, Andrew Jackson Hickock writes *"I agree with none of the so-called information about this planet on file with the State Department on Luna...Their flag is the original flag of the Republic of Texas; it is definitely not a barbaric travesty of our own emblem."*³⁵ Until the present research, my impression was that the flag of New Texas is the same as that of Old Texas. And since the flag of Old Texas is modeled on the Stars and Stripes, that would make the flag of the Solar League a future version of our own banner; perhaps a 'Sun and Stripes'. Rather than states, the stripes would represent member planets. (Figure 1.)

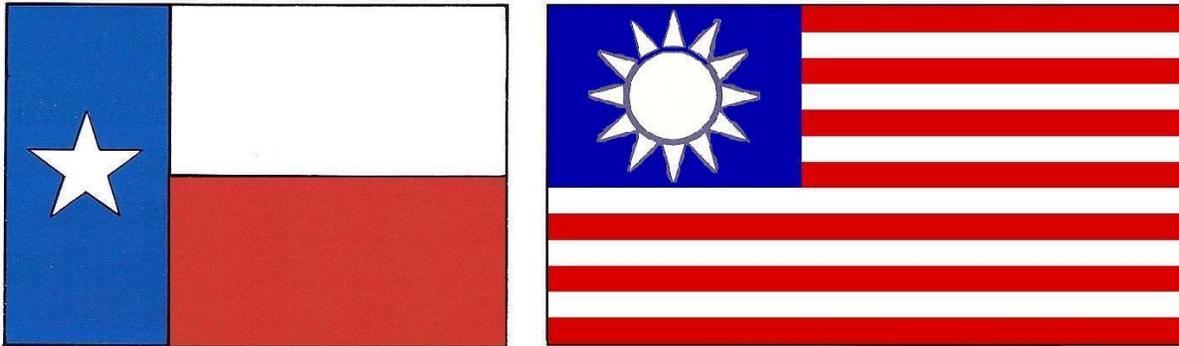


Figure 1. The flag of Texas, and the first postulated flag of the Solar League, the 'Sun and Stripes'.

However, research reveals that the current flag of Texas is *not* in fact the original flag of the Republic of Texas. "On March 2, 1836 the independence of Texas was proclaimed, and on March 11 the Republic adopted a new flag devoid of Mexican symbolism. This standard was the Bonnie Blue flag with letters spelling out the name "TEXAS" arrayed around and between the points of the star."³⁶ (Figure 2.)

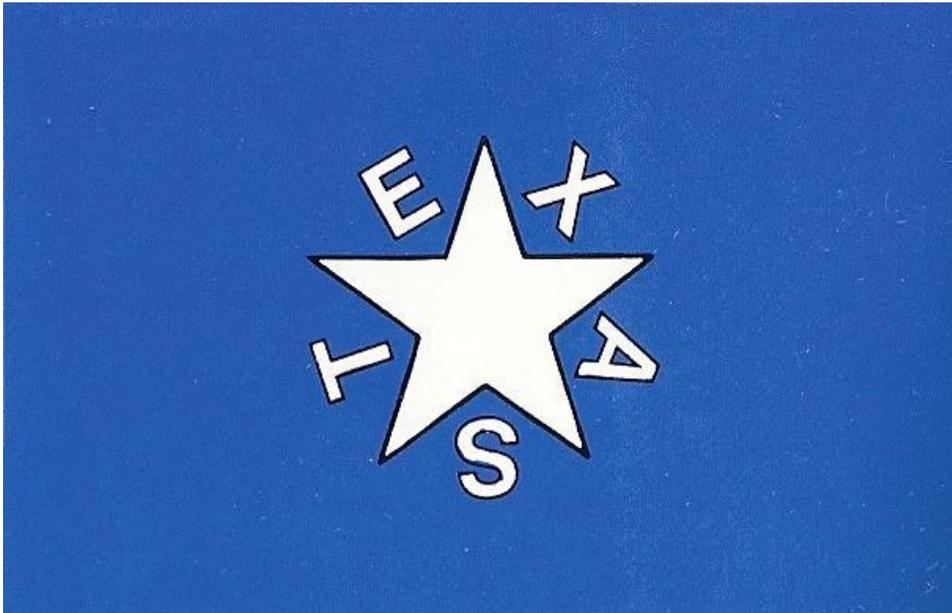


Figure 2. The original flag of the Republic of Texas, 11 March 1836 to 10 December 1836.³⁷

As a white emblem on a blue field, this means the flag of the Solar League should also possess these colors. And that would parallel the banner of the Terran Federation, which is described as a “wreathed globe” on a “light blue” field.³⁸ The flag of the Solar League could therefore be a ‘wreathed Sun’. Sol in the center representing our unified planetary system, and a wreath because the League is a successor to the United Nations,³⁹ just as the Terran Federation is.



Figure 3. Second postulated Solar League banner, the ‘wreathed Sun’.⁴⁰

By paralleling the many-rayed Sun with a five-pointed star, and the wreath with letters, the flag of New Texas would indeed appear to be an ‘inferior’ version of the Solar League banner. Incidentally, in order to differentiate the planet of New Texas from the small region of Old Texas on Terra, it seems advisable to modify Piper’s “original flag of the Republic of Texas” by adding the word ‘New’ to the center of the star.

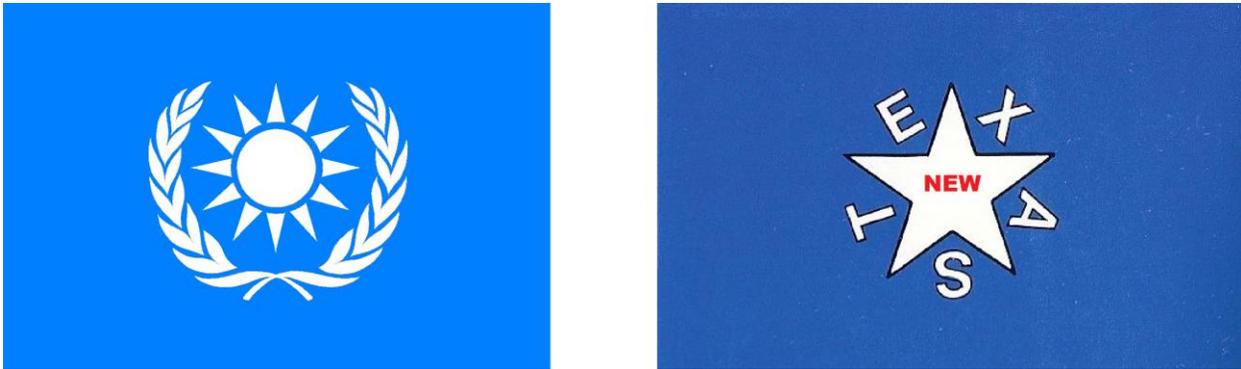


Figure 4. Second postulated flag of the Solar League and its “barbaric travesty”, the flag of New Texas.

The British Royal Navy flies a White Ensign, and its officers wear white uniforms, as do American naval officers. Since the Solar League is an Anglo-American parallel, officers in its Space Navy, such as the apparently British Admiral Tregaskis and Commander Stonehenge, could wear white uniforms. And by reversing the colors of the wreathed sun, we get a blue emblem on a white field. (Figure 5, left image.) Thus, a White Ensign for the Solar League Space Navy is quite possible.⁴¹

Since the Solar League is an alternate version of the Terran Federation, the Galactic Empire foreseen by the associates of Stephen Silk should parallel the First Galactic Empire in the THFH. A white ensign for this state would then be improbable, because the First Galactic Empire flies a black banner, emblazoned with a “gold sun and superimposed black cogwheel”.⁴² Thus, the forthcoming Galactic Empire of the Lone Star universe may simply change the League flag to a gold wreathed sun on a black field. The flags of Beam’s parallel Galactic Empires would then have the elements of a gold sun on black in common, and these would also be the ensigns of their respective Imperial Space Navies. (Figure 5, right image.)



Figure 5. Possible Solar League Space Navy white ensign, and postulated flag of the subsequent Solar or ‘Galactic’ Empire.

b) The Ensign of Task Force Red-Blue-Green

The Nineteenth Century historical model can also explain why Piper named the ships under Admiral Tregaskis’ command “Task Force Red-Blue-Green, Fifth Space Fleet”.⁴³ The Bonnie Blue flag replaced the flag of the Texas Revolution, which was a Mexican tricolor with ‘1824’ in the white stripe. Mexico itself had only been independent since 1821, and its flag then, as today, consisted of equal vertical stripes of green, white and red. Since the z’Srauff fill the role of ‘Mexicans’ in the story, Beam apparently reversed the order of their flag’s colors (red-white-green), then replaced the white stripe with the blue of Texas. (Figure 6.) Numbering the fleet as the ‘fifth’ could then be a hidden reference to the five-pointed Lone Star, and possibly the five elements in the arms of Mexico: the eagle, snake, cactus, rock and water.⁴⁴

Assuming so, then by combining the flags of Texas and Mexico, Piper was adding another appropriate historical element to the story, while also implying that the Solar League flotilla’s name is color-code for ‘Task Force Tex-Mex’. This is entirely consistent with its mission, which is either to fight a z’Srauff invasion, or preemptively annex New Texas by force. Ambassador Silk informs Commander Stonehenge that the “Danger of a z’Srauff invasion was pointed out to me by persons at the very highest level, on Luna”, and then he internally speculates that “with the fleet so near, they might decide to have me rubbed out in a hurry, to justify seizing the planet ahead of the z’Srauff.”⁴⁵

As seen in Figure 6, the combination works better with the current flag of Texas, which was adopted in 1839, while it was still an independent nation. Like the flag of Mexico, the final flag of independent Texas consists of three stripes, red-white-blue instead of red-white-green. Totally combining the two flags would result in Task Force ‘Red-White-Blue-Green’; Piper then simply dropped the white. But as the red and white Texan stripes are not vertical, we can cut it even finer than that. By using 1840 as the date—about midway between Texan independence in 1836 and US annexation in 1845—then Beam replaced the white vertical stripe in the Mexican flag with the blue vertical stripe in the flag of Texas. This confirms *Lone Star Planet* in an 1840s-parallel time; after planetary independence but before Solar annexation.⁴⁶

That Piper was thinking of three-colored flags is supported by Fleet Admiral Sir Rodney Tregaskis. As stated, ‘sir’ is suggestive of the British Empire; Sir Rodney is therefore a nobleman. Like the American and Texan flags, the British flag is red, white, and blue, and the rank of Fleet Admiral may parallel “Admiral of the Fleet”, which is an old Royal Navy rank related to the British colors. “The rank evolved from the ancient sailing days of the Royal Navy. The fleet was divided into three divisions and each designated a colour, that of Red, White, or Blue. Each coloured division was assigned an Admiral, who in

turn had command over a Vice-Admiral and a Rear Admiral. The Admiral of the Fleet, therefore, commanded the Admirals of the various divisions and thus, the entirety of the Fleet.”⁴⁷ In American usage, an “Admiral of the Fleet is equivalent to a 5 star rank.”⁴⁸

