



CYBERPEDIA

A Guide to Equatorial Cyberspace

Udem

Udem 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 Udem.

Geography

Udem is a country spanning 176,073 square kilometers and located on the southwest shore of Equatorial Cyberspace. It is bordered by Icasia to the north and by Ruritania along its lengthy western border. Several small waterways from the ocean cut into the low plains from the coast; the most prominent is the Shiami river, which serves as the primary route of transportation into the interior of the country. Bordering Ruritania, the terrain is primarily flat while the coastal region is more mountainous. The climate is largely semi-arid.

Demography

Udem is the smallest in terms of population in Equatorial Cyberspace, with some 8.4 million people according to the 2019 Cyberian Development Report. The majority, approximately 80%, of the population are ethnic Icasians whose ancestors migrated into Udem in the 19th century. The remaining minority is comprised of mainly of Ruritarians, as well as some Brn who fled from Brynania during the early years of the civil war or have arrived as refugees in the last two years. While the dominant language is that of the Icasians, the Ruritarians have retained the right to control their own education and cultural communities.

The population is primarily rural. The largest city is the capital, **Willowee** (850,000). The remainder of the population is situated in small coastal towns where they can make their livelihood. There exist two prominent coastal towns: **Amunro** on the northerly coast near Icasia (250,000), and **Pahig** on the southerly shore neighbouring Ruritania (195,000). The internal plains of Udem hold a small minority of the population surviving off of basic agricultural products.

Economy

The economy of Udem consists primarily of fish, which is exported to Ruritania and Brynania, and small quantities of agricultural goods such as wheat, corn and cattle, which is raised in the internal valleys. Coastal coal mining projects have been attempted and subsidized by the government to attract foreign investment. However, most efforts have been unsuccessful despite providing for temporary employment opportunities in Amunro. The civil war in Brynania has fostered some growth for the Ude mi economy as the decline of the former's agricultural sector has generated modest growth in Ude mi exports of wheat, cattle, and fish. Udem also receives significant foreign aid from France, as part of the agreement under which it

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A guide to Equatorial Cyberspace.
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Udem



Map of Equatorial Cyberspace

Area

176,073 km²

Population

8,400,000

Capital City

- Willowee

Major Cities

- Amunro
- Pahig
- Willowee

Languages

Icasian, Ruritanian, French widely spoken

Flag of Udem



hosts the French military base at Amunro.

Recent UN statistics indicate GNP of \$850 per capita (\$2,974 PPP adjusted) - far lower than that of Ruritania or Concordia. However, with increased exports to Europe this figure is expected to rise, provided the government also undertakes much-needed structural adjustment programs. Negotiations with the IMF on these are underway, with an agreement expected to bring a rescheduling of the country's modest external debt as well as loans for infrastructure development from the World Bank.

GNP (2018)
\$7,149 million

Transportation

The primary waterway provided by the Shiami river allows access from the coast into the internal plains and is easily navigable by small boat. Beyond this, roads are primarily rural and scarce and only recently has the government made more efforts to pave the roads that lead into the capital city of Willowee. Port access is readily available, however this does little to foster regional trade. Udem possesses a modest international airport at Willowee, and a large French-controlled military airfield at Amunro, and smaller airstrips at other major provincial towns.

History

Like Brynania, Udem was a French colony until its independence in 1964. While under colonial rule, many Icasians migrated from the northwest plains of Icasia to Udem as the economy appeared more promising for them at the time. Previous to this, the colony of Udem was drastically under-populated and underdeveloped, providing little for the French government. After the migration of the Icasians, the population began to demand more independence and France, already having granted Brynania independence in 1961, saw little to gain in retaining Udem.

Following independence, a provisional civilian government was formed, dominated by the Icasian population. The provisional civilian government was functional for two years and in June 1966 an election was held to vote for members of a new government that would include a parliament of 220 members. However, despite the relatively legitimate nature of the elections, the new government (headed by right-wing populist, **Presto Manninga**) soon gave into corruption and scandal. The Manninga government was heavily influenced by the pro-French military establishment and by the increasing importance given to the military as a response to rising ethnic tensions in Brynania and Icasian-Ruritanian tensions.

