

THE MARTIAN

COLLECTIVE



First founded in 2033 by a collection of global entrepreneurs and scientific leaders, the Martian Collective has proven to be a unique experiment in human development. Under their motto of “*Ingenuity, Sustainability, Humanity,*” the Collective has been — since its inception — an earnest attempt to establish a more Utopian human world. In the nearly-200 years since its birth, Mars has flourished into an interplanetary power and has firmly established its place in the human story.

GOVERNMENT

The Martian Collective is governed by a Parliamentary Republic, dominated by the Martian Council. The Council consists of 200 members, each chosen to represent their respective administrative districts. Leading the council is the Chancellor, who acts as Head of State. The government is headquartered in Sisyphus, the largest city on the planet.

THE MARTIAN CHANCELLOR

The Martian Chancellor is chosen by the leader of the majority or coalition party and may serve no more than ten years in total. The current Chancellor — Nabhitha Singh — was chosen from the anti-isolationist Cydonian Party, which advocates heavily for greater Martian participation in interplanetary politics.

Citizenship on the Red Planet is divided into two tiers. Any Martian citizen has the guarantee of all rights and privileges as laid out by the 2067 Constitution — but this does not include the right to vote. Suffrage is given only to members of a more prestigious class of citizenry, referred to as “Electors.” Electors earn their voting rights through a series of requirements, including a Civil Exam and a Weschler-Kaku Hybridized Intelligence Test. Both are required to be re-

administered every five years in order to maintain voting eligibility. Martian officials are publicly welcoming of foreign-born immigrants, but naturalization requires similarly rigorous exams.

MILITARY

In its early decades, the Martian Collective deemed military defense an unnecessary expense and thus avoided the matter entirely. Following the onset of the First Orbital War of the 2060’s, it became apparent that warfare had unfortunately followed humanity to the stars. The Martian Defense Force (MDF) was founded in the late 2090’s as a means of protecting Martian interests. As a foundational principle, the Martian Council deemed the life of its citizenry to be the penultimate priority — especially considering that the young nation had barely reached a million citizens.

Thus the Collective came to depend on automation to a remarkable degree. The famed Martian Orbital Navy of the 2110’s revolutionized the scale of space warfare by fielding over 50 heavily-armed *Promethean-Class* warships. With crews of only a dozen humans each, the vessels composed the largest space navy alongside the smallest number of personnel.

While advantageous in its inception, the Collective’s dependence on automation proved fatal in the Second Orbital War. In that conflict, American hackers wreaked havoc on Martian systems, ultimately crippling the fleet and sending the Martians into a full retreat. The resulting Treaty of Sisyphus (2142) stripped the Martians of any offensive military abilities and scrapped the remnants of the Martian Orbital Navy.

THE HIDDEN FLEET?

Since the Treaty of Sisyphus, rumors have circulated that the Martians have maintained — and even improved — a sizeable automated fleet. Often referred to as “The Hidden Fleet” by those that buy in to the conspiracy, the claim was repeatedly disproven by dozens of interplanetary inspections in the half-century after the Second Orbital War. Most experts argue the “Hidden Fleet” is nothing more than a xenophobic scare tactic used by anti-Martian elements, and that the current trends of Martian pacifism are entirely genuine.

By the time the terms of the treaty expired in 2192, the Martians had generally come to accept the absence of an offensive military and opted to continue the trend. In the quarter century to follow, Martian treaties and agreements have served to entice China and the United States — the Sol System’s two greatest military powers — into protecting Martian interests in return for technological consultation and innovations. Though China and the US fully recognize their role as mercenaries, both sides benefit heavily from such agreements and have yet to buck the arrangement.

FAST FACTS

FOUNDED IN:	2033
CAPITAL:	Sisyphus
HEAD OF STATE:	Chancellor Nabhitha Singh (2210-Present)
POPULATION:	133 Million
NATIONAL MOTTO:	“ <i>Ingenuity, Sustainability, Humanity.</i> ”
COLONIES:	Claims and Minor Outposts on Phobos and Deimos

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Few things take greater priority in the Martian psyche than education and the pursuit of scientific progress. After all, the very foundation of the Collective was intended to establish a place of research and learning away from the political drama of a fading Earth. 15 years of education is compulsory for every Martian child, and specialized universities offer generous stipends to incoming students via sizeable government grants. Most Martian students are trained first in classical liberal arts, then asked to specialize in at least one science and an additional area of study.

FAILING THE GRADE

While eugenics programs have led to an artificial boost in intelligence, not everyone is capable of keeping up with Martian standards. Such individuals are often ostracized and encouraged to move off-world, though many find work in the mining industries. Mental illness and suicide rates among these individuals is high.

