

# Assault Knight Ronin Setting

## Notes

### Themes

The story focuses on how humanity should do things that have the steepest of prices to pay for progress. Progress in that, man shouldn't look beyond what they see now. Thinking about the

differences in race, religion, and sex is a detriment to it.

The characters have been shaped by their pasts. By looking beyond them, and what they experience at the present, they will be able to progress themselves.

### Historical Setting

It's the Year of the Lord 2018. Despite the introduction of new technologies, especially in the field of space travel to the point establishing new homes is inevitable, humanity as a whole has yet to solve its problems in Earth.

All across the world have conflicts risen. Countries like the United States of America, Russian Federation, and People's Republic of China have become battlefields. Even the very technologies that were proof of mankind ready to leave for the stars have become nothing more than weapons.

These wars are in reality battlefields for two secret organizations. Their battle will decide humanity's future. The story is centered on a group of members of one of these organizations. These members, brought together due to grievances against the opposing organization, fight across the world. The story begins in 2018 of the Anno Domini Calendar.

### The Final Frontier Colonization Project

With the advent of space travel due to the development of new equipment to make work easier and the discovery of new metals on the Moon, the United Nations had commissioned a project to prepare new homes for mankind in space to combat the need for more living space as the population of Earth increased.

Named the "Final Frontier Colonization Project," the metals discovered on the Moon would be used to construct artificial habitats, or "space colonies," that would use the "Stanford Torus" design and the five Lagrangian Points as their home. However, the lack of funds are currently causing delays in the project.

Despite this, the Japanese mega-conglomerate Takahshi Ziabatsu have established a colony now known as “New Ararat,” based on the belief that after the flood mentioned in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible, the Ark made by Noah had landed with a mountain believed to be Mount Ararat in Western Asia.

### Nanoseeds

Advances in nanotechnology have led to the creation of nanoseeds. These types of nanomachines were created to cure certain diseases like cancer and sexually transmitted diseases. As a nanoseed is injected into the body, the nanoseed will disperse itself across the body, hence the name “nanoseed.” There are rumors that the nanoseeds are being researched for military purposes, which will cause problems in the story.

### Ghost Web

A new type of defense system. It is a web-shaped energy shield that is invisible to the naked eye, hence the name.

Created to shrug off anything from a stone to a nuclear weapon. Invented by Takahashi Zaibatsu to shield Japan and other countries against nuclear weapons.

### Mirage Mode

A new type of stealth technology being experimented on. Unlike past stealth technology equipment, this allows an object to be hidden to the naked eye by tricking someone into thinking he or she saw an enemy target.

## Plasma Power

For the Final Frontier Colonization Project, a limitless source of energy would be needed. A Chinese scientist named Li Quan proposes collecting plasma from the Earth's polar flares, which are located in the magnetosphere. Takahashi Zaibatsu, after many rejected Li's proposal, agreed to support Li's idea. The result was the Plasma Collector. It was then launched through a rocket by Takahashi's Space Exploration division to the polar winds located above the North Pole on June 5, 2014. After the Plasma Collector had finished collecting as much plasma as it could carry, the plasma was delivered to a Takahashi ship waiting in the North Pole.

Following the first collection of plasma, various corporations, with the assistance of various governments, organized the "Plasma Collection Agency," which was to collect plasma for energy purposes in the event plasma is to be the solution if an energy crisis was to ensue. Li then made another innovation in the wake of new weapons. What he created was a fusion reactor that is the size of a car battery and tested it on a golf cart. As the test was successful, Li's new invention, the "Fusion Battery," was sought by various countries hoping to utilize fusion power.

## Lifter Suit

With Li's innovation in plasma power, research was conducted to create a combination of an exoskeleton and a suit of armor from Medieval Europe. The result is the "Lifter Suit," with many countries developing their own. It was originally built for multiple purposes from heavy-lifting to combat, but the latter was abandoned due to the power source being in a vulnerable location.

Instead, the idea of a new sport came about. A committee formed by every country organized the first "International Lifter Suit Tournament," with its first champion being one Subaru Kusanagi from Japan.

## Quad Walkers

Following Li's innovation, the United States had resumed research and development on their quadruped robot projects. The United States government then organized the “Quad Walker Design Competition.”

One prototype developed by California-based Henderson Industries, the XW-01, was built and tested. Henderson then won the competition and had the XW-01 mass-produced as the W-01 Mule, which was also mass-distributed and made useful for varying purposes like construction and mining for metals. However, after the United States was struck by terror bombings on November 8, 2016, it had found itself facing another civil war between the remnants of the federal government and a government created by a cult called the Messengers of God. The Mule was eventually turned into the CW-01 Gunmule. Eventually, the Quad Walkers as a weapon eventually were outclassed.

### Assault Knight

In the midst of the “Second American Civil War,” the forces of the government led by the Messengers of God had suddenly won a battle in the city of Dickens, Texas on June 1, 2017. This was the result of

the Messengers of God acquiring their own Quad Walkers that were able to outfight the Mules.

Military observers from Japan, now ruled by the winners of their elections in May, observed the battle and commissioned a new weapon to defeat the new Quad Walkers. The inventor of the Fusion Battery, Li Quan, offered an idea for a new weapon. The idea was that of a machine similar to the Quad Walker, albeit in the form of man.

The Reconstructionist Party-led Japanese government accepted Li's idea, and throughout the rest of the year, tests ensued. The new weapon would be given the name "Assault Knight."

Unbeknownst to Reconstructionist Japan, they were infiltrated by the government of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese government in Beijing decided to see Japan's new weapon once tests were completed.

The following war caused by Beijing to see Japan's new weapon had led to industrialized countries being able to make their own Assault Knights. The worth of the Assault Knights was further proven when some of the veterans of the war against China fought in the Second American Civil War, defeating the Messenger of God's Quad Walkers.

## The State of the World

Everything in the world changed when terror attacks across the United States deprived it of its federal government and law enforcement and military commands. This plunged the country into a civil war it

hadn't experienced since 1861.

Other than the United States, other conflicts arose. Another war erupted in the Caucasus region in Northern Asia, which didn't help the area already being infested with anti-government insurgent activity. Likewise, the region of Tibet, once an independent country before its conquest by the People's Republic of China in 1951, began attempts to secede.