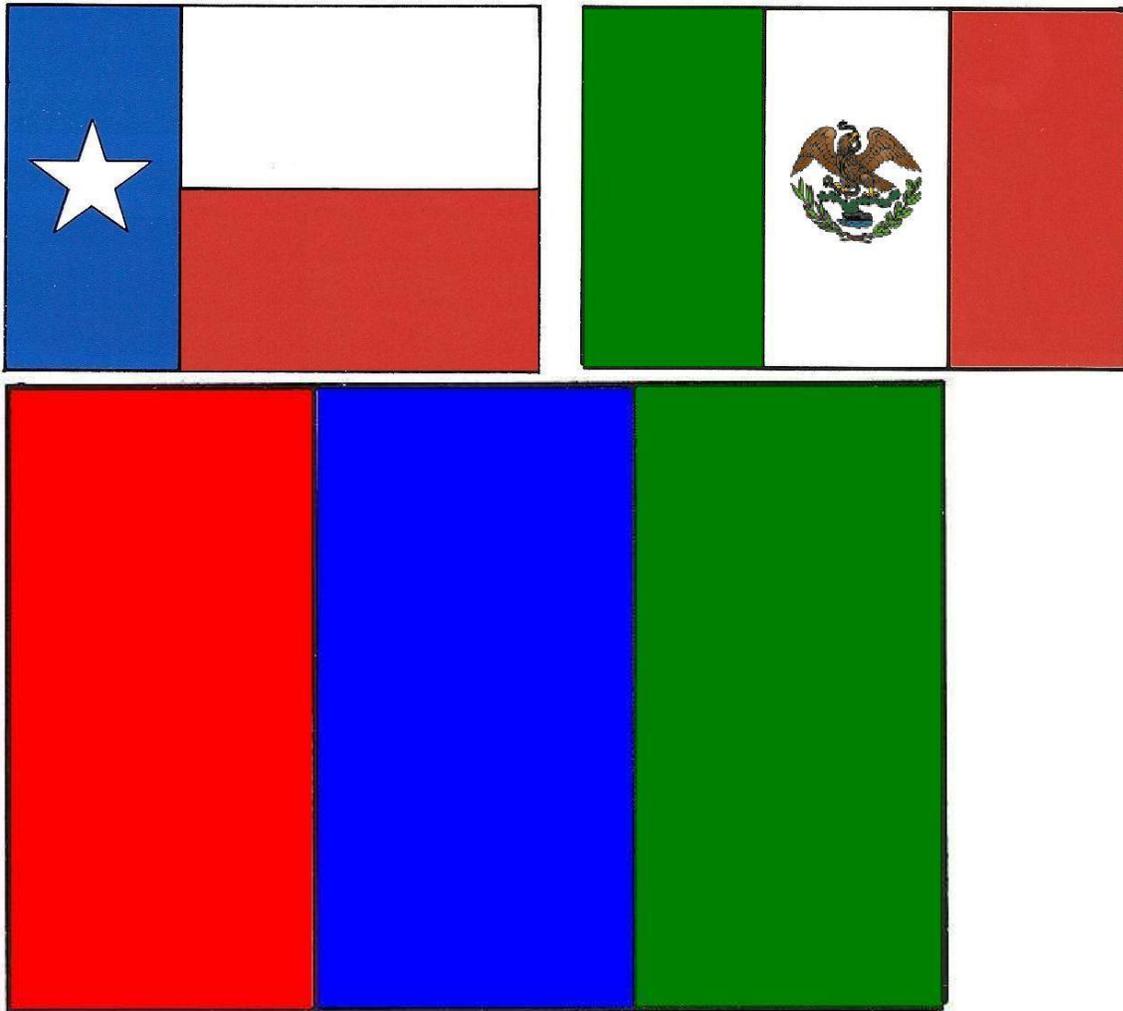


Figure 6. Flags of independent Texas and Mexico, 1840; and postulated ensign of Task Force Red-Blue-Green.

The Task Force is “on maneuvers about five light-years from here”,⁴⁹ so Fleet Admiral Tregaskis appears to have taken out a part of the Fifth Space Fleet for routine wargames. However, since the ensign of his task force combines the Texan and Mexican colors, that suggests these maneuvers are not exactly routine. They are probably pre-planned contingency training for possible operations in the New Texas/z-Srauff space-area. As we’ve seen, the newly-aggressive Solar Government has the fleet ready for action, whether it be against the z’Srauff or the New Texans.

Piper may have had another reason for the red-blue-green, which also involves colored flags. “Armed forces constantly practice for war. There are many hundred large scale exercises and maneuvers each year. They reveal alliances, display strength to potential enemies and can be used as direct or indirect threats.”⁵⁰ The map accompanying this quote has flags showing the locations of European maneuvers in the late 1970s and early 1980s, mainly those of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. They are color-coded to show which services participated. (Figure 7.) Green flags for army only, green and red for army and air force. Green and green-red flags are mainly seen in West and East Germany, the presumed Central Front of a Third World War. In littoral areas like the Baltic and Mediterranean, however, are several flags

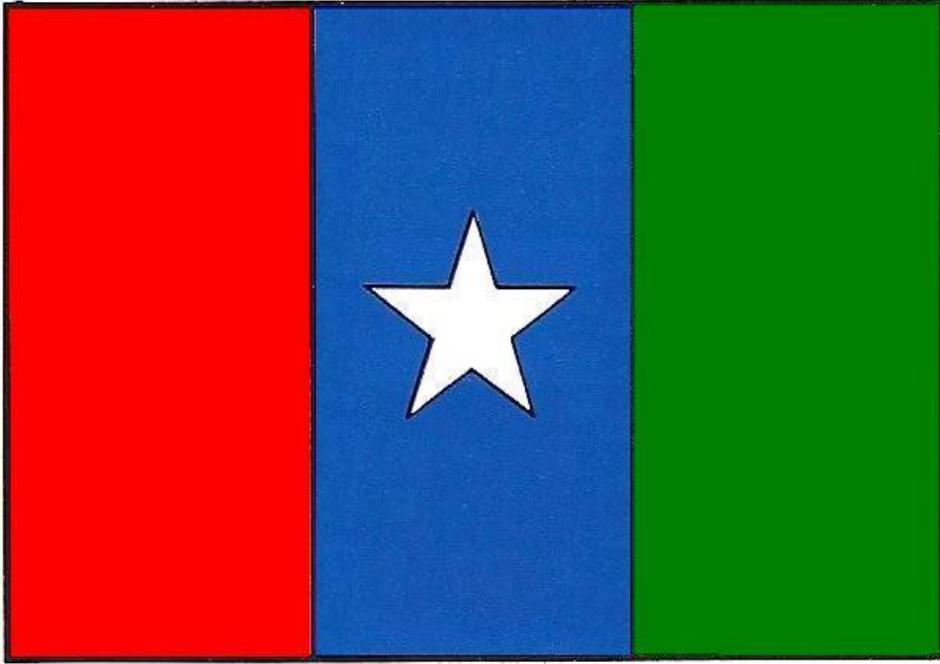


Figure 8. Possible Task Force/Rank Flag of Sir Rodney Tregaskis, if he is a Rear Admiral.

c) *The Flags of Tara, Alpheratz II, and Deseret*

Since the flag of New Texas is “the original flag of the Republic of Texas”, then by extension, the flags of the other human-populated planets mentioned in the story should be readopted historical banners. That’s because, like New Texas, they are part of the “Romantic Freeze” movement, in which emigrating humans “had gone from Terra cherishing dreams of things that had been dumped into the dust bin of history, carrying with them pictures of ways of life that had passed away, or had never really been. Then, in their new life, on new planets, they had set to work making those dreams and those pictures live. And many times, they had come close to succeeding.”⁵³

One of these planets “living frozen in a romantic dream”⁵⁴ is Tara, the Irish planet. Their flag may well be the historical flag of Ireland; a gold harp on a green field. A possible modification would be to add a gold ring around the harp. The central green circle thus enclosed would represent the ‘Emerald Planet’, paralleling its Terran model, the Emerald Isle. (Figure 9.)



Figure 9. Historical flag of Ireland (minus the ring), and possible flag of the planet Tara.⁵⁵

Alpheratz II, the Afrikaaner planet, could fly the old flag of the Orange Free State, or of the Transvaal. However, since these future Boers only inhabit one world, their flag might actually combine the two, making Alpheratz II a kind of 'Transspace Orange Free Planet.' The designation of their planet as Alpheratz 'II' (two) may therefore be a subtle connection with the two independent Boer republics.⁵⁶

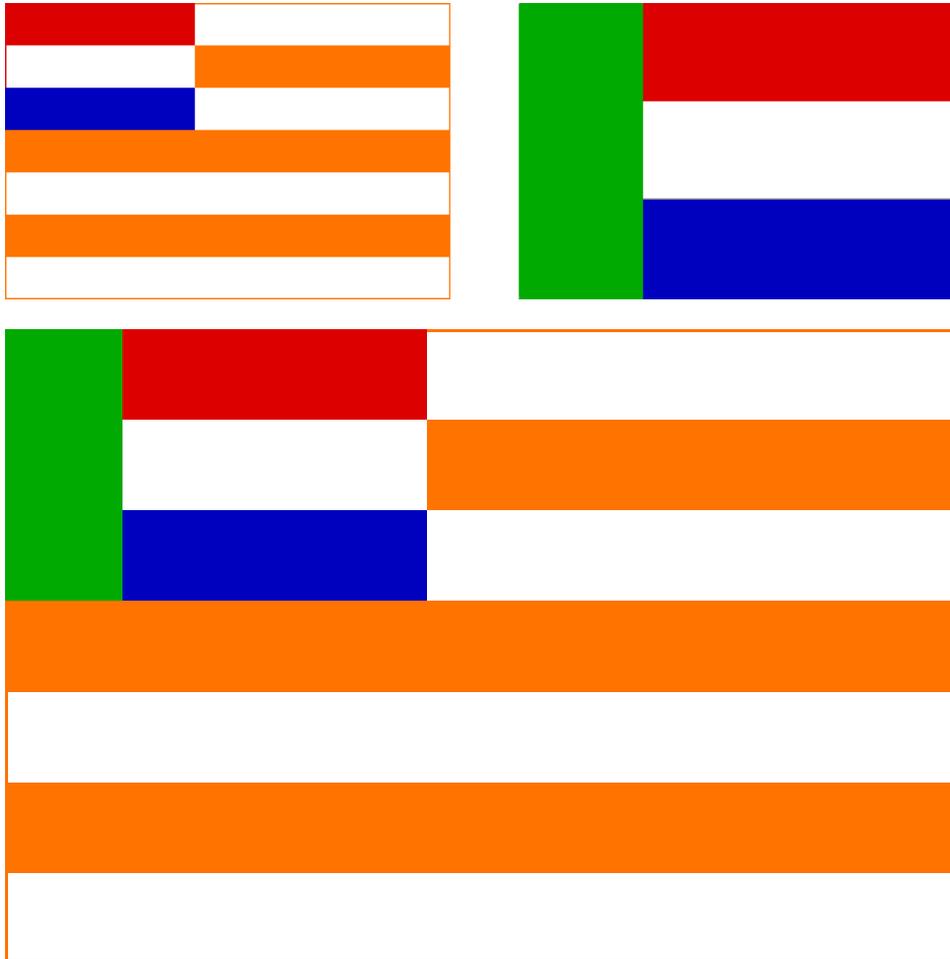


Figure 10. Historical flags of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, and the postulated flag of Alpheratz II.

