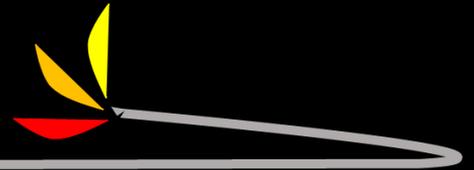
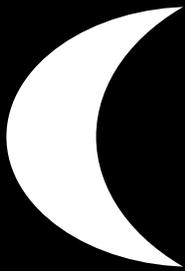


# LA S'CHINTEIA



*Talossa's Magazine of Everything*



HERE LIES  
THE MODERATE  
RADICAL PARTY  
OF TALOSSA  
2011-2019

**Exclusive  
interview  
with the  
Seneschal**

**Coloring  
the map  
of Talossa**

**What La  
S'chinteia  
is all  
about**

## The Rise and Fall of the MRPT

**Volume I**

**June 2019**

# **Ian Plätschisch, Editor in Chief**

## **Volume I June 2019**

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## **The La S'chinteia Mission Statement**

I have designed La S'chinteia less as a newspaper in the traditional sense and more as Talossa's journalistic infrastructure. Sure, it is important for citizens to hear the news (and we certainly will welcome anyone who wants to report on the daily goings-on of the Kingdom), but except on very busy days, just logging on to Wittenberg for a few minutes is probably just as effective a way to see Talossan news as reading some newspaper articles. I should also point out now that volumes of this magazine probably will not come out on a particularly timely basis. Rather, I envision La S'chinteia as a clearinghouse for all kinds of written works; news articles of course but also interviews, columns, essays, deep dives, serials, reviews, cartoons, poetry, and all other kinds of, dare I say, original content. Hopefully, having such a publication in place may prompt or encourage citizens to contribute who otherwise would not think to post a one-off piece on Wittenberg. Of course, we also desperately want (and need) staff writers of all stripes (graphic designers would be pretty cool too). If you want to create it, La S'chinteia wants to publish it.

I am loathe to announce a regular publication deadline, not only because I have already missed the first deadline I set, but also because I think a volume of La S'chinteia should be published whenever there is sufficient content to publish one, rather than based on arbitrary dates. However, the tradition of long-dormant Talossan news outlets is one I would rather avoid, so I can promise that each new volume of La S'chinteia will be published no later than three months after the prior volume. Hopefully (especially if others are interested in contributing) volumes will come out much more frequently than that, but life often gets in the way and publishing quarterly is the most I can promise. Hopefully the bare-bones formatting will mean we can focus on the content without the production headaches that have plagued past editors-in-chief.

Talossa needs a fun place to read and write for the citizens of today and a written record for the historians of tomorrow. It's time to make one.

**Ian Plätschisch**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

## Elegy for a Seahorse

### The Rise and Fall of the Moderate Radical Party of Talossa

*Ian Plätschisch*

When I became Seneschal as leader of the Moderate Radical Party of Talossa (MRPT) at the beginning of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Cosa in July 2018, it marked the seventh consecutive term of the MRPT's participation in the Government. The MRPT led five of those seven and had garnered 40 or more votes in the three consecutive elections between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Cosas. It also maintained a plurality in the Senate for five consecutive terms between the 48<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Cosas.

Then, just before the elections for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Cosa, it collapsed.

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Alèx Soleighlfred and Glüc da Dhi cofounded the MRPT (originally known as the MRP) in 2011. According to S:reu Soleighlfred, it was “a period of vibrance in the opposition end of [the] Talossan political spectrum,” although S:reu da Dhi said that part of his motivation to found the party was “to contribute to a more diverse political landscape with parties working together in coalitions rather than a two-party system, in which one party held a permanent majority.” Da Dhi also said that he desired “a party with a clear platform that specifically said what it wanted to change legislatively rather than a big tent party.” In summary, “A Talossa with a diverse political system in which parties work together in different varieties and everyone, including various political minorities get a chance to shape Talossa is certainly what we had in mind.”

Another important aspect of the young MRPT was its organization. According to Soleighlfred, he “preferred to stay away from the limelight and sit in the party headquarters, refining the internal policies, structuring the documentation and so on.” He reflected:

“So, from my end, my vision was to make a party which would have clear structure, lifecycle, schedule and positions. It should have been a well-designed and well-maintained mechanism. A party well organized has a better chance to organize a country well, than does a chaotic, unclear party. That's what I was trying to achieve with the Party Digest and the Key Statute, which governed the party until its' demise. My partymates played a great role here too, for example, the regulations on how to conduct the Party Congresses weren't made by me, still, I admired how thought through they were.”

Sir Alexandreu Davinescu of the RUMP remarked that “the MRPT digest was and is -- by a wide margin -- the best set of rules to ever govern a party.”

