

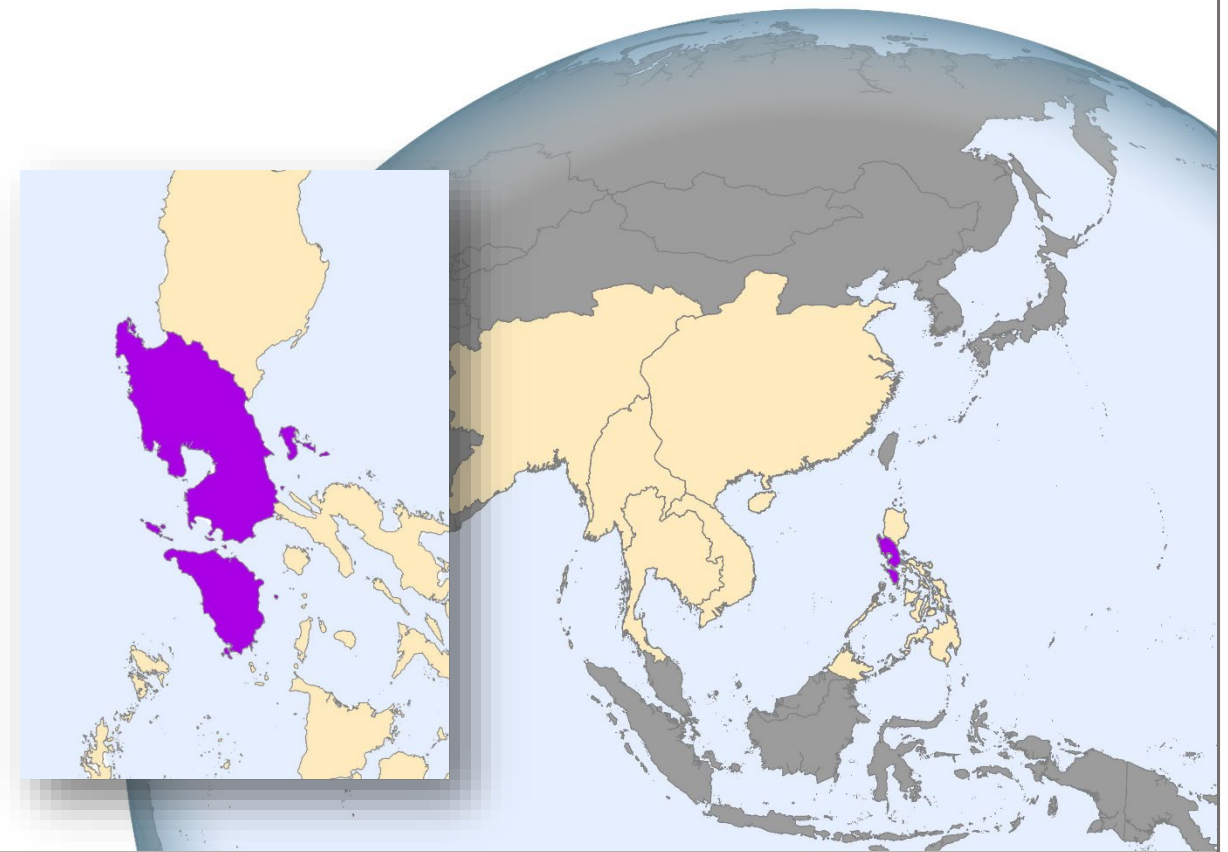
DATE WORLD



US ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND G2
Operational Environment Integration Division

Distribution Statement A.
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distribution is unlimited

SOUTH TORBIA DATE INDO-PACIFIC



LAST UPDATED: 1 MAY 2025



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INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Torbia, also known as South Torbia, is a constitutional republic that occupies most of the south half of the Island of Luzon, plus Mindoro and numerous other smaller islands. After centuries of foreign occupation and despotic rule, South Torbia emerged in the late 20th century as one of the world's fastest growing economies, and today is one of the world's wealthiest, most stable, and most militarily powerful nations.

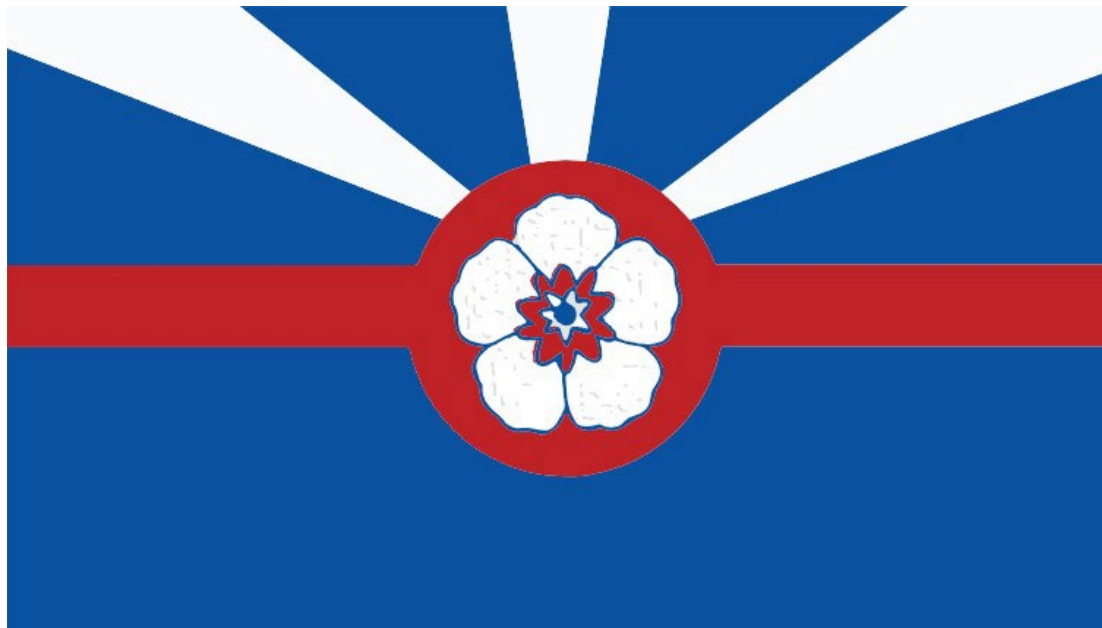


Figure 1. Flag of South Torbia



Map 1. South Torbia



POLITICAL

Overview

The Republic of Torbia, commonly referred to as South Torbia, is a constitutional republic that occupies most of the south half of the island of Luzon. After centuries of foreign occupation and authoritarian rule, South Torbia emerged in the late 20th century as one of the world's fastest growing economies. Today it is one of the world's wealthiest, most stable, and militarily powerful nations in the region.

Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, South Torbia was one of the world's fastest growing and most impressive economies. This period saw most South Torbians rise from relative poverty to comfortable middle-class, while the upper class became a part of the global elite. The growth period slowed with the global financial crisis in 2008. During the crisis, the South Torbian government contracted large spending deficits and experienced increasing public dissatisfaction. A rebound followed the fallout from the financial crisis but was accompanied by an enormous corruption scandal that included the impeachment and imprisonment of the president, along with numerous other high-level officials. This shocked the nation and brought the government under closer scrutiny by its citizens.

Overall, South Torbia maintains a Level of Freedom categorization of Free with a ranking of 2 on a 7-point scale.

Political History

The modern state of South Torbia resulted from hasty negotiations between the United States and the People's Republic of Olvana following the occupation of Torbia during World War II. Planners arbitrarily divided the Torbian portion of Luzon Island roughly in half from Lingayan Gulf to Dingalan Bay, with the US governing the southern portion along with Midoro Island and Olvana the north from Baguio. The US and its western allies left Torbia shortly after, focusing instead on the occupations of

Japan and Germany and the growing frictions with Donovia. South Torbia was given independence and declared a nation on September 15, 1947, envisioned by the West to be a liberal western democracy and American ally in the Western Pacific. South Torbia recognizes and celebrates 15 September as "Torbia Day", the day of national independence.

The Torbian War

Pak Sung-Min, a former army general and leading figure in the Torbian wartime resistance, rose to power in the vacuum left by the departure of the US. Pak was a harsh and autocratic leader that violently consolidated power and aggressively suppressed political opposition. Despite his alarmingly oppressive actions and policies, Pak's staunch anti-communist positions won him the complete support from the US. This backing increased as Olvana reinforced the new communist government in North Torbia, now called the Democratic People's Republic of Torbia.

The Torbian War was a watershed event for both North and South Torbia. North Torbia, led by its charismatic communist dictator Song Yang-Hwan, convinced Olvana to back an invasion of the South. Song intended to unite the island under communist rule. Supplied and trained by the Olvanans, North Torbia massed forces on the border and invaded in 1950—meeting minimal resistance from the South Torbians and nearly completing its occupation of South Torbia before intervention by South Torbia's western allies. The resulting counterattack by South Torbia and its allies and subsequent Olvanan counter-intervention ultimately resulted in a stalemate that endured for nearly three more years before both sides agreed on a ceasefire.

South Torbia suffered massive military and civilian losses during the Torbian War. Large areas of the countryside had been laid waste and virtually all South Torbia's limited industrial capacity was gutted or destroyed. The ongoing military threat from the North forced South Torbia into a perpetual state of wartime readiness, which facilitated the emerging dominance of a repressive Pak government. For nearly 10



years, Pak ruled as a military dictator. His regime was notable for numerous human rights abuses and shortsighted economic policies. US administrations turned a blind eye to the authoritarian government, seeing Pak as a bulwark against communist expansion in the Pacific.

The Second Republic

Pak's rule ended abruptly in the spring of 1962. Student demonstrations against the brutality of his regime grew into a rebellion; at first localized to small pockets in the South Torbian capital of Manila, but then spreading rapidly throughout the country. When the General Staff of the Republic of Torbia Army (ROTA) announced it would not put down the rebellion, Pak abdicated the presidency and ushered in the Torbian Second Republic. The Second Republic, though deeply democratic and populist in nature, faced significant hurdles. Being mostly a student movement, it lacked centralized leadership and extreme leftist/communist ties undermined US backing of the new government. After nine months of ineffective government, characterized by violent purges and endemic corruption, the ROTA deposed the Second Republic government with a relatively bloodless coup in early 1963.

A new constitution established a government run entirely by the military. The ROTA Chief of Staff became the head of state and positioned military officers in key leadership roles in the cabinet and legislature. He was an enormously popular WWII hero and made promises to end the political violence, re-establish good relations with the US, and transition to a stable and effective democracy within two years.

The Third Republic

Relations with the US greatly improved once it was clear South Torbia had a strong anti-communist position and political violence largely disappeared. By 1965, the acting president deemed South Torbia sufficiently stable to transition back to a civilian-run democratic government. The government planned for writing and drafting a new constitution and elections were scheduled. The acting president appeared

ready to step aside until shortly before the election, when he abruptly resigned his Army commission and announced his candidacy for president. His popularity and reputation for leading the government through the transition period led to his winning the election in a landslide. With his influence and popularity, he and his Republican Party are the dominant political force within the Torbian Third Republic.

The primary objective throughout this time was the growth of the South Torbian economy. South Torbia was still an economic backwater; it lagged far behind the emerging communist bloc-backed economy of North Torbia, as well as the rehabilitated economies of much of the Pacific. The government, using the country's anti-communist positions as leverage, successfully attracted huge sums of foreign aid, investment, and reparations. The government successfully negotiated a long-term status of forces agreement with the US, allowing American troops to assist the South Torbian military in deterring and resisting an unrelenting and aggressive North Torbia. Economic growth through this era was meteoric. South Torbia was ideally positioned as a global trading destination. Through international investment, South Torbia made significant improvement in extracting its natural resources. The government invested in constructing and improving its infrastructure, including modern highways, airports, and seaports, backed by western money and expertise. The long-term vision was an export economy, with massively wealthy North American markets as the primary target for manufactured goods. By the mid-1970s, the South Torbian economy had surpassed that of North Torbia in per capita GDP and productivity. South Torbian export markets, especially in the US, grew rapidly.

Despite the successes of the Third Republic's economic growth plan, major problems still plagued South Torbia. Quality of life for most working-class citizens remained very poor: the government invested little in important public services such as health care, housing, and education. Most of the wealth generated by industry went to well-positioned business and political leaders – economic and social volatility was high among the vast majority of South Torbians. Son, much like his



predecessor, eventually resorted to repressive and violent actions to quell dissent and uprisings. Extra-judicial killings by the military became commonplace, as the ROTA became a virtual praetorian guard by surrounding the government. Resistance to the government grew in proportion to the prevalence of state violence and human rights abuses. By 1980, the country was on the verge of a major political uprising.

The Fourth Republic

The Third Republic's regime came to an abrupt and violent end in early 1981. Student demonstrations throughout the country became endemic and widespread. Protest leaders were arrested and held without trial, which emboldened nationwide peaceful demonstrations and some violent riots. In the university town of Los Banos, the demonstrations were organized so well that local police could not contain them. ROTA forces were dispatched and opened fire on the mostly peaceful demonstrators. Security forces killed nearly 400 citizens and injured nearly a thousand in what became known as the Massacre of Los Banos. This served as a flashpoint for much of South Torbia's working class and student populations and a national revolution seemed imminent.