### The Secret Belligerents

The two secret factions using the conflicts as their secret battlefield are named “Guiders” and “Salvation.” Both have allies in every country's government and their strength comprises of mercenaries and on occasion, the militaries of those who support each faction. Both use cutting-edge technology. As to why they fight, both have differing visions as to how mankind should progress beyond Earth.

### Main Character Profiles

- Ryu Kusanagi (from Japan): Male, 16 years old (officially 35 years old)

A member of the Steel Dragon Task Force as one of their main Assault Knight pilots, as well as a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Intelligence Regiment of the Japanese Ground Armed Forces' 1<sup>st</sup> Imperial Ground Corps. His involvement with the war between Guiders and Salvation is tied to his past. The war had also gotten him into an experiment that altered his body to resemble that of a thirty-five-year-old male and dyed his hair blond, yet his height is that of a teenage male and his skin and eye color is still that of a Mongoloid male.

Originally, he was a student of the International Progress Academy, but hearing about that his past, which his older sister Subaru won't tell him, and when he finds elements of his past appearing in his life, he faked his death to find out. He ended up joining the Guiders to combat Salvation.

With everything that had happened throughout his life, Ryu comes off reserved. He rarely talks to most



people, but some see his subtle kindness. The only problem he has throughout the story is opening himself to others. Back in the International Progress Academy, many women flocked to him, with his reactions varying, much to their frustration.

Eventually, other than confronting his past, he must also confront his problems with opening up to other people. At the end of it all, it will determine what the rest of his life should be dedicated about.

- Aoko Kagami (from Japan): Female, 16 years old

The main love interest of Ryu Kusanagi. She originally met Ryu back when they were children, but separated. When Ryu returned to Japan after joining the Guiders, he find that Aoko is to be wed to a man named Issei Yamabuki. When Ryu revealed that Issei is a Salvation agent and he appeared to have died in the following struggle, Ryu and Aoko resumed their relationship.

Aoko loves Ryu dearly, but worries that Ryu might do something fatal. She wishes to do more for his sake, hoping he will listen to her more often. When determined, she can fight as she is good with a rifle and in piloting an Assault Knight.

- Karen Kotobuki (from Japan): Female, 16 years old

A childhood friend of Ryu Kusanagi. They had met back when they were ten years old. However, Ryu and his older sister Subaru moved out, depressing Karen and leaving her to keep up her kendo training given that she and Ryu trained together.

When Karen was enrolled into the International Progress Academy, so did Ryu, much to her excitement. However, other women studying in the same school were vying for Ryu's affections, much to her anger due to Ryu's weakness in understanding women.

However, Ryu had faked his death in a terrorist attack, depressing Karen. When they meet again, with Ryu not looking like the boy Karen is in love with, as well as his relationship with Aoko Kagami, she is horrified.

Karen is a woman quick to anger, which contrasts with Aoko, especially in regards to Ryu. In truth, she wishes Ryu to see her as a woman rather than his childhood friend, but what she eventually

got wasn't what she wanted.

Steel Dragon Task Force – a task force organized by Reconstructionist Japan for their support in the Guider's war against Salvation. Made up of various mercenaries across the world and members of the militaries of the countries supporting the Guiders, their headquarters is the prototype carrier Amenominakanushi.

#### Character Profiles

- Natalia Ruslanova Avilova (from Russia): Female, 29 years old

Captain of the Amenominakanushi, and originally a 3<sup>rd</sup> Rank Captain in the Russian Navy. During

the launching of the Amenominakanishi, the original captain of the ship and her father Ruslan Avilov was injured. Natalia met Ryu Kusanagi, who had assisted in repelling the attack, and recruited him into the Steel Dragon Task Force.

On-duty, Natalia is a capable commander. Off-duty, she studies everything about Japan. However, off-duty or on-duty, she enjoys her vodka.

- Kurt Eckhart (from the United States): Male, 35 years old

Another Armored Knight pilot in the Steel Dragon Task Force and a former Master Sergeant in the United States Army Special Forces, with his reason for leaving the service being that he found mercenary work to pay more, which led to him joining the Steel Dragon Task Force. He is in charge of the Steel Dragon Task Force's special attack unit when on the ground. He maintains order in the unit, but if his subordinates suggest an idea during a mission, he will listen.

- Vera Olegovna Zavyalova (from Russia): Female, 25 years old

Much like Ryu Kusanagi and Kurt Eckhart, Vera's another Assault Knight pilot and the special unit's sharpshooter and a former member of Russian Army Spetsnaz who formerly test piloted Russia's first Assault Knights. She treats Ryu like a younger brother. She is interested in both men, especially Kurt, and women, with her bisexuality the reason she joined the Steel Dragon Task Force due to the Russian Federation's treatment of bisexuals.

- Robert "Bob" Bowman (from the United States): Male, 25 years old

The second-in-command of the Steel Dragon Task Force's special attack unit and the squad automatic weapon gunner. Formerly a United States Navy SEAL (Sea, Air, and Land) member, Bob joined the Steel Dragon Task Force to one day gain vengeance on the Messengers of God, who killed his family in Alabama.

- Chen Wenlong (from China): Male, 22 years old

A former member of the 1st Railway Engineer Division of the People's Liberation Army Ground Force, but was secretly a hacker in PLA Unit 61398. He was disavowed by the Chinese government

due to a hacking operation that ended in failure. He and his family fled to Reconstructionist Japan with Ryu Kusanagi's help. Since then, he was recruited into Steel Dragon Task Force as the special attack unit's information specialist and engineer to maintain their Assault Knights. He is the co-pilot of the JK-06 Rei Nishiki Assault Knight variant for electronic warfare, with Kurt Eckhart piloting. Mostly, he handle the electronic warfare outside the Rei Nishiki with his computer, which allows him to access the Assault Knight's second cockpit.

- Khaled Saqqaf (from Iraq): Male, 25 years old

The Steel Dragon Task Force special attack unit's explosives expert. A former member of the Iraqi Army's Iraqi Special Operations Forces. Khaled left the Iraqi military to become a mercenary out of guilt for unknowingly killing his unit during a mission due to faulty intelligence. He had since stopped believing in Islam feeling one man shouldn't believe in one way to live life.