Neither expected the MRPT to achieve great success; rather, they hoped for steady growth and to, according to da Dhi, “build a party that could last for a long time and could in the future play a role in coalition politics if the RUMP ever lost a majority.” Da Dhi admitted that both he and Soleighlfred assumed that the Progressive Party would stay the largest party to the left of the RUMP. In its first election (for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Cosa), the Moderate Radicals got only three votes (eight seats); in the election for the 45<sup>th</sup> Cosa, it earned thirteen votes for twenty-one seats.

The MRPT got its chance to play a role in coalition politics at the start of the 46<sup>th</sup> Cosa in early 2014, when the RUMP fell just short of a tenth consecutive majority by earning only 96 seats. The MRPT rocketed to 56 seats, helped by the fact that the Progressive Party chose not to contest the election at all. Soleighlfred noted, “I suppose people were hoping for an alternative, and in MRPT they saw a political force which both provided alternative and didn't get over the top at the same time.” As the largest party in the so-called “Rainbow Coalition,” the MRPT was able not only to participate in, but lead, the Government, and party leader da Dhi became Seneschal. When asked about his tenure, da Dhi responded:

“I don't think I was a particularly effective PM. After years of the RUMP doing everything we had to learn a lot in a small time. There are certainly things I wish I had handled differently such as the Hool case and the communication about replacement of previous (deputy) ministers, but I do think I did some things well in areas of transparency and accountability and in how I defended the government. I think during my government we never even got around to too many reforms. Many of the most important reforms of that period happened in the terms before and after me.”

The MRPT led the Government again during the 47<sup>th</sup> Cosa, this time with the leadership of Lüc da Schir. However, the newly-formed Free Democratic Alliance (created as a merger of the Republican ZRT and the Liberal Congress) eked out a one-vote victory over the MRPT for the 48<sup>th</sup> Cosa and formed a Government with da Schir as Distain. Unfortunately, the term ended in a failed Vote of Confidence in the final Clark after the Moderate Radicals withdrew support from the Free Democrats due to a lengthy period of disharmony between the two parties, brought on by failing to achieve a variety of coalition objectives. I said at the time:

“The MRPT Ministers have clearly lost the confidence of the Seneschal, and, by extension, the leading coalition party. We discussed our participation in the government at length within the MRPT and have decided it best to discontinue our involvement with the cabinet. The reasoning is two-fold; if the MRPT Ministers [are] really the problem, we should get out and start anew. But, the second and more likely case is that the MRPT is being treated as a scapegoat, and we have grown tired of it. Healthy debate between parties is healthy, and the MRPT admits it's Ministers are not as active as they should be, but we do not wish to work with a party who ignores our achievements while pretending they do all of the heavy lifting... this government has lost the Confidence of its own Seneschal. While vaguely blaming the whole coalition, the MRPT has been repeatedly singled out by top members of the leading party, and the MRPT is tired of being a scapegoat for problems which, though some fall on squarely on the MRPT and its ministers, should rightly be the responsibility of the government at large.”

Ultimately, da Schir concluded while resigning as Distain that “we as a party can say we're walking out of this term in Government with our heads held high knowing we've been loyal to our coalition partners until the very last days of the 48<sup>th</sup> Cosa.” After losing seats in the subsequent election, the MRPT went on to support a RUMP Seneschal for the 49<sup>th</sup> Cosa, with da Schir again serving as Distain.

The elections for the 50<sup>th</sup> Cosa turned out to be the most strenuously fought in recent memory. The Free Democrats attacked the MRPT's performance during the previous two terms and the

MRPT retorted by listing its accomplishments and arguing that the Free Democrats were dramatically overpromising based on its level of activity in opposition during the previous term. The MRPT won out in the end, more than doubling its number of seats and attaining a Cosa plurality for the first time in its history. The MRPT went on to win Cosa pluralities and lead the Government (in coalition with the Free Democrats) all three terms between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Cosas, at first under the leadership of da Schir and finally under my leadership.

The MRPT always ran on the most detailed manifesto of any party (which is part of what attracted me to the party when I became a citizen in April 2015) and had the most prolific legislators (the party's campaign mailers often bragged that the MRPT had passed more bills during the previous term than all of the other parties combined). By the end of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Cosa, the MRPT's legislative accomplishments included:

- **The repeal of the Semi-Permeable Wall Act**, which allowed Talossa to engage with like-minded micronations
- **The ¾ Majority Amendment**, which removed the King's absolute veto power over amendments and resolved the Proclamation Crisis
- **The Open Sesame Act and The Catchment Area Reform Act**, and **The Provincial Assignment Simplification Act**, which streamlined the assignment of immigrants to provinces
- **The Mandatory Cosa Lists Act and Amendment**, which mandated that parties tell voters to whom they would give their Cosa seats
- **The Ranked Choice is the Best Choice Amendment**, which instructed the Chancery to use Ranked Choice Voting when conducting elections to the Senate
- **The Senators Are People, Not Parties Amendment**, which gave all Senate candidates a fair chance regardless of party affiliation
- **The Advisory King Amendment**, which reduced the King's veto power over legislation

MRPT politicians also took the lead on streamlining the Organic Law, which resulted in a broadly supported proposal likely to pass during the 53<sup>rd</sup> Cosa, and wrote a variety of bills to streamline the Kingdom's legal code and processes.

