

## The Cellular (Landed) Aristocracy



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. Thousands are lined up for miles, waiting even longer than 12 hours to say goodbye. Even if you believe the aristocracy is a bunch of malarky, many 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](#), typically an individual, family, or collective.

Any adult member of the sovereignty can assume the role of an 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 willing, able, and eligible for the role, the right passes to the next highest payer of ground rent in the [dominion](#), and so on.

Before 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 must be the international public face of [AFFEERCE](#) and then land-based capitalism. The [ABC](#) is a corporation, VTLM employees are monetary theorists and other assorted experts, and government and [community oversight](#) members are 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 the [VTLM](#), 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 (after 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 Elsie in circulation. In Phase II, the emperor can be deposed by 2/3 of the high-level Phase II cellular councils with a 2/3 vote to remove from each of those councils.

After [federation](#), removing 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 a majority vote of the district council or a majority vote of the direct democracy. However, most dominions are expected to enjoy the vast benefits, both monetary and overall quality of life, offered by a landed aristocracy.

Although promoting an aristocracy is ridiculed, an idea that will save residents as much as \$100 billion is hard to fault. As the late Senator Everett Dirksen would say, "That's real money." What exactly does the 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 district resident, paying a higher rent, wishes to assume the title.

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

Title carries many responsibilities of a financial 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, maintaining government office buildings as palaces.

Other aristocratic family members (people within the [sovereignty](#)) can assume a title one level down from the main titleholder. The decision as to which member of a sovereignty assumes the title is made within the sovereignty. Other sovereignty members can take a title one level down from the main titleholder or assume aristocratic duties ahead of others, paying 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 district. Gender variation is at the discretion of the person assuming the title. Here is a proposed set of English titles, although emperor is naturally at the highest level currently defined.

Level of Dominion	Title
2	Squire, Sir, Madam
3	Lord or Lady
4	Baron or Baroness
5	Count or Countess

<b>6</b>	Duke or Duchess
<b>7</b>	Prince or Princess
<b>8</b>	King or Queen
<b>9</b>	King, Queen, Emperor, or Empress (world's highest payer of ground rent)

## Savings

The aristocracy saves the taxpayer a fortune by financing boondoggles, entertaining visiting dignitaries, and maintaining embassies (before the Worldwide Federation). Perhaps the most significant savings come from maintaining government office buildings as palaces.

Not only does this provide the government with free office space and paid utilities, but as a point of pride for the aristocrats, the palaces 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 be filled by the best-qualified person. Knowledge of spreadsheets and budgeting will be far more critical than charisma and good looks. Simply put, in a cellular democracy, our representatives will be dull. 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 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 famous and recognized face of government, furthering the idea that paying a high ground rent symbolizes status. The aristocracy provides considerable financial support to 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 a 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. Similarly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> aristocratic family pays the next highest total rent, and so on.

Many districts need 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. When volunteering for service, family members 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). 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 ground rent, purchasing or [trebling](#) other properties within the dominion, or capturing territory that borders the dominion with a [dominion treble](#).

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

The United States is unlikely to be a sovereign nation in a Worldwide Federation. However, many will have a nationalistic fondness for the level-7 dominion that is currently 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 and maintain the White House. They serve as social secretaries to

the president, coaching them 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 prosperous city-state plays a vital role in cellular democracy dynamics, allowing innovative and efficient governments to grow and prosper as poorly managed dominions disappear.

### **Aristocracy Hosts Government**

These are the 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 tours and boondoggles, accompanying them as a social ambassador.
2. Host district council meetings at their 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. Host 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 as government offices and homes. 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 groundbreaking 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.**