

Codex Conquest

Rules

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Description

The year is 1450. Johannes Gutenberg is printing a book, one of the first in the world. When he is finished, the printed book is born. Follow the history of the book through the next six centuries, through technological advancements, scientific breakthroughs, artistic triumphs, shifts in the socio-political climate, and the fluctuating financial market.

Each player represents a national library aiming to collect the most valuable printed books of Western civilization. Choose to be:

- England
- Germany
- France
- Spain
- Italy
- Americas

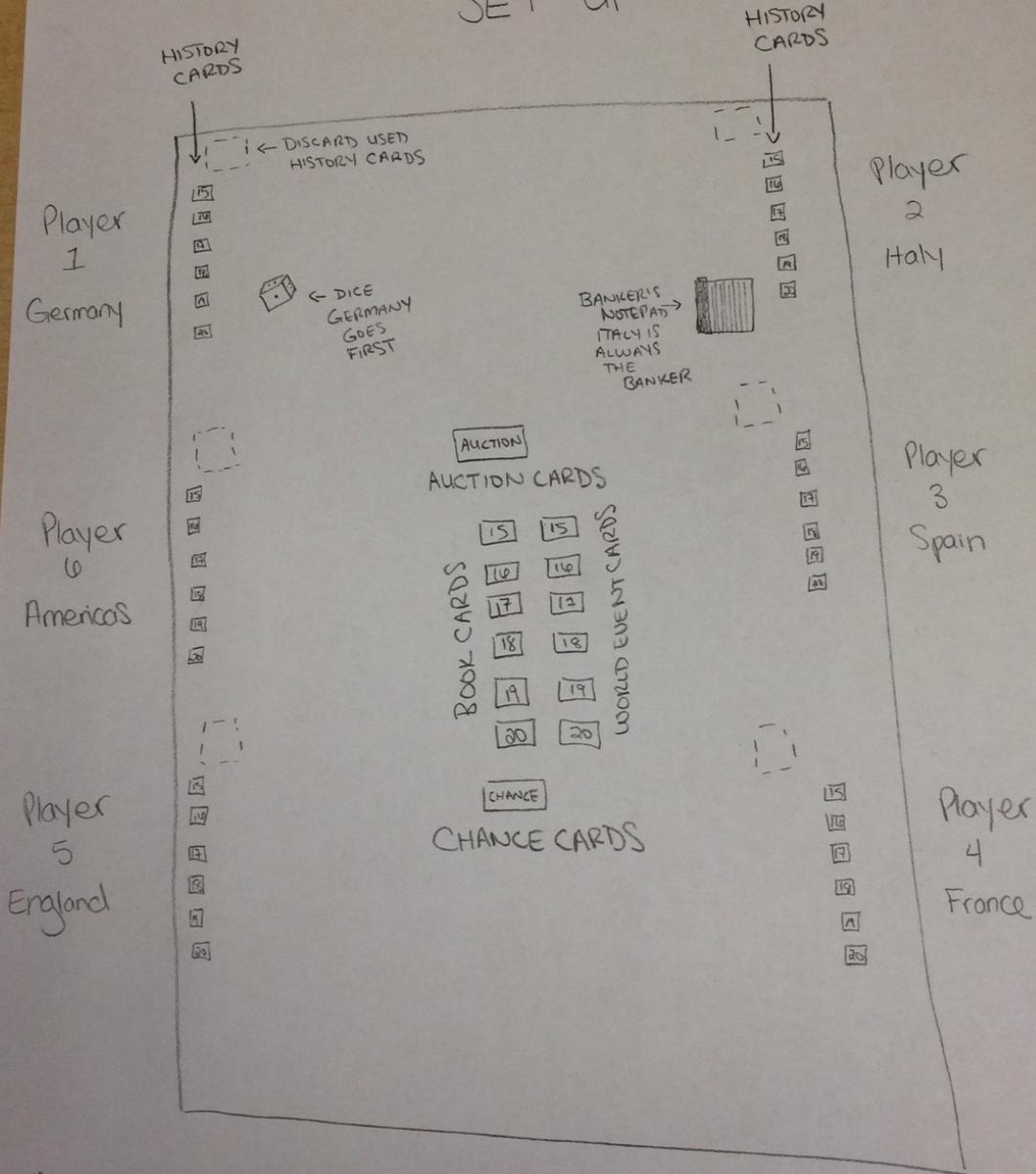
As each century passes, your country will gain and lose power. When you gain power, you will be issued more credits with which to build your collection. When you lose power, you will lose credits – and you might even have to sell your books to stay financially afloat. So be strategic when you decide to buy and sell.