In 1970, Manninga's personal life was in tatters as he suffered from a chronic disease of the vocal cords and collapsed under both physical and emotional pressure. No new elections were held to replace him; the members of the government that had been elected in 1966 remained in their positions. Manninga himself was replaced by the charismatic leader, **Jack Djaroueh Bouchezeau**.

Bouchezeau was a high-ranking member of the Udem military with partial French ancestry. While he is reported to have received substantial economic assistance from France, little of this was invested in the country. Under Bouchezeau's rule, military corruption ran rampant and the economy faltered. He ruled for twenty years until he was ousted by the **Jaclyn Ting** in 1990. Elections held in 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015 confirmed Ting's leadership of the country, although opposition leaders complained that the balloting was less than fair. In the past decade the government has considerably reduced the high levels of corruption associated with the military, and its popularity declined among military officials who still exerted considerable influence.

In January, the arrest and beating of a fishmonger in Pahig by local police sparked widespread anti-government demonstrations, later dubbed by the media as the "**Udemi Spring**." Within days, these had spread to the capital with trade unions and opposition groups calling for the resignation of President Ting and the holding of free and fair elections. Following the "**Triticale Massacre**" in which eleven protesters were shot dead by members of the gendarmerie in the capital, the armed forces announced the resignation of the President Ting and the establishment of the Supreme Council of the People (SCOP), a joint military-civilian government. **Field Marshal Kim Beaulieu** assumed the position of President, while lawyer and human rights activist **Shanny Kaplan** took up the positions of Prime Minister and Foreign

Minister. The SCOP has promised new elections by the end of 2020.

Foreign Relations

Udem is a prominent member of the Francophonie, Organization of Cyberian Nations, WTO and United Nations. In 1964 the Cyberian Franc Bloc was established to promote more cooperation between Brynania and Udem. When Icasia joined in 1966, suggestions of more economic integration became common. However, lack of agreement on currency control dissolved the ties between the three members of the Cyberian Franc Bloc.

Since independence, France has maintained a military base in Udem. In 2010, the government also allowed the US to establish limited military facilities at the same location. China has expressed some interest in similar facilities.

Since the beginning of the civil war in Brynania, Udem has remained neutral in the conflict. Despite ethnic ties to the Icasians living in Brynania, the Uдеми government has made statements demonstrating its unwillingness to commit its own troops and scarce economic resources to become involved a distant war.

Relations with both Ruritania and Uqamistan have been tense in recent years. Ruritania's power--and the presence of a Ruritanian minority in Udem--have been an issue of concern for the Uдеми leaders, who have maintained defence relations with France as a guarantee against any hegemonic ambitions by their neighbour. In turn, the continued presence of French forces in Udem has frequently been criticized by both Ruritania and the revolutionary government of Uqamistan.

Ties with Icasia have historically been very warm, reinforced by the family bonds between many citizens of the two countries.

Not surprisingly, the "Uдеми Spring" has resulted in closer Uдеми relations with Concordia, Cyberia's only fully democratic country.

Armed Forces

The military in Udem remains the smallest of all countries in Equatorial Cyberspace. It remains at 10,600 consisting of army (8,600, with 30 *Panhard* M-3 APC), navy (1000, 4 patrol craft), and air force (1000, 12 *Mirage III* fighters, 4 *Puma* helicopters). The military is primarily configured as an internal security force. France is reportedly considering the delivery of an additional 45 VAB and VBRG armoured personnel carriers, under a bilateral military assistance programme.

Udem's protection against external threat is provided by the continued presence of the French military base and 3,000 French and 300 US military personnel at Amunro. This base is garrisoned by one battalion of the French Foreign Legion, plus supporting units. An associated military airstrip and port facilities periodically host French and American transport aircraft and naval vessels, and larger French contingents sometimes undertake training exercises in Udem.

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