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However, after so many terms of mostly legislative victories, I began to wonder whether Talossa's chronic activity problems were being solved by reforms that, yes, did make Talossa a better place, but possibly not in a way that would attract new or returning citizens. Da Dhi remarked:

"I think a lot of the things that the MRPT wanted to achieve were realised at some point during coalition rule and I think many of these (like abolishing the semi permeable wall and mandatory party lists) were good for Talossa but there is some double feeling about it, because it didn't result in the activity levels that we wanted and we lost many great citizens to inactivity. When I retired from politics there was also still a lot of personal animosity, plus we never really managed to get everyone, both opposition and government involved in Talossa at the same time."

After coming to the realization that the MRPT's manifesto was simply no longer suited to today's problems in Talossa and spending months formulating an alternative vision (that certainly was influenced by moderate radical ideas), I resigned as Prime Minister and leader of the MRPT at the end of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Cosa to found Awakening and Magnifying Passion. The day afterward, da Schir also announced he was suspending his membership in the party, remarking:

“The...MRPT...was a party that had its strength in a certain combination of people, and almost all of them are gone: some have left for other jobs or parties, some are semi-active and won't take part in active inter-party activities for the foreseeable future, some have completely disappeared and don't seem interested in ever coming back. Without them, all that remains is an empty husk that happens to have an outsized history of accomplishments, but that presently has no realistic hope of surviving except by inertia. The manifesto itself has almost exhausted its short-term usefulness, which is ironic, given that accomplishing stuff should be good. Today's Talossa has different issues than 2012 Talossa or 2014 Talossa, and this party isn't cut for them unless it radically reinvents itself. For that to happen, though, some effort is needed from its membership, and I fear I'm the only one left who would be prepared to put any amount of such meaningful effort in that. If the party isn't willing to take a breath of fresh air, if no one in the party cares about that - it will die a slow death à la Progressives... A blunt TLDR would be that I have no time or willingness to babysit a party that has basically been on life support since last summer.”

At this point, a few of the remaining members converted the upcoming ninth MRPT Congress into the “Refoundational Gathering,” but the only attendees were Soleighlfred, interim party leader Txoteu Davinescu (no relation to Alexandru Davinescu), and Senator Sevastáin Pinátsch (da Dhi had left the party at the end of the 51<sup>st</sup> Cosa to become Secretary of State). Just eleven days after my departure, Davinescu declared the party folded, saying at the time:

“I believe the time has come. I am sad to see the MRPT come to this point but facts are facts. It was with a heavy heart that moments ago, I closed the Refoundational Gathering and brought the Moderate Radical Party of Talossa to the end of road. Due to lack of support and party members, the MRPT is no longer a viable component of the political system of our great nation. Therefore, as the one the mantle of leadership fell to with the resignation of many of the senior party members, I hereby stand down the ModRad Party and bring the story of a once beloved national party to a close. Thank you to the many that came before and though the party may be gone, here's to the ideals of the MRPT living forever in the new direction of the Kingdom!”

Davinescu drew criticism for his unilateral decision, especially from Pinátsch, although the latter admitted to me he had no desire to lead the party. Davinescu defended his decision when I spoke to him, saying:

“I believe the sudden and unexpected departure of almost all the senior MRPT leadership created instability as well as lack of confidence in the party following their departure that ultimately lead to its demise. As for the MRPT's demise being hung on me, I have always thought this to be nonsense. With the complete departure of every major party player, I brought in one of the party founders [Soleighlfred] to help shore things up. Nothing worked...the MRPT saw an almost complete loss of interest in being active in party

functions or objectives. After nearly a month of this, and the departure of the party founder brought in to help, I made the decision to shut down the party due to a complete lack of interest from anyone but myself... With no one else trying to be involved, I said enough was enough and after consulting with [Soleighlfred], I chose the best course of action [which] was to dissolve and move on. In light of this, I feel my decision was completely justified...No one said a word until after I made the decision to shutter operations.”

Davinescu further stated that he had repeatedly asked for others to get involved during the Refoundational Gathering before he ended it, to no avail. Soleighlfred reflected:

“As with other things in Talossa, there was a certain lack of fuel. In our case, a pretty abrupt one...the General elections approached, and I realized there's no momentum in preparing for them. Then I read Lüc's message about essentially leaving the party, and what's worse, I understood why he did that. People who built the party left the boat, most of the roster weren't very active, and the rest didn't completely realize the size of the problem. All the MRPT had were some disoriented members and some inertia. This wasn't anyone's mistake in particular. To a certain extent that was a logical outcome of the circumstances. I tried this "Refoundational Gathering" thing because, before leaving this sinking ship, I wanted to see for sure whether it was actually sinking, or whether we could drain the water with some work and dedication. I took on a very unusual and unfamiliar role for myself, that of an initiative. I dared to self-assume temporary leadership because I had a feeling that that's what I had to do, that was my moral obligation because in the end, I made this party too, even though co-made, and now it was dying. Unfortunately, the Gathering showed that there was no momentum left.”