In the aftermath of the massacre, the president retreated to his presidential palace and dispatched ROTA forces around Manila to contain potential revolutionary forces. Shortly after this final order, a ROTA aide shot and killed the president in his office. His assassination put the growing nationwide uprising on pause while upper echelons of the government scrambled to consolidate power and prevent widespread political violence. Those holding the government together appointed a popular moderate civilian politician as interim president and scheduled elections for late 1981.

The elections of 1981 established the Fourth Republic. The interim government invited political and legal experts from across the world help craft a new constitution. The new constitution contained sweeping changes to the old constitution, including

restrictions on military influence in the elected government. It also contained major reforms in support of human rights, constitutional safeguards, privacy protections, law enforcement restrictions, and firm term limits. The 1981 elections established a radically new National Assembly, largely cutting the military out of the legislature. Similarly, the new president would be a civilian, with no formal military background.

The Fourth Republic proved stable and peaceful, largely eliminating the human rights abuses and political violence that had plagued South Torbia since its inception. Relations with Olvana, the US, Donovia, and Australia improved; diplomatic feelers were even sent out to North Torbia (to no effect). Economic growth continued but was now accompanied by significant improvements in quality of life for nearly all its citizens. The nation expanded its diplomatic and economic connections, becoming more global and less strictly western leaning. By the close of the 20th century, South Torbia emerged as one of the world's wealthiest and most economically influential nations.

Government Overview

South Torbia is a representative republic, with the executive and legislature elected by popular vote. The national/federal government is far more powerful and influential than provincial governments. A carefully constructed systems of checks and balances aims for long-term stability.

Branches of Government

South Torbia's government has three constitutionally-mandated branches of government—legislative, executive, and judicial. A system of checks and balances attempts to keep one government branch from exerting too much power in the country.



Legislative Authority

The National Assembly (NA) of South Torbia is the national legislative body. It is unicameral, with a single large assembly consisting of 325 elected representatives. Though the exact numbers change year to year based on population shifts, roughly 250 of the representatives are elected via single-representative constituencies (called NA Districts) the remainder are elected via proportional representation as part of the national elections, allocated based on political party. Terms are six years, with elections held every three years for half of the NA. South Torbia’s history with overly powerful executives led to a specific provision included in the 1981 constitution that prohibits the dissolution of the NA by the president.

The primary role of the NA is passing national legislation. Potential laws begin as petitions—If a petition receives at least 20 signatures from NA members, it is introduced as a bill. Bills are debated and then voted on—a simple majority of at least a 50% quorum is required to pass. The president then either approves the bill or vetoes it—if the president refuses to approve a bill, a three-fifths majority is required to override his veto. The NA also holds impeachment power over all federal government officials, to include members of the president’s cabinet, federal level agency heads, judges, and the president. Following the normal petition and debate process, an impeachment vote of three-fifths majority can remove federal government officials from office. The NA debates and approves the national budget and approves appointments to the Supreme Court and the president’s cabinet.

Typically, there are between four and six major political parties represented in the NA. At present, most members are from the center-right (Torbias Liberty) and center-left (Social Democratic) parties, with a hard-right nationalist party (Torbias Patriot) and a green socialist (People’s) party also represented in smaller numbers. In recent years, the hard-right and far left parties have gained proportionally as South Torbian politics have polarized. Past parties that achieved at least 5% representation include the Torbian Unity party (a party advocating the reunification of Torbia), the Military

First Party (a hawkish/pro-militarist party), and the Torbia First Party (an anti-US/western party). For a party to be included on a national ballot, it must be approved by the Constitutional Court.

Provincial or local legislatures are far less formal than American counterparts: elections are highly localized, and representatives are often not compensated for their time. Provincial legislatures address issues relevant to their constituents but have very limited power to pass substantive legislation – all provincial laws must be approved by the federal government.

South Torbia assembly is composed of 3 major and 3 minor parties.

Table 1. National Assembly Composition

| Political Party | Seats | Percent |
|------------------------|-------|---------|
| Torbias Liberty (TL) | 146 | 45% |
| Social Democratic (SD) | 97 | 30% |
| Torbias Patriot (TP) | 36 | 11% |
| People's Party (PP) | 21 | 6% |
| Torbias Unity (TU) | 13 | 4% |
| Torbias First (TF) | 12 | 4% |

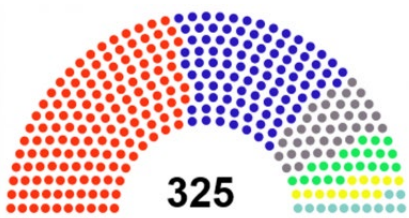


Figure 2. National Assembly Diagram

Executive Authority

South Torbia’s modern history has been dominated by strong executives—from outright dictators to military juntas to overly powerful presidents. The 1981 constitution deliberately sought to limit the power of the executive; however, the president remains the country’s most powerful single political figure.

The president is the head-of-government, head-of-state, commander-in-chief, and chairperson of the cabinet. The constitution specifies the president must take an oath



with three mandates: 1) uphold the constitution; 2) protect South Torbia from threats at home and abroad; and 3) work towards the peaceful reunification of Torbia. Somewhat uniquely, the president can declare war unilaterally; the NA's check to that authority is its control over spending allocations.

The president is chosen every six years in a national election. The vote is a simple popular one; usually, at least three and sometimes as many as six candidates will run in each election. Presidential candidates are typically leading members of political parties, but the Constitution allows political outsiders with no party affiliation to run. A president serves only one term. Decorum and historical precedence require ex-presidents to retire from public political life following their presidency.

South Torbia also has a prime minister (PM). Unlike most PMs, South Torbia's PM is not the head of government, but rather, the president's chief of staff to the cabinet and the president's understudy. Day-to-day management of the cabinet is conducted by the PM. The PM's usual responsibility is ensuring the president's agenda is implemented by the cabinet. The PM is appointed, rather than elected and is generally expected to maintain a very low public profile – past PMs have been dismissed because of excessive public presence.

South Torbia has enjoyed several competent and well-regarded presidents in recent history. As a result, public confidence in the office of the president has recovered after years of skepticism. The recent corruption scandal involving the president has damaged this new public trust. It remains to be seen how this will affect future president's capacity to govern.

Judicial Authority

The judicial system of South Torbia largely mimics that of western civil law systems. The largest difference between South Torbia's legal system and many western systems is the complete absence of juries to decide cases and sentencing – all decision are made by one or more judges. South Torbia also utilizes an inquisitorial

system for its prosecution, giving significant power to courts and judges across the breadth of the legal system.

Due process and the rules of the legal system are extremely important in South Torbia. Since courts and judges have significant latitude in determining which cases to prosecute and then deciding the outcomes of those cases, strict rules are in place to protect the rights of citizens. Warrants are difficult to obtain, prosecutorial misconduct is harshly punished, and judges are closely watched for any signs of bribery or other undue influence. While the system is generally well-liked and considered both fair and effective by the population, the freedom granted to judges and prosecutors has led to a few instances of high-profile corruption.

National Court System

There are four separate courts overseen by the federal judicial system and one Municipal Court system overseen by municipalities.

Supreme Court

South Torbia's highest court is the Supreme Court of South Torbia, call the SCOST. SCOST decisions cover cases of national importance that are passed up through District and High courts. Unlike many western judiciaries, the SCOST often hears relatively minor but contentious cases. The SCOST is headed by a chief justice, appointed by the president, and approved by the NA, who serves a six-year term. It is staffed by ten associate judges, also presidential appointees, who likewise serve six-year terms. All terms are renewable, but it is common for justices to step down after only a single term. SCOST decisions are simple majorities, with the chief justice acting as arbitrator if a majority cannot be obtained due to justice recusal or other issues



Court of Appeals

The Courts of Appeal, commonly called the High Courts, hear appeals from district courts. Each High Court, staffed with three judges, oversees roughly one-third of the South Torbian population. Decisions only require a simple majority

Lower Courts

District Courts

District Courts cover specific provincial areas or cities and hear either appeals from Municipal Courts or cases deemed serious enough to be outside of the capacity of the Municipal Courts. District Courts consist of three judges and decisions must be unanimous or the case goes to the Court of Appeals for determination.

Municipal Courts

The lowest courts in South Torbia consist of a single judge that hears simple or low-value criminal cases. They can be thought of as like small claims courts in the US, though they may hear minor criminal cases in addition to civil matters.

Constitutional State Court System

South Torbia employs a specialized ad-hoc court to hear constitutional cases, approve political parties, and conduct impeachment hearings. In contrast to the SCOST, the Constitutional Court consists of only seven members, chosen by the legislature, and approved by the president. It is convened annually, or as needed for major constitutional issues or impeachment proceedings. Members must have served either as a SCOST judge or as a High court judge but cannot be currently seated. Decisions are via a simple majority. The Constitutional Court ensures checks and balances are in place for major constitutional issues and impeachments—the court was designed specifically to check the power of a strong executive branch.

Parallel Legal Systems

There are no parallel legal systems to accommodate religious, customary, or common law outside the country's standard legal system.

Governance Issues

Legitimacy

The South Torbians see their government as legitimate. Protests are expected and tolerated when the government missteps or when activists can rally sufficient support. The people still recall the unrest and protests of past government overreach; it encourages caution on the part of the government it faces opposition.

Government Legitimacy Claims

The South Torbian Constitution provides the legal framework within which the government operates. A system of checks and balances, with careful attention having been given to past executive abuses, limits the power of any one group or individual and encourages spirited debate and implementation of policies and laws.

Population's Recognition of Legitimacy

The recent years of relative peace, stability, and peaceful transfer of power to new administrations have given most South Torbians a sense of national pride and belief in their systems of government. Most South Torbians actively participate in elections and follow issues of major importance or that affect them individually.

Participation

As evidenced by the high voter turnout in the national elections, most South Torbians want to participate in the political process. In most parts of the country there are normally enough candidates to run for office with competition. This includes the national offices as well as the local and regional races.

Protests

South Torbia has a history of protesting and demonstrating against perceived government abuses and unpopular policies. University campuses provide fertile ground for many demonstrations, but activists in various parts of society also plan, promote, and lead protests. South Torbian government administrations are acutely



aware of and sensitive to the part protests and citizen unrest have played in overthrowing South Torbian governments.

Measures Taken To Maintain Legitimacy

Despite some corruption scandals lately, the South Torbian government attempts to govern properly and remain legitimate. Police, judicial, and political corruption is considered unacceptable by society. A vigorous media and activists provide impetus to ensure criminal activity is investigated and prosecuted. While corruption exists and is never far from discussions about the government, South Torbia is viewed by most as reasonably effective in addressing issues that might delegitimize the government. This can be seen in the prosecution and conviction of a South Torbian president and other high government officials.

External View of the Government's Legitimacy

Most countries around the world have accepted that North and South Torbia are two different countries with separate governments. Ideology separates the two countries, however, and makes it unlikely there will be a reunification soon. North Torbia—supported by Olvana and Donovia— and South Torbia—supported by its western allies—insist on very different forms of government in a united Torbia. External legitimacy, for obvious reasons, depends on where one stands ideologically.

Effectiveness

Elections

South Torbian elections are national events, considered federal holidays and accompanied with national celebration events. National elections are held every three years—half of the NA is elected every three years, with presidential elections held in conjunction with parliamentary elections every six years.

Following near-constant election fraud and corruption through the 1960s and 70s. South Torbia today has an almost fanatical devotion to the fairness of its elections.

The South Torbia election commission is large and well-funded and election officials are highly regarded. The SCOST holds ultimate authority over all national elections. The election commissioner is chosen by the SCOST and represents the SCOST throughout the election season. No election is finalized until the SCOST certifies the results.

Local elections follow much the same model. District courts choose election commissioners and certify election results. Local elections are typically held the same day as national elections with local candidates normally affiliating themselves with the platforms of national candidates.

Rule of Law

South Torbian culture has deeply embraced the rule of law at all levels of society and government. South Torbians hold their judicial system in very high esteem and expect the judges and prosecutors to strictly uphold the constitution. Police and military take oaths of allegiance seriously and are reasonably effective in dealing punitively with extra-legal activity within their organizations.

The relationship between large corporations and the government is an emerging challenge. South Torbia's economy is dominated by a handful of major companies, creating opportunities for undue influence on government officials—both legal and extra-legal. The government is also wrestling with the implications of large multinational corporations operating in South Torbia. Often these organizations ask for favorable status or other concessions from the national government. While the South Torbian population generally supports the economic advantage of large corporations, it is also uncomfortable with special treatment. This complexity will cause increasing friction within South Torbian society and government.

Domestic Security Forces

Domestic security consists of three primary domestic security forces. Greater detail for each of these can be found in the Military variable.



Border Guards: The Ministry of the Interior (Mol) operates a border guard unit of approximately 5,000 personnel armed with only small arms. This unit is responsible for administration of the border with North Torbia and the coastlines.