Your objective is to create as many of the following collections as you can by the end of the twentieth century:

- National Canon: Collect six books from a country;
- Most Valuable Books: Collect four of the most valuable books in the game;
- Specialty: Collect six books within a single genre;
- Personal Interest: Collect eight books within any country or genre related to your interest area.

At the end of the game, complete collections are worth double their credit value. All other books that are not part of a completed collection are worth only the credit value on their card. The player who holds the most valuable collection as designated by the amount of credits their collections cost at the end of the twentieth century wins!

SET UP



* EACH PLAYER HAS AN ORDER OF OPERATIONS AND OBJECTIVES CARD TO REMIND HIM OR HER HOW TO PLAY AND HOW TO WIN!

Example of Set Up

Set Up

Players

The game can be played with a minimum of three and a maximum of six players. Players can also be groups, with a group representing one player. When playing with less than all six players/six countries, EVENTS cards from countries not playing should not be used. Similarly, remove BOOKS cards (both the regular BOOKS deck and the MSS BOOKS, but not AUCTION BOOKS) from those absent countries. To choose countries, all players roll the dice. The player with the highest number becomes Germany. If players score a tie, keep rolling until one player wins. In clockwise order from Germany's sitting position, players become: Italy, Spain, France, England, the Americas. If less than 6 players are playing, then go through as many countries in this order as possible. Italy becomes the banker, receiving the BANKER notepad to track debt (- CREDITS).

ORDER OF OPERATIONS and OBJECTIVES

All countries receive ORDER OF OPERATIONS and OBJECTIVES cards (located in the CHANCE box) to remind them of how to play – and how to win!

EVENTS

All EVENTS should be sorted according to their country first and then their century. Each player places their country's EVENTS in front of them face down in six piles: the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th century. Players should shuffle each century's EVENTS for their own countries.

BOOKS and MANUSCRIPTS

All BOOKS should be organized by their century (marked on the back of the card), but not split up by country. Shuffle each century's BOOK cards. Lay out the BOOK cards in a timeline in the center of the playing space with one stack per century from the 15th to the 20th century. AUCTION BOOKS should be placed in a separate stack. Each country should be given their MANUSCRIPT (one per country).

CHANCE cards

Shuffle the CHANCE cards. They do not have a designated order. Place the shuffled CHANCE cards face down on the side of the playing space within easy reach.

CREDITS

Each country should be given 5 + CREDITS to begin. The rest of the CREDITS (+) and DEBTS (-) stay in their bag. Credits are distributed as each player takes a turn at the DICE.

DICE

Pull the DICE out of the bag to start the game.

Play

The German player begins the game in the 15th century. Then, Italy begins the 16th century, Spain the 17th century, and so on in order of the seating positions. Turns always unfold in clockwise order beginning with whatever country is the lead of that century.

The order in which game play unfolds is designated by the order of numbers below. Non-numbered items are occasional events.

Grow Your Economy

- 1. Each country starts the game with five credits and a manuscript to help them establish their library's collection. Then, each country rolls the dice.**

The number on the dice corresponds to the amount of credits the country gets in order to start its collection, so that country can receive anywhere from 2 to 5 credits.

On the first turn, a roll of 1 or 6 requires a re-roll to achieve a number between 2 and 5.

After the first turn, a roll of 1 or 6 requires selecting a CHANCE card. See the subheading *Gamble with Chance*.

Cope with National Events

- 2. Once a country learns the amount of credits they will receive following rolling the dice, they must select an EVENT from their country's century.**

EVENTS correlate to the relative power of that country during this particular century. Once EVENTS have been used, they should be placed face down in a discard stack.

Each EVENT has positive, negative, or both positive and negative signs. Positive signs indicate that country can gain that number of CREDITS from the market. Negative signs mean that country must either give that amount of CREDITS or that credit amount of BOOKS to the country listed as positive.

The victorious (positive) country can specify whether to accept CREDIT or BOOKS from the losing (negative) country. If the winning country wishes to accept books from the losing country, they also get to choose which BOOK or BOOKS they would like to acquire. If the specified BOOK or BOOKS exceed the amount of debt owed to the victor, the victor must compensate the loser with change: either the equivalent amount of CREDITS or BOOKS. The victor gets to determine how to compensate the loser with change. (See: *Become a Creditor or Debtor*)

If a victorious or losing country is not present because that country is not represented by a player in the game, the opposing country must pay credit or be given credit to the market rather than to that individual country.

Italy, the banker, should take notes as need be to track debt.

Bid at Auction

One event per century triggers the release of an auction: a set of four AUCTION BOOKS on the same topic, all worth 1 CREDIT. As these books must be purchased as a unit, the auction has a reserve price of 4 CREDITS.