Both Pinátsch and Soleighlfred pointed out that the detail of the party's governing documents eventually became a hindrance. Pinátsch said that “While the amount of written documentation the MRPT had very clearly defined us and our policies and processes, I found it an encumbrance sometimes. The length and complexity it enforced on our activities was off-putting. I think the final (failed) congress that signaled the end of the party was symptomatic of that weight” and Soleighlfred said “in honesty, our internal regulations weren't very useful once the membership shrank. It was designed for expansion, not shrinkage. I am partly to blame that I couldn't foresee that. But overall, MRPT isn't the only entity in Talossa which, ultimately, has the regulations which are bigger than the entity itself.”

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Most members of the party were positive about the legacy of the MRPT and the future of moderate politics in Talossa. According to Soleighlfred:

“We managed to build a party from scratch which in relatively short term led the popular vote for three consecutive times. And, which is more important, the governments which we led / were a part of changed the political landscape of the country, got things done, and I would call this shift from the conservative part of the spectrum to a more progressive one to be the single most important event of the Talossan politics of the past decade. It's not our personal achievement, of course, our allies played a part not less important...I am fairly sure the MRPT has served its purpose. I think we've shown that

the then-opposition to the RUMP can be mature and get things done. We've had our policies successfully brought to life, the secret ballot, for example, and some more. In short, we've proven that the moderate radicalism is viable. I'd like to think that we have influenced the FreeDems through years of our alliance, like they influenced us...I think that in the future some new serious centrist force will inevitably arise, and when it does, I hope it draws from the history of MRPT.”

Pinátsch remarked:

“I joined the MRPT because it was most aligned with my own values, and because I wanted the chance to participate in government...it was important for me to only join an organization that I truly fit into and could represent honourably. I was proud to have the MRPT banner on my signature line until the very end...I am glad that the MRPT existed as a competitive alternative to the RUMP and was saddened to see it go. Two-party systems (US, Canada) don't provide voters with meaningful choice. I think we're healthier when 4 or 5 (or more?) perspectives exist, when voters can choose the party they actually believe in instead of voting strategically, and when coalition governments become more common than not. It's odd to say this now, when a major party has recently fallen and a majority government is in place, but I took some comfort in the fact that I was contacted to take over the portfolio I currently hold [Minister of STUFF]. Even when the Seneschal [Miestrâ Schivâ] could have placed anyone in this Ministry, she chose an Independent that she believed had the best chance of actually getting the work done. I respect that.”

Finally, Davinescu said that “I do believe that in my time with the MRPT, the party did well in carrying out its mission and objective. It absolutely influenced other parties and the nation as a whole.”

Former citizen and MRPT member Iac Marscheir was less positive, saying that “I joined the ModRads because they seemed to be the most centrist, and I, as a new citizen at the time, wanted to preserve the status quo. That said, being a centrist party really deprives you of any legacy besides ‘they made sure it was the same as before.’” Da Dhi simply stated that the future of Talossan moderate radicalism “is not up to me but to the moderate politicians of today.”

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The Moderate Radical Party of Talossa was, perhaps, the defining force of post-Reunision politics. Originally founded, according to da Dhi, with an eye toward opening relations with the Republic, the MRPT led the first Government with Reviensadeir participation and passed countless liberalizing reforms. However, it was also always staunchly Monarchist. The MRPT navigated a middle course in Talossa during years in which taking such a course was quite necessary and did not fail to broker compromise when tensions between opposing ideologies ran high. It can truly be said that the MRPT did what it needed to do and was the right party for its time in Talossan history. Whether its fall (and the rise of the Free Democrats) marks the end of the era of moderate monarchism and coalition politics or simply a brief departure remains to be seen. Whatever happens, the fact that the first Reunision Day occurred seven years ago and Talossa is still going strong (and indeed that there are many Talossans, such as myself, that never knew a time when Talossa was divided) is a testament to our ability to overcome our differences.

Our community is as prepared now for change as ever and I am proud that the Moderate Radicals were able to play a small part in that.