And Deseret, the Mormon planet (Delta Camelopardalis V), could reuse the historical flag of the Mormon Pioneers, or possibly that of the Deseret Territory.

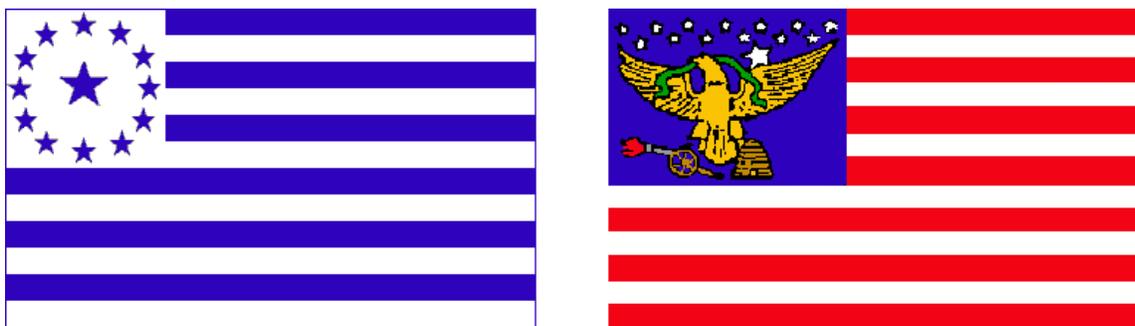


Figure 11. Historical flags of the Mormon Pioneers and the Deseret Territory, 1851; possible models for the flag of Deseret.

If the flag of the Solar League really *were* a Sun and Stripes, then “the so-called information on file with the State Department on Luna” could have included derogatory views of the flags of these other human-inhabited planets, as well. Given the inclusion of stripes in the Mormon Pioneer, Deseret Territory and the Orange Free State flags, one wonders if Solar diplomats would describe the flags of Deseret and Alpheratz II as ‘barbaric travesties of our own emblem’, like they did that of New Texas.

3. The Non-Human Flags of *Lone Star Planet*

a) *The Mexo-Japanese z’Srauff*

Just as the human Solar League is a combination of Anglo and American historical models, their main antagonist, the canine z’Srauff, are a combination of models, too. As we’ve seen, the attempted z’Srauff invasion of New Texas is modeled on the Mexican invasion of Texas in 1836. But Piper also compares the impending sneak attack to Pearl Harbor. Stephen Silk “had been impressed by the parallel between the present situation and one which had culminated, two and a half centuries before, on the morning of 7 December, 1941.”⁵⁷

That makes the z’Srauff a combination of Mexico and Japan.

There are several other references to the Japanese element of the z’Srauff. One is the fact that they “occupied a half-dozen planets in a small star-cluster about forty light-years beyond the Capella system.”⁵⁸ In cosmic terms, a star-cluster like that of the z’Srauff is reminiscent of an archipelago, which parallels the Japanese home islands. Prior to WWII, the Japanese Empire was similarly centered on a half-dozen large islands; the four home islands of Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu, and Hokkaido; Formosa (taken from China in 1895), and Sakhalin (the southern half ceded by Russia in 1905). Japan also controlled several smaller groups of islands, with low populations; such as the Ryukyu, Kurile and Caroline Islands (the last now Micronesia). These could be paralleled by several systems of the z’Srauff cluster which contain a few barely habitable, low-population planets.

Another reference is that “In the past century, it had become almost impossible for anybody to get in their star-group, although z’Srauff ships were orbiting in on every planet that the League had settled or controlled. There were z’Srauff traders and small merchants everywhere, and you almost never saw one of them without a camera. Their little meteor-mining boats were everywhere, and all of them carried more of the most modern radar and astrogational equipment than a meteor-miner’s lifetime earnings would pay for.”⁵⁹

Piper combines several historical elements here. The first is consistent with the deduced early Nineteenth Century period of *Lone Star Planet*, and that is the pre-1854 isolationist policies of Japan, before its famous ‘opening’ by Commodore Perry.

The discovery of gold in newly conquered California focused the attention of Americans upon the Pacific world that lay at their doorstep. China and the East Indies had been opened to American trade, but Japan remained a challenge. Holding themselves aloof from the Western “barbarians,” the Japanese had closed their islands to the outside world two centuries before. Except for those Dutchmen involved in a tightly restricted trade with the Japanese at Nagasaki, no foreigner was allowed to enter the country and any Japanese who left was put to death if he returned.⁶⁰

The wide-ranging z’Srauff space merchant marine seems to parallel the Japanese merchant marine, which though presumably created after 1854, became a major economic force before (and again after) the Second World War. The little z’Srauff boats mining meteors in other star systems is a parallel of industrialized Japan’s dependence on foreign sources of raw materials. The fact that these boats are crammed with advanced equipment seems to parallel Japan’s technological proficiency, once they joined the ranks of modern societies. And the ubiquitous camera-toting z’Srauff parallel stereotypical Japanese tourists.

The combination of Mexican and Japanese models for the z’Srauff is even alluded to by Beam in one of his human characters. “Mr. Francisco Parros, our Intelligence man” on New Texas, who “was a little fellow; half-Latin, half-Oriental”.⁶¹ In other words, quite possibly half Mexican and half Japanese. The name ‘Francisco’ seems to point to San Francisco, part of the lands ceded to the United States by Mexico after the Mexican-American War. But San Francisco was also the location for a great deal of tension

between the US and Japan, during the administration of, not Franklin, but *Theodore* Roosevelt. On October 11, 1906, the city's school board ordered the segregation of Oriental children (including Japanese) in special schools. This was taken as a great insult by Asian nations such as China and Japan, but only the Japanese were in a position to do something about it. Two years before, they had defeated the Russian Empire in war, and Japan's sensationalist press, as well as some politicians, now called for war with the United States. Using a combination of persuasion and coercion, Teddy Roosevelt was able to resolve the crisis, in the famous "Gentlemen's Agreement". San Francisco rescinded the segregation order, and Japan put restrictions on emigration of its citizens to the US.⁶² Restoring friendly relations with Japan was one of the reasons President Roosevelt sent the Great White Fleet on a voyage around the world (from late 1907 to early 1909), which included stops in Japan.⁶³

Thus, the character Francisco Parros seems to represent both the Mexican War and the war with Japan that could have occurred in 1906 (during Teddy Roosevelt's administration), a foreshadow of the war that eventually did come (during Franklin Roosevelt's).

Piper's use of Mexican and Japanese models can now give us a few ideas for a z'Srauff flag. Being non-human, they would of course not resurrect a flag from human history. But they could fly one with Mexo-Japanese elements. As we've seen, the Mexican flag is a green-white-red tricolor. The Japanese flag contains two of these, being a red and white bicolor. Thus, the z'Srauff flag could be a combination of the Mexican and Japanese flags. That can most easily be achieved by reversing the Mexican tricolor, and using a vertical Japanese flag as the white stripe.

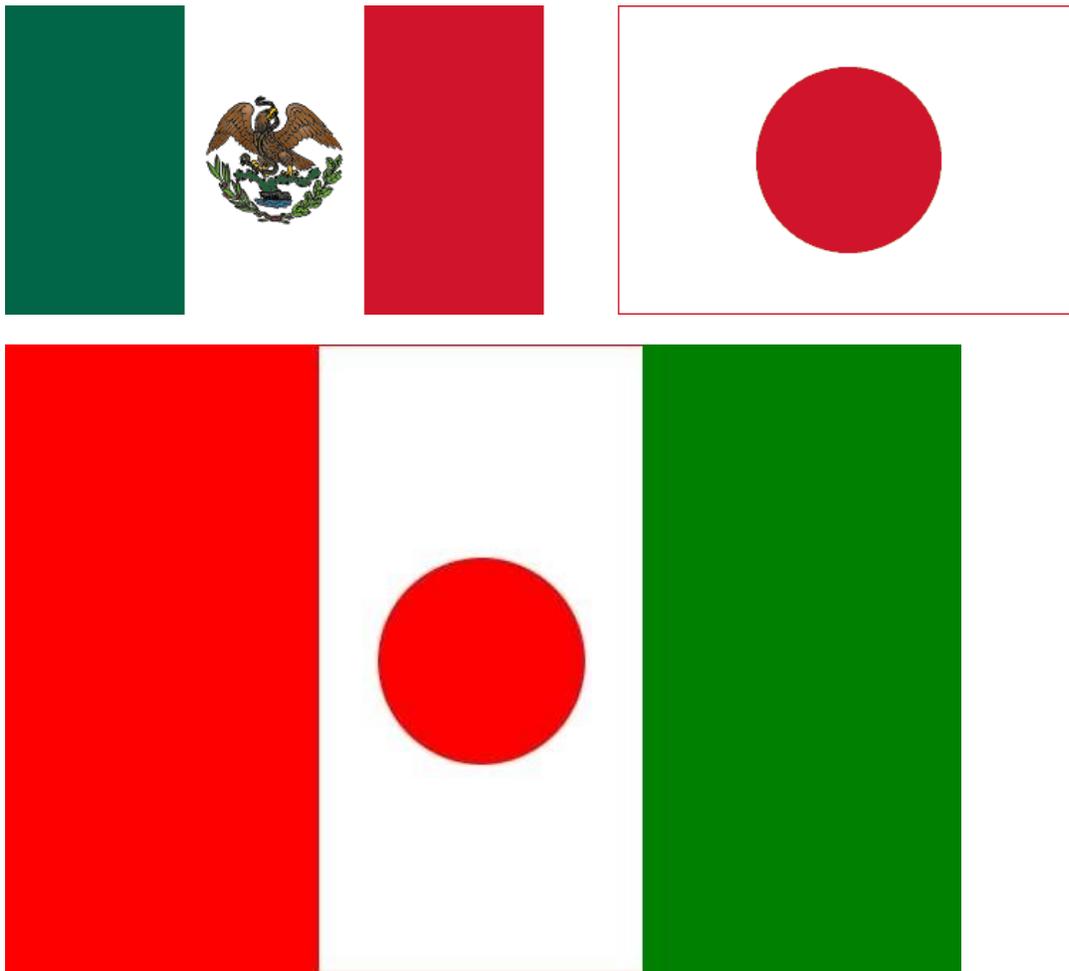


Figure 12. Nineteenth Century flags of Mexico and Japan, and first postulated flag for the z'Srauff.