National Police Force (NPF): South Torbia fields a NPF of approximately 1,000 members who operate like the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the United States. It handles domestic national crimes.

National Special Forces Force (SPF) Battalion: While military in nature, this unit is controlled by the Mol. It conducts strategic wartime missions, but in peace it is used to combat terrorism operations, hostage rescue, and similar missions.

Prison System

South Torbia has a relatively low crime rate in South Torbia due to the cultural traditions that value respect for and obedience to authority.

Federal: The criminally incarcerated population is approximately 100,000 people at the federal level. Of these, only about 5,000 are females. Prisoners are housed in six pre-trial detention centers—five male prisons, one female correctional facility, and one private prison for males only.

Provincial: Each province has a small prison for pre-trial confinement and short-term sentences. For any sentence longer than six months, the convicted individual is transferred to one of the federal facilities.

Local: Most large cities have a local jail to hold those accused of very minor crimes. This is only until the accused can appear before a judge for crimes that usually result in a fine or sentences less than a month. If convicted, the prisoner will be transferred to a provincial jail. For rural areas, the accused is placed in pre-trial confinement at the provincial level. After conviction, the perpetrator either remains in the provincial prison or is transferred to the federal level if the sentence is over six months long.

Corruption

Corruption was historically endemic to Torbian culture; wartime occupation and postwar poverty only increased the region's reliance on extra-legal transactions. Since the fall of the post-war military autocracies, however, South Torbia has experienced a groundswell of anti-corruption sentiment from all levels of society. During the 1990s and 2000s, South Torbia positioned itself as Asia's least corrupt government and business destination. Statistically, South Torbia is said to be in the upper quartile of governments when it comes to transparency and anti-corruption efforts.

Today, trust in the government and, particularly, the judicial system is widespread. Corruption at all levels of government is considered relatively low and culturally frowned upon. Internal politics within business conglomerates and powerful families almost certainly breeds subtle illegal activities transacted in ways where no money changes hands.

Human Rights and Freedoms

South Torbia had a wildly uneven record with human rights throughout the 20th century. Though military autocrats claimed to uphold the rule of law and basic freedoms, leaders routinely suppressed freedom of speech, association, and the press. Dissenters often faced imprisonment without trial, torture, and, in extreme situations, execution. These practices culminated with the Massacre of Los Banos and the eventual emergence of the new republic.

Today, South Torbia meets most standards for human rights and protection of freedoms expected of developed nations. Freedom of speech, press, association, and religion are codified in the Constitution and enforced by the judiciary. Accused criminals have recognized rights, with fair and transparent trials being the norm. Human rights are an important campaign platform for those seeking political candidates. Several prominent human rights advocates have been elected to federal and provincial offices with human rights as a key proponent of their campaign.



Institutional discrimination does, however, exist. Homosexuals are widely discriminated against and have no specific protection under the law, which has focused international condemnation. Non-Torbian or Torbians of mixed parentage also see widespread discrimination, without legal recourse. In addition, the military has a reputation for abusing conscripts during their training—incidents described as “hazing” often venture into grossly inhumane treatment. Numerous scandals resulting from these incidents brought extreme public scrutiny on the military, which embarked on a comprehensive retraining and oversight program designed to curb these behaviors in recent years.

Provision of Services

The executive branch of the government provides several services, managed, and implemented under the auspices of ministries and led by appointed cabinet ministers.

Ministry of Education and Culture

This ministry is responsible for oversight of the country’s school system from pre-school to graduate school. The curriculum is nationally mandated through the Ministry of Education and Culture but allows some flexibility that allows for local innovativeness. A national exam, the University Standard Exam, is required for students to be admitted to South Torbia’s universities. University studies are reserved for those attaining the highest scores. Due to the highly competitive nature of the entrance exam, South Torbian parents exert pressure on their children to perform well in classes and on the university entrance exam. Tutors add an extra expense to parents expecting their children to enter a university. University tuition, books, and other expenses are paid by the government upon acceptance. This ministry also has responsibility for initiatives that support South Torbian culture and arts. The ministry supports concerts, traditional painting contests, poetry recitals, and other events to encourage interest in old-style Torbian arts and culture. South Torbian national parks also fall under the auspices of this ministry.

Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare

This ministry is primarily responsible for overseeing public health, unemployment payments, and public assistance. Additionally, the ministry’s bureaucracy provides critical reports that inform national economic and health policies. It is tasked with collecting and collating data from a few sources on an ongoing basis that populate large databases that inform the government-mandated reports.

Ministry of Environment

This ministry is responsible for the reduction of pollution and implementing any laws passed by the NA that involve safeguarding the environment. As environmental activism has become more prominent in recent years, clashes between well-positioned corporations and environmental activists have become more prominent.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

All issues related to diplomacy and foreign relations is handled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Department of Unification within this ministry takes the lead in talks with North Torbia on the reunification of the two countries. Often, due to North Torbia reluctance, this department goes months without meeting with its North Torbia counterpart. This ministry also works with the Ministry of Education and Culture to facilitate family tours to North Torbia when relations between the two Torbias periodically warms.

Ministry of Finance

This ministry is tasked with managing tax collection, budgetary responsibilities, distribution of social support, and other accounting and financial management responsibilities. Minister of Finance is a powerful position and is generally held by a trusted ally of the president.

Centers of Political Power

South Torbia has evolved into a western-styled liberal democracy. The 1981 constitution achieved a balance of power between the three branches of



government, effectively reducing presidential power from authoritarian to a more typical executive. The NA and the president together dominate public politics and hold most of the formal national political power. Local (provincial and city) governments are more limited in scope—they are semi-autonomous per the constitution but have very little formal authority.

Ultimately, the heart of political power in South Torbia lies with the voting public and the political parties that organize and rally people around party ideologies. Political parties are like those in western nations, run by a hierarchy of elected leaders who then provide funding and backing to candidates.

State Institutional Authority

Military Authority

South Torbia was essentially a military dictatorship for much of its history, with very mixed results for most of the population. The 1981 constitution formally removed the military from civil government while establishing clear lines of control between the president, the NA, and the military. However, the military still casts a very long shadow over South Torbian politics: the North Torbian threat remains extant, and the population of South Torbia still considers the military a very important part of the national political landscape. Active duty officers are strictly forbidden from taking public stances on political issues; retired officers generally do not run for political office.

The most significant military issue, on an annual basis, is the budget. The South Torbian military budget is usually between 2 and 2.5% of GDP, a number that usually places it in the top 10 worldwide of nominal spending. Dove factions within the NA typically debate with hawk factions on the budget issue until a compromise is reached. These debates usually draw high viewership and can be very intense: they can make or break political careers. Conscription is universal, creating a large pool of trained reserve personnel along with a deep societal connection to the military.

Military national command authority goes from the President (and Prime Minister as understudy) to the Minister of National Security (a cabinet position), and then to the military joint general staff, called the Supreme High Command. The senior military officer is called the Supreme High Commander (SHC); this position is viewed as roughly half cabinet member and half military commander. The Minister of National Security and SHC are charged with implementing the strategy and orders of the president. While the president chooses the Minister of National Security, the SHC must be nominated by the president and the approved by the NA.

Religious Authority

There is no state mandated religious authority in South Torbia.

Other

There are no other major centers of political power in South Torbia.

Non-State Institutional Authority

There are no major non-state institutional authorities in South Torbia.

Informal Authority (Social Groups)

There are several informal authority groups in South Torbia including the following:

Ethno-linguistic Groups

South Torbia is a relatively homogenous ethno-linguistic nation. Because of this, Torbian culture is highly regarded, resulting in discrimination with little legal recourse for minorities.

Family Authority

Families tend to vote as a unit, most often in line with the father's or grandfather's thinking. As a result of the patriarchal nature of voting, political platforms typically try to influence older males above all other demographic categories. The family is



central to Torbian society in practically every aspect. Political discourse often centers on the family, with issues such as taxation, education, infrastructure, and military service discussed with a focus on how these affect the family.

Non-state sponsored religious groups

Though South Torbians enjoy constitutionally protected freedom of religion, few religious organizations play a significant role in politics. Overall, South Torbian's typically try to avoid politicizing religion, however there are external influences that may find niche audiences within the population.

Politics and Political Parties

Domestic Political Issues

South Torbia's domestic political discourse has been dominated by three key issues: the relationship of the executive to the rest of the government and its effect on long-term government stability, the role and size of the military, and the influence of corporate entities on government policies and leaders.

Excess Presidential Authority

South Torbia has experienced the ill effects of authoritarian and corrupt regimes for much of its history. This memory, still clear in the minds of the older population, has shaped South Torbia's ideas about the executive branch of the government. The strength, powers given, and control mechanisms of the executive branch is a discussion that continues to cause disagreement within the country. The NA strives to protect its constitutional interests; however, when political parties are in the majority, they tend to lean toward investing greater flexibility and powers in the executive, while minority political parties strive to limit the executive.

Militarism

Sharing a border with a belligerent adversary places greater attention and focus on the need for a strong and well-trained military. Discussions about the military have

tended to be more about funding amounts and not the necessity of a standing military. Past authoritarian regimes, needing to ensure its security and viability, spent as much as 25% of the country's GDP on the military—most critically at the expense of badly needed domestic programs. Despite a wide-spread acceptance of the need for affordable and proportionate spending on the military, the topic is fodder for divisive political debates. Annual budget debates typically pit a pro-military coalition against a coalition wishing more spending on domestic support programs. The military itself is expected to stay completely apolitical and remain completely out of these debates, though this rarely occurs completely.

The military represents a sizable proportion of the South Torbian economy, as high-end weapon systems are manufactured domestically. Military spending affects the economy through civilian and military jobs, a desire for technology independence, and the collateral effects of direct government spending in the economy.

Big Business

The growing importance of large corporations in South Torbia has led to its greater influence in government policies. Over the last two decades, several South Torbian companies have grown into some of the world's largest and most powerful. The relationship between large corporations and government is a relatively new friction for South Torbia in recent years. The rapid ascent of several South Torbian companies put them in positions to be enormously influential with the South Torbian NA and the presidency. Favorable tax considerations and preferential export, labor, and environmental considerations are a few of the areas now receiving greater scrutiny by activists, small businesses, and the general population. Two recent corruption scandals involving bribery and corruption at the highest levels of government are bringing greater focus and attention to government accountability and the influence of corporate entities.



Official Political Parties

Currently, there are six leading political parties recognized in South Torbia. Three of these parties represent 86% of the population while the other three parties represent the remaining 14% of the people.

Torbian Liberty (TL) Party

The TL party is a moderate party that emphasizes economic growth in the nation. The TL is neutral on the unification of the two Torbias if the North Torbian political and economic systems are not the ones chosen for post-unification. The TL allies itself with business organizations to promote lower taxes and fewer regulations on businesses.

Social Democratic (SD) Party

The SD is a moderate party emphasizing social welfare initiatives. The SD Party advocates for more spending on social services, often at the expense of military spending. The SD Party finds supporters among social activists and others interested in better social programs for the poor and disadvantaged. The party would like to see a reunification of the two Torbias, but with a post-unification government that allies itself with the party's ideology.

Torbian Patriot (TP) Party

The TP party emphasizes military strength over all other political issues. The TP believes that a strong military is the only way to prevent North Torbia from invading South Torbia. Its unitary focus on military strength puts it at odds with parties advocating for more spending on social programs. It fears unification of the two Torbias will lead to a weakening of South Torbia.

People's Party (PP)

The PP advocates for a radical form of socialism for South Torbia. It also advocates for greater environmental regulations, increased taxes on the wealthy and

corporations, and more government spending on social and education programs. Reunification under the PP would look more like the government of North Torbia—while it would be less authoritarian, it would have greater centralized control.

Torbian Unity (TU) Party

The TU is primarily concerned with the reunification of the two Torbias into a single country. While most TU members would prefer that the reunification happen with open elections, some do not care if the country becomes one. In economics, the TU is generally pro-growth as additional tax revenues from an expanding economy could be used to help their North Torbian cousins. The TU is supportive of sending any type of aid to North Torbia as it believes this will facilitate reunification efforts.

Torbia First (TF) Party

The TF is demonstrably anti-Western. It advocates against US and western influence in South Torbian politics and daily life. Those supporting this party are seeking a reunification with a government more in line with the centralized control of North Torbia. Economically, the TF wants the government to take control of most means of production to make the system fairer for all. The TF is against compulsory military service.

Political Coalitions

The TL and TP parties often form a coalition to pass legislation in the NA. Between the two parties, they usually have the votes to pass legislation in the NA. The SD and PP parties often join forces to block the TL/TP coalition.

Other Domestic Influential Groups

With the rise of several mega-corporations over the last 20 years, large corporations became a major political player as well. Though business has no formal political power in the South Torbian system, the handful of local mega-corporations control a huge percentage of the GDP, jobs, and tax revenues, and find themselves well-



positioned to influence elected officials and bureaucrats at all levels of government. This recently emerged as a significant issue when a large anti-corruption effort brought down several high-profile government officials caught taking bribes from a major company in exchange for sponsoring favorable tax reforms. The arrests and convictions of high-level government officials is bringing greater focus on government corruption.