However, the MRPT ultimately fell victim to a trend that must be stopped in order for Talossa to continue to thrive. An emphasis on legislation, sometimes at the expense of other activities, may have been the cause of the MRPT's long, but inactive, membership rolls. Even if they start out interested, no one (not even me) can simply continue to write bills indefinitely, and a party needs active members to keep it going, not just a well of citizens who show up at election time. Going forward, all parties need to recognize that politics should not be, cannot be, at the center of everything. At the core must be community, and while the MRPT was good at that for many years, there was definitely a decline over time (one example of this is that the famed MRPT Congress, which at one point featured days of pageantry and guest speakers, eventually became little more than a time to make minor edits to the party manifesto). Further, while the urge to regulate and formalize many aspects of Talossan life would be useful if the Kingdom were experiencing rapid growth, the truth is just that it is not. People come to Talossa seeking flexibility and the ability to run with their ideas; the MRPT failed to learn this lesson, hopefully Talossa as a whole will.

“Our legacy is our cabinets, and an example of how to make a tightly knit party succeed (and a lesson of how this can all suddenly fail). Seriously, this is a lesson: structural problems can catch you off guard when nobody's looking.”

- Alèx Soleighlfred

## **Exclusive Interview with Seneschal Miestrâ Schivâ**

*Ian Plätschisch*

The Most Honorable Miestrâ Schivâ was inaugurated as Seneschal of the Kingdom of Talossa on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

***La S'chinteia (LS):* Why do you think voters put such confidence in the Free Democrats to lead this Government? What do you think they expect from you, and how will you and the Cabinet deliver it?**

*Seneschal:* I'm not getting too big a head from the election, because I'm conscious that Free Democrats didn't get an overall majority - this time! The facts of the matter was that there were two other parties leading up to the election. One of them split and fractured into little bits; the other offered no positive lead at all, just trolling and gimmicks. On one hand, if I might be excused for self-praise, I think the Free Democrats offered leadership and a clear vision, which appealed after years of well-meaning but slightly muddled coalition governments. On the other hand, I think we benefitted from being "the last ones standing." Hopefully our record in government will lead to us getting an even better mandate next time.

What they expect from us is to "get on with it," I think. If I have any criticism of previous governments, it would be a surfeit of caution, of compromise, of not wanting to start fights, of retreating in the face of opposition, whether that opposition is justified or in good faith or not. Talossa needs leadership, a clear direction, some people who are prepared to start things so that other people can join in. People are prepared to suffer through political fights, I think, if they are conducted "cleanly" and if the debate results in a clear way forward rather than stasis or a compromise which suits no-one. If the Cabinet is consistently active, consistently communicative and shows leadership, I think the people of Talossa will appreciate it.

***LS:* How will you use your experience working in previous Governments to successfully lead this Government? Will you make any changes to the way you lead the Cabinet or engage with the public compared to previous Seneschals?**

*Seneschal:* The main difference with the current Government, compared to the previous ones in which I've served, are as follows:

(a) one party is leading policy-making, although of course we rely on confidence and supply from our allies. Previous coalition governments have had to find a way forward by "splitting the difference" between two or three equally valid but competing visions. Basically what I'm envisaging from the current Cabinet is "joined-up" government - we are all singing from the same hymn sheet, working towards the same priorities and along the same principles.

(b) my personal leadership style, which I would describe as "collegial but authoritative". Previous Seneschais have, as I see it, tended to fall into one of two traps; either seeking a "consensus" between factions (within the Government and in the Ziu) which ends up in lowest-common-denominator fudge and not much being done; alternatively, petty dictator/micromanager stuff which just annoys people and also doesn't accomplish much. I see

my job as Seneschál as giving a policy lead, and as "joining up" the various portfolios of Government under a common vision, while at the same time encouraging Ministers to "do their own thing". This is why it has been vitally important to me that my Cabinet has no "passengers," no people who have a title but don't do anything. I've tried to pick people who want to do something (even perhaps something I might not have thought of, or not even approved of), giving them the necessary authority to "go for it".

I also have overall political responsibility for the Government, which is why I encourage all citizens, at all times, to "ask me anything". But the flip side of taking responsibility means the Government has to have effective control over the legislative agenda. The Government of Talossa should set the political lead on subjects like Naval reform, Witt reform, etc, and will do so under my leadership, insh'allah. Of course, if we slack off in this regard, if we don't carry out this responsibility, non-Government MZs will do so for us, and they'll be justified in doing so. All I am doing right now is asserting this Government's prerogatives to set national policy.

**LS: What do you expect out of your Ministers and how will you keep them accountable?**

*Seneschal:* I expect them to take initiatives; to communicate with the Cabinet, the Ziu and the people; and build a team to do the necessary work, if they can't do it all themselves, and they probably can't. I will keep them accountable, in the last analysis, by threat of dismissal, or at least by threat of requiring them to front to hostile opposition Terpalaziuns.

**LS: In your inauguration speech, your first policy point is replacing the forum with a new forum moderated by someone (or some group) other than the King. If the King agreed to donate Wittenberg to the State, why would a new forum still be preferable?**

*Seneschal:* I would certainly think so on the grounds that ProBoards is sub-optimal for archiving, as the Royal Archivist regularly complains. But in this matter, I'm willing to be guided by the Government's technical expert, S. Pinátsch, who's doing the research as we speak. In addition, I don't think I'm being unfair to His Majesty when I say he's never been one for "giving up" anything.