It is also interesting that Piper calls the z'Srauff region of space a 'small' star-cluster. If the small cluster contains 'small' stars, that could mean the z'Srauff home world orbits a red dwarf, a good futuristic parallel of the rising sun of Japan. In that case, the flag might work better with horizontal stripes, making the red dwarf appear to 'rise' from a green plain. And the effect would be heightened by eliminating the red stripe, whose color is redundant to the disc's.

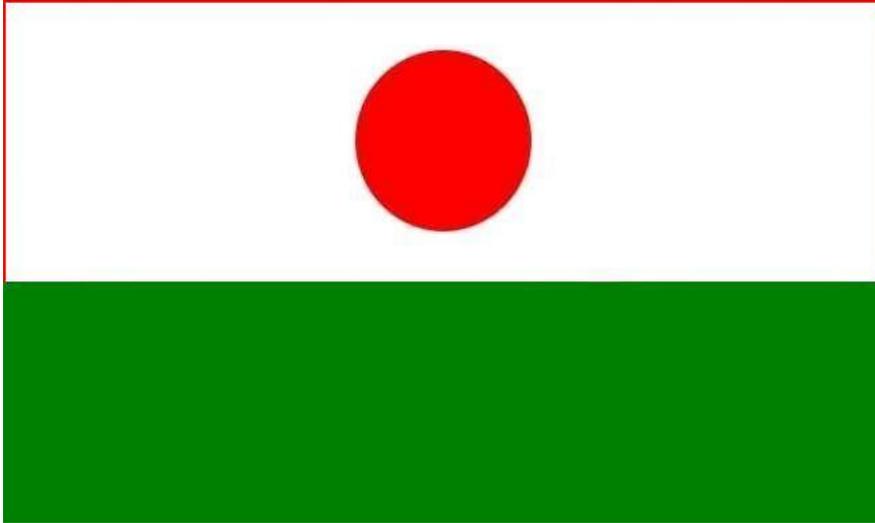


Figure 13. Second postulated flag for the z'Srauff; the 'rising dwarf star'.

This design can be modified further. If the sky of the z'Srauff home world is blue, then the white stripe can be changed to that color. Along with appearing more natural, placing the dwarf star in a blue sky would make the red disc look less similar to the Japanese flag, obscuring the historical model. Red dwarves are less luminous than stars like Sol, so the z'Srauff sky should actually be a darker blue. A remnant white stripe could still be included, as a thin 'horizon' separating the blue and green stripes. We can also give it a downward bend, to suggest the curvature of the planet. This version would contain all the colors of Task Force Red-Blue-Green, as well as those of Mexico and Japan. And the result is a slightly more 'alien' looking flag, in contrast to the obviously historical ones of the human worlds.⁶⁴

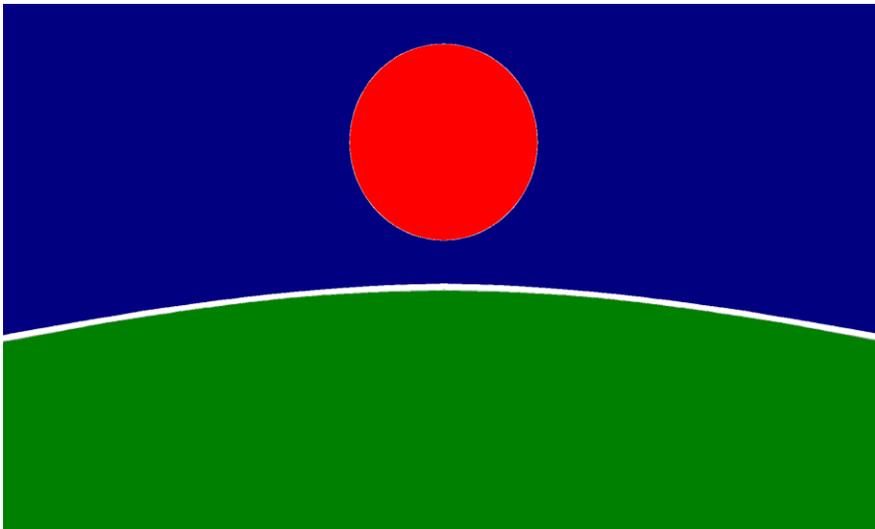


Figure 14. The Rising Dwarf Star, in natural colors.

This version could be described as a stylized view of the z'Srauff home world, whose verdant plains have been roamed by their evolving canine packs for countless millenia.⁶⁵ Japan is known as 'the Land of the Rising Sun'; that would make the z'Srauff capital 'the Planet of the Rising Dwarf Star'.

The red dwarf as a parallel of the Japanese sun would also tie in the wrist watches of the z'Srauff. The faces of these hard-to-obtain timepieces are described as "normally white", but at the end of the story the one worn by their ambassador "was now glowing a bright ruby-red". This is a secret warning to the z'Srauff on New Texas to take cover, because an attack by their Space Navy is imminent.⁶⁶ Watch faces are usually circular, and white and red are the colors of Japan, so since Piper compares the coming sneak attack to December 7, 1941, the z'Srauff timepieces appear to have been a direct allusion to the Japanese flag. Indeed, by stating they are 'glowing', Beam implies that they are *emitting red rays*, which specifically points to the ensign of the Imperial Japanese Navy, flown by the ships that launched the attack on Pearl Harbor.

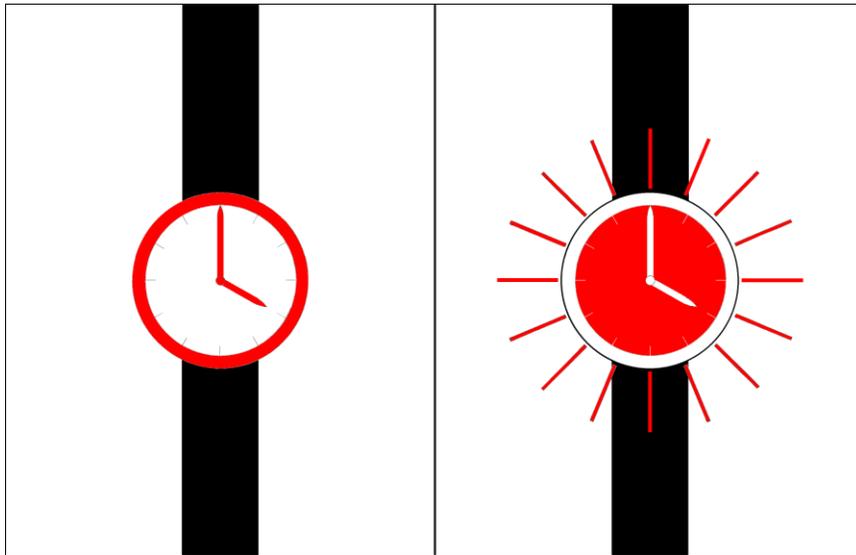


Figure 15. Z'Srauff wrist watch alarm compared to the flag of the Imperial Japanese Navy.⁶⁷

This parallel is supported by the fact that the Solar League never obtains one of the z'Srauff watches, though it comes close. “[Solar] Naval Intelligence is very much interested in them and we want a sample.”⁶⁸ And on their behalf, “For some time, Mr. Cumshaw had been trying to get one of the very precise watches which the z'Srauff manufacture on their home planet. The z'Srauff ambassador called, that day, to tell him that they had one for him and wanted to know when it was to be delivered.”⁶⁹ Upon learning where Cumshaw was headed, however, the z'Srauff ambassador instead calls the Bonneys to intercept and assassinate him.⁷⁰ The watch, which would have enabled Ambassador Cumshaw to be forewarned when the z'Srauff space navy was about to attack, is therefore never delivered; at the later trial of the Bonneys, Stonehenge says “I [still] wish we could get hold of one of those wrist watches.”⁷¹

Thus, the Solar League does not acquire one before the z'Srauff sneak attack occurs, though they presumably do afterward; the z'Srauff on New Texas (including their ambassador) will certainly be taken into custody and their effects confiscated. This situation seems to parallel the Japanese ambassador in Washington, who took so long in decoding and translating the final message sent from Tokyo that by the time he delivered it to our State Department, the attack on Pearl Harbor had already taken place. The message, which would have enabled the American Secretary of State to realize a war with Japan was imminent, was received too late.

The attack took place before any formal declaration of war was made by Japan, but this was not Admiral Yamamoto's intention. He originally stipulated that the attack should not commence until thirty minutes after Japan had informed the United States that peace negotiations were at an end. The Japanese tried to uphold the conventions of war while still achieving surprise, but the attack began before the message could be delivered. Tokyo transmitted the 5,000-word notification (commonly called the “14-part message”) in two blocks to the Japanese embassy in Washington, but transcribing the message took too long for the Japanese ambassador to deliver it in time.⁷²

The z'Srauff watches, which can be said to parallel the beginning of WWII for the United States, are powered by “radium decay”, making them “very precise”. “They're uniform to a tenth second and they're all synchronized with the official time at the capital city of the principal z'Srauff planet.”⁷³ Given the futuristic setting of the story, atomic watches would seem perfectly logical, but they may also be a hidden reference to the events that ultimately followed December 7; the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that ended the war. Thus, the radium-decay watches appear to represent both the beginning *and the end* of WWII, and the z'Srauff sneak attack on New Texas is defeated by the waiting Solar Navy, ending the war almost as quickly as it begins.

Getting back to the postulated z'Srauff flag, two more changes are suggested by the Japanese historical model. Their current flag was adopted in 1854, after its famous ‘opening’ by Commodore Perry. To conform with Western standards, the official Rising Sun was a horizontal rectangle. However, prior Japanese flags were often square or even vertical, as seen in these pictures of a Seventeenth Century Shogun's warships, and the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600 AD.



Figure 16. Seventeenth Century square and vertical versions of the Japanese flag.⁷⁴

Although the vertical flags merely repeat the Sun Disc emblem multiple times, the first change would be to make the z'Srauff banner vertical, giving it an even more alien appearance. (Figure 17.) This could therefore be the *original* version; after the z'Srauff unite their home world, but before they are first visited by human starships. Along with vertical or original, this could also be called an 'orbital' version of the flag. A stylized representation of the first time the dwarf star appeared from around the planet's rim, when the z'Srauff first achieved space flight. Because prior to encountering the starships of humankind, these canine bipeds "had developed normal-space reaction-drive ships", which certainly began with rockets. ⁷⁵

In a way, this version brings us full circle, as the vertical stripes recall those in the first postulated z'Srauff flag, based on the vertical stripes of the Mexican tricolor. It also puts the colors in the order Piper names them; red, blue and green.