- Miguel Peña (from Venezuela): Male, 24 years old

The pointman for the Steel Dragon Task Force's special attack unit. Formerly with the Venezuelan Army's 107th Special Operations Battalion. He left feeling that being a mercenary is financially better for his younger sister Manuela. Other than his concern for his sister. Miguel enjoys Japanese culture and tends to end up in bed at night with a random woman, regardless of age.

- Hannele Koskinen (from Finland): Female, 26 years old

The medic for the Steel Dragon Task Force's special attack unit. Originally a medic in the Finnish military, she left to be a wandering doctor. She joined the Steel Dragon Task Force after a mission where a terrorist group affiliated with Salvation used biological armaments.

- William Campbell (from the United Kingdom): Male, 32 years old

The Steel Dragon Task Force special attack unit's driver. Originally a tank driver in the King's Royal Hussars of the British Army's Royal Armoured Corps, he left the British military and became a mercenary because he found it adventurous. In truth, he's the son of Howard Campbell, President of Campbell Industries, who opposed William's choice to be a soldier, and when asked about this,

William assures those who asked that he feels more comfortable not being Howard's son.

- Aingeal Coogan (from Ireland): Female, 25 years old

The helmswoman of the Amenominakanushi. She said that she left the Republic of Ireland's Irish Defense Forces' Naval Service for the adventure, but in truth, she's a member of the Directorate of Intelligence, the Republic of Ireland's national intelligence service. The only things she is honest about is her name, her ability to drive ships, and secretly, her crush on Natalia Ruslanova Avilova.

Military Outline (as of July 2020)

I. Takahashi JK-06 Rei Nishiki x 3

II. Prototype next-generation Assault Knights x 3

III. Bell Boeing V-22 VTOL (Vertical take-off and landing) military transport aircraft x 1

IV. Ichijo Nue Assault Knight transport helicopter x 1

V. Tigr mobility infantry vehicle x 1

VI. Takahashi Kechibi Assault Knight carrier truck

Reconstructionist Japan

Among the major supporters for the Guiders in their war against Salvation is Japan. However, they are now ruled by a pro-monarchy dictatorship under the Reconstructionist Party.

## Establishment of Reconstructionist Japan

As the United States fell into disorder following the November 8 terror attacks and all US forces withdrawing from Japan, US funding for the JSDF (Japanese Self-Defense Forces) was made non-existent. This has led to numerous protests across Japan by the unemployed. Fearing this, the National Diet was dissolved, with new elections starting on March 2017. The winner of the elections were the newly formed Reconstruction Party.

What helped the Reconstruction Party win was their support base being the unemployed JSDF personnel and the party's promises of "Japan with Controlled Support" and "Using the Old to Make a New Japan;" the latter statement acquiring support from the Emperor of Japan himself. Despite their, the Reconstruction Party wasn't able to acquire the majority of the Diet's seats. All of that changed when the Reconstructionist candidate Takeya Jinguji was killed in his estate on December 24, 2017. Takeya's eldest child Shunsuke, who was attending an opening of an orphanage alongside his younger siblings Yuki and Hikaru. The Reconstruction Party made Takeya their new leader, and thus, Prime Minister.

After this was a mass arrest of various politicians due to information collected by Yuki, who runs the newly formed Japanese Armed Forces. Cynically, the evidence she found was that the politicians arrested were connected with Salvation, who had Takeya killed as one politician admitted to save himself, which failed. This, and the war started by China due to them sneaking in spies that found out about the development of the Assault Knight project that Takeya had approved, Japan had become a dictatorship, yet despite that, haven't faced repercussions for it for these reasons:

- The United Nations wouldn't be able to act due to varying countries facing war themselves, with most of them in informal alliances with Reconstructionist Japan.
- The Japanese Armed Forces, actually the Reconstructionist secret police, don't arrest unless there's

proof, proof that is collected by bugging the entire population. As per their idea of a pro-monarchist dictatorship, they are not to act on anything unless the Emperor says so, with the idea of bugging all of Japan done with his approval.

- Although the JSDF, after the war with China, were rearmed and renamed the Japanese Armed Forces, which raised concerns that the Reconstruction Party want to revive the ambitions of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Japan that ended with their defeat in World War II, the Japanese Armed Forces maintained the defensive doctrine that the JSDF were created to obey.

- Despite the above, certain human rights are kept. Egalitarian thoughts like legalized homosexuality, freedom of worship, and progressive ideas to Japan like immigration and entertainment reforms are promises made by the Reconstructionists that have kept them in power.

#### Character Summaries

- Takeya Jinguji: Male, 62 years old at death

The founder of the Reconstruction Party and the previous Prime Minister. A traditionalist, yet at the same time, a progressive, which is the core philosophy of the Reconstruction Party, and a reason why the party created a pro-monarchist dictatorship. However, he was assassinated by Salvation agents, with the dictatorship created posthumously by his children. He was a family friend to both the families of Ryu Kusanagi and Aoko Kagami.

- Prime Minister Shunsuke Jinguji: Male, 45 years old

Kazuma's eldest child. The current head of the Reconstruction Party and current Prime Minister of Japan. He and the Emperor are responsible for turning Japan into a dictatorship for varying reasons, including getting Japan to fight Salvation. Despite this, he will let the Emperor be the one to make the final decisions on how to run Japan. This also comes at an advantage where he can suggest more lenient punishments on criminals.

- Hiro Jinguji, Male: 40 years old

Takeya's second-born son. Originally a 2<sup>nd</sup> Rank Captain back in the JMSDF (Japanese Maritime

Self-Defense Forces), he was made the Superior Admiral of the newly former Japanese Maritime Armed Forces. He cares for his younger siblings the most, especially the deceased Hikaru, whom she still cries for. He is married with twin daughters.

- Yuki Jinguji: Female, 30 years old

Takeya's third-born child and only daughter. She is the current Minister of Defense, making her in charge of the Japanese Armed Forces, which is not only Japan's new military following their war with China that was the debut of the Assault Knights, but also uses it as the country's secret police. Unlike her brothers, she is cold and calculated, as well as willing to go too far in enforcing the Emperor's authority, requiring Shunsuke to intervene. She's the reason Ryu Kusanagi ended up in the war against Salvation.