**LS: Are more specific proposals forthcoming with regard to your statement that "The new Government will create a plan to not only increase immigration, but to increase engagement and activity in Talossa by new immigrants, and even to attract inactive citizens back to activity"?**

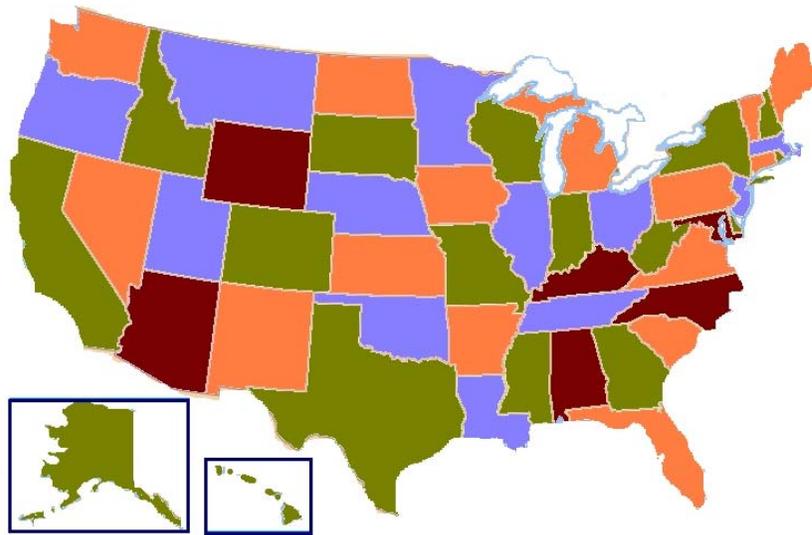
*Seneschal:* Well, certainly. You've already seen enthusiasm for resurrecting the New Citizens Council. As to lapsed citizens, you might have seen my efforts to bring Sir Tomás Gariçéir, Talossa's longest-standing language guru, back into the current conversation. To some degree I feel it's just a question of asking inactive citizens what it would take to once more pique their interest. I am aware of the comments of Ián Anglatzarâ that, while too little political strife is boring, too much is overwhelming and alienating.

## TalossAnalysis: The Four-Color Theorem and Non-Contiguous Provinces

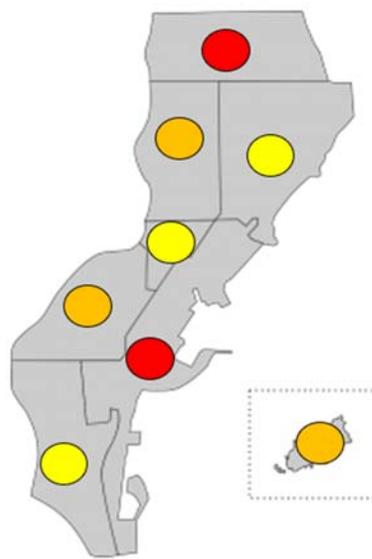
*Ian Plätschisch*

The Four-Color Theorem states any map composed of contiguous regions can be colored such that no bordering regions are the same color with at most four colors. An important result of graph theory, it was proven by Kenneth Appel and Wolfgang Haken in 1976 and was the first major theorem to be proved with the help of a computer.

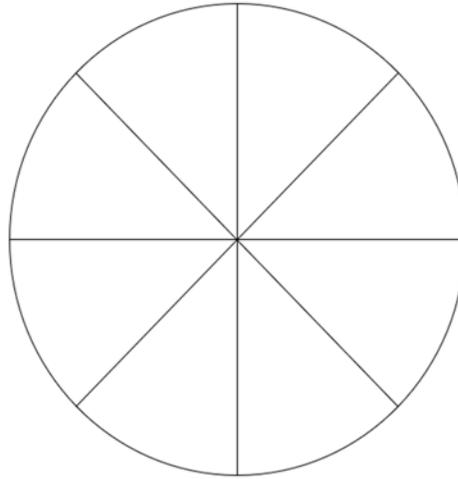
For example, here is a four-coloring of the states of the United States of America:



