

# The Cellular (Landed) Aristocracy



The fairy tale at the start of this book made reference to kings and queens, princes and princesses. Why would [land-based capitalism](#) revive a feudal institution? What could a landed aristocracy even mean, when land is in a [commons trust](#)?

As I write this, Queen Elizabeth II is being laid to rest. Tens of thousands are lined up for miles, waiting even longer than 12 hours to say good-bye. Even if you believe the aristocracy is a bunch of malarky, there are many who do not.

The real questions are “Can an aristocracy bring increased wealth, happiness, and productivity to the world without sacrificing either freedom or democracy?” and “Can we create a world where equity, efficiency, and eminence are all at a maximum?” The answer to these questions is an emphatic “Yes!”

The highest payer of [ground rent](#) in a [level 2 dominion](#) or above has the right to qualify as a landed aristocrat. This right is extended to a [sovereign entity](#), which is typically an individual, family or collective.

Any adult member of the sovereignty can assume the role of aristocrat, provided they are willing and able to perform the duties of their office and have not been voted an embarrassment by the [district council](#). Should all adult members of the sovereignty fail to be both willing, able, and eligible for the role, the right passes to the next highest payer of ground rent in the [dominion](#), and so on.

Prior to the first [Phase II dominion](#), commons trust land is isolated in multiple jurisdictions. No jurisdiction has reached the concentration needed to form a [Phase II commons trust](#) or [cellular democracy](#). In worldwide [Phase I](#), there can be only one aristocrat – the emperor or empress (title gender is up to the title holder).

The emperor is the highest payer of ground rent in the world. The emperor’s duty is to be the international public face of [AFFEERCE](#) and then land-based capitalism. The [ABC](#) is a corporation, the [VIP Treasury](#) are monetary theorists and other assorted experts, and government and [community oversight](#) members are also not best suited for the role.

The emperor must host negotiations between AFFEERCE delegations and the delegations of current national governments. AFFEERCE delegations can include representatives from VIP Treasury and [Land Management](#), the ABC, high-level Phase II cellular councils (when they form), [ISO](#) working groups, and members from community oversight.

The emperor arranges and pays for travel to the conference site, pays for hotel and food, welcomes delegations from both sides, and hosts after-hours entertainment. Hosting intra-AFFEERCE conferences and negotiation conferences not at the national level is optional. Otherwise, these conferences are hosted by the ABC, or the lower-level aristocracy of Phase II dominions when they form.

The emperor can be removed by 2/3 of [property owners](#) on commons land or by the owners of 2/3 of the VIP\$ in circulation. In Phase II, the emperor can be removed by 2/3 of the high-level Phase II cellular councils with a 2/3 vote to remove on each of those councils.

After [federation](#), the removal of an emperor requires only a majority vote of the high-level council. If an emperor is deposed, the right to be emperor passes to the next highest payer of ground rent.

The cellular aristocracy is a constitutionally defined feature of the cellular democracy. What are the reasons for a cellular aristocracy?

| Reasons for the Aristocracy                                   |
|---|
| To generate revenue from a desire for status                  |
| To provide a role for status seekers outside of policy making |
| To reinforce the concept that location value is a luxury item |
| To host cellular government                                   |
| To pay travel and entertainment expenses                      |
| To pay building expenses                                      |
| To help form cellular democracies                             |
| Continuity, celebrity, and fun                                |

[Dominions](#) embarrassed by an aristocracy can dispense with it by majority vote of the district council, or majority vote of the direct democracy. However, it is expected that most dominions will enjoy the vast benefits, both monetary and in overall quality of life offered by a landed aristocracy.

Although promoting an aristocracy is much ridiculed, it is hard to fault an idea that will literally save residents as much as \$100 billion. As the late Senator Everett Dirksen would say, "That's real money." What exactly does aristocratic title mean in a free and democratic society?

## **Title**

Title is offered first to sovereign individuals or sovereignties paying the highest total ground rent within the dominion. For example, the grand baron of a given district will lose their title if a resident of the district, paying a higher rent, wishes to assume the title.

Title is completely voluntary. If one does not wish a title, it passes to the next highest payer of ground rent. If at a later time, the highest payer of ground rent changes their mind, they can usurp the title at will.

Title carries with it many responsibilities of a pecuniary nature referred to by the French *noblis oblige*. Most members of the aristocracy enjoy these responsibilities. They include hosting parties for representatives, sponsoring fact-finding trips out of dominion, paying for airfare and hotels for your delegation, hosting evening entertainment, choosing restaurants, serving as a social ambassador, arranging schedules, leading sightseeing expeditions, and, significantly, maintain government office buildings as palaces.

Other members of the aristocratic family ([sovereignty](#)) can assume a title one level down from the main titleholder, and in dominions where there is more than one aristocrat, they can assume aristocratic duties ahead of the next highest-paying family (sovereignty).

The decision as to which member of a sovereignty assumes the title is made within the sovereignty. Other members of the sovereignty can assume a title one level down from the main titleholder, or assume aristocratic duties ahead of others paying a lower ground rent.

Title can be removed by a 2/3 vote of the associated cell or district, if the aristocrat is deemed an embarrassment to the dominion.