- Hikaru Jinguji: Male, 25 years old upon death

Takeya's last-born son due to his wife Ryoko dying as she gave birth to him. He befriended Ryu Kusanagi when the latter returned to Japan and that friendship was made firm when he saved his fiancée Kikuko Sawamura from a sexual slavery ring that bankrolled another terrorist group that also was assisted by Salvation, with the same terrorist group killing him while detonating a bomb in his car as retaliation.

- Himeko Nanakawa: Female, 25 years old

One of the very first Assault Knight pilots. She earned the moniker “Silver Butterfly” for her accomplishments in the war against China at the beginning of 2018, where she sank five Chinese ships with her gray-colored JK-06 Rei Nishiki. Since then, she became an instructor for training new Assault Knight pilots.

She originally taught Aoko Kagami how to pilot an Assault Knight, and for that reason, originally didn't like Ryu Kusanagi, but warmed up to him.

## Military Outline

### I. Japanese Ground Armed Forces



## A. Infantry weapons

1. Takahashi K-01 semi-automatic pistol
2. Ichijo semi-automatic pistol
3. Takahashi JK [Jidou Shoujuu (automatic rifle)]-01

a. Takahashi KJK [Keikai Jidou Shoujuu (light automatic rifle)]-01

assault rifle

b. Takahashi BJK [Buatsui Jidou Shoujuu (heavy automatic rifle)]-01

battle rifle

4. Yasakani (now made by Takahashi) submachine gun
5. Takahashi SHSJ-01 sniper rifle
6. Ichijo anti-materiel rifle
7. Takahashi shotugn
8. Takahashi TH-01 grenade launcher
9. Ichijo machine gun
  - a. Ichijo light machine gun
  - b. Ichijo medium machine gun
  - c. Ichijo heavy machine gun
10. Takahashi KR [Kikou Ryouhei (Armor Hunter)]-01 recoilless rifle
11. Ichijo KH [Kikou Hakaimono (Armor Destroyer)]-01 multi-purpose missile
12. Ichijo Basan multi-purpose mine

## B. Vehicles

1. Komatsu LAV (light armored vehicle)
2. Light Tanks
  - a. KS-01 Onryou

b. KS-02 Shiryou

c. KS-03 Ikiryou

d. KS-04 Goryou

3. Medium Tanks

a. CS-01 Gozu

b. CS-02 Mezu (currently in testing)

4. Ichijo Tsukumogami armored personnel carrier

5. Takahashi Kechibi Assault Knight carrier

6. Assault Knights

a. Takahashi JK-05 Rei Ishiki

b. Takahashi JK-06 Rei Nishiki [includes artillery variant, electronic countermeasures and AEW&C (Airborne Early Warning and Control) variant, sniper variant, underwater combat variant, minelayer variant, and anti-aircraft variant]

c. Close quarter combat type Assault Knight currently in development by Takahashi

d. Heavy type Assault Knight currently in development by Takahashi

C. Aviation Branch [remains of the old JASDF (Japanese Air Self-Defense Forces) were folded into the Japanese Ground Armed Forces]

1. Fighters

a. Sukhoi Su-35 [NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) reporting name “Flanker-E”] multirole/air superiority fighter

b. Lockheed-Martin F-35 Lightning II stealth and multirole fighter

2. Bombers

a. Dassault Mirage IV supersonic strategic bomber (used for tactical bombing)

- b. Tupovlev Tu-95 (NATO reporting name “Bear”) strategic bomber
3. Mitsubishi MU-2 utility transport aircraft
4. Boeing E-767 AEW&C aircraft
5. Kawasaki C-1 and C-2 transports
6. Lockheed Martin KC-130 air-to-air tanker
7. Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey VTOL military transport aircraft
8. Boeing 747 wide-body jet airliner (for transport government officials)
9. Helicopters
  - a. Kawasaki OH-1 scout helicopter
  - b. UH-60 Black Hawk utility helicopter
  - c. Mil Mi-35 (NATO reporting name “Hind-E”) transport and attack

helicopter

- d. Ichijo Nue Assault Knight transport helicopter

## II. Japanese Maritime Armed Forces

### A. Ships

1. Gorya-class minesweepers provided by Russia
2. New destroyer currently in development
3. New light cruiser currently in development
4. New heavy cruiser currently in development
5. New type of ship currently in development, with the Amenominakanushi used

by the Steel Dragon Task Force as its prototype

### B. Aircraft

1. Kawasaki P-1 maritime patrol aircraft
2. Shin Meiwa US-1A search-and-rescue and anti-submarine STOL (short take-

off and landing) aircraft

### 3. Helicopters

- a. Mitsubishi H-60 search-and-rescue and anti-submarine helicopter
- b. Sikorsky CH-53E Super Stallion minesweeper helicopter

#### Guiders

An organization that exist in the shadows. They comprise of various individuals from scientists to politicians. As per their name, they exist to “guide” humanity into progressing into the future.

#### Character Summaries

- Grand Guider (from the United States): Male, 77 years old

The leader of the Guiders. He vouched to get Ryu Kusanagi into the Steel Dragon Task Force. His real identity is that of Wilhem von Lubke, Ryu and Subaru's father.

- Muttergans (from Japan): Female, 41 years old

The code name for a Guiders agent who infiltrated Salvation. She also goes to Japan to report to the Reconstructionist government on whenever Salvation is involved in a country's war. Whenever she goes to Japan, she tends to see Ryu a lot. The reason for that is she's Wilhelm von Lubke's wife and Ryu and Subaru's mother Haruko Kusanagi.

- Ichirou Takahashi (from Jaopan): Male, 55 years old

The CEO (Corporate Executive Officer) of Takahashi Zaibatsu. He's the major proponent in the war against Salvation. He is married with two children.

- Schwarz (from Germany): Male, 25 years old

A mysterious individual who appears to assist Ryu Kusanagi. His real identity is that of Reinhard von Lubke, Wilhelm von Lubke's grandson.

#### International Progress Academy

A school established by way of funding by various corporations and governments. It was established to

train the next generation's greatest minds and test new technologies. Located off Japan's capital Tokyo, the academy is an artificially made island and a neutral country for that reason.