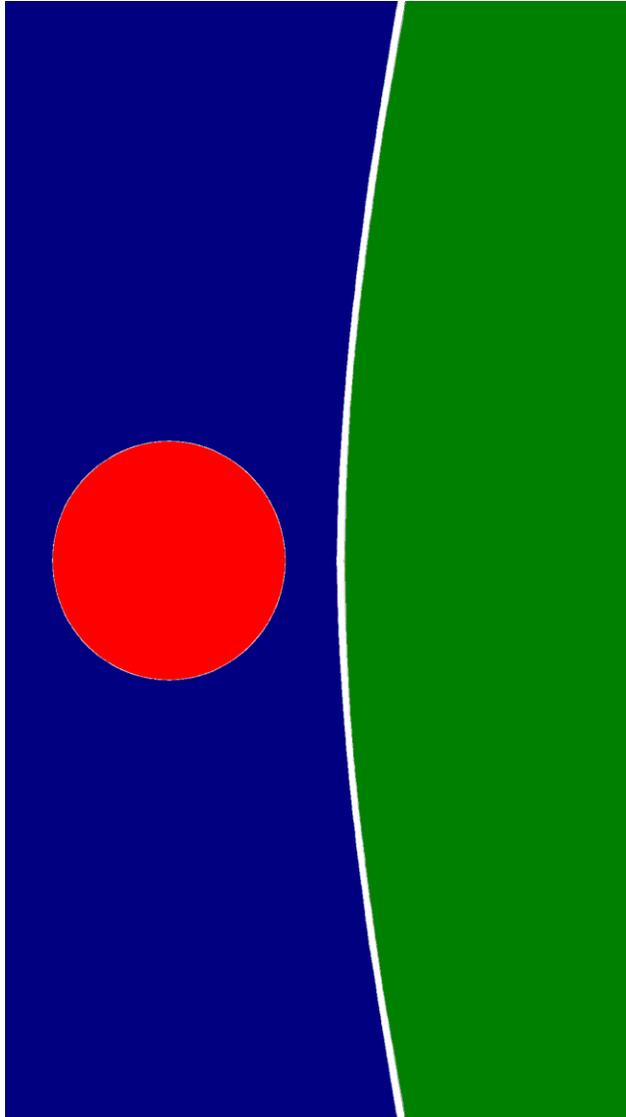


Figure 17. The Rising Dwarf Star, vertical (or orbital) version.

However, after acquiring hyperdrive and colonizing the habitable worlds of five more red dwarfs, the second change would involve adding five red discs to the horizontal version. This would represent the whole cluster currently ruled by the z'Srauff, with the home star larger than the others. (Figure 18.) And since it now contains more than one star, the final version could be called the 'Rising Cluster'.

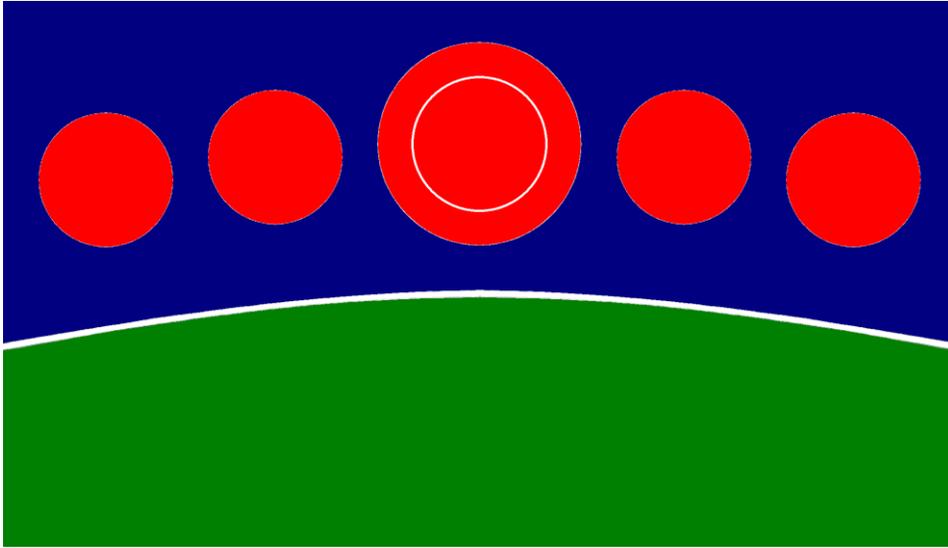


Figure 18. Third postulated flag for the z'Srauff; the 'Rising Cluster'.

In any case, basing the z'Srauff flag on the Mexican and Japanese flags would make the deduced ensign of Task Force Red-Blue-Green appropriate *within the story's context*, as well as to its historical models. To the human Space Navy personnel involved in the maneuvers, and the subsequent fight with the z'Srauff fleet near New Texas, their task force ensign would combine the colors of New Texas with those of the z'Srauff.

b) A Flag for Beta Cephus VI

In the Lone Star universe, there appears to be a large number of non-human sapient races. Stephen Silk says that "We use Basic [English] with a great many alien peoples."⁷⁶ Apart from the z'Srauff, however, Piper provides details on only two of them. And as seen in the **Introduction**, one of them parallels non-white humans; "The Ambassador from Beta Cephus VI, who could have passed for human if he hadn't had blood with a copper base instead of iron. His skin was a dark green and his hair a bright blue..."

Their 'dark' skin could make the humanoids of Beta Cephus VI a parallel of African natives. 'Cephus' itself suggests this, being a constellation "named after Cepheus, King of Ethiopia in Greek mythology."⁷⁷ More support is found in the fact that its ambassador on Capella IV is well armed; not with guns like the New Texans, but with primitive edged weapons. At the trial of the Bonney brothers, Clement Sydney drags out the jury selection process, thereby trying the patience of the onlookers, who finally begin threatening Sydney with violence. "Hoddy Ringo pulled his neckerchief around under his left ear and held the ends above his head. Nanadabadian, the Ambassador from Beta Cephus IV [*sic*], drew his biggest knife and began trying the edge on a sheet of paper."⁷⁸ This of course implies that Nanadabadian is carrying other, smaller, knives.

And these references mesh well with the story's mid-Nineteenth Century historical model. During that period, the interior of the 'Dark Continent' was finally explored. The courses of the Nile, Congo and Niger Rivers were mapped and their sources discovered. In the later part of the century, the European powers carved up the continent, and fought several wars with the natives, pitting modern rifles against their primitive edged weapons. Among the most notable were the British wars with the Ashanti in West Africa and Zulus in South Africa. The latter employed the *assegai*, or short stabbing spear, to great effect in the Battle of Isandhlwana (1879).

So, assuming the humanoids of Beta Cephus VI are parallels of African natives, we should look to African flags as the models for a Cephid flag. Several African nations bear as their coat of arms a shield with spears. Though adopted after *Lone Star Planet* was written, these include Kenya (1963) and Swaziland (1967).

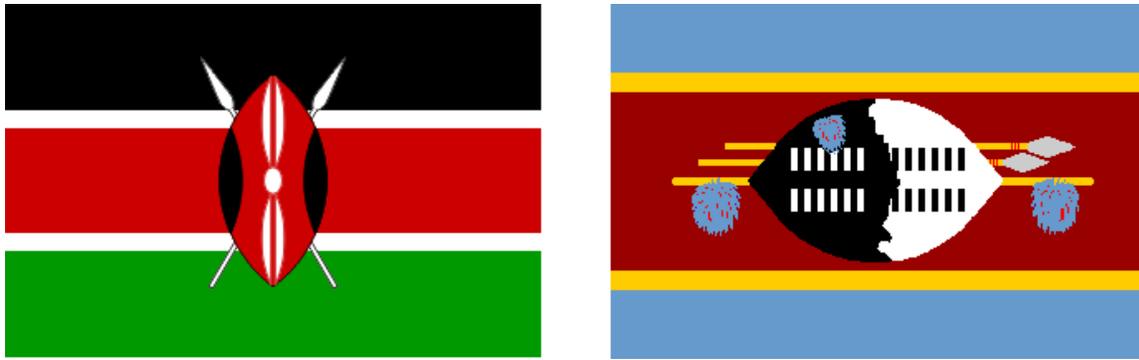


Figure 19. The flags of Kenya and Swaziland.

In futuristic or ‘cosmic’ terms, the shield and spears can best be interpreted as a planet with missiles. (Figure 20.) That the Beta Cephids could acquire advanced weaponry is supported by the example of the z’Srauff, who achieved their current status as an interstellar power from the Terrans. “[T]hey had quickly picked up the hyperspace-drive from us back in those days when the Solar League was still playing Missionaries of Progress and trying to run a galaxy-wide Point-Four Program.”⁷⁹ ‘Galaxy-wide’ suggests that the Terrans freely distributed advanced technology, including weapons, to all the non-human races. Since the Africans of the Nineteenth Century were not as advanced as the Japanese or Mexicans, one would assume that the Cephids are not as advanced as the z’Srauff. Thus, they could have begun by acquiring the “normal-space reaction-drive ships” already possessed by the z’Srauff when they first encountered Terro-Humanity. As the reaction-drive ships foreseen in Piper’s time were powered by atomic energy, this entails a parallel acquisition of nuclear weapons.

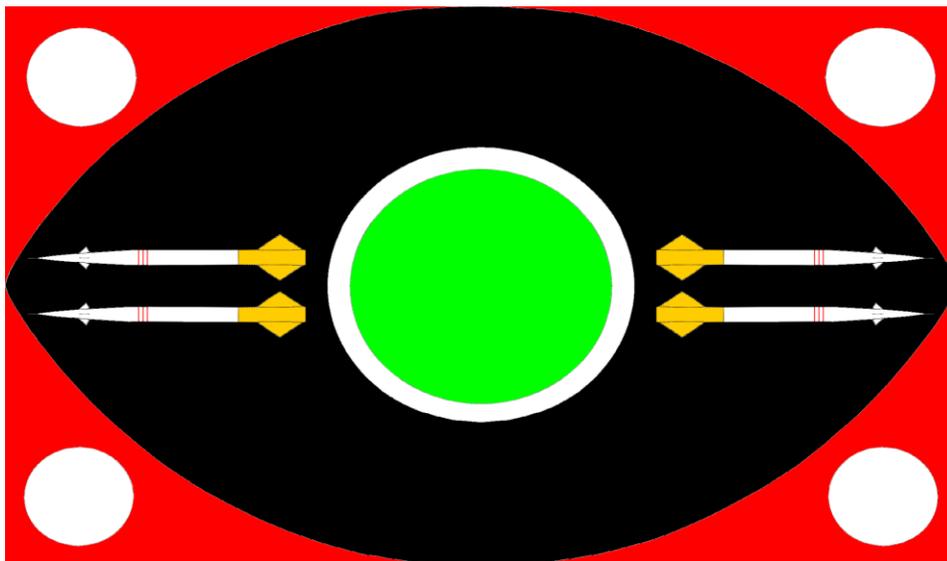


Figure 20. Postulated flag of Beta Cephus VI; the ‘Missiles and Planet’.⁸⁰

From the perspective of the Cephids, the postulated ‘Missiles and Planet’ banner would represent their fierce determination to defend their home world, plus the space-area around it, out to the edge of their system, represented by the black shield. The four white discs in the corners symbolize their recognition that they are not alone in the universe; other planets beyond their system are independently inhabited, friendly or otherwise. But from the perspective of the Solar League and the other human worlds, the symbolism of the flag might look more like the Cephids’ determination to use force to expand the space-area under their control, threatening neighboring star-systems. And its depiction of their space as an odd

football-shape, combined with the planet at its center, is suggestive of a baleful, alien eye. Looking 'daggers' at its enemies—rather like Ambassador Nanadabadian to Clement Sydney, on New Texas.