International Relationships

South Torbia is a regional economic powerhouse, bringing it significant influence—both regionally and internationally. It is part of the G20, giving it a voice on the international stage.

Geopolitical/International Political Strategy

South Torbia has ambitions to be a key economic and political leader internationally. This requires it to walk a fine line as it interacts with the West and with those deemed adversaries of the West. This is particularly true of its relationships with Olvana. Its influence and leverage are felt most prominently with those regional countries less developed than Olvana.

Major Diaspora Population(s)

South Torbians or those descended from South Torbian parentage, live in most developed and developing areas of the world, to include the US, Australia, Belesia, and Olvana. Those working in these countries are generally working for large corporations that are headquartered in these countries. Since the quality of life in South Torbia is not that of a developing country, remittances are not a significant part of the economy. International experience has given many South Torbians an appreciation for and experience in a larger world that tends to shape their political and economic perspective.

Relationship with Major World Powers

South Torbia enjoys a good relationship with almost all the major world powers and plays a small role in mediating between adversarial countries. This tends to be in the economic realm, as it pursues its ongoing trade relations with many of the countries in the world.

United States

American presence in Torbia dates to the aftermath of WWII and the Torbian War. Since that time, US troop levels have varied significantly. While most South Torbians appreciated the American presence as an effective deterrent to North Torbian aggression, numerous incidents (usually relating to misconduct by American service people) over the years gave rise to a vocal anti-US movement. Though the more radical anti-US movement remains somewhat fringe, most South Torbians do not want a permanent American presence in the islands. A major concession occurred in 2011 when all American forces in South Torbia left the country. The implications of this change are significant and still evolving.

Missile defense has become another hot-button issue in South Torbia. The military had no organic missile defense capability until recently, all capabilities being provided by the US. With North Torbia increasing its ballistic missile testing and procurement programs, missile defense moved to the forefront of South Torbian politics and military strategy. ROTA generals advocated for a South Torbian defense capability to complement the Americans, initially increasing, and then replacing American missile defense presence on the island. While most South Torbians supported this effort, some were greatly concerned that it would prove to be a provocation to both North Torbia and Olvana. The expansion is ongoing but remains contentious.

North Torbia is an ever-present friction point between the US and South Torbia—South Torbia preferring a more compromising and nuanced approach than the



American's bellicose, confrontational, and uncompromising stance. The reasons for South Torbia's softer approach include: 1) South Torbia views North Torbia as part of its territory and heritage and 2) South Torbia could face considerable destruction and loss of life in the event of an open conflict. This friction ebbs and flows as political parties in both countries change and as North Torbia varies its approach from timid to belligerent.

Economically, the US and South Torbia remain staunch partners. South Torbia has long been a productive place for American investment and the US is South Torbia's second most important export market after Olvana. The US and South Torbia recently renegotiated one of the World's most comprehensive free trade agreements—the United States-Torbias Trade Agreement (TORUS). The TORUS agreement is today the world's second largest free trade agreement behind the European Free Trade Agreement. This monumental trade agreement is enormously popular and beneficial to both countries' economies.

Donovia

South Torbia has a cordial relationship with Donovia, mainly based on trade. Donovia generally supports North Torbia, but the economic ties between South Torbia and Donovia have reduced the friction between them over the last couple of decades.

Olvana

Like Donovia, Olvana has generally supported North Torbia since the division of the country. Due to South Torbia's booming economy, the two countries are tied by significant trade. Like Donovia, South Torbia's relationship with Olvana continues to improve because of economic ties, causing concern on the part of North Torbia as it views its alliance weakening with Olvana.

European Union (EU)

South Torbia's relationship with the EU is almost exclusively economically driven. The EU countries are a major trading partner with South Torbia; however, their mutual economic interests continue to draw them closer together in other respects.

Relationship to Other Countries in the Region

Except for North Torbia, South Torbia has a cordial, if not better, relationship with all other countries in DATE-Pacific.

Belesia

Good. Belesia is a major trading partner with South Torbia. Politically, there are usually no issues between the two countries. On occasion, issues involving fishing rights and other boundary concerns occur as fishermen and others stray across country borders. These are usually warm issues that are easily solved diplomatically.

Gabal

Good. Due to its size, Gabal is not a significant trade partner. Gabal's beaches and other vacation amenities, however, attract many from South Torbia. For this reason, Gabal and South Torbia seek to maintain friendly relations. Issues erupting over violations of local laws has caused tensions, but the mutually beneficial transactional relationships ensure these events receive swift attention and are easily solved diplomatically.

North Torbia

Poor. Significant disagreement over what a reunified Torbia would look like, both economically and politically, continue to stymie talks over reunification between the two countries. Fears of the erratic and authoritarian North Torbian leadership cause South Torbian citizens to be in a constant state of unease. Relations between the two sides ebb and flow, more often due to how North Torbia acts than any intentional act by South Torbia.



Himaldesh

Good. Himaldesh sees its alliance with South Torbia as a guarantee of economic and military security in the shadow of Olvanan aggression in SE Asia.

Khorathidin

Good. South Torbia and Khorathidin cooperate economically and militarily to ensure freedom of movement in the South China Sea. The two have traded for centuries and in modern times have cooperated politically. Khorathidin is a large consumer of S. Torbian pop culture, with many overlapping fan networks in social media.

Bagansait

Good, but strained. Bagansait has balanced its relationship between North and South Torbia to capitalize on the benefits of both. However, South Torbia publicly denounced the most recent military coup in Bagansait. S. Torbia continues to invest in Bagansait industry.

Sungzon

Good. Sungzon has relied heavily on South Torbian technology to advance its own industries. S. Torbia sees itself as a positive role model in shaping Sungzon, but also indirectly working through Sungzon to shape SE Asian policy toward Olvana, and influence N. Torbia toward reconciliation.

Regional Issues

Regional actors include friends and foes, along a continuum that shifts, depending on the circumstances. South Torbia has friendly relations with both Belesia and Gabal, sharing membership in international and regional organizations focused on economic, environmental, humanitarian, and other issues important to the region. Trade relations are important to South Torbia. North Torbia and its ally, Olvana, have complicated and tense relations. North Torbia's admitted goal of reunification of the island under its control and Olvana's support of the regime pit South Torbia against

the two countries. South Torbia's western alliances also create tensions. South Torbia also contends with small insurgency cells, criminal, and other organizations with external funding and support ties.

Sovereignty

Sovereignty is only an issue when discussing the reunification of the Torbian countries. These discussions fail along ideological lines. The impasse is not likely to be solved soon without significant concessions by one or both sides.

Domestic Sovereignty

South Torbia has settled into a stable democracy with peaceful transfers of power. Domestic discord over policies, laws, regulations, and the balance of power are all discussed within the framework of South Torbia's legitimacy as a country. Small North Torbian insurgency cells are occasionally discovered in South Torbia, but these do not represent a serious threat to its sovereignty.

Territorial/Independence Sovereignty

North Torbia maintains a territorial claim over South Torbia. Any attempt at a negotiation between the two sides is subject to significant concessions neither side has been willing to give. Periodically, fishing rights and other water border issues reach warm diplomatic levels.

International Sovereignty

Olvana and its satellites, the only North Torbian patrons, are generally the only supporters of North Torbia's claim to what now constitutes South Torbia. The rest of the world accepts the legitimacy of South Torbia. Olvana and other countries within its orbit still have trading and diplomatic relations with South Torbia, weakening North Torbia's unrelenting claim to sovereignty over South Torbia.



Issues of de jure and de facto Sovereignty

The landmass historically called Torbia is now divided between two countries—North and South Torbia. Most countries have accepted this divide. Even though discussions are ongoing with greater or lesser frequency, reunification is unlikely to occur without a significant breakthrough.

Conflict and/or Disputes

The major dispute between North and South Torbia is on the political future of their two countries. North Torbia wants to reunite the two countries, but ONLY under a government led by the current North Torbian leader. South Torbia will not accept this condition and insists that any election, must be free and open for all the people of both North and South Torbian citizens.

Water Rights: There are no significant water rights issues between South Torbia and any of the other DATE-Pacific countries. At times, fishermen from all the countries stray into each other's territorial waters. These disputes are normally resolved diplomatically.

Environmental Issues: Regional environmental issues, particularly related to climate change and industrial pollution, are topics of discussion in regional and international organizations. South Torbia's and Olvana's advanced manufacturing impacts other countries in the region through air and water pollution. The degree to which environmental issues are to be regulated are political problems, subject to the parties in power. These are ongoing discussions, both internally and internationally.

National Arctic Strategy

South Torbia's Arctic policy is founded on a "Proactive Participation to Contribute to Peace and the Protection of the Arctic". It is based on international cooperation. The South Torbian Government outlines its Arctic policy in three focus areas with many subcategories.

- The Scientific Research of the Arctic as a Global Commons.
- The Requirement for International Cooperation on the Arctic
- The Examination of a Sustained Arctic Sea Route.

South Torbia has identified several Arctic issues to address within the framework of their three focus areas. The South Torbian Government uses the phrase "Global Environmental Issues" instead of Climate Change for specific reasons. It views the global environmental interactions in a complex, and multi-factor approach towards individual solutions. The accelerated warming in the Arctic is viewed as a complex process involving the atmosphere, sea currents, decreasing sea ice, and greenhouse gases. South Torbia desires to use its technical expertise to assist the international community with identifying the cause of each environmental mechanism affecting the Arctic and addressing it. The South Torbian Government recognizes the four million indigenous peoples of the Arctic and their culture. Any future in the Arctic must consist of a sustainable development plan which benefits and protects the foundations of the Arctic cultures and lifestyles. South Torbia's scientific study of the Arctic has been ongoing for decades and South Torbia will strive to continue to contribute to the international understanding of the Arctic. The Government of South Torbia views Arctic governance as essential to sustainable development, safe navigation, and regulating the increase shipping that will come with the development of the Arctic. These Arctic issues and their subcomponents (listed below) are all framed within the three focus areas and serve as the guide to advance the South Torbian National Arctic Strategy.

Arctic Strategy Subcomponents:

1. Research and Development
2. Research to Contribute to Policy
3. Improve Instrumentation and Analysis
4. Expand South Torbian Community
5. Establish Arctic Infrastructure



6. Data Sharing and Management
7. Training and Support
8. Arctic Research Vessel

International Cooperation

1. Active Participation in Governance
2. Further Contribution of the Arctic Council
3. Expand Cooperation with Non-Arctic Nations

Sustainable Use

1. South Torbian Economic Involvement
2. Arctic Sea Route
3. Mineral Resources
4. Marine Living Resources

Political Relationships

South Torbia participates in most global organizations, with its greatest impact on regional organizations.

Global Participation

South Torbia participates in the following global alliances and organizations:

- Community of Democracies (CD)
- Certified Internal Controls Auditor (CICA)
- International Criminal Court (ICC)
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)
- Non-aligned Movement (NAM)
- Permanent Court of Appeal (PCA)
- United Nations (UN)

Regional Participation

South Torbia participates in the following regional alliances and organizations:

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Asian Games
- Asia-Pacific Asian Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- Association of Southeastern Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- East Asian Seas (EAS)
- Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

Military Relationships

South Torbia maintains a strong military alliance with the US and other western countries. This mutually beneficial partnership has its roots in many years of working together to face off against North Torbia and Olvana.

Alliances

South Torbia is a member of Association of Southeastern Asian Nations (ASEAN). ASEAN promotes intergovernmental cooperation between its members and facilitates economic, political, security, military, education, and sociocultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia.

Treaties

South Torbia currently has no official treaties or military pacts with other countries. If attacked by North Torbia, South Torbia expects help from the UN and the US. The latter because of the history between the two countries and the former as a member in good standing. South Torbia's informal expectations of support are based on significant economic partnerships and its strategic position in the DATE-Pacific region.



Military Aid

Military agreements exist with western countries to provide both training and equipment to further South Torbia's defensive goals and protect those countries' interests in the region. During the last two decades, Western military personnel have deployed to help train South Torbian army, navy, and air force personnel and units. In the last decade, western militaries have conducted operations with their military counterparts in South Torbian land, airspace, and territorial waters. Some of the western embassies work with the South Torbian military through a Defense Cooperation Program.

The South Torbian military has participated in UN peacekeeping operations including MINUSTAH. Through its participation in these operations, the South Torbian military can train its military, particularly officers, and build personal relationships with members of other militaries that might prove beneficial in the future.

South Torbian companies can sell domestically manufactured military equipment to other countries, with the approval of the NA.

Economic Relationships:

Trade Agreements

South Torbia and the US participate in the United States-Torbias Trade Agreement (TORUS). The TORUS agreement is the world's second largest free trade agreement behind the European Free Trade Agreement.

Tariffs, Sanctions, and Embargos

There are currently no tariffs, sanctions, or embargos aimed at South Torbia. South Torbia participates in global sanctions against known terrorist organizations and countries that support them as a member of such organizations as the UN.