As a result, the Collective trains some of the finest researchers and academic experts in the Sol System, with more than 53% of the population possessing a Masters Degree or higher. Scientific laboratories and research companies employ more than a quarter of the population, churning out countless new discoveries each year in the fields of medicine, robotics, artificial intelligence, botany, and more.

ECONOMICS

Such discoveries have led to one of the most stable economies of the modern age. While a sizeable portion of the Martian economy still draws from more traditional service and industrial (particularly mining) sectors, the vast majority stems for its remarkable scientific progress. New patents and designs are sold to interplanetary markets in increasing number, with many Martians leading research departments for major corporations like TraumaTek, Gaia Terraforming, and Windfall Starship Systems.

OFF-WORLD STUDENTS

Martian universities do open their door to off-worlders, but tuition fees tend to be exponentially more than an Earth-bound education. Even then, requirements are incredibly strict, and even the super-rich have been turned away.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

As even Martian technologies have yet to progress to the point of establishing a viable atmosphere for Mars, Martian life requires the use of technologically-dependent life support systems. Martian architecture must be airtight, and even the most modest of homes is equipped with a self-contained atmospheric device. Equally as important are gravitational projection systems, which attempt to correct the adverse anatomical and physiological effects of life in a world with less than half the gravitational pull of Earth.

Earlier Martian cities tended to reflect the surface-based urban sprawl of Earth-based cities, as still seen in the urban layout of cities like Sisyphus, the oldest of Martian settlements. Such designs — though easy to establish — have since proven incredibly inefficient, requiring tremendous resources to defend against the deadly storms that still rage across the Martian landscape. Newer settlements have tended to favor the “sinkhole” design, which constructs a city vertically as it descends beneath the surface.

GIVING LIFE TO THE RED PLANET

In 2211, the Martian Council awarded a 4 trillion dollar grant to Gaia Terraforming to begin work on establishing an artificial Martian atmosphere. To date, the company has yielded only minor results and claims the process could take decades.

HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Many of the most impressive Martian achievements have been in medical advancements. Since the mid-21st century, Martian labs have been responsible for eradicating some of history’s most infamous ailments, from cancer, Alzheimer’s Disease, malaria, and AIDS, to more recent developments like Grigg’s Disease, Gray Fever, and more. Dependence on artificial systems has led to remarkably long lives among Martians, and the Collective proudly boasts an average lifespan of 116 years. Anti-aging technologies have similarly allowed Martian individuals to retain a youthful appearance well past their contemporaries on other planets and colonies. Martian hospitals are sought after throughout the system, with the interplanetary elite placing their full confidence in Martian technology and expertise.

NOTES ON MARTIAN CULTURE

Despite the differences between Martians and the rest of humanity, daily life on the Red Planet is notably similar to life on Earth and elsewhere. Most ordinary Martians stay up-to-date with pop culture trends in the rest of the solar system. Though the Martians are known as great artists in their own right, many Martian youths prefer off-world musicians, authors, and thespians, often citing Martian equivalents as dull or lacking in real emotion.

Yet regardless of artistic interests, most Martians view non-Martian peoples with at least some disdain. While some cite lower intellect, others are quick to mock what appears to be an embrace of corporate corruption in countries like the United States. In a 2189 speech, famed Martian Chancellor Leonard Kincaid described the rest of mankind as “the infantile humanity,” a term which earth-side politicians used as Anti-Martian fodder for years after. Though there have been great public strides to curb Martian ethnocentrism in favor of a more inclusive outlook, most Martians struggle to shake old habits. More than one interplanetary outreach program has failed due to impressions of national patronizing rather than genuine assistance.

While Martians still see themselves as part of the human race, many — including many Martian philosophers — have argued that



Martians exist as the next step in humanity’s evolutionary progression. While genetically identical, Martian advancements have allowed them to prolong youth and longevity beyond any natural possibility. These advantages have served as evidence for some that Martian culture is, as controversial Martian author Tevi Janiv put it, “the only way to a good and proper modern life.”

For more than a century, Martian intellectuals — specifically those among the Elector class — have embraced a practice of geometric tattoos. Always created in black or rust-colored ink, designs range from the purely decorative to complex visual depictions of mathematical formulas or molecular structures. Typically found on either the face or forearms, these complicated symbols are a symbol of national identity and pride. Non-Martians who attempt similar tattoos — as is often the case with off-world students — are generally met with a heavy degree of disapproval.

The red-orange “rust” color often associated with Martian soil is also a mark of pride and nationalism in its own right. Most Martian ships and uniforms are marked with the color to denote their origins. Even the Martian vernacular has adapted to the affinity for the color; in Martian circles, “seeing red” no longer carries a negative connotation.