Governor 251

Chapter 251: Work Report_2

Of course, afterward they needed to undergo further systemic transformation, and these new bureaucrats began to be assessed by the New Alliance Government.

It was definitely not nearly as comfortable as the days when they were local tyrants.

Some submitted under the military might of the New Alliance Army, especially those smaller settlements close to Revival City, which honestly came under the rule of the New Alliance. But those further away, the larger settlements, were not so content.

During the advance of the troops, there was some resistance.

And as the distance of the advance increased, the resistance became more and more intense. Now, several large settlements had forcibly rallied smaller ones to form a coalition army. About seventy to eighty thousand people blocked the 7th and 8th Divisions' advance, and they were at war.

The intensity of the war wasn't very high, the garrison divisions were far from the core main forces of the New Alliance Army, but even so, their equipment and firepower still had a huge advantage over those rabble.

However, with only over twelve thousand men combined from the two garrison divisions, they were at a great numerical disadvantage. They were able to advance steadily, but the speed of the advance really couldn't be considered fast, and when it came to attacking those survivor camps which were generally situated in easily defensible and difficult to attack terrain, it would take even more time.

Even if they were taken down, in order to avoid revolt after surrender, troops still had to be left behind to enforce martial law. Even after personnel from subsequent government departments filled in, during the process of integrating the settlements, the presence of troops was still needed to maintain order.

By comparison, the third battle zone, the Central-North Battle Zone, had only placed the 9th Garrison Division. Their work, similar to that of allied forces expanding west and south from the Central War Zone, was more straightforward since the vast lands north of Revival City had a relatively sparse

population and had not encountered any major battles. The assimilation of five hundred thousand people was basically progressing steadily.

Of course, there was another factor: the activities of the Sisters of Saint Mercy Lily.

In the past two months, leaving Revival City and following the traces of the Primordial Wrath Owl Sect, the Sisters headed north. They did quite a bit, combating the Cult while also spreading their faith.

Their formidable combat capabilities and their special identity gave them a certain influence in the north, which greatly helped the work of the 9th Division.

This also gave the 9th Division an additional task: to be ready to respond to the Sisters' requests, assisting them in striking against Cult activities.

According to intelligence sent back by the 9th Division, the Sisters of Saint Mercy Lily found that the further north they went, the more traces of the Primordial Wrath Owl Sect's activities. Superior Georgette had already led the main force into what is traditionally known as the Northern Province, and currently, no updated intelligence has come through.

In the northern part of the Central Province, about 600 kilometers north of Revival City in the center, the traces of the Cult were quite evident. In this northern area, six Sisters remained behind, responsible for securing the rear and ready to support the sisters entering further north, while also cleaning up local Cult activity in the northern region.

After receiving the relevant requests, Yan Fangxu green-lighted the additional task for the 9th Division.

The above was approximately the military briefing by Yan Fangxu, the military overseer, on the situation of the military operations during the month after the Governor's departure, and even the current stage.

After listening, Gu Hang thought for a moment, then gave his instructions,

"I have no objections about the clearing operation in the Gaota Ruins, and the actions in the Central-North Battle Zone are also fine, Lao Yan did very well. However, the operation in the Central War Zone

cannot continue to drag on like this. I believe that the 7th and 8th Divisions will eventually achieve victory, but slowly advancing is a huge loss. The depletion of population and time is unacceptable. We must seek a quick resolution."

Saying this, Gu Hang's gaze turned to Tadeusz, who sat beside Yan Fangxu, still a Colonel, but Gu Hang had already decided to promote him to the rank of Colonel, and said, "How are the recruitment of new soldiers and logistical equipment going? I need you to replenish the losses of the three units that returned to the stars as soon as possible, after a week of rest, our troops will once again head to the battlefield."

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Tadeusz answered earnestly, "In the new recruit training base we've established, we've already recruited over twenty thousand people, who are undergoing basic training. The only issue is the effectiveness of the training…"

Gu Hang cut him off, "I'll handle the effectiveness of the training, but twenty thousand is not enough. In addition to replenishing the troops, I also need to establish three division-sized units. The 10th, 11th, and 12th newly created designations, I need them to be capable of rapid strikes, rapid movement, like the battle groups modeled after the 2nd Division. At the same time, the 2nd Division also needs to be equipped sufficiently, even if we cannot achieve full mechanization, at least we must reach the standards of motorization."

Tadeusz decisively replied, "No problem. Without considering the training situation, I can recruit thirty thousand people within half a month. I will provide a specific plan later according to the current situation of our armament stores. The forecast is quite optimistic; we might still have deficiencies in armored vehicle production capability, but the production of artillery, military trucks, and various types of ammunition is very good. The production capacity of the military factories in Weixing City is growing day by day, we have enough equipment to arm new troops."

Gu Hang calculated that with another thirty thousand recruits, the training barracks would have fifty thousand people. Making up for the losses of the three units from the heavens and replenishing the troops of various units would be no problem. The remaining people would be sufficient to form three new division-sized units.

The 10th, 11th, and 12th designations would certainly not be formed into garrison divisions with average combat capabilities. After motorization, with fully equipped armed trucks, the troops could

carry out rapid strikes; with stronger firepower and the extra armored vehicles in place, and forces matched to the 2nd Division, we could reach a scale of around nine thousand people.

The combat power of such a motorized infantry division would have no problem taking on two garrison divisions.

As for the training… fifty thousand soldiers, all taken up to T5 level, would cost just 500 grace points. Peanuts.

“That’s good. However, I still need to remind you that we must plan the recruitment of such a large number of young and strong people carefully so as not to affect the production plans of Revival City and Weixing City,” Gu Hang said.

“It won’t happen,” Tadeusz replied seriously. “At the moment, the population influx into Twin Cities is quite large. In the past month alone, two hundred thousand people have come from the Central War Zone; one hundred and fifty thousand people from the Central-North Battle Zone; over fifty thousand refugees from the Green Valley Region; and more than fifty thousand people diverted from Rubbish Town.”

