



**CYBERPEDIA**

A Guide to Equatorial Cyberspace

## Icasia

Icasia is the name of a fictional country on the fictional continent of Equatorial Cyberspace located between here and there. There isn't really a country called Icasia.

### Geography

Icasia is a country 973,426 square kilometers, located in Equatorial Cyberspace. It is bordered in the south by Brynania, Ruritania and Udem. The Cyberian Ocean surrounds the country in the north, west and south.

The southeastern region is mostly flat along the Uдеми and Ruritanian borders, becoming progressively more mountainous in the more western regions developing into the Neuromancer Range near the Brynanian-Icasian-Ruritanian border. Much of the country is heavily forested with tropical jungle, including high-value tropical hardwoods. The beaches in the south of the country are famed for their natural beauty.

### Demography

The total population of Icasia was estimated by the UN at 31.8 million in 2014, with no reliable census having been taken in the country in many years. That same estimate showed that the country is relatively ethnically homogeneous, as 81% of the population are Icasians. The remainder is made up of various ethnic groups from across the continent, including a growing population of Zaharian and Brn refugees near the border with Brynania. The Icasian population has strong traditions of female leadership and many Icasian leaders have been women.

Approximately 23% of the population is urban. The largest city is the capital, **Nechandehal**, (c2,400,000) located along the western coast. Icasia has several ports, the most important of which is the capital city. Others include **Haligonia** (c1,000,000) on the northern coast and **Piraeus** (c900,000) near the border with Udem. The main inland cities are the agricultural centre of **Wheatabix** (c800,000) near the country's geographic centre, and the mining city of **Kushnirgrad** (c775,000) near the Ruritanian border.

### Economy

The Icasian economy is among the weakest on the continent, with a GNP of USD\$22.5 billion. Icasia's GNP per capita is \$710 (\$2,135 PPP adjusted), placing it ahead of only Brynania. The largest part of the economy remains agricultural, with food exports and lumber accounting for 51% of GNP. The main crops are grains

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A guide to Equatorial Cyberspace.  
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### Icasia



Map of Equatorial Cyberspace

#### Area

973,426 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Population

31,800,000

#### Capital City

- Nechandehal

#### Major Cities

- Haligonia
- Kushnirgrad
- Nechandehal
- Piraeus
- Wheatabix

#### Languages

Icasian, French widely spoken

#### Flag of Icasia



such as wheat and barley as well as rice production in wetter regions. Cattle also make up a substantial portion of the economy.

**GNP (2018)**  
\$22,578 million

The mineral wealth of the southern region remains largely undeveloped due to poor infrastructure and the inability of the government to secure sufficient foreign investment to exploit these resources. Diamonds and other mineral production provide 23% of GNP. All diamond mines in the country are owned and operated by the multinational conglomerate **DiaCo**. The industry is under threat, however, amid reports that gems from Brynania have been illegally smuggled into the country. This has led to Icasia being suspended from the **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme**.

Tourism is a potentially important industry in Icasia, given its beaches and native wildlife. However, poor infrastructure, the civil war in neighbouring Brynania, and a high crime rate have prevented effective development of Icasia's tourism potential.

In recent years, government economic mismanagement has resulted in stagnation, skyrocketing inflation and capital flight. In 2008 the government reached, but subsequently failed to implement, a structural adjustment program with the IMF. Presently, Icasia's external debt is estimated at \$10 billion, and its annual budget deficit approaches 12% of GDP.

## Transportation

Icasian transportation links remain primitive. Although good links exist along the coastline and between the capital and Wheatabix and Kushnirgrad, the vast expanse of the interior is covered only sparsely by paved roads and much of the network is made up of unpaved links.

The only major airport in Nechandehal and can accommodate all but the largest modern aircraft. It is equipped for night and poor-weather landings. Other airports exist in Haligonia and Piraeus, suitable for medium-sized passenger aircraft. Rough airfields suitable only for STOL flights are located in Wheatabix and Kushnirgrad.