#### Character Summaries

- Subaru Kusanagi (from Japan): Female, 23 years old

Ryu Kusanagi's older sister. Ever since Wilhelm von Lubke and Haruko Kusanagi abandoned her and Ryu to keep them safe as they fought Salvation, Subaru took care of Ryu. She was the winner of the first two International Lifter Suit Tournament, a tournament that pits Lifter Suit pilots against each other. She forfeited her opportunity to win the third tournament when Salvation agents attempted to kidnap Ryu. Later on, she ended up as the 1<sup>st</sup> Year's Dorm Supervisor and the Homeroom Teacher of their Class One.

Although strict to the point she demands that Ryu ought to call her "Miss Kusanagi," she cares for him. At times, she will chide Ryu for his relationship problems.

- Hibiki Chitose (from Japan): Female, 20 years old

Assistant Homeroom Teacher for the 1<sup>st</sup> Years' Class One. Doesn't appear to look 20 and has voluptuous figure, and this caused problems with Ryu Kusanagi back when he still studied in International Progress Academy. Despite all of that, she was the previous Japanese National Lifter Suit champion and proves it.

- Annabelle Prescott (from the United Kingdom): Female, 16 years old

Heiress to the Prescott family. She was originally haughty, but most of it faded when she met Ryu Kusanagi. She lost her parents in a car accident and to have the British government protect her family fortune, she volunteered to test the United Kingdom's new weapons, one of which the prototype Assault Knight Icen.

- Heike Weber (from Germany): Female, 16 years old

Despite her age, she's in a unit in the German military dedicated to testing new weapons. One of those is their prototype Assault Knight Reiter. She enrolled in the International Progress Academy to

see Subaru Kusanagi, whom she met back in Germany. When she encountered her younger brother Ryu, she voiced her disgust at him for being the reason Subaru didn't win the Third International Lifter Suit Tournament. She softened up since then, with her staying for Ryu until his assumed death. She is related to the Kusanagi siblings by blood.

- Nagisa Kishi (from Japan): Female, 16 years old

An idol singer who goes with the stage name "NAGI." She temporarily retired to study in the International Progress Academy. When she meets Ryu Kusanagi, both of them realize they met back when they were children, much to the consternation of Karen, Annabelle, and Heike. Out of everyone that wants Ryu, she's the most persistent.

## Salvation

The main enemy of the Guiders. Much like the Guiders, they keep to the shadows to motivate progress for mankind. However, they wish to do so with war, and world domination being the end goal. An example of their usage of power is the ongoing civil war in the United States.

## Character Summaries

- Guider (from Germany): Male, 89 years old

The mysterious leader of Salvation. His real identity is that of Wilhelm von Lubke's older half-brother Stefan von Lubke.

- Erich von Lubke (from Germany): Male, 48 years old (officially 38 years old)

Wilhelm von Lubke's first son from an earlier marriage, older step-brother to Haruko Kusanagi's children Subaru and Ryu, and the father of both Stefan von Lubke and Heike Weber. The current CEO of Teuton, a PMC (Private Military Contractor) firm based in Germany that is used by Salvation to assist in conflicts the secret organization started, but in truth, a double agent for the Guiders who relays his information to Haruko. He only works for Salvation because they have his wife Beatrix Weber hostage and he looks a decade younger than his actual age of forty-eight due to an experiment he

undertook.

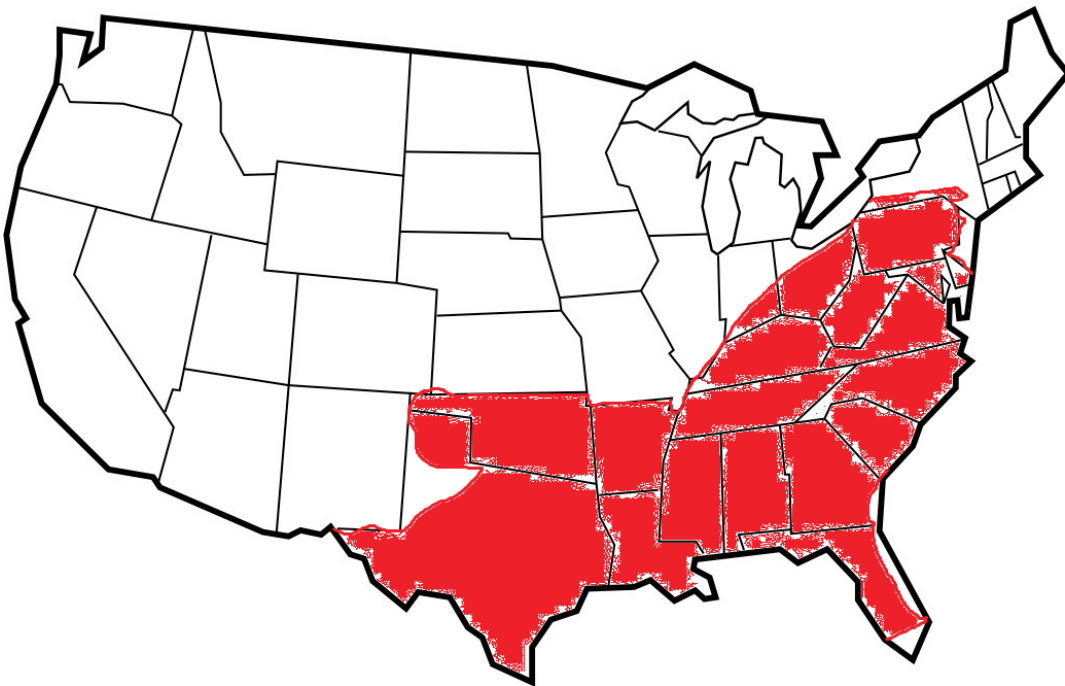
## The Second American Civil War

Just as the winner of the United States' 2016 elections was to be announced, terror attacks struck the country, killing the winners of the elections, the current administration, the headquarters of all law enforcement, military, and intelligence-gathering bodies, as well as other political figures. Also the target of these terror attacks were every prison across the country, leading to massive prison breaks and violence ensuing. The sudden appearance of a Christian movement calling themselves the “Messengers of God” provide order in the eastern half of the country, with Washington DC as their capital.