“A total influx of four hundred and fifty thousand people. Even though the city constructions, industrial constructions, service industry developments in Revival City, as well as the heavy industry and military industry in Weixing City, all require a large population, the expansion of production lines also takes time. The speed of absorbing these populations isn’t that fast. I don’t have the exact numbers, but Lady Ossina should have them. Our unemployment rate might be rising quite rapidly. The army has offered relatively good terms for recruitment, and among those who have just arrived in the city, many are eager to acquire formal status and have enthusiastically joined the armed forces. We are actually helping the city to resolve a significant portion of the unemployed population, easing the pressure on various industries to absorb workers.”

Gu Hang shifted his gaze to Ossina.

Speaking methodically, Ossina replied, “That’s indeed the case. I have corresponding production management reports here that you can review.”

Gu Hang took over a stack of papers and began to scrutinize them tirelessly.

Meanwhile, Ossina began her report: “Currently, according to the official census, which we dare not claim with certainty, our total population under New Alliance leadership has reached 2.4 million. In accordance with the military department’s battle zone planning, we have accordingly planned the Central Province, Gaota Province, and Central-North Province. As the Central Province’s expansion battle is running smoothly, we estimate that the total population could exceed 4.4 million when the time comes…”

Chapter 252: Population, Production, Trade

Osenia’s report had Gu Hang nodding frequently.

The increase in population was something that Gu Hang cared deeply about.

According to the information she provided, as well as the documents at hand, the total population directly governed by the New Alliance had reached as many as 2.4 million.

Among them, the core governing area was the Twin Cities of Revival.

The population of Weixing City had reached 550,000, with its main industries being heavy and military industry.

Industries based on alloy steel transformed a large amount of raw materials into alloy metals, which were further processed into various industrial components; Wu Jiarong’s research institute continuously churned out new production lines (through the Black Box), sending them to the Waste Pit Industrial Zone to establish new factories or expand existing ones.

Those who migrated and entered the short-term intensive training courses operated by various factories and enterprises became job-ready workers after completing the trainings. As soon as the corresponding production lines were in place, new workers would be filled in immediately, and production would begin right away.

Revival City now had 930,000 people and the city construction was still ongoing, with its main industries being various light industries, production of consumer goods, and supplying population needs. Main production industries included textiles, food, various appliances, furniture, construction…

Beyond that, Revival City was also an administrative and trade center, with a large population engaged in clerical work as well.

A higher population scale also heralded the development of a relatively advanced service industry. Cultural and entertainment sectors were still few, but the catering industry had already developed quite a bit.

This was different from Weixing City. To solve the problem of meals in Weixing City, besides cooking at home, the main reliance was on company canteens, which distributed food according to job ranks.

Since Revival City did not have large, centralized factories like those in Weixing City, the catering industry would become a point of supplement to solve meal issues.

This brings us to a new policy implemented by Osenia to stimulate economic vitality.

To avoid the rather static industrial development after job ranks were tied to duties, and to prevent economic activities occurring only when the Industry Department issued construction for factories, shops, and city infrastructure, Osenia encouraged ordinary people to utilize their intelligence and start their own businesses.

Not to embark on large-scale entrepreneurship; big projects would be handled by state-owned enterprises.

But to open a small restaurant, a convenience store, or even just a roadside stall; or further, if they had a unique idea, establish a small factory, create a private construction team, or organize a logistics team to transport goods for construction sites, factories, shops… in short, anything.

The specific incentive was that people of a certain rank could use their rank as a guarantee to apply for entrepreneurship funds, submit a relevant entrepreneurship report, and upon approval, they could open their business.

The higher the rank, the more support funds they could receive.

If the entrepreneurship failed, rank would be reduced; if successful, rank would increase according to the status of the new industry's manager.

However, regardless of whether it was a restaurant, convenience store, or factory, the ownership belonged to the state, but a certain dividend would be paid out.

In simple terms, it was like proposing a project within a large company, submitting the project report to the boss or management, and if approved, set to work. If you win, you get promoted and receive a salary increase, along with stock options; if you lose, the company incurs losses, and you bear responsibility and demotion.

Moreover, if it's just a stall, you don't need a particularly high rank to run it, and if it fails, the punishment isn't very severe; a deduction from the allowance is enough.

In addition, Osenia opened another loophole: entrepreneurship could also be funded with one's own money, eliminating the need for a guarantee. If it failed, there would be no demotion and one's own money would be lost; if successful, rank would increase and the earnings would be one's own.

This was equivalent to opening a private economy alongside the main public and planned economy to increase economic vitality.

So far, since it was encouraged, the conditions for using rank as guarantee to apply for entrepreneurship funds were quite lenient. Those with low ranks who had good ideas, or who conformed to the Industry Department's industrial development direction, could easily obtain startup capital. The extent of demotion for failure wasn't too large, and most of the time, under the guidance of the Industry Department, they wouldn't incur losses.

Near factories and construction sites, setting up a small restaurant or even a stall heating synthetic starch blocks generally would not result in a loss.

In the future, if it's felt that a certain direction has developed enough, or even overheated, or if there are too many losses… in short, if there are issues, the application process will be tightened, the threshold raised, and the penalties for guarantees increased. Anyway, it's a means of regulation.

In general, while the collective state-owned economy is the absolute mainstay in the Twin Cities, the private economy was encouraged to add vitality and create jobs.

Currently, based on 'Tax Currency', the total monthly production value of the Twin Cities can reach about 80,000 Tax Currency. This is the absolute core area of the New Alliance.

Other areas, when added together, can manage about 5,000 to 6,000 Tax Currency.

