

## History of the Book: The Game

### Play Test Feedback

February 2, 2016 with Alonso Avila and Lisa Gardinier

#### Framework

- Lisa as Americas, Alonso as Spain, myself as Germany.
- Played two rounds for 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> century and then one combined 19-20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Took around two hours.
- Could have won by the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Gameplay

- Can get change from the market (EX: you go in debt by 3, and have a 5 star book, can trade with another or the market and get two points back).
- If you are in debt, you can buy yourself out with another player, not just the market; of course, that means the other player can give you a less than favorable deal!
- Pass book stack from player to player with the dice (otherwise gets too unwieldy); alternative that I did with Muzel, but not Alonso/Lisa, is to have the decks laid out by century and then turn them over as we progress.
- For the stealing chance card, you have to turn your cards face down, fan them out, and have another player choose at random which cards to “steal” that go off the market. (Although this does mean that the cards might need to have neutral backsides) Otherwise, people choose their least valuable books to discard.
- Still unsure about history cards: working with the +/- applying double to you if it is your country and normal value if you are not that country, but it feels weird to pull unrelated country's cards. Perhaps consider only having history cards related to your country (and given to you at the start of the game) that way it correlates to relative national power over time.
- Still unsure about whether a relative power chart/board should be made for the game.
- Realign national power ratios so that some countries share a century (Italy/Spain for example) and perhaps some centuries have no leader?
- FORGOT: IF IN A WAR, HAVE TO GIVE CARDS/CREDITS TO THE PLAYER REPRESENTING THAT COUNTRY NOT TO THE MARKET.
- What if wars meant that the person to the left got to choose three books of yours (chosen at random) or all your credits?
- What do you do with your final credits at the end of the game? Do you keep it and it weighs the same as a book? Do you buy out the market of any remaining books you want? If so, then do players take turns (most wealthy country first)?
- One round per century, this goes too slowly for most classes (although depends on how much thinking the players do).
- Need more chance cards, more positive especially. Recruit ideas?

#### Mistakes

- Fix the history card for the Spanish Armada: should be Spain, not France, as –
- Make disaster last three cards (too harsh)

January 24, 2016 with Muzel Chen

#### Framework

- Both Muzel and I played as two people each.
- Hard to remember what country you are, need a token?
- If that token was on the board, maybe it can move up and down the power chart.

#### Gameplay

- ~~Need more ability to attack as it's too easy to accrue collections/credits.~~
- ~~If lose educational challenge, you have to pay the cost of the book in credits or in books (can go in debt).~~
- ~~Can choose not to do anything in a round (save credits).~~
- ~~Minimum 3, maximum 6 players.~~
- ~~Number of rounds in the same century is number of players in the game divided in half (and rounded down if need be).~~
- Present to faculty as: play generic game to get the concept, a project to design game boosters, then play again to test knowledge gained during the research and development of boosters.
- Add new rules, then print. Make into a little brochure.
- What about illustrations to help portray concepts?
- ~~Order: the same order as the emphasis of each century (power ratio).~~

#### History Cards

- ~~Need to add new cards to the timeline.~~
- ~~Then print the cards to put in the slips.~~
- ~~If you pull the country you represent, the repercussions are times two (doubly better or worse).~~
- ~~Events cards should stay weighed one +/-, but wars should be 2+ for the victor and 2- for the loser if both countries represented in the game (loser gives credits to the winner; if not enough credits, must give them in subsequent rounds until clear of debt). If internal fighting, can be minus 2 from the same country!~~
- Not going through enough of these cards: think about as a way to fix.

#### Book Cards

- ~~Can buy more than one book per turn.~~
- ~~Fix ? mark costs (perhaps just ascribe them one \* or find a new option).~~
- ~~Check number books in each genre, put this in the catalog.~~
- ~~OK to have non-winning genres.~~
- ~~OK to collect countries that are not your own.~~
- ~~Organize catalog according to same order as events cards. (Lower priority: not yet)~~
- ~~Create section of catalog dedicated to outlining the winning strategies.~~

- Problem: duplicate book in 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century Spain: Reglas de ortografía and gramática de la lengua castellana (choose new book).
- Have to read book title out loud when you purchase it so that others know what you have.
- Mock up card design to show: country, genre, MVB status, and century. (Commission student)
- Delete value of book, place that on the spreadsheet.
- Should books be able to have more than genre? Perhaps, occasional ones can be wild cards. (No)
- Literature genre needs to be more granular depending on how many they are when I count: split into poetry, prose, plays.
- Win by getting a national canon that is one book for each century? But then what if the game ends early. Think about this.
- Only four facts should be on the card.
- Reprint book cards.
- **Print off catalog as a little brochure.**
- Shorten importance. Muzel wondered if importance too hard/relative.
- No 1400s America; 3 1800s England??

#### Chance Cards

- ~~Revise chance cards and then format for slips.~~
- ~~Like God cards.~~
- ~~Rename? Think about this.~~
- ~~Sell to private buyer.~~
- ~~Way to get books permanently out of the game.~~
- ~~Can have a player attack you by buying you a chance card (they spend 6 credits or an equivalent amount of books) but can backfire as some chances are good.~~
- ~~They can also buy themselves a chance card.~~
- ~~Print off chance as a little brochure.~~

#### Board

- Place the timeline on the board with relative weights of each country per century.
- This could be a power chart that also lets players move from century to century together.
- Then would need a piece (like chess piece) representing each player.
- Illustrations from seminal moments in history (reformation, printing press, colonization, American pop culture, war).
- I make the mock up of the board. Then have classes compete with proposals to create the design. Get funding to reward winning designer (grant?) to commission them with the project.

#### Boxes

- ~~Make dividers for each century.~~

#### Curricula

- ~~Write out what would be required to make a booster pack, including projected amount of in class/out of class time.~~

- ~~Create discussion guide based on relative decisions (for example, +/- on history cards)~~
- ~~Update curricula for full-length class (mine) and show as example.~~

#### Outreach

- Once these changes are made, schedule meeting with: Jennifer, Greg, Carmelita, Paul.