However, they sought to establish a theocratic dictatorship that threaten women, homosexuals, and non-Caucasians. States that haven't submitted to the government in Washington DC were conquered.

However, remnants of the Democratic and Republican parties established a provisional government in Portland, Oregon.

Most of the United States Armed Forces rallied behind the provisional government. This led to a civil war the United States had not experienced since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Suddenly, new weapons have made their way into the Messengers of God, yet the provisional government have been given new weapons. This is one of the battlefields for the secret war between the Guiders, who sided with the provisional government, and Salvation, who are arming the Messengers of God.



Map of the United States as of June 2018. Areas in red are those occupied by the Messengers of God. Reinforcements from abroad and fifth columnists had halted the Messengers of God's advance.



A new weapon developed by Takahashi Zaibatsu by one Faruk Majidi, an American scientist of Iranian descent that fled to Japan with his family when the state of Pennsylvania, where he worked in, was taken over by the Messengers of God. Named after the theory that was believed to cause diseases like cholera and the Black Death that struck Europe in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, this type of particle was dispersed by way of nanomachines that prevent long-ranged radar and wireless communication from being utilized. However, they only work for a short amount of time and they are limited by their area of influence.

Assault Knights have more of an advantage when Miasma Particles are dispersed. Starting from the JK-06 Rei Nishiki, all Assault Knights are to carry grenades that fire Miasma Particles. To protect their communications equipment from the effects of Miasma Particles, they're equipped with a "Miasma Shield," which allows wireless communication while under a cloud of Miasma Particles.

### Energy Weaponry

With the advances in fusion power by way of Li Quan's innovations, it was made easier to get to work on energy weapons.

Salvation developed what appears to be a laser cannon on their Quad Walker, which they provided to the Messengers of God in the Second American Civil War. However, it was shown that the laser consumed plenty of power, which led to the Quad Walker's abrupt end on July 1, 2018.

The Guiders, through Takahashi Zaibatsu, had begun to develop plasma weaponry. Unlike lasers, plasma weaponry requires more electromagnetic effects and cause problems with the electronics of its target. The Steel Dragon Task Force's Amenominakanushi is equipped with an experimental plasma cannon. However, its speed is reduced.

### "Vacuum Effect" Weapons

This type of weapon originated in the war started by China involving the Assault Knights. Another scientist under Takahashi Zaibatsu by the name of Ervin Szabo, who left Hungary with his family to Japan due to the country's government, came up with an idea for increasing the damage caused by thermobaric weapons that would make them as dangerous as nuclear weapons. Given that the weapons were developed in order to make it easier for the new Assault Knight units to destroy the People's Liberation Army Navy sighted off Kuba-shima, the weapons were not tested, and during the battle proper, most of the Assault Knight units were destroyed by the new weapons themselves, but were able to obliterate most of the Chinese ships.

The name “vacuum effect” refers to how the weapon works. When detonated, the “vacuum” occurs after the initial explosion. If something like a submarine were to be hit, the “vacuum” continues destroying it after the initial explosion.

### Learning Disk

For the prototype Assault Knights being developed by the Guiders for their war against Salvation, the Steel Dragon Task Force tasked its Assault Knight pilots to install a device for gathering data from the battles they participate in. Afterwards, the data will already be accumulated into the computers of the prototype Assault Knights.

The device, when installed into an Assault Knight's computer, already installs the learning program into the Assault Knight's systems, hence the name “Learning Disk.” Even the computers on the Amenominakanushi have the device installed in its computers so that later models of the same type will utilize the data gathered.

### Timeline

2008: Li Quan proposes a test expedition to collect plasma from the Earth's polar winds. Takahashi Zaibatsu accepts his proposal and offers their support for his research.

2009: Li tests his “Plasma Collector” and has it launched by a Takahashi rocket. The experiment is a success.

2010

I. The United Nations, seeing Li's innovation, launches the “Final Frontier Colonization Project” to prepare mankind to make space their new home.

II. Austrian doctor Helmut Merkatz develops the first “nanoseed” and tests it on a bone cancer patient. The experiment succeeds.

III. Li's innovation in plasma power starts a scientific revolution in the United States.

A. Research and development on quadruped robots resumes. This project is codenamed “Quad Walker.”

B. Tests begin for a hybrid of an exoskeleton and body armor begin. This project is named “Lifter Suit.”

2011

I. A robotic scout drone on the moon is sent by Takahashi Zaibatsu to find quarries of metal needed for the Final Frontier Colonization Project.

II. Further research by Merkatz on his nanoseeds is conducted to see if it can cure sexually transmitted diseases.

III. The first Lifter Suit was developed. Although utilized for civilian purposes, it wasn't accepted as a military weapon.

IV. The first Quad Walker, the XW-01, is built by Henderson Industries.

2012

I. The Takahashi Zaibatsu moon drone found metal deposits beneath the moon's surface.

II. Merkatz tests his nanoseeds on people infected by sexually transmitted diseases. The experiment succeeds.

III. The First International Lifter Suit begins. It's winner is Subaru Kusanagi.

2013

I. Another expedition by Takahashi Zaibatsu is sent to the moon to begin establishing a mining colony for the Final Frontier Colonization Project.

II. Subaru Kusanagi defends her champion title in the Second International Lifter Suit Tournament.

2014

I. The first batch of the mass-produced versions of the XW-01, the W-01 Mule, roll out.

II. During the Third International Lifter Suit Tournament, Subaru Kusanagi mysteriously drops out. The winner is Yao Wenlong from the People's Republic of China.

2015: The foundation for Takahashi Zaibatsu's mining colony on the moon is complete and named "New Ararat."

2016: Terror attacks strike the United States as the results of its elections were to be announced. The targets are the winners of the elections, the current administration, the headquarters of all law enforcement, military, and intelligence-gathering bodies, as well as other political figures. Prisons and mental institutions were also struck, leading to a massive crime wave across the country.

2017

I. January

A. A massive war between the escaped inmates and both all law enforcement bodies and the United States ensues across the country.

B. In Washington DC, the police and military were assisted by a Christian movement called the "Messengers of God."

C. After restoring order in Washington DC, the Messengers of God proclaim a new government which is that of a theocracy that threatens women's rights, other religions, and non-Caucasians.