Besides the Twin Cities, the other regions in the newly planned Central Province, Central-North Province, and Gaota Province, including those remaining small settlements, Rubbish Town inclusive, were also transforming towards the Twin Cities' system. The main output was focused on consumer goods, ensuring the basic needs of the population.

But those small settlements couldn't guarantee production efficiency at all.

Chapter 253: Population, Production, Trade_2

Combined, these places had a population of over a million, which might be comparable to that of the Twin Cities, but their total output value was probably only about 7% of the Twin Cities'.

In response, Osenia's subsequent plan was to continue migrating people from these areas to Weixing City to expand the industrial population.

Additionally, some factories producing raw materials in Weixing City and Revival City would distribute various production machines. For instance, agricultural machinery, construction equipment, trucks, textile machines, food processing machines… a series of gadgets could increase the production efficiency of these small settlements.

Here, there would be considerable room for growth.

After listening to her comprehensive report, Gu Hang nodded in satisfaction.

He thought Osenia had done quite well.

He had been aware of many things within her report, especially the major directions, which were essentially the instructions he had given Osenia before boarding the Starship. Osenia had then formulated policies in these directions and implemented them.

Coming up with appropriate policies was not easy; implementing them was even harder.

But it seemed that Osenia had performed well in both aspects. It was not just a matter of not disappointing his expectations; she had even exceeded them.

This was also evident from the character card.

While in space, Gu Hang had seen Osenia's character card change through the character interface.

Firstly, she had leveled up to LV3; her 'rarity' had risen from N to R level; [Excellent Political Officer] had upgraded to [Outstanding Political Officer], with a slight increase in political attribute; she also gained an extra talent named [Comprehensive Planning].

[Comprehensive Planning: With her long-term insights into overall production planning, she had become even more outstanding in this area. Politics +1]

The combination of these traits brought her most important political attribute to 15 points.

An Osenia of such caliber had become an extremely distinguished political officer, and Gu Hang could rest very assured.

Therefore, Gu Hang did not hesitate to praise her, "I think Comrade Osenia has done an excellent job."

With that, he started clapping.

Following his lead, everyone else gave face and joined in the applause.

The role of Osenia was very important. She was currently the foremost figure on the political side, overseeing civil affairs, commerce, finance, and production, all of significant responsibility.

Although she was still referred to as a minister, in reality, she effectively undertook tasks very similar to those of a government premier. The majority of political work lay on her shoulders.

Even the military had to please her. After all, the production situation of Weixing City's military factories also required her support to flourish. Tadeusz, who was in charge of military logistics and equipment, had to maintain constant communication with her subordinates to ensure adequate supplies of equipment, ammunition, and military provisions.

Osenia, flattered by the praise, showed a hint of shyness. She waved her hands and quickly said, "There's also the report on commerce and trade, Mr. Bradford will speak on that, as he has performed exceptionally well in his work over the past month."

Bradford stood up, looking somewhat nervous, especially when Gu Hang's gaze turned towards him, intensifying his apprehension.

He still remembered the despair he felt when he was captured by the governor's soldiers a few months ago; the subsequent conversation with the governor almost shattered his mental state.

But he survived through his 'wit and intellect' and became an advisor to the New Alliance Ministry of Commerce.

With Osenia taking on multiple roles and effectively assuming the duties of the Alliance Premier, she was incredibly busy. Additionally, within the New Alliance, there was a severe shortage of civilian officials and administrative workers, particularly those capable of independent roles. Bradford, with his abilities, naturally rose to the occasion.

He had the capability, experience, and connections; his proactive work ethic, coupled with his refraining from lining his own pockets—at least in the early stages of his career where he didn't dare take risks—naturally set him apart from the rest.

Although he still bore the title of advisor, he was already exercising the rights of a principal officer of the Alliance Commerce Department. In fact, Osenia had raised Bradford's rank from an initial E6 to D6 within her own authority.

This was still a mid-to-lower level rank, but it was enough to live comfortably with a decent subsidy.

Moreover, being in a position of responsibility within the Commerce Department, Bradford, a smart man, was not worried about a lack of future opportunities for advancement.

He did not disappoint the trust placed in him by Osenia.

Previously, he mobilized his connections and experience in trade management to organize caravans, restoring the supply to the Twin Cities' capillaries and easing the grain crisis; then he restored the grain trade with the Western Desert, further alleviating the crisis.

As for another major source of grain supply, the Southern Green Valley Region, there hadn't been much improvement. But that was not his responsibility; mainly because the Green Valley was in a state of chaos, grain production faced significant issues, beyond the scope of commercial remedies.

Just relying on the Western Desert, grain supply would still be quite tense, especially once the expansion strategy commenced and the areas around Revival City were engulfed in turmoil. With two million people becoming hostile, the capillaries suffered further impacts.

Chapter 254: Population, Production, Trade_3

This was why Gu Hang insisted that Yan Fangxu speed up his actions and quickly deploy more troops to resolve the issue: if it were delayed any longer, famine would arise.

However, to solve this problem, Bradford had personally made a trip to the Western Desert and had only just returned recently.

He brought back a new large order; the Western Desert's food trade with Revival City could be doubled in scale.

The price that Revival City had to pay for this was a large amount of consumer goods. Revival City's excess output was enough to cover this part.

In addition to this, there was another big deal, which was finding a large order for Weixing City's automobile industry through Bradford's efforts.

The Iron Bull RN-100 truck was favored by numerous caravans. With its excellent load capacity, off-road performance, durability, and fuel flexibility… such trucks were highly sought after in the wastelands.

Bradford sold five hundred Iron Bull trucks to Western Desert businessmen in one go, to be paid for with food.

According to interstellar standards, the subsequent grain orders to be delivered were valued at over twenty thousand Tax Currency, which could basically satisfy the annual needs of the new alliance's population of 2.4 million; the five hundred Iron Bull trucks were roughly a month's production for Weixing City, and if used to pay taxes, their total value would be about five thousand Tax Currency— the Imperial Taxation Department might not even want trucks with such a level of technology.