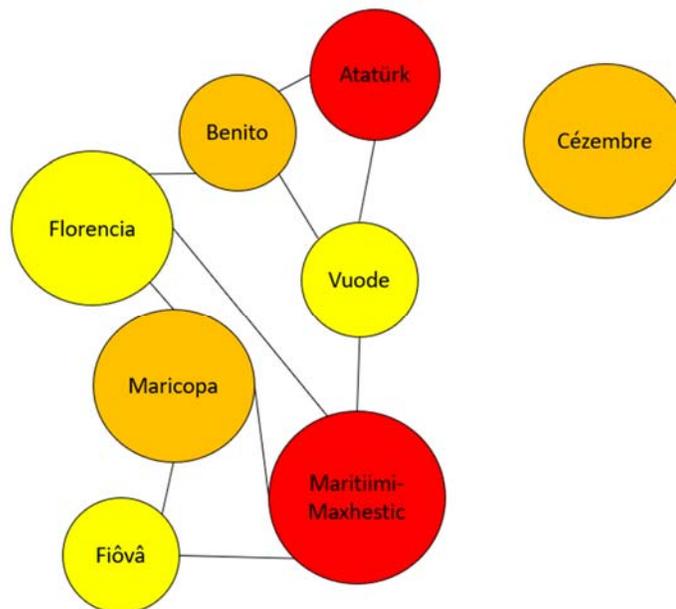
The map of the provinces of Talossa can be colored with only three colors:



Note that regions that meet at only a single point are not considered to border each other, since it is possible for an arbitrarily large number of regions to do so:

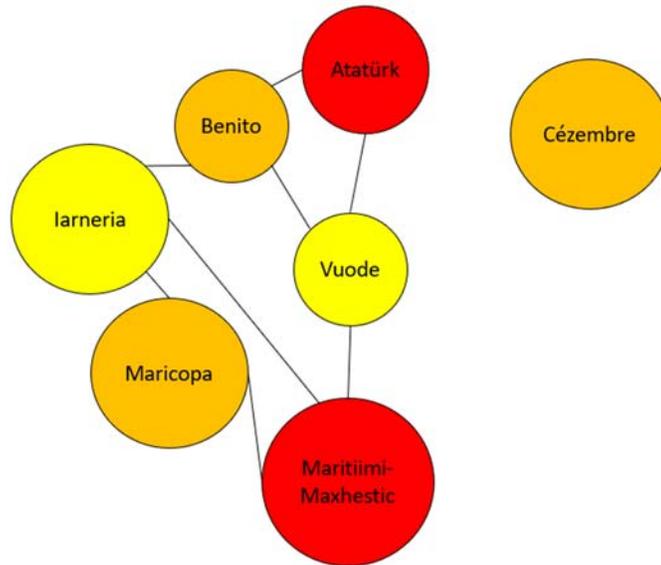


The Four-Color Theorem only applies to planar maps (maps drawn on a flat surface). Any map can be represented as a graph in which each region is a node and each pair of nodes corresponding to bordering regions is connected with an edge, but the graph of a planar map can be drawn such that none of the edges cross. An alternate formulation of the Four-Color Theorem is thus that the nodes of any graph with non-crossing edges can be colored such that no connected nodes are the same color with only four colors.



Even though the Four-Color Theorem does not apply to maps with non-contiguous regions, such a map is still four-colorable if the corresponding graph can be drawn with no crossing edges.

Recently, the Ziu passed legislation authorizing the merger of the provinces of Fiôvâ and Florencia into a single, non-contiguous province called Iarneria. If the merger occurs, will the new map of Talossa still be four-colorable? The answer is, of course, yes. The simplest proof is the three-colored map I provided earlier; Fiôvâ and Florencia were already both yellow. However, consider the graph corresponding to the new map:



The new province of Iarneria would border Maricopa, Maritiimi-Maxhestic, and Benito, so the appropriate graph can be drawn with no crossing edges. In fact, all of the provinces bordered by Fiôvâ are also bordered by Florencia, so a merger of the two provinces has the same effect on the graph as removing Fiôvâ entirely.

It should also be noted that both provinces are on the boundary of the overall map, and I will now prove that any single pair of boundary regions can be colored the same color without increasing the total number of colors needed. Without loss of generality, consider the map of Talossa with a region called “A” added:



Now, consider Fiôvâ, Florencia, and region A to all be one contiguous region. The map is now planar and composed of only contiguous regions, so it is four colorable and Fiôvâ, Florencia, and region A are all the same color (since it has been treated as one region). Now, remove region A to return to the original map of Talossa; Fiôvâ and Florencia are still colored with the same color and a maximum of four colors have been used.

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*Do you have an idea for a future TalossAnalysis? We want to hear it!*

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## Getting to Know: Alejo Fernández

*Ian Plätschisch*

Alejo Fernández is a student from Buenos Aires, Argentina and became a citizen of Talossa on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**La S'chinteia (LS): From your immigration thread, it sounds like you are very passionate about Argentinian culture. Do you have any favorite aspects of it?**

*Alejo:* Well, I see football on Saturdays usually and drinking mate, which besides being delicious in all states, is very healthy.

**LS: How is the football in Argentina? Generally I only watch a few Premier League and MLS games now and then.**

*Alejo:* El fútbol es muy popular. En conjunto por Messi, que juega para el Barcelona.

**LS: Do you have a favorite team?**

*Alejo:* Racing, I'm loving it!