4. Some “Future Courses of Solar League Diplomacy”

According to John Carr, H. Beam Piper and John J. McGuire “were so enthused with *Lone Star Planet* that they wrote an outline for a sequel, which they never wrote since their agent had trouble placing the first story.”⁸¹ Carr does not say if the outline or any of its details survive, but the sequel would presumably have included some information contained in Stephen Silk’s article “*Probable Future Courses of Solar League Diplomacy*”, published in the *Galactic Statesman’s Journal*.⁸² The new story might have revealed more about the other worlds mentioned in *Lone Star Planet*; like Tara, Alpheratz II, Beta Cephus VI, and the situation between the Edwards and Jukes-Kallikaks. However, having established that the future historical period of *Lone Star Planet* is roughly parallel to the middle of the Nineteenth Century (1836-1845), we can actually do this ourselves, and make a few educated guesses about post-*Lone Star* events.

The first should be some sort of disaster on Tara, paralleling the Irish Potato Famine of 1845-1851. Tara could appeal to Luna for assistance, paralleling the Irish appeals to Parliament in London. In history, Parliament was extraordinarily unresponsive to the Irish crisis, but since Tara is not a member of the Solar League, this could provide Luna with the pretext for intervention they’ve been waiting for. Solar aid will come with some major strings attached; in return for saving the desperate Tarans, the Tarans must consent to join the League. Ireland was always a restive member of the British Empire, so Tara will always resent, and periodically rise up against, the coerced imposition of Solar rule.

A second post-*Lone Star* event should be a Z’Srauffan War, paralleling the Mexican-American War (1845-1848). However, since the z’Srauff space fleet is destroyed at the end of *Lone Star Planet*, this event seems highly unlikely—unless the z’Srauff happen to have another fleet or two cruising around somewhere. And this possibility may explain an oddity contained in the story; for if the z’Srauff have been totally defeated, then the New Texans no longer have anything to fear from them, making the case for joining the Solar League *weaker* rather than stronger. Notice too that the z’Srauff fleet, while consisting of “*three hundred spaceships*”,⁸³ is defeated by a ‘Task Force’; presumably a small part of the whole Solar Navy. Their so-called ‘fleet’ may have therefore been a similar subdivision of the entire Z’Srauffan Space Navy. This means that an all-out war could in fact occur soon after the annexation of New Texas, paralleling the Mexican War which occurred soon after the annexation of Texas. The alien ‘dogs’, kicked hard but not cowed, come back seeking revenge, bringing their whole ‘pack’ this time.

Thus, Mr. Silk’s apparent success in foiling the z’Srauff may have merely succeeded in delaying the inevitable. This would make him another one of Piper’s ‘self-reliant men’ who wins the battle but loses the war—a major conflict with the z’Srauff occurs anyway. Perhaps right after *Lone Star Planet*, but also at a later date. For we recall that the z’Srauff are modeled on *both* the Mexicans and the Japanese, and almost exactly a century after the Mexican War (1840s), the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor (1940s). Indeed, since the Japanese became far more powerful than Mexico ever was, the z’Srauff may eventually become a much more serious threat to the Solar League than they are at the time of Piper’s novel.

The end of the Mexican War was followed by the cession of the entire Southwest to the United States, including the region which became Utah. This should mean that the Mormon planet of Deseret is brought into the Solar League, not long after New Texas is annexed. Either the z’Srauff mount a major invasion of human space during the deduced war, threatening or even conquering Deseret; or for their own protection in the face of this threat, the Mormons voluntarily join the League.

As stated in the **Introduction**, another major event will be a ‘Solar Civil War’, paralleling the Civil War which broke out sixteen years after the annexation of Texas. This of course involved the United States of America and its mirror-image, the Confederate States of America; thus, the increasingly expansionist and imperialistic Solar League will be opposed by a group of planets which secede to form a less imperial, more decentralized ‘Stellar League’. That it is composed of ‘Confederate’ Continents suggests that New Texas will vote to secede from the Solar League, just as Texas joined the Confederacy. Thus, after five decades of intransigence, New Texas joins the Solar League, only to secede again a decade or two later! These once and future Texans therefore continue their “lengthy history” of resistance to external rule—

first, secession from Mexico, then “independent republic, admission to the United States, secession from the United States, reconquest by the United States, and general intransigence under the United States, the United Nations and the Solar League”⁸⁴

Whether New Texas will suffer ‘reconquest by the Solar League’ in *its* civil war, as Texas did by the Union in the Civil War, is perhaps more problematic. Because at the end of *Lone Star Planet*, Mr. Silk settles on New Texas, and politically is “*often in opposition to Solar League policies, which he seems to anticipate with an uncanny prescience.*”⁸⁵ One might guess that some years later, he plays an important role in the Secession of New Texas, and perhaps the Solar Civil War as well. Or does Mr. Silk prevent it? Because in the novel he is completely successful in carrying out Secretary of State Ghopal Singh’s seemingly-impossible directive to “First, find out why poor Mr. Cumshaw was murdered, and what can be done about it to maintain our prestige without alienating the New Texans. Second, bring the government and people of New Texas to a realization that they need the Solar League at least as much as we need them. And third, forestall or expose the plans for the z’Srauff invasion of New Texas.” As Stephen himself thinks at the time, “*Is that all, now?...He doesn’t want a diplomat, he wants a magician.*”⁸⁶ His success therefore makes Mr. Silk a ‘political magician’; and this, plus his ‘uncanny prescience’ in regard to League policy, may enable him to succeed where others fail, in actually preventing the Solar Civil War from occurring. How he might accomplish that would certainly make an interesting story. As Security Coordinator Natalenko puts it in regard to the Edwards and Jukes-Kallikak planets, “Curious problem... and, how would Stephen Silk have handled it?”⁸⁷

—On the other hand, assuming he is one of Piper’s self-reliant men, Mr. Silk may *seem* to successfully prevent it, but the Solar Civil War occurs anyway. He merely delays the inevitable, again.

In any case, the Solar Civil War period could be followed by a Cephus War between Beta Cephus VI and the Solar League, paralleling the Zulu War with the British (1879). Soon after that will be a couple of Alpheratz Wars between “the South African Nationalist planet”⁸⁸ and the Solar League, paralleling the Boer Wars fought by the British against the Transvaal and Orange Free State (1880-1881, 1899-1902). A major cause of disputes between the British and Boers were the Kimberley diamond mines and gold fields of the Rand. Alpheratz II may therefore contain unexpected riches, which fuels the Solar League’s already acquisitive policies. And let’s not forget the Edwards and Jukes-Kallikak situation, which seems reminiscent of the Hatfields and McCoys; a notoriously bloody feud which broke out in the later Nineteenth Century (1878-1891).

A full account of these postulated disasters, political maneuverings and wars is given in my forthcoming paper “Post-*Lone Star* Events”.

ENDNOTES

1. The Anglo-American Solar League

1. John F. Carr, Introduction to *Federation* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1981), p. xx
2. Ibid., p. xxix
3. H. Beam Piper, *Four-Day Planet/Lone Star Planet* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1961), p. 193
4. The First and Second Terran Federations, separated by the Secession of Venus, would then be modeled on the First and Second British Empires, divided by the American Revolution. See my paper "The Early Terran Federation".
5. John F. Carr, Introduction to *Empire* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1981), p. 3
6. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 196
7. Ibid., p. 225
8. Piper actually compares it to the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. (ibid., p. 224) This is consistent with his practice of weaving a number of historical models into his stories, but in this case also masks the derivation, by diverting attention away from the Mexican parallel.
9. Ibid., pp. 339-340
10. Ibid., p. 222
11. Ibid., p. 220
12. Christopher Bayly, *Atlas of the British Empire* (New York, NY: Facts on File, Inc., 1989), p. 11
13. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, pp. 245, 251 I should probably have added that the official language of the Solar League appears to be English. Stephen Silk has no trouble communicating with the New Texans, and in the courtroom scene, when the z'Srauff ambassador starts 'barking and snarling' in his native language at the witness on the stand, the New Texan judge barks back, "That's enough of that! There'll be nothing spoken in this court but English, except through an interpreter!" (ibid., p. 328) Upon which Mr. Silk offers his services, using "Basic English" to communicate with the z'Srauff witness. (ibid., pp. 223, 326)
The common language of English therefore supports the Anglo-American nature of the Solar League. This differs from the Terran Federation, in which Lingua Terra is spoken; an "English-Spanish-Afrikaans-Portuguese mixture". (H.Beam Piper, *Uller Uprising* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1982), p. 5)
14. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manifest_destiny
15. H. Beam Piper, *The Cosmic Computer* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1963), p. 1 The Civil War connection is made at this point because the current paper was originally an appendix to "A Flag for the System States Alliance".
Though *Lone Star Planet* is a non-THFH story, there is another connecting link with Piper's main Future History. In addition to the Civil War element, *The Cosmic Computer* also includes General Foxx Travis, whose last name seems to be modeled on Lieutenant Colonel William Travis of Alamo fame. Colonel Travis was a young Texan officer before the Civil War, and in "Oomphel in the Sky", Captain Foxx Travis is a young Federation officer before the System States War. Part of the reason Piper named him 'Foxx' is because the historic Colonel Travis had red hair. It may be assumed the young Foxx Travis did as well, though Beam is characteristically silent on the matter.
The more explosive reason for General Travis' first name is given in my paper, "*The Cosmic Computer—Piper's Foundation?*"
16. Carr, Introduction to *Empire*, p. 3 See also my paper "A Flag for the System States Alliance", section From Confederate States to System States.
17. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 268, emphasis added The only two Piper names are "James Bowie Continent" and "Sam Houston Continent" (ibid., p. 269). Since New Texas is "about one-quarter water and three-quarters land

surface" (ibid., p. 230), one might think Bowie and Houston are the only two continents on the planet. However, they are referred to as members of "the Confederate Continents of New Texas" (ibid., p. 268), which suggests there are at least a few more, paralleling the (seven, later eleven) Confederate States of America. Both Jim Bowie and Sam Houston were involved in the Texas Revolution, so by extension, several other continents of New Texas are probably named after Bowie's comrades at the Alamo; Davey Crockett and William Travis. Piper does in fact mention the former, in the person of "David Crockett Longfellow", Andrew Jackson Hickock's butler (ibid., p. 311). The reason Beam did not include a William Travis in *Lone Star Planet* is probably because he already had a character in the THFH modeled after him; Foxx Travis. See **endnote 15**.