## History

The Icasians are an ancient people, having established a civilisation in the north of Equatorial Cyberspace long before the Common Era. Unusually, however, in the long sweep of Icasian history very few individual leaders made their mark. Since its earliest beginning, Icasian culture has been marked by this high degree of decentralisation and consensus-based decision-making. Although the Icasian empire covered much of the northern part of the continent, it was long past its glory days when the first Belgians landed on its shores in 1862. After a short and decisive war, Belgium formally took possession of the region on November 9, 1863. Colonial rule in Icasia was notable only for the total stagnation which it created in the country. By the 1950s, the situation was so desperate for Icasians that many left for neighbouring Udem or Brynania. It was only exhaustion after two World Wars and intense international pressure which led the colonial state to relinquish its territory. Independence day was arranged so as to fall on the centennial of the start of Belgian rule. The date is observed today as a day of both national mourning and rejoicing.

Icasia's first president was elected in a ballot held on the same date as its independence. The elections were not open or free by any standards. The winner, **Linus van Pelt**, was widely considered to be a Belgian collaborator and his ruling coalition, Brotherhood, Order, Respect and Good Grooming (BORGG), followed a policy of close ties with Belgium, joining the Francophonie and maintaining close economic ties. Frustrated by the government's seeming total lack of interest in the well-being of the country, the military staged a coup on September 10, 1965. The new regime followed a policy of fierce Icasia-cisation, forbidding the teaching of French in schools, withdrawing from the Francophonie and banning all trade with Belgium. It simultaneously adopted a policy of belligerence towards Icasia's powerful neighbour, Ruritania. On June 5, 1967, border clashes erupted between the two countries. A coup was then launched on August 13 of that year by a group of army officers convinced that extending the war any further would cause the total collapse of the state. A peace agreement was quickly signed, and the fighting ceased on October 6. Icasia emerged from the

fighting with a weaker government than ever due to a (unrealistic) view by many the armed forces were on the brink of victory, only to be stabbed in the back by the traitors in Nechandehal.

New elections were held in 1970, 1981, and 1996, and 2003. These, like all others in the country's history, were characterized by widespread fraud and intimidation.

Icasia's government has been heavily reliant on foreign aid, which has declined sharply since the end of the Cold War. It remains one of the most underdeveloped on the continent. While the ethnic homogeneity of the country has averted some of the ethnic tensions that have so afflicted neighbouring Brynania, even this has not been enough to prevent growing public protests at the poor state of the economy. There are widespread reports of government corruption, and the current president, **Clara Appelshoffer**, is rumoured to have amassed a personal fortune of almost \$1 billion.

In recent months, Icasia has seen a growing number of anti-government demonstrations calling for economic reforms and free elections, inspired by events in neighbouring Udem (the so-called "Udemi Spring").

## Foreign Relations

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The Icasian government has generally followed a policy of non-confrontation, although the current President has stated on more than one occasion that she dreams of one day seeing the Icasian people all reunited under a single flag. The plight of the Icasian minority in Brynania has evoked much sympathy in their mother country for the cause of the small **Eastern Icasian Freedom Movement**, a small irredentist group of ethnic Icasians from western Brynania. The government of Brynania has complained that **EIFM** offices operate openly on Icasian territory (notably in Refugee Camp #3), and that EIFM propaganda and fund-raising takes place unhampered by the local authorities.

Ties with Ruritania have been much improved since 1973. Ethnic links have ensured a close friendship with Udem since the latter's independence in 1964.

In its foreign relations, Icasia has returned to the Francophonie and normalised relations with Belgium and the European Union. It is a significant recipient of foreign aid, at over USD\$800 million per annum through both multilateral and bilateral programs.

## Armed Forces

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The Icasian military is large but very poorly equipped, trained, and led. The army has 20,000 soldiers, equipped with 40 AMX-13 light tanks and about 60 Panhard M3 and other light armoured vehicles. The navy consists of 1,500 personnel, with 2 *Jiangnan*-class frigates and 3 *Combattante II*-class attack craft. The air force consists of 1,000 personnel with 12 ancient MiG-21 fighters of dubious operability and several helicopters.

*Disclaimer: Brynania is not a real country and exists as part of a fictional conflict simulation.*