II. February

A. Remnants of the Republican and Democratic parties establish a provisional government in Portland, Oregon. All of the United States Armed Forces and law enforcement bodies side with the provisional government, starting the “Second American Civil War.”

B. As a result of the Second American Civil War starting, all US forces outside the country begin pulling out to reinforce the American homeland forces.

C. With US forces withdrawing from Japan, political upheaval across Japan ensues.

1. The Japanese government begin a massive layoff for its Self-Defense Forces, causing many to lose their jobs.

2. As a result, massive protests by the jobless JSDF soldiers ensue. Out of panic, the Japanese parliamentary body, the National Diet, is dissolved and causes emergency elections.

3. The Reconstruction Party, established by Takeya Jinguji, gains a power base in the form of the unemployed JSDF personnel.

### III. March

A. Second American Civil War: The Messengers of God had taken Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, 75% of Ohio, 20% of Indiana, and Kentucky.

B. The emergency elections for Japan's National Diet end with the Reconstructionist Party earning a majority in the seats, with Jinguji made the new Prime Minister.

### IV. April

A. Second American Civil War

1. The Messengers of God had taken Tennessee, South Carolina, Delaware, Georgia, Alabama, and 20% of Florida.

2. Reinforcements from Pacific Command of the United States Armed Forces' Unified Combatant Command arrive at the West Coast, whereas reinforcements from European Command arrive at New England.

### V. May

A. A mosque in Grozny, the capital of the Russian Federation's autonomous Chechen Republic, is bombed. The suspect of the bombing, an FSB {Федеральная служба безопасности [Federal'naya sluzhba bezopasnosti (Federal Security Service)]} agent named Dmitri Arefyev, was found dead in an apartment after he was identified by witnesses. The Russian government in Moscow plausibly denies Arefyev being an FSB agent.

B. Second American Civil War

1. The Messengers of God take an additional 10% of Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

2. Reinforcements from the United States Armed Forces Unified Combatant Command's African and Central Commands begin mobilizing to reinforce the American homeland.

VI. June

A. Protests against the Russian government occur across Chechnya for the mosque bombing.

B. Second American Civil War.

1. The Messengers of God take Arkansas, 30% of Texas, an additional 10% of Florida, and 10% of Texas.

2. The reinforcements from the United States Armed Forces' Unified Combatant Command's European Command arrive to force back the Messengers of God from New York and New Jersey.

VII. July

A. A protest in the Chechen town of Urus-Martan turned violent due to armed police firing on protestors. Retaliatory strikes by Chechen insurgents from the Second Chechen War start the "Third Chechen War."

B. Second American Civil War

1. The provisional government forces begin arming W-01 Mules with weapons.

2. The Messengers of God take Oklahoma, 30% of Texas, and an additional 20% of Florida.

## VIII. August

### A. Second American Civil War

1. The Messengers of God take an additional 10% of Florida and an additional 20% of Texas, but are halted.

a. Reinforcements from the Western Region and the Armed Forces Unified Combatant Command's Pacific Command halt the advance in Texas.

b. Reinforcements from the Armed Forces Unified Combatant Command's African and Central Commands halt the advance in Florida and liberate 15% of Georgia.

c. Fifth columnists made up of various Christian denominations liberate Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey, Cherokee, and Buncombe Counties in North Carolina. Another coalition of Christian fifth columnists liberate the counties Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester, and Queen Anne's in Maryland.

2. The armed variant of the W-01 Quad Walker, the CW-01 Gunmule, debuts as it drives off the Messengers of God from Tom Green County, Texas.

B. Third Chechen War: Massive clashes occur across Chechnya between armed secessionists against the Russian National Guard.

## IX. September

A. Second American Civil War: The Messengers of God conduct a major counteroffensive. They take back what they lost in Florida while gaining an additional 10% of the southeastern state, whereas they take back what they lost in Texas and gain an additional 25%. The cause of all of this is new weapons, especially Quad Walkers that can outfight a Gunmule.

B. Observing the Messengers of God's counteroffensive in the United States, the

Japanese government under the Reconstructionist Party begin planning a new weapons platform to counter the new Quad Walkers.

#### X. October

A. As it is chosen, tests begin for the proposal of an anti-Quad Walker weapon by Li Quan in Japan. The weapon is code-named "Assault Knight."

B. With mysterious assistance, the Islamic Republic of Iran test their new intercontinental ballistic missile, with the test succeeding as the missile landing above the North Atlantic Ocean. In a press conference, a military spokesperson states that with the United States in the middle of civil war and both sides armed with nuclear armaments, Iran armed itself with nuclear weapons to deter the Messengers of God from using their nuclear weapons.

#### XI. November

A. Tests for the fifth Assault Knight prototype, the JK-05 Rei Ichishiki, begin. Unbeknownst to the Japanese government, agents of the People's Republic of China's intelligence agency, the MSS (Ministry of State Security), infiltrated Japan and submit their findings on Japan's new weapons to Beijing.

B. The International Progress Academy is struck in a terror attack. The only casualty is one Ryu Kusanagi, whose whereabouts are unknown, thus making him MIA (Missing in Action).

#### XII. December

A. December 24: The Prime Minister's Official Residence was struck by a terrorist bombing. Prime Minister Takeya Jinguji is killed and his second son Hiro is wounded.

B. December 26: The Reconstruction Party name Takeya's eldest son Shunsuke as head of the party and Prime Minister, with the Emperor approving the latter appointment.

C. December 28: Takeya's third child and only daughter Misa reports that elements of every other party in the Diet aided a secret organization named Salvation in bombing both the International Progress Academy and the Prime Minister's Official Residence. This leads to a mass



arrest of every other party, reducing their power, and placing the Reconstruction Party as the dominant party in the Diet.