18. Ibid., p. 266 That New Texas already has a 'Confederate' system may have served several purposes for Piper. First, the New Texans are fiercely independent, so their Confederate system is based on the last time they really were independent; during the American Civil War. Second, he seems to have used it to convey a sense of the general historic-parallel time of the story; the mid-Nineteenth Century. And third, it may well be a hint that 'the South shall rise again'; the expansion of the League will be interrupted by a Civil War, just as the expansion of the American Union was. This deduction is supported by the main character, Ambassador Stephen Silk, who switches sides at the end of the story. He marries Gail Hickock, becomes a New Texan, "and is still active in politics on that planet, often in opposition to Solar League policies". (ibid., p. 340) Possibly a harbinger of greater opposition to come.

19. Ibid., p. 231

20. John and Alice Durant, *Pictorial History of American Presidents* (New York, NY: A.S. Barnes and Company, 1955), pp. 59-63

21. Colin McEvedy, *The Penguin Atlas of North American History* (London, England: Penguin Books, 1988), p. 70

22. Durant and Durant, *American Presidents*, p. 63

23. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wild_Bill_Hickock Since Piper places 'Andrew Jackson' before 'Hickock', his character therefore correctly reflects history. This suggests it was deliberate; Beam knew the sequence. If Hickock had lived before Jackson, he could have named the character Wild Bill Jackson.

Piper's choice of 'Stonehenge' for the name of a Space Commander may also be an allusion to General Andrew Jackson. During his youth, Jackson lived in *Salisbury*, North Carolina, where he was described as "the most roaring, rollicking, game-cocking, horse-racing, card-playing, mischievous fellow, that ever lived in Salisbury...the head of the rowdies hereabouts." (Durant and Durant, *American Presidents*, p. 61)

But the name 'Andrew Jackson Hickock' may have actually been derived from a Texas model; see my forthcoming paper "Post-*Lone Star* Events", section Sam Houston Paralleled.

24. Ibid.

25. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 276, emphasis added. Colonel Hickock may therefore become an actual military leader; again see "Post-*Lone Star* Events", section A Second Alamo.

26. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wild_Bill_Hickock

27. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, pp. 281-283 The shootout is all the more notable for being connected to some high-level intrigue. The Bonney brothers were supplied with guns by the z'Srauff, who are planning to conquer New Texas.

28. Thus, the Solar League/Terran Federation parallel is also supported by the fact that Piper put Boers in both universes. The THFH story "When in the Course" compares the Freyans (humans of uncertain origin discovered on a planet during the early Interstellar Era) with the Boers (Europeans of non-British origin who beat the British to South Africa).

29. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, pp. 262-263

30. Bayly, *Atlas of the British Empire*, p. 122

31. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 263

32. Ibid.

33. Bayly, *Atlas of the British Empire*, p. 122

34. H. Beam Piper, *Federation* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1981), p. 170 This is in the story “Oomphel in the Sky”.

2. The Human Flags of *Lone Star Planet*

35. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 231

36. Devereaux D. Cannon, *The Flags of the Confederacy* (Memphis, Tennessee: St. Lukes Press, 1988), pp. 41-42

37. Ibid., a scan of Figure 36, between pp. 50 and 51 In December 1836, after flying for only nine months over the Texas Republic, the original flag of the Republic of Texas was modified to a yellow star with no surrounding letters. This second flag of independent Texas flew for a little over two years before the current banner, the third flag of the Republic, was adopted on 25 January 1839. (ibid.)

Texas was admitted to the Union in 1845, after nine years as an independent nation. Piper improves on their period of freedom by about a factor of ten. New Texas is settled “around 2100”, and the current year is “Anno Domini 2193”. (Piper, *Four Day/Lone Star*, pp. 230, 269) The planet is annexed to the League at the end of the story, meaning that New Texas is independent for about ninety years.

38. Piper, *Federation*, p. 84

39. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 230

40. My first thought was an uncircled sun, as depicted. But when I modified the United Nations flag, I thought the Sun would also look good within the outer circle of the UN wreathed globe. Both designs can be rationalized. The circled Sun could be an earlier version, representing the League as a unified Solar System, out to the orbit of its farthest planet. The uncircled Sun would be a later version, when the League expands to include planets of other stars, like New Texas. ‘Solar’ would still be an appropriate descriptor, since the inhabitants of these planets originated in our system, and Luna in the Solar System is its capital.

The sun used in the design, and in the Sun and Stripes version, comes from the flag of the Republic of China. This was not chosen for any political reasons, though Taiwan’s current democratic system is of a kind with the League. It was simply because it is the only white sun on a national flag I know of, and moreover it could easily replace both the white American stars and the white UN globe.

Using an existing flag for a source is defensible, for as we will see, other planets of the *Lone Star* universe may fly historical banners.

41. A white ensign for the Terran Federation is less likely, because there is no mention of such by Piper in any of his numerous Federation tales. It is not impossible, however; see my paper “A Flag for the System States Alliance.”

42. H. Beam Piper, *Empire* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1981), p. 85 The colors of the postulated Imperial banner may be an improvement over those of the Solar League. The white sun in a blue sky is very Terrocentric, being the Sun as seen from the Earth’s surface, while the yellow star in black space is a more cosmic or space-oriented view.

43. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 251

44. These are the traditional arms of Mexico, based on the Aztec legend of the founding of their capital Tenochtitlan, which later became Mexico City. The underlying wreath technically makes six elements in the arms.

45. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, pp. 252-253

46. An 1840 parallel time could mean that, for the flag of New Texas, Beam’s intent was indeed the current flag of Texas. If so, his description of it as “the original flag of the Republic of Texas” was a rare historical error.

Since it flew for nine days after Texas declared independence, it could be argued that the flag of the Texas Revolution was the original flag of the Republic. And the timing of events would support this. Santa Anna crossed the Rio Grande on February 12, 1836; on February 24 he began bombarding the Alamo, which was finally overrun on March 6—five days before the Bonnie Blue flag was adopted. Since the attempted z’Srauff invasion of New Texas at the end of *Lone Star Planet* parallels the Mexican invasion of Texas, the New Texan flag flying throughout the story should parallel the pre-invasion flag of Texas, which was the 1824 tricolor. Moreover, it would seem to make sense for Piper, the avid historian, to hint at a flag bearing an exact date.

However, there are several strong arguments against that scenario. First, the Revolutionary banner was modeled on the flag of Mexico because it symbolized the Texans' desire to remain part of that country, under the 1824 constitution. That constitution was being violated by the rulers in Mexico City, who were trying to centralize power at the expense of the Mexican states. Several other states also revolted, though Texas was the only one to be successful. But in *Lone Star Planet*, New Texas has never been ruled by the z'Srauff, nor do they want to be. Second, the Bonnie Blue flag was the first one *officially* adopted to symbolize independent Texas; and as stated, the 1824 tricolor is considered to be the flag of the Texas Revolution. And third, that the New Texan flag is a 'barbaric travesty' of the Solar League banner would then mean the latter has a Mexican-derived flag, which seems highly unlikely. Indeed, the Mexican flag is far more likely to be a model for the z'Srauff flag (see section **A Flag for the Z'Srauff**).

Thus, Piper seems to have characteristically left the situation in some doubt. However, it seems certain that he was referring to the original Bonnie Blue flag of Texas.

47. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Admiral_of_the_Fleet_\(Royal_Navy\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Admiral_of_the_Fleet_(Royal_Navy)) Piper would undoubtedly have found the name of the last Admiral of the Fleet very interesting. The wikipedia article says that on 10 July 1995, "Sir Benjamin Bathurst" was appointed Admiral of the Fleet. After this, "The practice of ordinarily promoting retiring First Sea Lords or Admirals becoming Chief of the Defence Staff to Admiral of the Fleet was then stopped." (ibid.)

The 'disappearance' of this practice with Bathurst therefore seems oddly related to the actual disappearance in November 1809 of Benjamin Bathurst, British diplomat to Vienna during the Napoleonic Wars. This was of course the basis for Beam's story "He Walked Around the Horses", which explains Bathurst's disappearance as an accidental paratime transposition. On the alternate-history timeline where Bathurst ends up, his alter ego is indeed "Sir Benjamin Bathurst, who is King's lieutenant governor of the Crown Colony of Georgia." (H. Beam Piper, *The Worlds of H. Beam Piper* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1983), pp. 14, 36)

48. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Admiral_of_the_Fleet_\(Royal_Navy\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Admiral_of_the_Fleet_(Royal_Navy))

49. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 251

50. Michael Kidron and Dan Smith, *The War Atlas* (New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1983), p. 20

51. Ibid. Copyright for the map is by Pluto Press Limited, 1983.

52. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Navy_officer_rank_insignia Under a five-star Fleet Admiral, an Admiral bears four stars, a Vice Admiral three stars, and a Rear Admiral (apparently upper half) two stars.

53. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, pp. 257-258

54. Ibid.

55. The historical flag of Ireland, and the following flags of the Deseret Territory, the Boer republics, and other entities, are from Flags of the World online; <http://flagspot.net.flags/index.html>.

56. Incidentally, the Boer flags may partly explain the flag of Hos-Hostigos in the Terran Federation story "When in the Course". This is "a quarter-arc rainbow on a white field." (Piper, *Federation*, p. 256) Rainbows have stripes of six colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet), and the Boer flags have stripes of five colors (red, orange, white, green and blue). Indeed, the field of the Orange Free State flag can be described as 'a white field', with orange stripes.

Rainbows are also used to represent peoples of different colors working together, as in Jesse Jackson's 'Rainbow Coalition'. So even though the Freyans themselves are an entirely white race, the rainbow of Hos-Hostigos could then be related to the various races of South Africa; the native blacks, immigrant Europeans, East Indians, and the so-called 'colored' peoples that resulted from their mixing. 'Racial mixing' is also seen in Beam's story; in this case, between the Terrans and Freyans, two apparently separate human races. These include the marriage of Nancy Patterson and Harmakros, and the pending marriage of Roger Barron and Princess Rylla. Other matches undoubtedly follow.