Earning four times the amount, the Western Desert businessmen were still ecstatic.

These trucks were much cheaper than the cargo vehicles produced by Blackbird Heavy Industries in the west.

This deal was a win-win: the alliance found a market for the automotive industry and purchased a large amount of food; the Western Desert businessmen who got the trucks would use them to transport grain to the alliance, greatly improving transportation efficiency.

If this isn't a win-win, what is?

Winning twice, till it's dizzying.

Of course, this deal wasn't completed in one fell swoop.

The Western Desert had that much grain, but lacked the capability to transport it all at once; it would take time to collect from various plantations and to cover the over thousand kilometers of distance.

Moreover, the delivery of the Iron Bull trucks wasn't immediate. Although Weixing City could burst produce five hundred trucks in a month, Revival City's transport logistics also needed Iron Bulls; the military's logistical transport needs Iron Bulls; the army's motorization also similarly requires Iron Bulls.

Even so, the production capacity of five hundred was still not enough, and the subsequent production department might focus its next burst capacity on Iron Bull trucks, striving to increase this important type of transport truck to a monthly output of a thousand.

Beyond food trade, Bradford recently solved another major problem: the import of industrial raw materials.

In terms of raw materials, the capacity of Ruin Mine's ores had long been insufficient.

Rubbish Town, due to the cessation of war, had only just resumed excavation work at Ruin Mine, and production had not yet picked up.

The gap in raw materials restricted industrial district production.

However, related commercial trade work was gradually expanding, and the sources of raw materials were no longer limited to the vicinity.

To the east of the high tower ruins, all the way to the sea, an area of about six thousand kilometers long, was the Pacific Rage Owl Star's major urban cluster region before the war. Super-cities like the high tower ruins were broadly distributed across the eastern territories.

But in this vast area, the surviving population might be only about five million. They were scattered across various ruins, struggling to survive amid mutant creatures and Low Energy Storms. They had hardly any industry, mainly relying on scavenging and trading with caravans for food and necessities.

In other words, that six thousand kilometers stretch from east to west, and three thousand kilometers from north to south, of the former urban cluster area, was essentially one enormous, highly dispersed Rubbish Town.

Regardless of the ecology of that place, at least the new alliance had now established commercial trade relations with the Eastern Provinces.

Consumer goods and resale of food were traditional items in the raw material trade between Revival City and the Eastern Provinces, and now, there was an additional dumping of industrial goods.

Among them, the two main flagship products were, one, the Iron Bull truck; and two, military equipment.

The Eastern Provinces, much like a giant Rubbish Town, weren't just an appellation; the ecosystem was very similar too. The food capability was very low, mainly relying on imports from the Green Valley Region; the primary output was raw materials scavenged from the pre-war ruins and some primary processing and basic industry.

The main force behind 'scavenging' was, of course, the many adventurers.

The G9 series of individual equipment was much stronger than those primitive guns.

Just so happened, the current production line of G9 had plenty of surplus capacity, which was perfect to sell to them.

As for whether these guns might become an obstacle to the new alliance's expansion into the Eastern Provinces in the future…

It had to be admitted, there was that possibility.

But the obstacle wasn't significant.

If it came to large-scale warfare, the value of individual equipment wasn't so great. Tanks, artillery, air forces, these sources of firepower were more critical.

And speaking of arms trade, the current G9 individual equipment wasn't just being sold eastward; the Green Valley Region to the south was also an important sales point.

On one hand, although the Green Valley Region suffered from war, reducing its food capacity significantly, there was still some left.

On the other hand, the main reason for trading arms for food was the situation in the Green Valley Region.

Disasters like the mutant creature tide, in the relatively favorable natural conditions of the Green Valley Region, would have typically subsided by this time of year, but this year, they seemed to be growing worse instead.

Chapter 255: Population, Production, Trade_4

The tragic decimation of Osenia's family was beginning to become all too common in the Green Valley Region.

Even estate owners and planters couldn't endure it, let alone ordinary civilians.

Selling arms and equipment to the Green Valley Region was meant to help them better resist the monster waves.

And not just selling arms, either.

While up in the sky, Gu Hang had heard reports about the Green Valley Region, and he was also greatly concerned about the situation there.

The rampant devastation caused by the mutant monster tides was certainly intolerable.

With a population of ten million, the Green Valley Region was a vast peninsula covering more than two thousand kilometers east to west, and over five thousand kilometers from north to south, narrowing towards the south, its overall terrain somewhat resembling the Indian Peninsula from Gu Hang's world before the crossing, with possibly even better natural and geographical environments.

The vast, fertile land and the ample population… These were some of the finest areas on Rage Owl Star.

Gu Hang couldn't tolerate the destruction of this land, nor could he allow the needless loss of too many lives in this disaster from the ten million population.

Currently, the Alliance didn't have enough strength to dispatch sufficient troops to such a vast area as the Green Valley Region to address the mutant beast issue there.

But this didn't prevent him from planning ahead.

Exchanging arms for food, or even sending military advisors and diplomats directly to the Green Valley Region.

Diplomats were helping survivors who had been displaced to come together; encouraging the remaining struggling plantations to form mutual aid organizations; convincing those plantations not yet struck by disaster to understand the principle that one's own survival depended on the survival of all, urging them to contribute money, effort, and manpower in support and vigilance with their neighbors.

The military advisors, along with the traded arms, were sent to assist the local forces resisting the monster waves in building their military.

The local situation wasn't something that could be explained in a sentence or two, and the issues in Green Valley were not just conflicts between humans and monsters.

But let's not delve into more complex matters for now; at the very least, Gu Hang hoped that the personnel dispatched could minimize the damage to the Green Valley Region, saving one more life and preserving one more grain of food if possible.