Players can bid competitively for the AUCTION BOOKS; a purchasing player must meet the minimum reserve price of 4 credits to buy. If no one bids for the AUCTION BOOKS, they go off the market permanently. If multiple players wish to buy the AUCTION BOOKS, they must bid against each other for the set, inflating the amount of CREDITS the books cost.

Players can subdivide the AUCTION BOOKS after purchase in side deals with other interested countries, but only one country can purchase the set at a time.

Collect Books

- 3. At the start of each century, the stack of BOOKS associated with that century are turned over.**

As the game moves through time, remaining stacks of BOOKS from earlier centuries remain turned face-up to indicate they are still available on the market. Future centuries should have their BOOK stacks remain face-down.

After the dice lands on a number between 1 and 5 and the corresponding number of credits are withdrawn from the bag and then after an EVENTS card is drawn, a country can then choose either to purchase a BOOK with their available credits or save their credits for future use. Countries can buy as many BOOKS as they want, as long as they have enough CREDITS to make the purchase. If the country chooses to purchase BOOK or BOOKS, they must select from among the BOOKS available in the current century. As the game moves through times, players can choose from either the current century's BOOKS or from any BOOKS left in the market from previous centuries.

Gamble with Chance

After the first round, if a country rolls a 1 or a 6, that country must choose a CHANCE card.

Chance cards may be either positive or negative; they represent ahistorical events that can occur to libraries at any place, at any time. Follow the CHANCE card's instructions completely before moving to the next country's turn.

CHANCE cards must be discarded after they are used. If a game goes through all CHANCE cards, reshuffle the deck and start over.

Cope with World Events

- 4. At the end of each century, after all countries have taken their turn earning credits, coping with national events, and purchasing books on the market, the century's WORLD EVENT is turned over.**

WORLD EVENTS maintain a historically accurate balance of power between the nations. Follow the directions on the WORLD EVENT card, which are the same as those seen on the national EVENTS cards.

Become a Creditor or a Debtor

- 5. After the century's WORLD EVENT, countries must pause to settle their debts.**

The banker (whoever is Italy) should track debt through taking notes on the debt amount, who is owed the debt, and from whom the debt should come.

Debt can be beneficial or hurtful, depending on how you use it.

Debt can be beneficial if a country makes a gamble in the futures market by correctly assuming that the next century will yield a positive outcome. In order to gamble, a country can obtain up to five CREDITS worth of debt from the market to make a purchase in the current century.

- If the next century yields a positive event worth the same amount of CREDITS taken out, the debt is canceled with no interest.
- If the next century yields a positive event worth less than the amount of CREDITS taken out, the country goes into more debt. Subtract the value of the positive CREDITS from the original loan, and then add one extra debt for each remaining original CREDIT of debt. For example, if a country took out a three CREDIT debt in the 16th century, but only got a one CREDIT in the 17th century, the debt load for that country in the 17th century going into the 18th century would be four CREDITS.

Debt can be hurtful if a losing country (in an events card) cannot compensate the winning country according to their preference. When this happens, the loser goes into debt. Debt is signified by holding the number of – CREDITS equivalent to the amount of the debt.

The losing country must balance their debt through one of the following means:

- Compensating the winning country in a subsequent turn with BOOKS of equal or greater value or CREDITS. The winning country has the right to specify whether a debt will be paid in BOOKS or CREDITS.
- Trading with a third party country for the benefit of the winning country. These trades can be in the winning country's preferred currency, so victors may receive either CREDITS or BOOKS. Note that trades also permit clearing debt with one country and gaining it with another.

Trade with Other Countries

- 6. After countries have settled their debts, a trading period opens.**

Trades can originate for any reason and may involve exchanging either CREDITS or BOOKS or both. When BOOKS are exchanged between countries, the owning country now determines the CREDIT value of that BOOK; the BOOK may be worth the same, less, or more than its original market value. But, if BOOKS are to be sold back to the market, they retain their original value.

Compete to Create Collections

- 7. When a collection is complete, it is “locked” in: future game play does not affect books in a completed collection.**

Therefore, players should attempt to create as many collections as possible to increase their final credit total as finished collections are worth double and finished collections cannot be affected by events or chance.

Build a World-Class Library

- 8. The game continues until the end of the twentieth century. Whoever has the most valuable set of collections of BOOKS, measured by the total number of CREDITS required to purchase the collections, wins.**

Complete collections of BOOKS are worth double their CREDIT value at the end of the game, whereas BOOKS not forming a complete collection are worth only their original CREDIT value. BOOKS can count for two collections at once.

Countries with CREDITS remaining at the end of the game must complete their collections by buying BOOKS left on the market before collections are compared. Countries with credits remaining get to go in the order of their respective BOOK collections' value. In other words, the richest country goes first, then the next richest country, on down. If two countries have collections of BOOKS of equal value, roll the dice to determine who goes first, with the highest dice result wins.