3. The Non-Human Flags of *Lone Star Planet*

57. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 224

58. Ibid., p. 223

59. Ibid., p. 224

60. Nathan Miller, *The U.S. Navy: A History* (New York, NY: William Morrow and Co., 1990), pp. 106-107

61. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 277

62. Kenneth Wimmel, *Theodore Roosevelt and the Great White Fleet* (Washington, DC: Brassey's, Inc., 1998), pp. 214-217

63. Ibid., pp. 221-222 Wimmel says that "Impressing the Japanese was definitely among his motives. In late July, when plans were well underway for the cruise, he wrote to an American diplomat, "I am exceedingly anxious to impress upon the Japanese that I have nothing but the friendliest possible intentions toward them, but I am none the less anxious that they should realize that I am not afraid of them and that the United States will no more submit to bullying as to bully." " And during the 1906 quarrel, Roosevelt wrote to his Secretary of State, Elihu Root, "I am more concerned over this Japanese situation than almost any other. Thank heaven we have the navy in good shape." (ibid., p. 217)

Thus, there may have been more than mere wish-fulfillment in Piper having the Solar Navy ready for action. The battle near New Texas can be described as a parallel of 'what if the US Navy (under President Franklin Roosevelt) had been ready for the Japanese at Pearl Harbor?', but it could also be a parallel of the fact that the US Navy (under President Theodore Roosevelt) was ready in 1906, another time when the Japanese could have attacked us.

If so, Beam may have been subtly revealing an unfavorable military opinion of FDR as Commander-in-Chief, in contrast to his more proactive predecessor, TR.

64. Another possibility for the z'Srauff emblem is that the postulated red dwarf star is actually a red giant. This would tie in the z'Srauff as a parallel of the Japanese Empire, a far greater threat to the United States than Mexico. As 'large' stars, red giants would better parallel the 'large' islands of Japan. And notwithstanding Stephen Silk's efforts, the z'Srauff may in fact become a 'large' or serious threat to the Solar League, about a century after *Lone Star Planet*. (See section **Some "Future Courses of Solar League Diplomacy"**.) The small z'Srauff cluster would then contain large stars; or perhaps a combination of red dwarves and red giants, reflecting the combined Mexo-Japanese models.

Quite unintentionally, this flag's design is similar to the current flag of Sakha, a member of the Russian Federation. Sakha, a region in the Russian Far East (also called Yakutia), is not too far from Japan. Its flag is a white northern sun in a blue field, over three horizontal stripes of white, red and green. It was adopted in December 1992, a year after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

65. Actually, it is New Texas that has "blue skies and green plains" (Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 244). However, the flag design can be rationalized by postulating that the climate of New Texas and the z'Srauff home world are very similar. This would parallel the common climate of northern Mexico and western/southern Texas, which is either desert or subtropical steppe. A similar climate could help explain why the z'Srauff are so interested in New Texas, though it appears to be mainly because New Texas is "too close" to the z'Srauff star-cluster. (ibid., p. 296)

On the other hand, the eastern half of Texas is greener, with a humid subtropical climate, which would seem to be a better fit for the 'green plains' description. It is therefore possible the z'Srauff home world has a warmer and drier climate than New Texas. If so, then perhaps the green stripe in the postulated z'Srauff flag should be a yellowish or brownish green.

66. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, pp. 338, 291

67. "Climb Mt. Niitaka" was the Japanese code phrase for the attack on Pearl Harbor to proceed. Piper does not provide its z'Srauff equivalent in *Lone Star Planet*, but when their watches glow warningly, their citizens on New Texas do the exact opposite of 'climbing'. Stonehenge says that "For example, I can imagine all those watches giving the wearer a light electric shock, or ringing a little bell, all over New Texas, at exactly the same moment. And then I can imagine all the z'Srauff *running down into nice deep holes in the ground.*" (ibid., p. 291, emphasis added) They don't ascend, they descend.

The more famous Japanese code phrase "Tora tora tora" announced that the element of surprise had been achieved. In *Lone Star Planet*, surprise is achieved not by the z'Srauff, but rather the Solar Navy. In another reversal of history, it may be a Solar commander who radios a phrase that becomes famous, just before the z'Srauff fleet is decimated.

I set the watch in Figure 15 to 4 p.m. for a couple of reasons. The end of the Bonney trial, and the climactic courtroom gunfight, occur sometime in the afternoon. (Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 321) When the z'Srauff watch begins glowing, Mr. Silk "looked at Stonehenge and found him looking at me. It would be full dark in four or five

hours; there ought to be something spectacular to see in the cloudless skies of Capella IV tonight." (ibid., p. 338) Four or five hours after 4 p.m. would be eight or nine o'clock, which seems about right.

The other reason is because the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor occurred at 8 a.m. Thus, by simply flipping the watch face horizontally, we can connect the time of the z'Srauff warning to its historical model.

Incidentally, the fact that Piper and McGuire's friendship ended over McGuire's misguided borrowing of a pistol while leaving his wristwatch as collateral (John F. Carr, *H. Beam Piper, A Biography* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2008), p. 107), makes me wonder if the z'Srauff alarm watch was ironically modeled on McGuire's.

68. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 290

69. Ibid., pp. 289-290

70. Ibid., p. 322 Stephen Silk establishes the connection at the trial.

71. Ibid., p. 306 By this time, however, obtaining one is no longer necessary. Because the foresighted Mr. Silk has the Solar fleet standing by, he is able to say that "we don't really need one: Sir Rodney will have patrols out far enough to get warning in time." (ibid.)

72. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor The typed and translated Japanese message, in multiple parts, officially informing America of the formal end of peace negotiations, may also be paralleled by the messages of the z'Srauff in *Lone Star Planet*, translated and typed on yellow (legal) paper. These letters are described at the Bonney trial, and reveal z'Srauffan complicity in the murder of Ambassador Cumshaw. "The money came to us in a cashier's check on the Rancher's Trust Company of New Austin with an anonymous letter asking that it be deposited to Mayor Bonney's account. The letter was typed on a sheet of yellow paper in Basic English." (Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 323) And, "He had with him a letter, typed on yellow paper, which he said had accompanied an anonymous deposit of two hundred thousand pesos. Mr. Finnegan said that it was exactly like the one he had received, in typing, grammar and wording, all but the name of the person to whose account the money was to be deposited." (ibid., p. 325)

73. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, pp. 289-290 Watches and standard timekeeping were developed in Europe and North America, and were subsequently adopted all over the world. This includes Mexico and Japan, the historical models for the z'Srauff. Thus, the z'Srauff watches in Figure 15 employ the human system of timekeeping, which I assume is the galactic standard in *Lone Star Planet*.

Granted, Piper did not specifically state how z'Srauff watches look. For all we know, they rotate counter-clockwise, and do not have sixty minutes in an hour. Indeed, depending on their home world's rotational speed, their seconds, minutes and hours may not be the same length as ours. They probably have different numbers, too. Because before encountering humankind, the z'Srauff developed space flight, so they must have also developed their own advanced numerical and mathematical notation. Though it is quite possible that the z'Srauff subsequently adopted human numbering, as the Japanese adopted Western numbers after 1854. For these reasons, I left the numbers off the faces. (It also made drawing the watches easier.)

Given the futuristic setting, the z'Srauff watches could even be digital, without moving hands. But since digital watches here on Earth did not become commonplace until the 1980s, I decided to depict them in the traditional configuration of Piper's era, which of course is still popular today.

And finally, a watch powered by radium decay would have no need of winding, so I excluded a stem.

74. Whitney Smith, *Flags Through the Ages and Across the World* (Maidenhead, England: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1975), p. 164

75. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, pp. 223-224 This would be the perspective from a ship in a westbound orbit, which is the reverse of planets like Terra that rotate west to east. Orbit is much easier to attain when launching in the direction of rotation. I have therefore assumed that the z'Srauff homeworld spins in the 'opposite' direction as Terra, since they are the 'opponents' of the Solar League, and indeed other Terran-colonized worlds like New Texas. (Conversely, if their homeworld rotates in the same direction as Terra, the z'Srauffan flag can be flipped to put the dwarf star on the right.)

76. Ibid., p. 326 This reveals another major difference between the Lone Star and Federation universes. At its greatest extent six centuries from now, the Terran Federation contains a "half-thousand human-inhabited planets" (H. Beam Piper, *Fuzzies and Other People* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1984), p. 1), but the Fuzzies are only "the ninth extrasolar sapient race" yet discovered. (H. Beam Piper, *Little Fuzzy* (New York, NY: Ace Books, 1962), p. 56)

Since *Lone Star Planet* is set only two hundred years in our future, rather than the 600 of the Fuzzy novels, the Solar League undoubtedly contains far fewer worlds than the Terran Federation, but Mr. Silk's phrase "a great many alien peoples" suggests a lot more than ten.

This may therefore be a reflection of the historical period it's modeled on. In the Nineteenth Century, the Anglo-American nations were interacting with a great many foreign and non-white peoples, most of whom had not yet been Westernized or at least modernized. These included the myriad North American Indian tribes, African tribes and kingdoms, Arab tribes and the decadent Ottoman Turks, East Indian and Southeast Asian states, the failing Manchu Empire and rising Japanese, various Aboriginal and Pacific Island peoples, and the newly-independent Latin American nations with their native Indian tribes. In fact, it's rather a shame that Piper and McGuire didn't write more stories, as the Lone Star universe would seem to be a particularly rich field for creative storytelling.

77. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cepheus_\(constellation\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cepheus_(constellation))

78. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 307 Ambassador Silk "was still twittering a reply to the greeting of Nanadabian" when the z'Srauff ambassador arrives. (ibid., p. 263) 'Twittering' makes the Cephid language sound like the piping of birds, which could be related to the fact that bordering Cepheus is the constellation Cygnus the Swan. Though Piper's bird-like description makes the Cephids sound rather peaceful, the later reference to multiple knives may be an indication of militarism.

79. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 224

80. The missiles are modeled on Project Pluto, a conceptual American nuclear powered SLAM (Supersonic Low Altitude Missile) from the 1950s. Aside from dropping nuclear weapons from its warhead compartment, the planned SLAM would irradiate the surrounding enemy terrain en route to its targets. This was because its "reactor was completely unshielded and emitted enormous amounts of gamma and neutron radiation...one nasty weapon. One particularly vile mission planner suggested that after its primary mission of thermonuclear devastation, Pluto could simply criss-cross the countryside irradiating everyone and everything until its reactor ran down." (Jack Hagerty and John C. Rogers, *Spaceship Handbook* (Livermore, CA: ARA Press, 2001), p. 388

4. Some "Future Courses of Solar League Diplomacy"

81. Carr, *Piper Biography*, p. 89 Sourced as being from his May 8, 2001 interview with Terry McGuire, John J. McGuire's daughter.

82. Piper, *Four-Day/Lone Star*, p. 221

83. Ibid., p. 339

84. Ibid., p. 230

85. Ibid., p. 340

86. Ibid., p. 225

87. Ibid., p. 340

88. Ibid., p. 263

