

Collapse of the Modern World

The **Collapse of the Modern World**, often abbreviated as **CotMW**, can be defined as both the event on an alternate Terra and the universe named after it.

CotMW Universe

The universe known as the Collapse of the Modern World is one of two major Beta universes in the relevant emulated reality. This universe in particular hosts a unique time discrepancy of 710 years, thanks to its standard After Settlement (AS) calendar. This means that a person born in 2000 CE and another person in 2000 AS are contemporaries, despite the latter being born in 2710 CE.

The most prevalent nation in the CotMW universe is Motropolia and is usually the center of technological progress. It descends from the Netherlands.

CotMW Event

The event known as the Collapse of the Modern World was a global economic and military collapse, occurring in 2206 CE and lasting until 2210 CE. Although it has been likened to the Late Bronze Age Collapse, the Collapse of the Modern World is different in its cause and manner of collapse.

Background

Up until 2206 CE, all of the nations of the world, including those that oppose it, have become dependent on the United States of America for economic support. This was done in an effort by American corporations to control the production, processing and retail of many scarce goods, including drinking water, crude oil and wood.

To prevent these corporations from seizing all the assets for themselves, the President of the United States signed an executive order in 2142 that put these corporations under strict government control. This became a constitutional obligation in 2156, in which any attempt at fraud, be it bribery, tax evasion or general malpractice, became unconstitutional.

The side effect of this tight control was expense: very early on, the United States needed to borrow and print capital to sustain control. By 2200 CE, it had become completely unsustainable, and much more money was being spent maintaining control than was earned from the total capital of the world. This was despite the insistent prediction that the circular model was eternally sustainable.

An inquiry into the dependency, done 31 years before the Collapse by the government of Benelux, already revealed that the model was unsustainable, and had thus taken preliminary measures. Despite this, the rest of the world loudly ignored the inquiry, fearing that a dispute between the United States and the rest of the world would end in an apocalypse.

Collapse

On January 28th, 2206 CE, the U.S. federal government announced that it could no longer pay anyone, and many of the corporations were uncooperative in bailing out the government. In addition, the government accumulated an unprecedented 1.2 quadrillion US dollars in debt, even after depreciating and reintroducing the currency due to inflation.

Under pressure from corporations, banks and many dependent countries, the federal government dissolved itself on March 8th at 12:00PM. However, earlier that day on 9:02AM, an emergency bill was approved in Congress that approved the use of violent counteraction against the formation of a new government, and dissolved all public agencies, except for the military.

This caused a domino effect on the entire planet, forcing other countries to dissolve their governments and disallow new ones. The poorer and less organized governments quickly fell to rebels, whereas more powerful countries managed to keep their old territories as no man's land for a fairly long time.

The only exception to the lack of Western rebel control was Benelux, who had been completely mobilized before the dissolution of their government. The Dutch were the only people mandated to re-establish their country in new territories and ransack any non-compliant regions. Thus, they drove out and killed many Central European peoples, in some cases to the point of total extinction within the new borders.

During this time, there was a worldwide famine, as many things dependent on electricity were shut down completely, including refrigeration and climate control. In addition, many sources of food were ransacked and stolen (from), and some were poisoned to prevent the survival of rebel and otherwise adversarial groups.

Aftermath

After only three years, the world had mostly recovered from the chaos. The dominant attitude was survivalist, however, and culture was cast aside. Motropolia became the only major country in the world, with the rest culminating in either unions of a shared former identity, alliances between certain ethnic groups or conquests emulating those of Motropolia.

Many technologies were destroyed and used to aid the essentials for survival, which counterintuitively helped cool the planet. Plastics were also used for this purpose, often being mended and reshaped before being put to use.

Food and water remained a scarcity for most of the world until the 18th century AS, by which point they were abundant in major countries. However, meat and dairy remained a commodity for the elite until the 19th century, technological progress was withheld until the 20th century, and the major world religions went extinct, as the Collapse had instilled a lack of faith, turning holy scriptures into merely fuel.