When he was finally able to free up resources to mobilize a real task force to the Green Valley Region to reclaim lost territory, it would be beneficial to have retained even a fraction of vitality there.

…

The rest of the report wasn't all that important.

Patel discussed the industrial situation in Weixing City;

Lambert talked about the legal system construction in the Twin Cities Region. He detailed the establishment of relevant legal provisions, court construction, law enforcement team development, intelligence system setup, anti-corruption issues…

He had indeed been officially appointed as the Chief Justice of the Alliance, under whose administration there were three committees: the Legislative Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Discipline Committee.

The legislative members were the fewest, responsible for establishing legal provisions at the behest of the governor; the executive was principally involved in law and order; discipline was mainly aimed at anti-corruption.

Gu Hang placed particular emphasis on the work of the Discipline Committee.

He was acutely aware that under the New Alliance's highly centralized, planned economic system, the ability to focus resources on major tasks was a prime advantage, allowing for undertakings that might

yield little short-term benefit but massive long-term gains. However, issues of systemic rigidity and corruption could be fatal to the new system.

As for systemic inflexibility, Gu Hang had already seen Osenia seeking solutions, with encouragement mainly focused on private and market-oriented economic practices.

Corruption wasn't yet an apparent problem, since in theory, the new regime had only been established for three to four months and shouldn't have significant issues.

But this matter required nipping in the bud. If allowed to grow into a pervasive, systemic problem before addressing it, solving it wouldn't be a simple pain.

Chapter 256: Loyal Heir Academy

After landing, Gu Hang's first important work meeting nearly concluded following Lambert's discussion on relevant legal system construction.

Once everyone had left, Gu Hang remained alone in the vast conference hall.

Sitting alone at the top of the large table, with his hands propping up his chin, he was deep in contemplation.

Sunlight streamed in from the side, illuminating half his face in light and the other in shadow, while stretching his silhouette long across the floor.

Beyond the earmarked 500 points of grace for the payment of the new soldier training base and the preparation of the training of fifty thousand new soldiers, he still had 4158 points at his disposal.

That was still a large sum, and Gu Hang was planning how to allocate these points of grace.

The highest priority was the Loyal Heir Academy.

Gu Hang now personally realized why rulers always felt anxious about the loyalty of their subordinates.

His career was still in the expansion phase, and his greatest concern wasn't rebellion or betrayal but rather corruption and whether people would work diligently and minimize shirking.

He worried that under the quickly expanding political system, the need to absorb talent from the Old Alliance to fill positions in the new government could bring bad practices to the New Alliance.

He was concerned that the political officers in the military, although trained, had not been trained intensively enough, akin to rushing ducks onto a perch. Currently, many "red-caps" were performing exceptionally well, exceeding Gu Hang's targets, but that didn't mean every political officer would perform the same, especially as the military expanded.

He also fretted over whether the diplomats and military commissioners sent to manage affairs in the disaster-stricken Green Valley Region were truly diligent, or whether they would exploit the opportunity for corruption, not only failing to meet Gu Hang's expectations but also tarnishing the New Alliance's reputation in the south, creating future obstacles in reclaiming the Green Valley Region.

Equally, he was concerned whether Lambert's Discipline Committee would loyally carry out their duties in identifying corrupt individuals within the government and military, without themselves becoming corrupt.

There was too much for him to worry about.

Could the Loyal Heir Academy completely alleviate his anxieties?

Probably not, but it could ease them.

Overall, according to the description of the Loyal Heir Academy within the "Construction" interface, the training there was quite effective on its own, not to mention that Gu Hang could use points of grace to directly promote people to the special unit of "trainee political officers".

Does a military unit necessarily have to be deployed within the army?

Not necessarily.

Without hesitation, Gu Hang spent the required 1000 points of grace for the Loyal Heir Academy.

And in preparation for this “construction,” the Wind-Extinguishing Loyal Heir Academy in Revival City had already been established a month earlier, with a prefix in its name commemorating Gu Hang’s initial battle.

The main curriculum of the academy focused on loyalty to the governor and the empire, teaching history and politics. It did not immediately recruit young students but primarily geared towards in-service staff for short-term advanced training.

In fact, the latest promotion scheme issued by the Civil Affairs Department explicitly mentioned that from rank D upwards, the experience in advanced training at the Wind-Extinguishing Academy would be a plus in the assessment; from D9 to C1, the step that usually signifies entering into a mid-level rank, a one-month training period became a mandatory criterion; further up from C1, that experience would carry significant weight.

Loyalty is the foremost duty.

This maxim of Gu Hang was thus implemented through such policies.

However, the current educational level at the Wind-Extinguishing Loyal Heir Academy was quite concerning. Gu Hang himself held the title of principal, but he indeed did not have the time to manage school affairs personally.

Those who actually taught were a selection of political officers and individuals who had followed Gu Hang for some time and had high ideological awareness. They compiled textbooks according to his directives and taught by rote.

What kind of educational quality could that yield? How could it elevate ideological consciousness?

But that didn’t matter. The primary goal was to meet the requirements of the “Construction” system.

To redeem the Loyal Heir Academy and allow it to take effect, it was necessary to have an already operational school to layer the construction effect onto and make it functional.

This meant that Gu Hang could afford to disregard instructional quality, as long as there was such a school in existence.

With the points spent, Gu Hang could already see the option to train the “squad political officers” unit on the “Troop Card” interface. However, unlike other units, this training required sending people to the Loyal Heir Academy to study for one week.

The following day, Gu Hang personally visited the Wind-Extinguishing Loyal Heir Academy and audited a few classes.

He wanted to personally experience the effects.

Since his visit was unannounced, there was no need to worry about excessive preparation that might give a skewed view of the true situation.

Certainly, his arrival stirred some turmoil within the school, but any attempt at organizing a welcome ceremony was immediately halted by him.