Economic Aid

South Torbia, having one of the best economies in the world, is a participant in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) providing support to developing countries. South Torbia, under certain circumstances, provides humanitarian aid to North Torbia through the UN and its own legislatively funded initiatives.

Other International Organizations

South Torbia participates in these other international organizations. See other variables for additional details on their role in these associations.

- Arctic Council (AC)
- Bank for International Resettlement (BIS)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-Interpol)
- International Development Agency (IDA)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
- International Labor Organization (ILO)
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO)



- International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
- International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- World Bank



MILITARY

Military Overview

The Republic of Torbia (or South Torbia) military is primarily a defensive force aimed at stopping the Democratic People's Republic of Torbia (or North Torbia) from taking over the entire country. Many years ago, due to the fear of its northern neighbor, South Torbia adopted a universal military service of short duration for all its male citizens. After leaving active duty, the military veterans serve in an active or inactive reserve role as a deterrence against external threats to the country's independence. South Torbia uses its mandatory service requirement to field a competent army and a large reserve.

While smaller than North Torbia, the South Torbian military is of higher quality, with better logistics and a substantially more capable air force. These positive attributes currently keep North Torbia from acting on its verbal declaration that the country should be unified under North Torbia's government. The South Torbian military continues to modernize their equipment when they can by purchasing mostly western equipment as they now believe the technology is superior to that of Donovia or Olvana. South Torbia still needs to continue their modernization program to continue their deterrence of the North. If North Torbia ever felt it could successfully take the rest of the country over without outside interference, regionally or internationally, it would likely not hesitate to launch an offensive against South Torbia.

Military Forces

The South Torbia military strategy focuses on the defense of their country, primarily against North Torbia whose intent is to reunite all Torbia under its Secretary General. As such, South Torbia has limited its offensive capabilities, creating military formations positions, manned, and equipped for defensive missions. It consists of three branches: the Republic of Torbia Army (RoTA), Republic of Torbia Navy

(RoTN), and the Republic of Torbia Air Force (RoTAF) under the control of the National Council (NC) and the Supreme High Command (SHC).

RoTA forces are mainly infantry with a limited number of other type units including one tank division, one mechanized infantry brigade, and one airborne brigade.

RoTN Force are organized under two geographic commands—East Naval Command and West Naval Command and is primarily a defensive entity with little capability to operate as a blue water force.

RoTAF Forces are organized two geographic commands, East Air Command and West Air Command, its missions include the protection of the country's borders, troop transport, and close air support (CAS) for ground forces.



National Command Authority

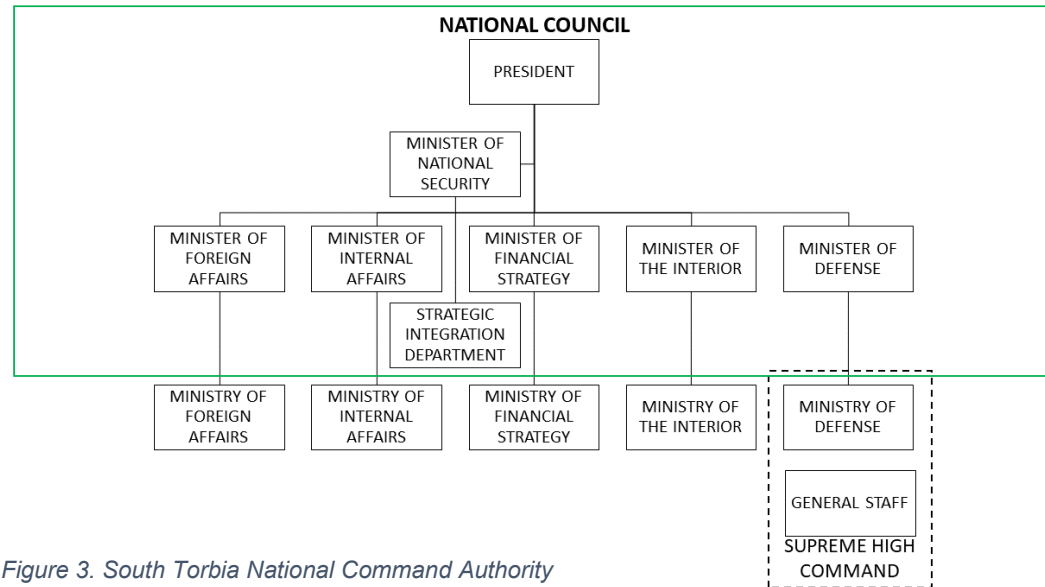


Figure 3. South Torbia National Command Authority

South Torbia refers to its National Command Authority as a National Council (NC). The NC exercises overall control of the application of all instruments of national power to plan and carry out the country's national security strategy. The NC includes the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs, Financial Strategy, Interior, and Defense, along with other members selected by the President, who chairs the NC. The president appoints the Minister of National Security, who exercises responsibility for the NC's Strategic Integration Department (SID). The SID serves as the overarching agency responsible to integrate all the instruments of national power under one cohesive national security strategy. The SID coordinates the plans and actions of all South Torbia's ministries, but particularly those associated with the

instruments of national power. (See TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 1,

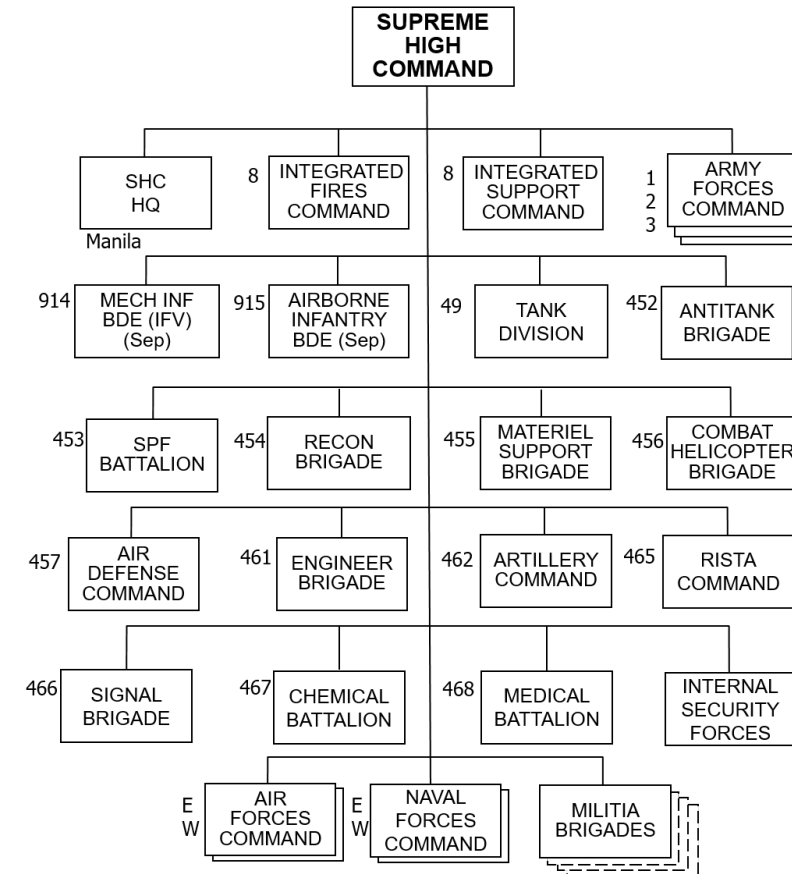


Figure 4. South Torbian Supreme High Command

Strategic and Operational Framework for additional information on the role of the National Command Authority).



Strategic Operational Framework

Republic of Torbia Defense Forces Structure. The SHC is in Manila. Exceptions are the 3 Army Force Commands, the 2 Air Force Commands, the 2 Navy Commands, and the militia brigades.

The SHC is in Manila. Exceptions are the 3rd Army Force Commands, the 2nd Air Force Commands, the 2nd Navy Commands, and the militia brigades.

The South Torbian NC exercises command and control (C2) of the Armed Forces via the Supreme High Command (SHC) that includes the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and a General Staff drawn from all the service components led by a Supreme High Commander who is nominated by the president but appointed by the National Assembly. In peacetime, the MoD and General Staff operate closely but separately. The MoD assumes the responsibility for policy, acquisitions, and financing the Armed Forces. The General Staff promulgates policy and supervises the service components, while its functional directorates assume responsibility for key aspects of defense planning. In wartime, the MoD and General Staff merge to form the SHC, which functions as a unified headquarters.

The South Torbian military is designed under an administrative force structure (AFS) that manages its military forces in peacetime. This AFS contains the aggregate of various military headquarters, facilities, and installations designed to man, train, and equip the forces. In peacetime, South Torbia groups their forces into Army Force Commands for administrative purposes designated by a number. If the South Torbian SHC elects to create more than one theater headquarters, it may allocate parts of the AFS to each of the theaters, normally along geographic lines. Typically, these administrative groupings differ from South Torbia's go-to-war (fighting) force structure. Other parts of the AFS consist of assets centrally controlled at the national level. See also FM 7-100.4 Opposing Force Organization Guide: Chapter 3, Task Organizing.

National Strategic Goals

Implementing National Security Goals

Like most countries, South Torbia shares a similar strategy to achieve their national goals. Strategic operations remain a continuous process not limited to wartime or preparation for war. Once war begins, strategic operations continue during regional, transition, and adaptive operations and complement those operations. Each of the latter three types of operations occurs only during war and only under certain conditions. Transition operations can overlap regional and adaptive operations.

In pursuit of its national security strategy, South Torbia finds itself prepared to conduct four basic types of strategic-level courses of action. The four types of operations include:

Strategic operations use all instruments of power in peace and war to achieve a country's national security strategy goals through attacks against any enemy's strategic centers of gravity.

Regional operations include conventional, force-on-force military operations against overmatched opponents, such as regional adversaries and internal threats.

Transition operations bridge the gap between regional and adaptive operations and contain some elements of both. The country continues to pursue its regional goals while dealing with developing outside intervention that has the potential to overmatch its military.

Adaptive operations preserve the country's power and apply it in adaptive ways against opponents that overmatch the country's military.

National Security Strategy

Although South Torbia may refer to them as "operations," each of these courses of action is a subcategory of strategy. Each type of operation aggregates the effects of



tactical, operational, and strategic actions in conjunction with instruments of national power to achieve South Torbia's strategic goals. The types of operations employed at a given time will depend on the types of threats, opportunities, and other conditions present.

If necessary, South Torbian strategy typically will start with actions directed at an enemy regional opponent that South Torbia overmatches in conventional military power (i.e., Belesia and Gabal), as well as other instruments of power. If possible, South Torbia will attempt to achieve its ends without armed conflict. Accordingly, South Torbia does not limit strategic operations to military means and usually does not begin with armed conflict. South Torbia may achieve the desired goal through pressure applied by nonmilitary instruments of power, perhaps by merely threatening to use superior economic or military power against the opponent. These actions fall under the general framework of "strategic operations."

South Torbia will resort to initiating armed conflict to achieve its desired end state only when nonmilitary means prove insufficient. Strategic operations, however, continue even if a particular regional threat or opportunity causes the country to undertake "regional operations" that may include military means as a last resort. Prior to the initiation of hostilities and throughout the course of armed conflict with its regional opponent, the government will continue to conduct strategic operations to preclude intervention by outside players, other regional neighbors, or an extra-regional power that are not supportive of their actions. South Torbia would welcome outside assistance to achieve its strategic goals, especially if attacked by an external enemy.