2018

## I. January

### A. The People's Republic of China make war on Reconstructionist Japan

1. Chinese ships are sighted off the Senkaku Islands, which have been disputed over between the two nations.
2. The first Assault Knights, the JK-05 Rei Ichishiki, intercept a Chinese outpost.
3. The North and East Sea Fleets of the People's Liberation Army Navy are sighted off Kuba-shima. The Maritime Self-Defense Forces, backed by the Air Self-Defense Forces and Ground Self-Defense Forces armor on makeshift gunboats intercept.
  - a. The People's Liberation Army Air Force reinforce the People's Liberation Army Navy, thus outnumbering the Self-Defense Forces further.
  - b. The Self-Defense Forces are then reinforced by their Assault Knight units, especially the new JK-06 Rei Nishiki. With a new weapon that causes a “vacuum effect,” the Chinese ships end up obliterated. What remain retreat under cover by the People's Liberation Army Navy South Sea Fleet, who arrive late due to an ambush.
  - c. The victorious Japanese announce that they had captured People's Liberation Army Navy North Sea Fleet commander Vice-Admiral Dong Bailong.
4. MSS agents rescue Vice Admiral Dong.
  - a. Seeing a large concentration of People's Liberation Army Ground Forces and People's Liberation Army Navy Marines on their escape route and asking his MSS rescuers, Dong hears that the government in Beijing intend to continue the war despite the loss at Kuba-shima.
  - b. Dong demands that they turn back to Japan. However, Dong goes to Takahashi Zaibatsu and asks its CEO Ichirou Takahashi into helping end the war. Takahashi agrees and

lets Dong use the mega-conglomerate's media network. What is broadcast is a speech by Dong to have both sides end the war immediately to avoid further bloodshed. Fearing that Dong will reveal that the war was started because Salvation's contacts in the Chinese government, who were purged during Kuba-shima, Beijing sued for peace

c. Both sides meet in Taipei, Republic of Taiwan. During the proceedings, the blueprints for the Assault Knights were offered, publicizing the project and allowing developed countries to begin making their own Assault Knights.

B. A coup d'état occurs in the Republic of Benin, with its chief instigator, Enobakhare Blanc, proclaiming the old Kingdom of Dahomey, adding that he is a descendant of its last ruler King Béhanzin.

## II. February

A. Forces loyal to the Beninese government-in-exile, with the assistance of a German-based PMC firm named Teuton, overthrow Blanc and restore the Republic of Benin.

B. Testings for various Assault Knight prototypes begin

1. The United Kingdom tests their prototype Assault Knight Iceni.

2. The European Union begins their testing their Assault Knight prototypes, which are the French Republic's Cheval, Federal Republic of Germany's Reiter, and the Italian Republic's Legionario.

3. Both the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation begin to develop a prototype Assault Knight as a result of a joint project between Pan Industries from the former and Sverdlovsk Collective Industries from the latter.

C. Following the war with China, what remain of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces are turned into the Japanese Armed Forces, with massive rebuilding occurring as a result under its new Defense Minister Yuki Jinguji. Per the approval of the Emperor, the Japanese Armed Forces incorporated the Imperial Guard of the National Police Agency and all intelligence gathering

responsibilities of the Cabinet Secretariat, National Public Safety Commission, and the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Justice. With the immigration reforms of the Reconstruction Party, part of the rebuilding included offering citizenship for migrants who volunteered.

D. The first “reeducation camp” in the Kansai region is complete, with many of those arrested in the previous role in Takeya Jinguji's assassination are brought there. Despite its resemblance to a concentration camp from Nazi Germany, it is nothing more than a heavily guarded mental institution built to reeducate political criminals, with the conditions inside safe for its inmates.

### III. March

A. Both Russia and China begin testing the first batch of their Assault Knight, the SR-01 Karzelek/TQ-01 Qishou.

B. Much like the United States, terrorist attacks across the Democratic Republic of Congo obliterate their government, leading to its military to take over and establish a junta. Opposition towards the junta throws the country into another war, not helped that smaller wars that were a holdover from the Second Congo War haven't ended.

### IV. April

A. Chinese soldiers appear at Lhasa, Tibet and begin shooting and bombing throughout the city. Eventually, the soldiers killed themselves.

B. From one wandering mercenary named “Kazuya Hoshi,” Defense Minister Yuki Jinguji leaked about the secret war between organizations named “Salvation” and “Guiders,” the former's involvement with certain wars, and further proof of their involvement with her father Takeya's death, as well as their allies in Japanese politics and business. As a result, the Japanese Emperor and the Reconstruction Party-dominated government pledge their support to the Guiders against Salvation.

### V. May

A. Outraged by what had happened in Lhasa, massive protests across Tibet occur. The Chinese government in Beijing respond with mass deployment of the People's Liberation Army Ground

Force's Armed Police, but are met with fierce resistance by Tibetan militias, who have acquired weapons from mysterious sources that speculate Salvation, due to the similarities to the weapons used in the Second American Civil War.

B. China and Russia deploy their first Assault Knight units.

1. Russia deploys theirs to Chechnya, but are outfought by the Chechnya rebels having Assault Knights of their own.

2. Likewise, China sends its first Assault Knight unit to Tibet, but are met with the same outcome as Russia.

C. Both Kazuya Hoshi and Takeya Jinguji's last-born child Hikaru Jinguji discover a terrorist group.

1. Both Hoshi and Jinguji found out about this terrorist group through their supporters, who started a sexual slavery ring in various schools in the Greater Tokyo Metropolitan Area, with Jinguji's fiancée Junko Namikawa as one of the victims.

2. Further investigations revealed by the Intelligence Regiments of the Japanese Armed Forces, and a riot in Tokyo's Akibahara district reveal that the terrorist group are made up of “otaku” who are opposed to the reforms on Japan's entertainment industry by the Reconstruction Party. The Reconstructionist government declare war on the terror groups.

3. In response to the Reconstruction Party's declaration of war, the “otaku” terrorists kill Hikaru with a car bomb on April 30.

VI. June

A. The anti-otaku terrorist campaign

1. Following Hikaru's death, Prime Minister Shunsuke Jinguji makes a speech at his dead younger brother's funeral to motivate the country to fight.

2. Massive attacks against the “otaku” terrorist cells occur across Japan.

B. Second American Civil War: The Steel Dragon Task Force, a multinational

paramilitary group organized by the Guiders to be the vanguard in the war against Salvation, is first deployed to assist the United States provisional government take back what they lost in Texas to the Messengers of God in September of the previous year. The Messengers of God's Quad Walker was destroyed by none other than Kazuya Hoshi.

C. Tibetan Crisis: Following their successful counterattack against the Chinese People's Armed Police, the "Free Republic of Tibet" is declared.