Chapter 257: Loyal Heir Academy_2

Gu Hang simply picked a few random classes and went in to listen to the lectures.

…

Jason Morgan and Haier Si Morgan, the married couple, never imagined that one day they would have the opportunity to attend a class with the Duke himself.

Jason, as an official in the Ministry of Civil Affairs – Immigration Bureau, exposed a group of looters disguised as civilians when he was dispatched to Sanchi Town. He nearly lost his life, but after returning, he was acknowledged for his meritorious conduct and was promoted directly to D2 level.

The bureau wanted to send him out again, and at first, he was very resistant.

The experience from the last time had left him trembling with fear, not to mention that the direction of the dispatch this time was the perilous Green Valley Region.

There, it wasn't just a matter of dealing with looters consisting of the unemployed and the dispossessed. Being captured by looters might not necessarily end in death, as an Alliance official taken as a hostage would fetch a pretty penny. On the other hand, killing an Alliance official would bring major trouble.

But the mutated monsters there were irrational, and encountering one meant an almost certain death by their bite.

However, he was soon persuaded by his wife yet again.

His wife, a person with particularly progressive thoughts, was truly a devoted spouse.

"Fortune favors the bold!"

After returning from his last dispatch, he was promoted two ranks, even skipping from E to D, which meant a significant increase in benefits and treatment. And this time, since he was going to an even more dangerous place, the anticipated promotion would probably be greater.

But before this mission, his leader had also managed to secure an opportunity for this 'active participant': to study at Wind-Extinguishing Zhongsi Academy.

With just a short period of training, it was a very significant experience, which would greatly assist him in climbing the ranks and reaching higher positions in the future.

And it wasn't just him attending the academy; his wife Haier Si Morgan, as well as his sister-in-law, Haier Si's sister Milia Derong, also came.

His wife worked as a clerical worker in a commercial company, and she, being so proactive and progressive in her daily life, with equally good performance, secured the same opportunity and also brought her sister along.

Jason could never have imagined that one day he would have the experience of studying with his wife.

The learning experience at Loyal Heir Academy was somewhat dull.

He and his sister-in-law frequently mocked together, criticising how the teachers' lectures were unexceptional and monotonous like chanting scriptures; the content was the same old detailed accounts of the Duke's achievements that they were all too familiar with.

Executing former Alliance rebel generals, suppressing the resurgence of the Evil God, battling the Green Skin Orcs… Indeed, these were legendary tales, but one would tire of hearing them a thousand times over.

Only his most progressive wife managed to maintain high spirits, and even privately urged her sister and husband to study seriously and not to treat it merely as a formality.

But… wasn't this just a formality? To come and listen to lectures, make up the hours, sing the praises of the Duke on the weekly exams according to the standard answers, and, in the end, receive a certificate of completion that would add to a beautiful resume and make future promotions more convenient.

Isn't that quite good?

Pay close attention to the lectures? It's pointless.

But today, the Duke himself came to inspect the classroom.

They controlled themselves not to turn their heads and disrespectfully stare at the Duke, but they couldn't erase the shock they felt upon entering the classroom and seeing the Duke casually sitting in the last row.

Under this sudden visit, no matter how uninterested they felt, they were determined to appear as if they were deeply moved and full of tears, even if the person on the podium was Mr. Maisike, known throughout the academy as the worst lecturer.

Perhaps, by catching the Duke's attention with an outstanding performance, they might ascend to the pinnacle of their careers?

However, as the class began, they realized there was no need to act.

Or rather, they started off intending to perform well, but as the class went on, they became thoroughly engrossed in instructor Maisike's presentation.

To tell the truth, the content he taught hadn't changed; it was still the same old material: the illustrious history and tragic experiences of Rage Owl Star, the Duke as a savior, the duty of loyalty to the Duke, the Duke as a representative of the Empire…

Yet, the content was much more vibrant and engaging.

He didn't just recite from the book; when speaking about the Rage Owl Star People's glorious life, his expression was filled with hopefulness; when mentioning their tragic life, it contained sorrow; and when talking about how the Duke alone developed the area outside the city, defeated the looters, and conquered cities, he was passionate and fiery.

Even Milia Derong, who had always shown impatience with these subjects, found herself moved by his words.

Leaving aside everything else, just listening to the story itself was interesting enough.

And as people were engrossed in these tales, the multitude of ideas that the class aimed to instill subtly entered their minds.

By the end of the class, the students were not only free from any sense of aversion but also somewhat captivated, wanting more.

It was then that they remembered the Duke was also part of their class.

Turning their heads, they could no longer see the Duke's figure; when he had left was anyone's guess.

…

Having listened to half a class, Gu Hang felt much more at ease.

He was reassured; the system's output was indeed effective.

After confirming the effectiveness of the course halfway through, Gu Hang discreetly made an early exit.

Outside the classroom, he encountered Reed Meshako, the Dean of Academics at Wind-Extinguishing Zhongsi Academy, who had been waiting there.

Chapter 258: Loyal Heir Academy_3

Meisheke was a cripple.

He had once been the political commissar of the 7th Garrison Division 4th Regiment. He had distinguished himself when he actively led his troops to attack the orc position, covering the star warriors as they penetrated deep into enemy ranks to carry out orbit strike marking tasks. But during the full-scale offensive following the orbital bombardment, as he was leading his troops deep into enemy lines, a bullet fired by a Green Skin shattered his leg.

Meisheke quickly lost consciousness due to excessive blood loss, and after being sent to the rear, he amputated one leg but saved his life.

Having lost a leg, Meisheke could no longer go into battle. But he soon received a new assignment from his old superior, Tadeusz: to go to the newly established Wind-Extinguishing Zhongsi Academy.

Initially, he only served as a lecturer. He used to think, “What qualifies me to teach others to be a teacher?”

Since there was no choice, he just had to lecture the way he had done ideological work for soldiers in the army.