**LS: I was just reading about the Primera División on Wikipedia and saw Racing won the league**

*Alejo:* Racing is the best!

**LS: How long have you been a fan of theirs?**

*Alejo:* Approximately since I was five.

**LS: Have you ever played?**

*Alejo:* I've played at my school sometimes.

**LS: What subjects in school do you like the most?**

*Alejo:* Biology, it is so interesting.

**LS: Cool. I have lots of friends in that area, anywhere from molecular biology to ecology; do you have a favorite branch?**

*Alejo:* Of all the things I saw, it's botanical, and what I know a lot!

**LS: Do you have a favorite flower?**

*Alejo:* Yes, the Zonal Geranium

**LS: Thank you for your time, and congratulations on your impending citizenship. Do you have any final comments?**

*Alejo:* I would love to continue meeting Talossa!

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## **Cabinet Conversations – STUFF, Interior, and Interior**

*Ian Plätschisch*

### **STUFF**

***La S’chinteia (LS):* What are the top priorities of the Ministry of STUFF?**

*Minister Sevastáin Pinátsch (SP):* The top priority is migrating the current web properties to something more affordable and maintainable. The candidate companies I've seen or been forwarded by others are \$6 US/month for unlimited space and bandwidth. For maintenance, I want the new host to have a tool that partially or fully automates version updates, so our properties don't continue to lapse behind.

**LS: The Government has not historically been able to get many volunteers. How do you plan on addressing this?**

*SP:* I'm not anticipating that I will find much volunteer support, but this was also the case 4 years ago when I last held this portfolio. Fortunately, my career now allows me telework and flexible time, so I'm able to devote breaks and lunches to incremental improvements. Even 4 years ago on less time, I was able to create the portal (talossa.com), so I'm confident this Ministry will have similar success.

### **INTERIOR**

**LS: What are the priorities of the Ministry of the Interior?**

*Minister Txec dal Nordselvã (TN):* My main priority is to help ease new immigrants into our society. I would like to see our newer citizens take up the role of the NCC. Of course this will also mean reaching out for more immigrants and I will be working with the appropriate ministers to beef up our social media presence and ‘get our name out there’ more.

**LS: What social media platforms will you pursue? How do you plan on making these social media campaigns more effective than previous campaigns? How will you staff them?**

*TN:* Well technically social media falls under STUFF I believe, but my thoughts were to send out tweets aimed at immigration at least every other week. I do have to admit that I don't have much more than an idea at this point.

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**LS: What is your opinion on ID Cards?**

*Acting Minister Txoteu Davinescu (TD):* I would love to see them! But not at governmental expense

**LS: Would you be alright if the government charged a fee for them to cover the cost?**

*TD:* Of course, I'd pay for mine.

**FOREIGN****LS: What are your priorities for this term? Are there any changes from your agenda as Foreign Minister last term?**

*Minister Txoteu Davinescu (TD):* My priorities for MinFor remain consistent with those I handed down when I first assumed the post in my own right. namely: 1) We will not seek nor accept diplomatic relations with "bug-micronations", as these do nothing for solidifying our position as a legitimate Micronation. 2) We will continue to investigate serious, "like minded" "micronations" that are currently active and to evaluate the potential risks and benefits associated with various forms of diplomatic contacts with such nations, within the limits of the Afaes Utphäseschti Act. 3) We will attempt to increase Talossa's visibility in the micronational world through 4) the formalize all Ambassadors General and 5) moving towards a leadership stance in global micronational politics through the founding of an International diplomatic body for legitimate micronational states similar to the United Nations. The working title I have given this entity is the Alliance of Micronational States (AMS), which I intend to work towards and have Talossa positioned as a founding member.

**LS: Why do you think the AMS will be more successful than the previous similar attempts at such an organization?**

*TD:* I see no reason why trying again should be an issue. I mean, it took our Macro-national brothers three tries over nearly 60 years, from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 1889, to the League of Nations in 1920 following the First World War to the final ascension of the United Nations following the Second World War in 1947, for them to get it right. Just because organizations like GUM have had less than stellar results, doesn't mean the idea is bad, merely the implementation.

**LS: What do you see as the purpose of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? How does Talossa benefit from establishing relations with micronations?**

*TD:* The Kingdom's Ambassadorial voice to the world is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it is very important, on the international stage for the Kingdom to reach out and connect with other states as well as their leadership in spirit of friendship and the hope that all nations (macro & micro) as well as their peoples can peacefully co-exist. The main benefit for Talossa "Building bridges between the world's smallest nations (TM)" is to grow and fellowship with the other serious global players in the micronational community while making available our vast knowledge base to those nations interested in creating a more robust legal and governmental systems.

## End Matter

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Send Ian Plätschisch a message on Wittenberg or post in the Wittenberg thread corresponding to this volume.

*Thanks for reading!*