Arctic Military Strategy

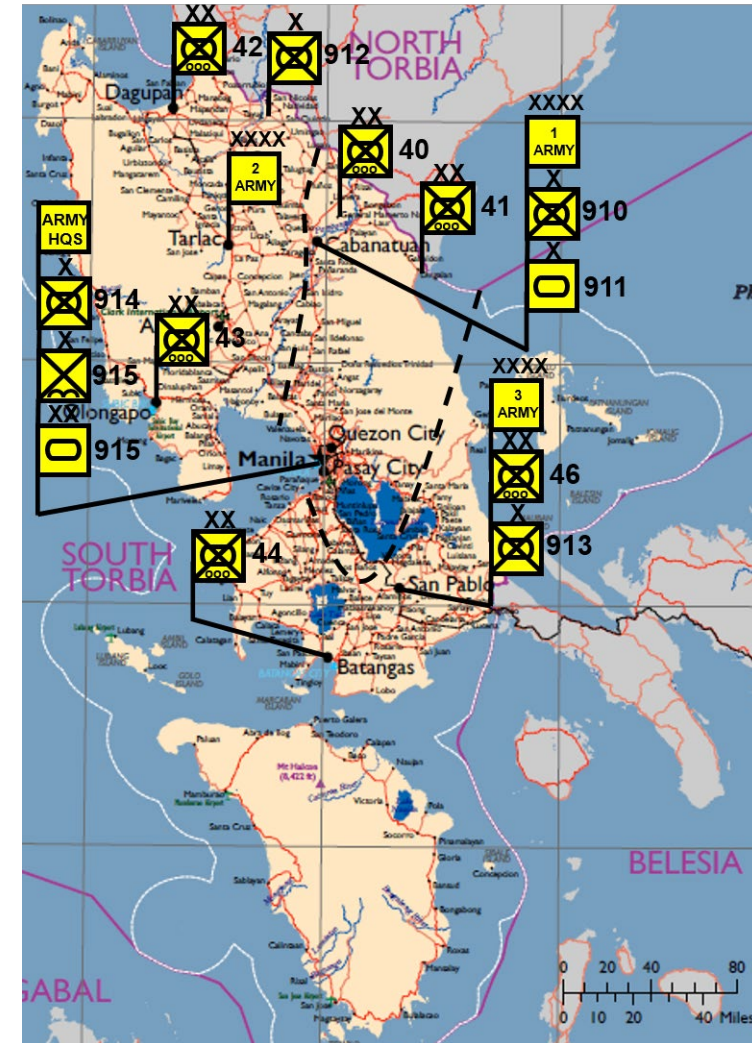
South Torbia's Military is primarily designed for defense against North Torbia. The Government of South Torbia recognizes within its Military Strategy that there are considerations regarding Arctic development that may impact South Torbian National

Security. South Torbia identifies that there are risk factors associated with opening new shipping routes and the discovery of natural resources that may become friction points among other nations. The Government of South Torbia believes that it is important to prevent the increased militarization of the Arctic. South Torbia will work to deflate tensions and confrontations in the region through the established international Arctic governing bodies. The South Torbian Government will work diligently to track and identify tensions within Arctic Nations and those with Arctic Interests that may impact South Torbia. The South Torbian Arctic Military Strategy is to promote cooperation with other nations and contribute to a shared understanding of the security threats.



Land Forces/Army Overview

The Republic of Torbia Army (RoTA) fields approximately 385,000 soldiers with about one-third of them being short-term draftees for 18 months. Since military service is mandatory for all South Torbian males physically capable of serving, the incentive to join the army over the navy or air force is the six-month shorter enlistment for the service in the ground forces. Some vocal opponents of conscription have recently surfaced in the media, but there does not seem to be enough political pressure to end the universal military service requirement for South Torbian males. The three Army Force Commands are in various states of readiness. The 1st Army Force Command is in the highest state of readiness with the least number of draftees with trucks available to transport the infantry. The 3rd Army Force Command is in the lowest state of readiness with the most draftees. The 2nd Army Force Command is between the other two in terms of readiness.



Map 2. South Torbia Ground Force Distribution



Land Forces/Army Size and Structure

1st Army

The RoTA 1st Army is the most prepared and the most capable of the three RoTA field armies. The 1st Army is organized similarly to the other RoTA armies, except for an additional separate tank brigade. The MoD gives it the highest priority for funding, manning, equipping, and training. It is manned with most skilled Commanders, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers. Most 1st Army senior commanders tend to move into positions in the MoD after retiring. The MoD ensures the 1st Army

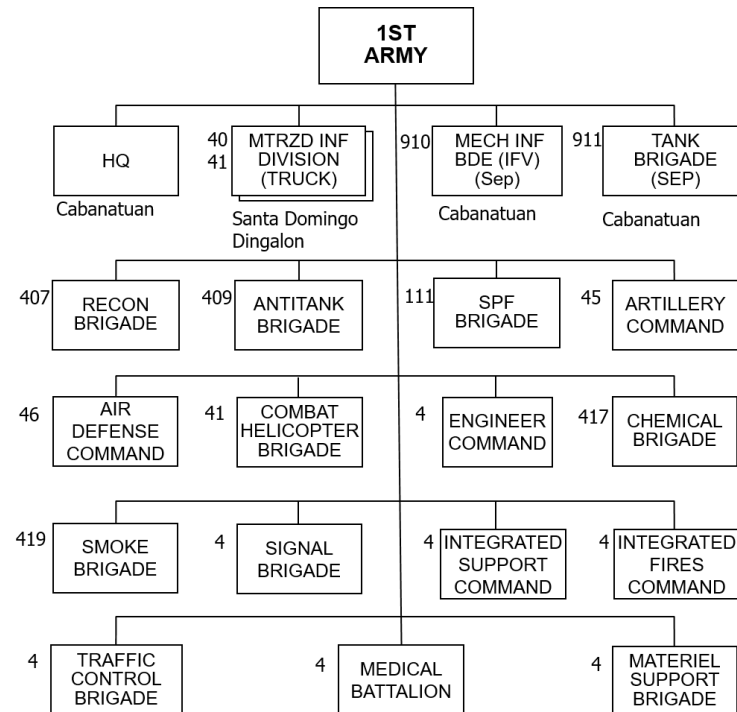


Figure 5. 1st Army Units

maintains at least 95% operational readiness rate and as near full manning as possible.

2nd Army

The RoTA 2nd Army is like the 1st Army but does not contain a separate tank brigade. Its officers and soldiers are well trained, but not to the level of the RoTA 1st Army. It is second in priority for manning, funding, and equipment. Although it is completely mission capable, the lesser priority of funding and manning presents a challenge to the 1st Army's leaders and is manifested in its lower operational ready rate and retention of its soldiers.

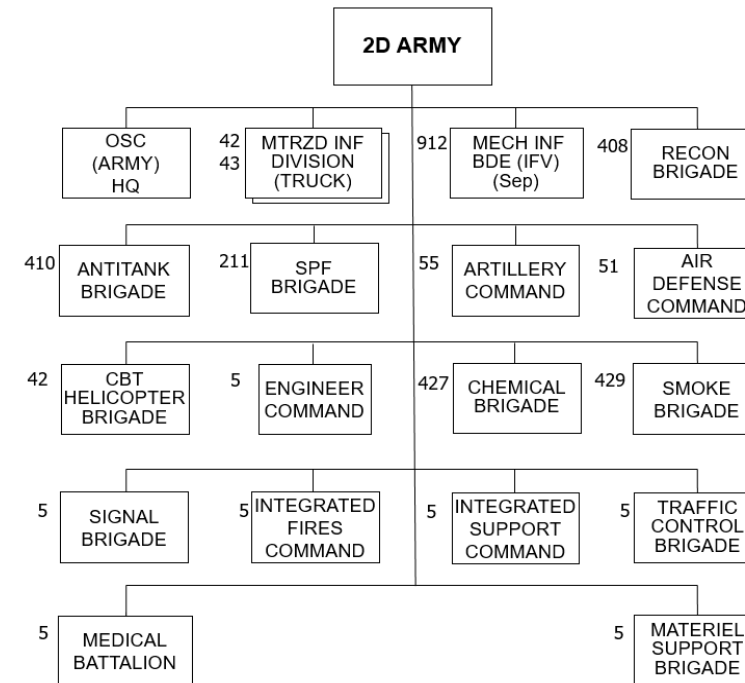


Figure 6. 2d Army Units



3rd Army

The RoTA 3rd Army is the least capable of the three field armies. It is equipped with older less effective tier 3 and 4 systems, and its manning level is the lowest of the three armies. Based on its level of manning and readiness, the MoD regularly assigns it missions of lesser difficulty and of civil or homeland defense in nature. Also, the MoD uses the 3rd Army to provide individual personnel replacements for the 1st and 2nd Army Commands if required.

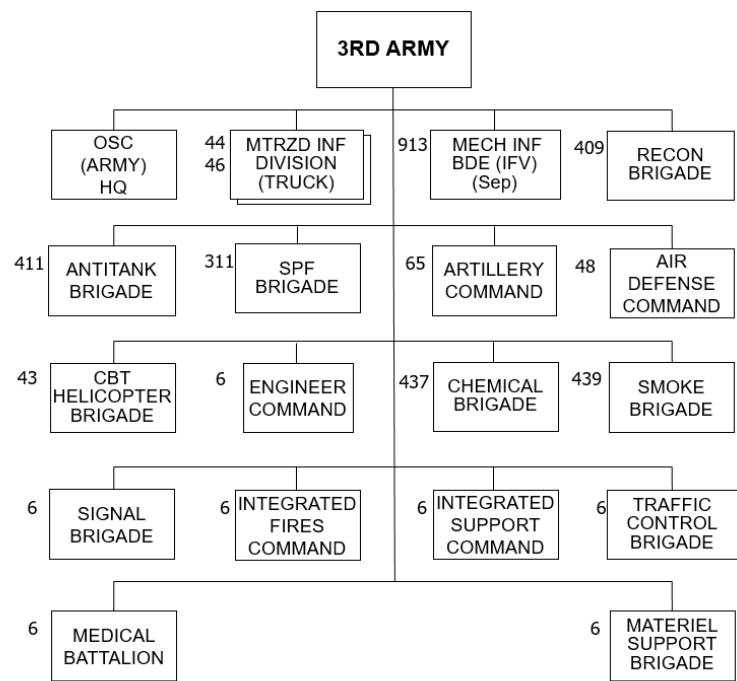


Figure 7. 3rd Army Units

Maneuver Divisions

The maneuver division serves as the RoTA’s basic combined arms unit. In the AFS, some maneuver brigades are constituent, or organic, to the base structure such as divisions. The NC calls them divisional brigades. There are some South Torbian units designated as separate brigades, designed to possess greater ability to accomplish independent missions without further allocation of forces from a higher tactical-level headquarters. Separate brigades possess some subordinate units with the same force structure as a divisional brigade of the same type (for example, the headquarters); some units that are especially tailored to the needs of a separate brigade, marked “(Sep)” in the organizational directories; and some that are the same as units of this type found at division level, marked “(Div.).”

Maneuver Brigades

The RoTA designs its maneuver brigades to serve as the basis to form a brigade tactical group (BTG) if necessary. A brigade, separate or as part of a BTG, can fight as part of a division or division tactical group, a separate unit in an operational-strategic command, an organization of the AFS (such as army, corps, or military district), or as part of a field group. (See TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 2, Command and Control.)

Army Force Commands

The South Torbian army fields an estimated 385,000 troops distributed between three Army Force Commands and units that report directly to the SHC. The three Army Force Commands maintain themselves at different levels of readiness. The best and most well trained units receive assignment to the 1st Army Force Command. This Command also receives an organic mechanized infantry and tank brigade. Most of the lower ranking soldiers volunteered for military service instead of waiting to be drafted. The 2nd Army Force Command is similar in structure to the 1st, except there is no mechanized infantry brigade and there a slightly larger number of



draftees. The 3rd Army Force Command is almost exactly like the 2nd in structure, but almost all the lower enlisted personnel are draftees.

Land Forces/Army Reserve

The RoTA does not have a separate standing army reserve force. However, after leaving active duty, the military veterans serve in an active or inactive reserve role as a deterrence against external threats to the country's independence. South Torbia uses its mandatory service requirement to field a competent army and a large reserve serving as individual replacements or assigned to a unit in the 3rd Army Command.

Land Forces/National Guard

The RoTA does not have a standing National Guard military organization. Missions normally assigned to a National Guard are either assigned to the MoI (National Police) or the MoD (RoTA 3rd Army). RoTA also maintains 36 Militia brigades capable of performing military missions. (See Irregular Forces: Reserves and Militia)

Land Forces/Army Doctrine and Tactics

South Torbian army doctrine and tactics is a conglomeration of those that they have found to work best in their island environment dating back almost 100 years. Due to various influences over the years, South Torbian doctrine and tactics are the best practices from the Donovanian, Olvanan, and western armies, as well as guerrilla insurgencies in the Pacific and South America. Over the last two decades, as South Torbia has purchased more western military equipment, the American influence on their doctrine and tactics has increased. Western military trainers travel to South Torbia to train their army while the RoTA sends its best officers to western military schools to glean their latest techniques. Those officers with experience working with western armies are now reaching the general officer ranks and can exert their influence on the South Torbian ground forces from a more western view.

Land Forces/Army Training and Readiness

For the most part, the RoTA relies on short-term conscription to field most of its ground forces. Each year, almost 200,000 of those South Torbians graduating from high school or reaching the draft age of 18 must serve for 18 months in the army or 24 months in the navy or air force. High school graduates who receive acceptance to a university can defer their military service until after college graduation. College graduates then can request an appointment as an officer or serve as an enlisted soldier. College graduates going on for a graduate or medical degree can continue to seek an educational deferment. If there is no need in the army for the college graduates' service, they can receive an indefinite delay or request to be serve their military obligation in a reserve unit. Most middle and senior officers and some senior noncommissioned officers receive their training in western military institutes or from training teams sent to South Torbia.

The South Torbian military maintains a competent special-purpose force (SPF) that cross-trains with several foreign SPF units including the American Special Forces community. The South Torbian SPF has traveled to several countries in Africa and the Pacific to teach skills to SPF units there. Each of the Army Commands contains an SPF brigade and there is a national SPF battalion subordinate to the SHC who specializes in anti-terrorism operations. There is also a strategic SPF brigade that reports to the Minister of Interior that is also highly trained. The best SPF soldiers are assigned to the unit that specializes in deep penetrations of the enemy with the intent to decapitate the enemy's leadership through various methods, but most notably long distance sniper shots. Most of these individuals come from the army's SPF community and were handpicked for their assignment based on merit and skills.