Titles will vary in language by cultural districts. Gender variation is at the discretion of the person assuming the title. Here is a proposed set of English titles.

| Level of Dominion | Title   |
|-------------------|---|
| 2                 | Squire, Sir, Madam  |
| 3                 | Lord or Lady  |
| 4                 | Baron or Baroness   |
| 5                 | Count or Countess   |
| 6                 | Duke or Duchess   |
| 7                 | Prince or Princess  |
| 8                 | King or Queen   |
| 9                 | King, Queen, Emperor, or Empress (world's highest payer of ground rent) |

## Savings

The aristocracy saves the taxpayer a fortune in financing boondoggles, entertaining visiting dignitaries, and maintaining embassies (prior to Worldwide Federation). Perhaps the biggest savings comes from maintaining government office buildings as palaces.

Not only does this provide the government with free office space and paid utilities, but the palaces, as a point of pride for the aristocrats, will be stunning architecturally and maintained beautifully. The ground rent on the palace itself is kept low through a jurisdictional covenant. The aristocrat will treble the palace upon assumption of the title (rent will be nominal due to the covenant).

## Good Government

In a cellular democracy, higher offices will tend to be filled by the best qualified person. Knowledge of spreadsheets and budgeting will be far more important than charisma and good looks. To put it simply, in a cellular democracy, our representatives will be a rather boring bunch. And the higher they get, the more boring they will be.

Rising through many levels of dominion, they will not be part of royal families with names like Clinton, Bush, or Kennedy, but ordinary people first elected by their neighbors, who received extensive on-and-off-the-job education along the way. Such a meritocracy is very good for democracy and good government, but kind of lifeless.

Enter the aristocracy, with no real political power except to make the technocrats look good; to surround them with enough fluff and falderal to generate an aura of importance.

Aristocrats are likely charismatic, the object of fantasy, dreams, and envy. They are the popular and recognized face of government, furthering the idea that paying a high ground rent is a symbol of status. The aristocracy provides considerable financial support for the government, in exchange for status and fame. In anticipation of their role, they help form a Phase II cellular government.

### **Obtaining Aristocracy**

**Title is based on paying the highest ground rent and willingness to assume the duties.**

Aristocracy is very much a family affair. The 1<sup>st</sup> aristocratic family is defined as a sovereignty residing in the district dominion whose members pay the highest ground rent on properties within the dominion and who have at least one member who volunteers to fulfill the duties of cellular aristocrat and is not prohibited from carrying out that service by a 2/3 majority of the governing council and is not otherwise titled at a higher level of the cellular democracy. In the same manner, the 2<sup>nd</sup> aristocratic family pays the next highest total rent, and so on down the line.

Many districts have a need for more than one aristocrat. The titled positions are ordered by prestige. Titled positions are offered first to members of the 1<sup>st</sup> aristocratic family, then the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and so on, until all titled positions are filled.

The first aristocratic family member selected in a particular district at level N chooses the level N title gender variant. Family members, when they volunteer for service, choose a gender variant title at level N - 1 or lower.

For instance, the first family member to volunteer in a level-6 dominion might be Princess Sally Jones, Ambassador to Thailand (assuming Thailand has yet to join the federation), while the second family member to volunteer might be Duke Harry Jones, Ambassador to Sri Lanka. Sally Jones might have chosen a lower-level title. She might have gone with Count Sally Jones, Ambassador to Thailand.

Aristocracy can be obtained by raising one's own ground rent, purchasing or [trebling](#) other properties within the dominion, or by capturing territory that borders the dominion with a [dominion treble](#).

The adjective Grand can be applied to the highest titled aristocrat in a dominion.

In [Worldwide Federation](#), the United States is unlikely to exist as a sovereign nation. However, many will have a nationalistic fondness for the level-7 dominion that is today the United States. Not only will the president, appointed by the level-7 council, live in the White House, but the White House will also host the Royal Family (a far better fit for many of the recent presidential candidates).

The Royal Family might host all White House dinners, entertainment, receptions, balls, and so on, as well as maintain the White House. They serve as social secretaries to the president, coaching him or her on etiquette and protocol. While presidents come and go, the Royal Family, should they continue to pay the highest total ground rent in the level-7 dominion, can reign in the White House for many generations.

The quest for aristocracy in a successful city-state plays an important role in [cellular democracy dynamics](#), allowing innovative and efficient governments to grow and prosper as poorly managed dominions disappear.

### **Aristocracy Hosts Government**

Typical duties of the grand baron of a medium-sized level-4 city.

1. Pays for travel, meals, and accommodations for district council members on jaunts and boondoggles, accompanying them as a social ambassador.
2. Hosts meetings of the district council at his/her palace or estate.
3. Entertains visiting officials from other dominions and hosts meetings between local and visiting officials.
4. Offers to match tax receipts of district residents for pet projects.
5. Boosts the city.
6. Hosts ribbon cutting ceremonies and groundbreakings.

The Baron of Public Safety could be responsible for such things as public safety promotion, hosting police and fire balls, entertaining visiting police chiefs, hosting retirement parties, organizing funerals, purchasing dress uniforms, hosting police-fire-neighborhood sports competitions, and matching a [consumption tax](#) for a new police and fire station.

Grand aristocrats can maintain a mixed-use palace that functions as the offices for government as well as home. This wipes out budgets for maintenance, ground rent, utilities, depreciation, and interest. The aristocrat and family can call the palace home, as long as they maintain their title and meet their responsibilities of paying maintenance, ground rent, utilities, depreciation, and interest, as well as all the hosting and boosterism required of the district's grand aristocrat.

Aristocratic duties can be shared within the family. The Grand Baroness Monica Travers might be hosting a reception, while her son Lord Joseph Travers is running a ground breaking ceremony across town.

The travel and entertainment budgets of every dominion are eliminated. It is a revolutionary concept and so simply true: **People will pay for the privilege of paying the social expenses of the government.**