

THE SUTEN PEOPLE

The Suten people have diversified over the centuries, and have formed into three distinct subgroups. The purpose of this section is to add a little more depth to PC's and NPC's for the Sutenlund campaign.



Central Sutens (Middenlanders): Central Sutens consider themselves the culture bearers of the Suten people. It is from this core group that the other subgroups sprang from. Central Sutens are considered snobbish and intolerant by the other subgroups. The majority of middenlanders choose the path of Teutonikar over Helga, are very orderly, and traditional (believing that the Suten culture must be preserved and kept free of "barbaric" influences). Women are encouraged to stay home and fulfill their duty to raise future generations for the fatherland. families are usually large (4-8 children per family is the norm) All emperors come from middenlander bloodlines, as do all high priests of Teutonikar. Middenlander dialects are very formal and proper.



Northern Sutens (Norlanders): Northern Sutens are close kin to the Sutarl, and maintain strong family ties with their Scandar dwelling relatives. Norlanders are a bit taller, lighter haired, and politically fractious. Their society is still somewhat clan orientated, but to a lesser degree than their northern kin. families are modest (2-6 children per family is the average). Norlanders value freedom and independance from central authority. Their territoty is comprised of city states, petty merchant kingdoms, and merchant republics. They are master seafarers, trading as far as mooria and Sadia! This sea trade has made their region one of the wealthiest in all of northern Arda. Norlander dialects are curt, saturated with vulgar slang, and fast paced. Teutonikar is the prime patron deity, but many still accept the " old gods" as patrons. Norlanders are not a pious people, and devote little time to religious activities.



Western Sutens (Westlanders): The westlanders are the empires source of change and popular culture. Westlanders consider themselves enlightened, liberal, and more advanced than their kinfolk in other regions. In the 12 and 1300's the people of this region drove out the established nobility, and after a bloody civil war with the empire, they won the right of commonwealth status. The western commonwealth is divided into three republics, that have representation in the imperial council, and are bound by the commonlaw to defend the empire against foreign invasion. The commonwealth may engage in its own foreign policy, does not have to send tax revenues to the empire, and cannot have its internal policies overturned by the imperial council. Westlanders are a bit shorter, stockier, and darker than their fellow Sutens. Many are bilingual (speaking Bretonian and Suten) and marry within Bretonian families. Their dialect is slow paced, smooth, and mixed with bretonian words. The Church of Helga is the dominant religious institution.



Eastern, Border, and Southern Sutens (Ostlanders/Auslanders/ Grenzlanders): The last Suten group to be mentioned is this one. A fusion of westlander and norlander people, Ostlanders are the bastard children of the empire. The majority of the populace descends from fugitives, misfits, landless nobility, and heretics. The physical features of the Ostlanders is varied, as are the customs and societies within their region. Immigrants from all over the empire pour into the Ostlanders domain, creating the most diverse society in northern Arda. Although few will admit it, Ostlanders are the most tolerant of Suten groups. In the east, Slavic stubbornness and tenacity has fused with Suten conservatism and ingenuity. In the south, Gaulic language and customs, as well as holidays have been incorporated into the culture, as well as mixed bloodlines (gaulic women are greatly desired and sought as wives). The Church of Helga is the most popular religious institution, with Slavic and Gaulic deities slowly emerging from centuries of prohibition within Suten society as an alternative. Teutonikar is worshipped in areas that were settled by middenlanders, and are opposed to integration with non Sutens.