Land Forces/Army Equipment and Weapons

The RoTA operates a variety of equipment throughout its force structure ranging from tier 1 for selected equipment to tier 3 for other gear. Older equipment is normally from Olvanan or Donovanian sources while the newer equipment is from



western armies. The newest and best equipment is purposely assigned to the units in the 1st Army Force Command or in units that directly report to the SHC. As new equipment is purchased and received, their equipment is cascaded down to the 2nd Army Force Command that in turn transfer their equipment to the 3rd Army Force Command. Excess equipment from the lowest readiness active duty units is then transferred to South Torbian reserve units or sold as surplus to other countries. The South Torbian military forces can operate in all terrain types and while difficult, can successfully conduct 24-hour operations. (For further information see the Worldwide Equipment Guide (WEG), Vol. 1, Chapter 1, OPFOR Tier Tables.)

Maritime Forces Overview

Due to its geographic location and location on several islands, the RoTN is essential for the country's defense. With approximately 60,000 personnel, the South Torbian navy is primarily a defensive entity with little capability to operate as a blue water force. The RoTN conducts patrols in its territorial waters and normally stays within 25 miles of the country's shores.

Maritime Forces Size and Structure

Navy

The Republic of Torbia Navy operates two commands—East Naval Command and West Naval Command—based on the country's geography. While a ship may have a primary port city, the ship may move to another harbor based on mission analysis. The South Torbian navy possesses some amphibious capability, but the number of ships available limits landings from the sea to less than two battalions of infantry at any time. Many more infantry battalions go through amphibious training, but additional amphibious ships from possibly another country would be needed for any larger landing.

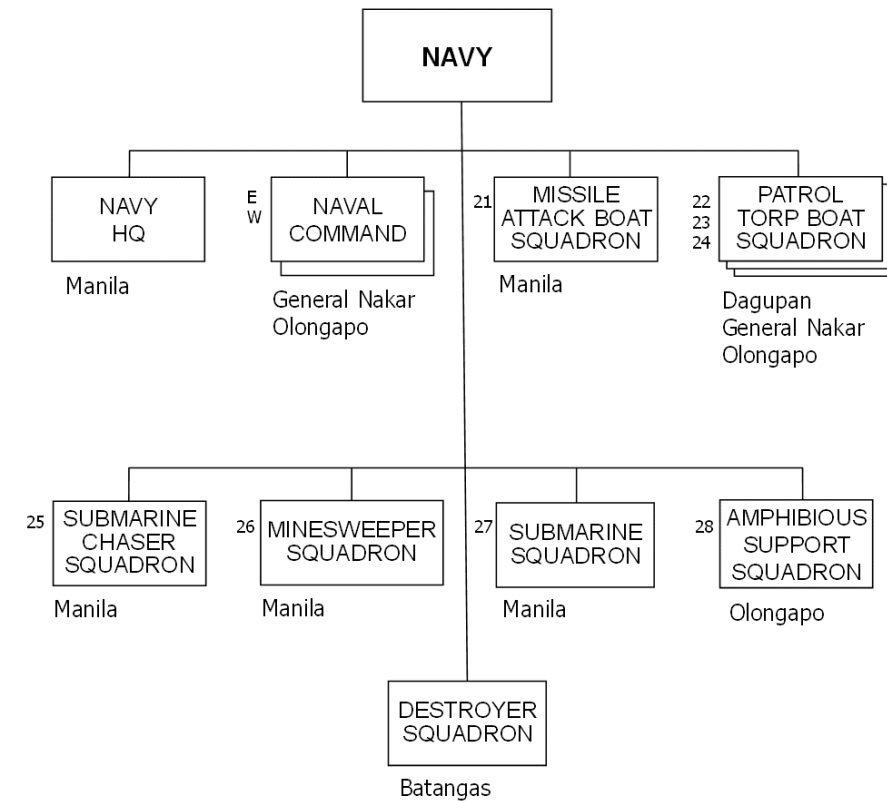


Figure 8. South Torbian force structure. See the AFS for ships, equipment, and personnel assigned to these units.

Marines

The Republic of Torbia Navy Force structure does not include a standing amphibious force partly because of the limited number of landing craft, and amphibious operations is a basic mission for RoTA battalions. This economy of force structure



adversely affects South Torbia's ability to conduct large scaled amphibious operations.

Coast Guard

There is no separate coast guard organization, but the Republic of Torbia Navy is defensive in nature and performs the mission of coastal defense. Based on projected requirements the MoD believes that the RoTN has the capability to perform its coastal defense mission, defense of territorial waters, and its joint requirements without additional forces.

Reserves

There are no organized RoTN reserve units. In case of a major war, any sailor with previous RoTN experience would likely be directed to the naval forces at the time of mobilization of the civilian population to fight the war.

Maritime Forces/Navy Doctrine and Tactics

The South Torbian navy protects its coastal borders and patrols any navigable rivers for illegal activities. As secondary missions, the South Torbian naval forces may conduct search and rescue (SAR) and port security operations. The navy has no aviation assets, fixed wing or aerial. The navy works with the air force for aerial support during maritime SAR missions. Naval missions might include:

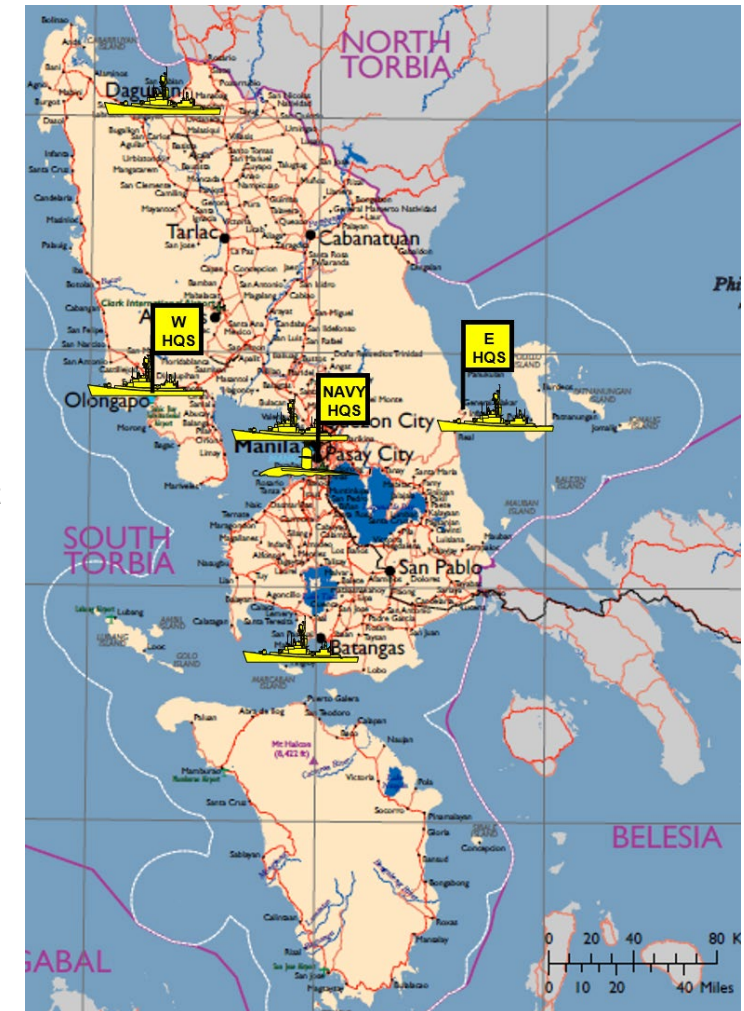
- Stopping illegal fishing activities
- Defensive patrolling of coastal areas
- Anti-smuggling operations
- Mine laying
- Small amphibious operations
- Water search and rescue

Unlike the South Torbian army and air force, the South Torbian navy has been working primarily with Olvanan and Donovanian fleets in exercises and personnel

exchanges. This effect, intended to ease maritime relations and secure the free flow of trade among the Western Pacific region, has also influenced South Torbian naval tactics.

Maritime Forces/Navy Training and Readiness

Due to the requirement to serve 24 months in the navy for draftees, those that select to join the maritime service are either enthusiastic about going to sea or want the training that the navy may provide them. Due to these reasons, the navy is highly competent at the individual sailor level. The downside is that many of the draftees leave after their two-year commitment to use their skills to pursue work in the civilian sector. This creates a turnover of up to 10,000 sailors coming and going each year.



Map 3. South Torbian Naval Disposition



The navy conducts training mainly within its territorial waters. The missile attack boat squadron and submarines sometimes venture into the South China Sea for maneuvers. Recently the South Torbian navy has conducted operations with Western navies including ships from Australia. Due to the quality of its sailors, the South Torbian navy typically achieves an 88% operational readiness rate.

Maritime Forces/Navy Equipment and Weapons

The South Torbian navy operates weapons and equipment with primarily tier 2 capabilities with some tier 3 equipment. There are negotiations between South Torbia and several other countries to provide some newer ships with tier 1 capabilities to better reduce the smuggling operations throughout the country. While South Torbian manufacturing has the technological and physical capability of contributing to a more advanced navy, actual production has been dedicated to maintaining and increasing the merchant marine fleet or crafting civilian cargo ships for export. Thus, domestic warship production would require significant retooling, and South Torbia would prefer to conduct trade with nations with already developed naval warship capacity. The South Torbian navy can operate in all waters in and around the country with the ability to conduct both day and night operations, but not at the level of most western navies.

Navy capabilities include missile attack boats, patrol boats, submarine chasers, minesweepers and minelayers, submarines, and amphibious landing. Due to the high quality of the individual sailor, equipment readiness rates in the navy typically approach 95%.

Maritime Forces/Navy Equipment and Weapons

The most recent ship inventory for the South Torbian naval forces includes the following:

- 8 Destroyers (8 DDG KDX III Class)
- 16 Corvette (16 FFG Po Hang Class)

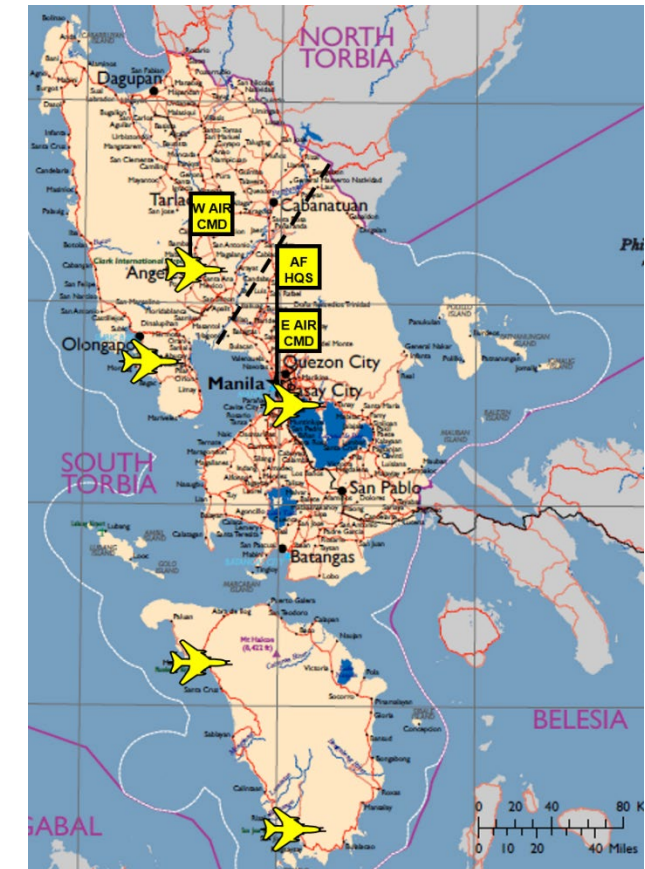
- 8 Frigates (4 FFG Ulsan Class and 4 FFGHM Incheon Class)
- 48 Patrol Boats (48 PB Chamsuri II Class)
- 15 Submarines (9 SS Chang Bogo Type 209 1200 Class and 6 SS Son Won II Type 214 Class)

Air Force Overview

The Republic of Torbia Air Force's (RoTAF) missions include the protection of the country's borders, troop transport, and close air support (CAS) for ground forces. The South Torbian air force also works with naval forces to assist in waterborne SAR missions. The South Torbian air force operates primarily tier 2 equipment and planes. South Torbian pilots possess a respectable reputation for their flying skills.

Air Force Size and Structure

The South Torbian Air Force is divided into two Commands—East Air Command and West Air Command. Major aviation units include a bomber regiment, five fighter regiments, three transportation aviation regiments, a reconnaissance squadron, a ground attack regiment, and an



Map 4. South Torbian Air Force disposition



Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) squadron. The South Torbian air force is not responsible for air defense as that mission is assigned to the army.

The RoTAF is distributed across 6 major airfields on the main island of Luzon South Torbia and 2 bases on the southern Island of Mindoro.