But later, he found that among a group of rotten fish and shrimps, he was indeed the best speaker.

The worst were really those who simply read out the mediocre textbooks in a bland and uninspiring manner.

Soon, when the Wind-Extinguishing Zhongsi Academy needed a manager, he became the Academic Affairs Director by virtue of the rank of Major he had received upon his retirement, the Rejuvenation Medal, and his status as a combat hero. With Gu Hang, the principal, often away, he, the Academic Affairs Director, became the actual person in charge of the school’s educational work, together with another vice-principal who was only responsible for construction of physical facilities, leading the Wind-Extinguishing Zhongsi Academy.

He was always dedicated to building up the teacher team. He was consistently dissatisfied with the low standard of many lecturers and planned to fire some to see if that would make a difference.

The lecturer Maisike, who was teaching today, was one of those he considered the worst and had already been placed on his dismissal list.

However, he hadn’t expected that the governor would show up unannounced today and attend Maisike’s class.

Leaning on his cane, he hurried over but didn't dare to enter and disturb the class, so he could only sweat it out at the door.

Meisheke had mentally cursed a thousand times, wondering why he hadn't fired Maisike, this good-for-nothing, earlier to avoid such embarrassment today.

He was already trying hard to think of how to explain to the governor that Maisike did not represent the true teaching level of the Wind-Extinguishing Academy. Although there was still much room for improvement at the academy, it was because it had been established for such a short time; given a little longer, a bit more time, he would raise the educational level.

Unexpectedly, at the door, he listened to the best class on ideological education that he had heard since taking office at the school.

The impassioned voice of Maisike astonished Meisheke at the doorway.

Am I out of my mind to fire such a person?

No, why didn't you show your capability before, young man? Do you have to put on a good show only when the governor arrives?

That's good, too, saving me from shame in front of the governor…

With complex feelings, Meisheke silently removed Maisike from the dismissal list.

Then, with one hand on his cane, he saluted Gu Hang with the other: "Governor, please command!"

"Well done," Gu Hang encouraged, knowing that the previous inadequate educational level could not be blamed on Meisheke.

After a moment's thought, Gu Hang added, "There should be no need to worry about the level of lecturers now, but you need to rewrite the textbooks. Don't stick to one set of materials; they're too

rigid. Incorporate stories of heroes with brave deeds from the empire's history into the materials, especially those with outstanding performance from governors, and compare them to Rage Owl Star. Of course, don't make it too obvious…"

Meisheke quickly took out paper and pen and began to record the governor's instructions.

Afterwards, the textbook reform moved in that direction.

Chapter 259: Central Blossom Army Corps

After personally experiencing the enhanced level of teaching provided by the Architectural System, Gu Hang was very satisfied.

What was directly improved was the lecturing ability of the teachers and the educational atmosphere.

Similarly, he believed that the increased efficiency brought by the system had not yet been fully realized.

If there were to be superior textbooks in the future; better teaching hardware, such as corresponding images and videos to assist with explanations during lectures; and if the teachers themselves had a high enough level of expertise, with sufficient knowledge reserves…

With all these elements in place, combined with significant improvements in teachers' lecturing ability, educational atmosphere, and students' concentration from the system's boosts, the overall effect would be even more noticeable.

Only then would he be able to say that the thousand points of favor he had invested in Loyal Heir Academy were maximized.

To this end, Gu Hang specifically set aside an entire day to discuss the subsequent reform plans with Meisheke, the Dean of Academic Affairs, and the Vice Chancellor who had rushed over, promising that related educational funding would be prioritized for Loyal Heir Academy.

Additionally, Gu Hang specifically mentioned that Loyal Heir Academy should establish an advanced class for short-term training.

For this advanced class, Gu Hang would personally teach a lesson.

Meisheke noted this down.

This so-called advanced version was where Gu Hang planned to use grace points to train the “Battalion Political Commissars.”

The system called it by this name, and even designated it as a type of troop, but in reality, Gu Hang did not intend to use it merely as a breeding ground for military-political officers. He would gather those who performed well at the Loyal Heir Academy, or those from all walks of life who needed key training, throw them into this advanced class, and for the price of ten points of favor per person, train them to become “Battalion Political Commissars.”

After graduation, these individuals would return to their posts with the will of the most loyal warriors, leading by example.

Of course, training military-political officers was also a very important part of the plan.

Gu Hang initially offered seventy slots.

This would cost him seven hundred points of favor.

But the sacrifice was worth the reward.

Fifty qualified commissars would be drawn from various military units and after returning, they would enter the staffs of various divisions and regiments, taking on the role of political officers. They would be the most steadfast ideological force within the military, ensuring loyalty to the governor and maintaining morale and discipline during combat.

Out of the additional twenty people, fifteen would be from different levels of government institutions. After returning, they were also expected to bring back their faith, ideals, and loyalty; the remaining five would come from companies, factories, and other enterprises.

Their promotion speeds would be faster than the average person, but the responsibilities they shouldered would also be greater.

Gu Hang looked forward to the time when these seeds would take root and sprout.

If the seeds were not enough, then several more batches would be cultivated.

…

The Morgan Couple and their sister Milia were all selected for the advanced class.

They were fully aware of what a precious opportunity this was.

Simply attending classes at Loyal Heir Academy, regardless of what they could learn, had already become a golden credential in the new alliance society. Not to mention, they were also part of the advanced classes held from time to time, receiving personal instruction from the governor himself.

With that, their golden credentials shone even brighter.

Who in the future could question their loyalty?

Moreover, after the seven-day course, they truly knew more than just a surface layer of gold.

Jason Morgan discussed with his wife, and they both felt that they had learned a lot of substantial things.

First and foremost was military skills.

A part of the seven-day course was military training. Just within these few days, they felt like they had become qualified warriors, able to fight with a gun.

For someone without any prior military training, this was the most noticeable perception.

Another important aspect was that they knew how to inspire morale, excite people, and enforce discipline.

This included skills in language, expression, body language, and how to lead by example in everyday life, what were principles and what could be flexible. They should form deep friendships, care for and understand others' thoughts, and become a friend, a brother, and a reliable figure; but at the same time, they needed to build authority, instill beliefs and ideals of loyalty in others, and in crucial moments, be ruthless, uphold bottom lines, set examples, and use their authority, prestige, affinity, and even violence to inspire morale and maintain discipline.

This knowledge wasn't just talk; they also understood specific ways to implement it.

Truth be told, they still felt as if they were dreaming: Are we geniuses by nature? To understand everything in just seven days?

They even doubted the part of the brain that had developed this new knowledge. Would these methods really work in practice?

They didn't know yet, as there was no environment to put it into practice.

However, if the occasion arises, they would just try it out, surely the governor's teachings couldn't be wrong, right?

As for whether their own level of ideological awareness had improved…

Chapter 260: Central Blossom Army Corps_2

Others might have different opinions, but at least Jason Morgan didn't feel much of anything.

What's the big deal about being loyal to the governor, loving the Alliance; having firm beliefs, guaranteeing loyalty… He had recited those things ten thousand times before, he already knew them. So what if he recited them a few more times, could there really be any special change?

Could it truly make me stand up and face danger, fight for the beliefs in my heart, even at the cost of my life?

Impossible, that would never happen in this lifetime.

That was what he thought.

However, what he didn't know was that at certain crucial moments, on certain key decisions, humans are sometimes not purely rational, not purely self-interested. Heroes who stand up often do so because of a single thought, which leads to jaw-dropping feats of valor.

…

The benefits of participating in the Loyal Heir Advanced Class came faster than expected.

Besides the knowledge gained, the promotion within the Alliance's internal system was also forthcoming.

Moreover, there had been a scramble among some important departments to recruit among these twenty non-military personnel.

For instance, Haier Si Morgan, after graduation, was quickly transferred out of her original unit. She was called into the Wind-Extinguishing Zhongsi Academy as a candidate for an outstanding lecturer. She had been known as an 'ideological progressive' even before entering the advanced class, and now, she was able to further leverage her advantage. Moreover, she was very likely to be involved in the upcoming curriculum reform of the academy.

Her sister, Milia Derong, was poached by the Discipline Committee under Lambert. The anti-corruption and auditing work required people who were intellectually progressive and possessed a sense of justice.

Jason Morgan himself didn't have any job movement, but he was soon promoted to a D3-level employee and was dispatched to the Southern Green Valley Region as the local Civil Affairs Liaison Officer, responsible for the reception of refugees, and he would be departing soon. His past achievements were now further gilded; should he accomplish more in the south, the road ahead would be wide open to him.

Apart from these twenty government employees, the fifty political commissars selected from various levels of the military did not have specific promotions.

But that was also alright, as they themselves held high and influential positions.

Before joining the advanced class, they were already military and political chiefs of various units, essentially covering division, brigade, and regimental commissars, as well as instructors of the Composite Camp within the First Cease Wind Brigade. After returning to their respective units, they basically continued with their original duties, but undoubtedly, they would be far better off than the previous makeshift appointments.

Furthermore, although there were no changes in their positions, their military ranks generally saw a promotion.

The New Alliance Army was not small in size, but compared to its scale, the levels of officers at all ranks were generally quite low. For example, division and brigade commanders often held the rank of colonel; regimental commanders were mostly lieutenant colonels; battalion commanders were generally only captains, and many company commanders were mere first or second lieutenants. A large number of platoon leaders weren't even commissioned officers but were instead non-commissioned officers.

This was due to historical issues. The army had been established for a short period, especially after the recapture of the high tower ruins; many of these garrison divisions were converted from original adventure groups. Although they had been trained through the "Soldier Card" system, the personnel remained the same, with the military chiefs mostly being former leaders of the adventure groups. Even though their groups were severely fragmented and dismantled to minimize factionalism, these individuals were still relied upon as leaders.

Therefore, Gu Hang deliberately kept a cap on military ranks. Those who did well and earned military merits were promoted, with future commanders and brigade leaders matching the rank of colonel; those who did not perform well didn't need to be demoted, they simply took on tasks corresponding to their ranks.

In a situation where military chiefs generally held lower ranks, political commissars such as second-in-commands could hardly surpass them, often being even a rank lower.

But in this round, Gu Hang pulled up most of the returned fifty political commissars by one level, mostly bringing them to the same rank as the military chiefs of their respective units.

This reflected his attitude.

…

Jordan Leroy was an old member of the Abandoned Cave Society, just like Perbov, being one of the first soldiers to come out of the society. He was selected as a political commissar in the first batch, in the same period as Tadeusz, and was also a red cap. He currently held the position of brigade political commissar for the 1st Extinguishing Wind Brigade.

Previously a lieutenant colonel, he had just been specially awarded the rank of colonel by the governor, on par with their brigade commander Perbov.

His unit left the starship a week ago, and after landing, entered a state of leave. He, on the other hand, was thrown into the Zhongsi Academy by a transfer order to attend the advanced class.

Three days prior, his unit ended their leave and replenished over two thousand soldiers from the recruit camp, along with a set of equipment just transported from the Weixing City Arsenal, filling the losses from the battle at the starship.

Subsequently, the unit departed from their garrison and headed west of Revival City.

There, the 7th and 8th Divisions were confronting an army formed by the allied rebel settlements.

The newly added troops were meant to reinforce the 7th and 8th Divisions and to achieve crucial battlefield results in the shortest time period to end the hostilities.

Therefore, right after his course at the Zhongsi Academy ended, Leroy immediately took a vehicle, along with many other political commissars who were also going into battle, to a location on the secondary lines of the battlefield about one hundred thirty kilometers west of Revival City.