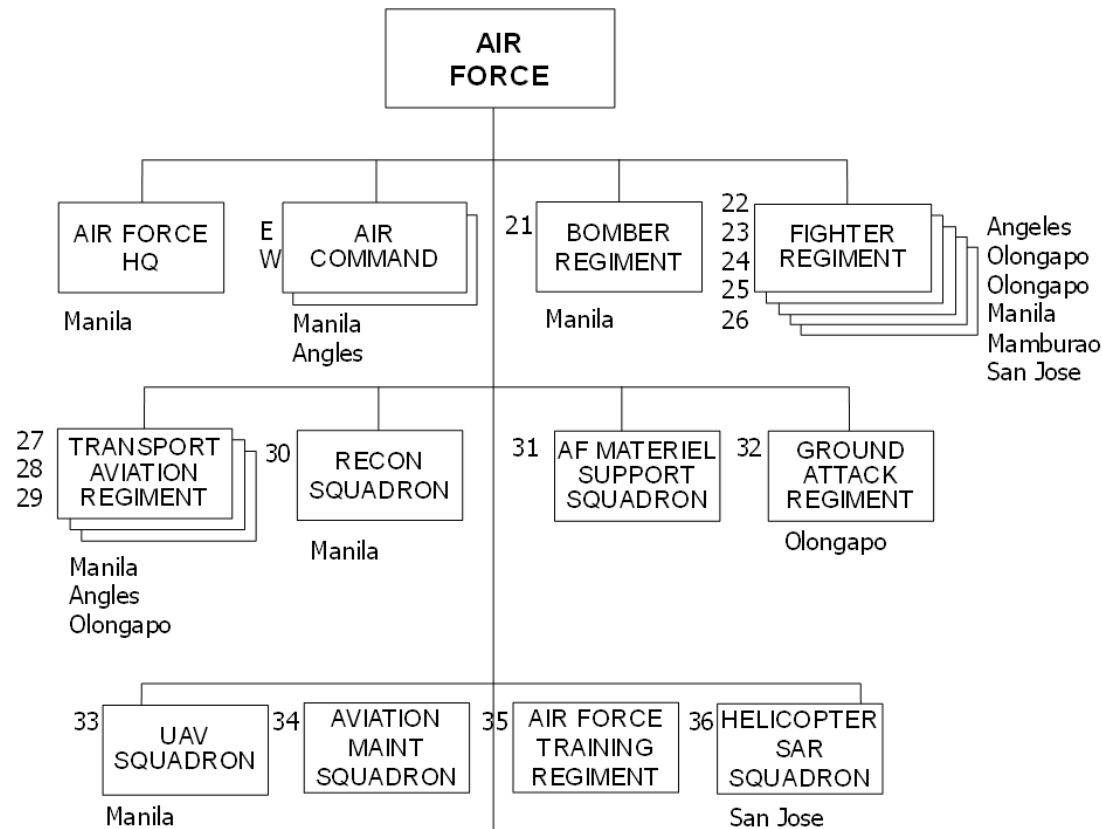


Figure 9. South Torbia Air Force structure. See the AFS for aircraft, other equipment, and personnel assigned to these units.

East Air Command

The RoTAF Headquarters, and the East Air Command are in Manila with the bulk of its reconnaissance and its heavy capabilities, bombers, and transport. The East Air Command also has a fighter regiment based at Angeles and Olongapo comprised of 36 MIG 25 Foxbats at each base.

West Air Command

The West Air Command Headquarters is based at Angeles. Its subordinate regiments are based at Angeles, Manila, and Olongapo on Luzon, and two bases on the island of Mindoro: San Jose and Momburao. Organized differently for the East Air Command, it includes the 28th Transport Squadron on Angeles, 24th Fighter Regiment in Manila, and the 32nd Ground Attack Regiment (SU25SM Frogfoot) at Olongapo on Luzon. On the island of Mindoro, the 36th Helicopter SAR Squadron with 12 MBB B105 helicopters at San Jose, and 36 MIG 25BM Foxbats at Momburao.

Air Force Reserve/National Guard

The South Torbian Air Force does not have a standing Air Force Reserve or Air Force National Guard. During war time conditions, the Training Regiment may be assigned reserve type missions. During peace time conditions, missions of a civil nature are assigned to active regiments as required. In case of war with North Torbia and civilians are mobilized, those with previous experience with the ROTAF will likely be assigned to air force units to reduce the training needed. The airmen with previous experience, with refresher training, become qualified sooner to support the aircraft than starting from scratch with fresh recruits.

Air Force Doctrine and Tactics

Over the last 20 years, western aviation doctrine has heavily influenced South Torbian air force operations. With its current generals receiving exposure to western military thought by training in western countries or by teams conducting training in



South Torbia, the South Torbian air force continues to shed any past tactics taught to them by Donovanian or Olvanan aviators. The South Torbian air force will rely on better equipment, the skill of its pilots, and more modern tactics to defeat any force that attacks their country including North Torbia. Recent focus of South Torbian Air Force doctrine and tactics is operating and surviving in a complex electronic warfare environment that depend on integrity and effectiveness of Integrated Air Defense Systems (IADS).

Air Force Training and Readiness

Like the navy, South Torbian air force draftees must serve for two years instead of 18 months as soldiers can in the army. Thus, the draftees want to serve because of the service's prestige or to leverage their military training into a civilian occupation when they leave active duty. There is an air force training regiment that all airmen attend for six weeks before reporting to their assigned unit for additional on-the-job training. Some airmen may be sent to a specialized school, but this is the exception not the norm. Like the navy, air force personnel turnover hovers around 10,000 airmen a year coming and going. Despite the turnover, South Torbia maintains a well-trained air force with an 89% operational readiness rate.

Air Force Equipment and Weapons

The South Torbian air force operates primarily Tier 2 equipment, but there can also be some tier 1 and tier 3 equipment in selected niche capabilities. There are discussions within the South Torbian government that the air force needs to upgrade its aging aircraft to continue to deter northern aggression. These discussions center around whether to continue to use its dated Donovanian equipment, purchase newer, but still dated Olvanan equipment, or to speed up the switch to modern western aircraft since their pilots are now being trained in western countries or by western air force personnel. Due to the high quality of the individual air force maintainer and despite the turnover, the South Torbian force maintains an equipment readiness rate of over 89%.

While South Torbia's industrial base continues to expand, most aircraft still come from other countries. See the AFS for the latest information and quantities. The RoT military operates the following known aircraft:

- 12 ASW (P-3CK)
- 24 Bombers (Tu-22M3 Backfire C)
- 24 ELINT (il-20 Coot A)
- 228 Fighters (180 MiG-25BM Foxbat F and 48 Su-25SM Frogfoot A)
- 76 Transport (4 Cessna 208 Caravan and 72 IL-76 Candid A)
- 18 ASW Helicopters (MK-99A Super Lynx)
- 128 Attack Helicopters (64 AH-1F and MD-500 Defender)
- 160 Reconnaissance/Attack Helicopters (MD-500D)
- 36 Transport Helicopters (24 CH-47D Chinook and 12 MBB BO-105)
- 134 Utility Helicopters (2 SA-316B Alouette 3, 46 UH-1H, and 86 UH-60A)

South Torbia also operates at least 119 UAVs (48 Hermes 450, 12 Night Int 300, and 59 RQ-11 Raven).

Paramilitary Forces

There are many paramilitary forces in South Torbia. In time of war, South Torbia could direct that paramilitary forces that work for the government be used in a military role. While armed, these government paramilitary forces do not have the same ability to perform most military functions to the same level as the military forces. As such, they would likely be used in support of the regular military such as providing route security or rear security operations. In addition, there are a few non-governmental sponsored paramilitary forces that may be found in South Torbia. Most of these are quite small, but those that sympathize with North Torbia could provide issues that could divert the South Torbia military's attention away from more essential missions.



Government Paramilitary Forces

The Ministry of the Interior (MoI) controls approximately 10,000 personnel who use military-style light weapons. These forces include the country's border guard force of 7,000, a national police force of 1,000, and a strategic SPF brigade of around 1,000 personnel. These personnel will be essential to reduce the chaos of dislocated civilians that could occur if another country ever decided to invade South Torbia. See also *TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 15, Special Purpose Forces and Commandos*.

Border Guards

The MOI operates a border guard unit to enforce the country's importation laws that is comprised of approximately 5,000 personnel. Internally trained, the country has begun to turn to some of the larger western countries for guidance on the latest methods to secure their borders, especially their coastline. Tasked primarily with anti-smuggling operations and border control, the border guard is thinly stretched due to the large coastline with its many hidden coves and caves that make it a haven for those conducting nefarious activities. The border guards do not have to worry about the common border with North Torbia, however, as the South Torbian army receives the primary responsibility for securing the country's northern non-coastal boundary. Thus, unlike the military, the Border Guards also focus on potential Belesian threats.

Internal Security Force/National Police Force

South Torbia maintains a small civilian internal security force of 1,000 personnel known as the National Police Force (NPF). The NPF is like the FBI and has several missions: protection of political figures, national criminal investigations, anti-terrorism activities, and investigations into corrupt local police forces. There are discussions at the national level about increasing the size of the NPF, but no action has been taken due to lack of funds.

National SPF Battalion

The MoI also controls an SPF Battalion that operates at the strategic level. This unit is called upon in peacetime to combat terrorism, hostage rescue, and other important missions that require stealth. In wartime, this unit would conduct deep operations in its enemy's rear areas to include reconnaissance, target selection, battle damage assessment, and possibly attacks on strategic targets.

Militia and Reserves

The ROTA maintains a huge active reserve composed of 36 militia brigades. The number of militia brigades may fluctuate depending on how many active reservists are serving. After army draftees serve two years, they have an option. They can continue to serve on active duty, or they can transfer to the reserves. Most choose the latter option. These reservists must serve for five years in one of the militia brigades meeting for three weeks each year for training. After their reserve obligation is completed, their name is maintained on a roster of citizens with military experience until the age of 45. Each year, the former soldier must notify the government of their current address, civilian occupation, and contact information.

There is no South Torbian reserve naval or air forces. When a sailor or airman complete their two years of training, their name goes on the roster of citizens with military experience until the age of 45. Like the soldiers, annually the former sailor or airman must notify the government of their location, occupation, and how to reach them in case of a national emergency.

Non-State Paramilitary Forces

During peace time, South Torbia enjoys a moderately stable operational environment compared to other counties in the region. Although the actions of non-state sponsored paramilitary forces are visible, insurgent groups and criminal organization represent most of the activity in the country. The rise of guerrilla activity is expected to increase before and during the beginning of Large-scale Combat Operations



(LCO). Currently, there are no guerrilla organization operating openly within in South Torbia.

Guerrilla Forces

Currently, there are no guerrilla forces operating openly within South Torbia. That said, South Torbia anticipates that any conflict with North Torbia would inevitably include North Torbian aligned Guerrilla Forces operating within South Torbia. North Torbian military doctrine directs that its units, when bypassed by opposing forces, continue to fight. North Torbian Forces often train to disperse into platoon sized or smaller elements. These small North Torbian units would then seek to conduct or influence guerrilla actions against the South Torbian military targets such as supply convoys or command posts.

Insurgent Forces

There are three major organizations operating in South Torbia that conduct insurgent activity: The Southern Torbian Communist Army (TCA), the Islamic Torbian Army (ITA), and United Torbia (UT). The structure of these organizations is often determent by their mission, environmental and geographic factors, and many other variables. Each of these organizations take advantage of a specific need or desire of its members and their emotion and dedication to a cause.

[South Torbian Communist Army](#)

The South Torbian Communist Army (TCA) is estimated to have fewer than 1,000 actual fighters, but they may have many more supporters throughout the country and have the potential to expand their size if needed. Their expressed intent is to establish a communist country based on the Marxist model. While they have the same desired goal, the TCA is not officially aligned with the political South Torbian Communist Party (TCP), though there may be some membership overlap between the two groups.

See the [South Torbian Communist Army](#) (TCA) page for additional information on this group.

[Islamic Torbian Army](#)

The Islamic Torbian Army (ITA) began on the Mindoro as a movement to convert the country into an Islamic Republic. The ITA claims to have followers throughout South Torbia. While many of its members come from relatively mainstream Sunni families that adhere to the Shafi'i school of law, the ITA's leadership promotes a much more conservative form of political Islam that is often linked to Islamist and Jihadi groups around the world. The ITA tends to focus its efforts on expanding its influence within the South Torbian Muslim population. While it is not uncommon of for the ITA to commit acts of violence against non-Muslims, they typically prioritize recruitment and therefore will try to avoid taking actions that may have a negative impact on the broader South Torbian Muslim population. They have, however, shown support on social media for violent extremist groups around the world, and likely have the means to either imitate or join those movements.

For additional information on the [Islamic Torbian Army](#), go to their own page.

[United Torbia](#)

United Torbia (UT) is more of a counter-insurgent organization directed against the TCA and the ITA. It is pro-democracy and anti- communist and seeks to unify the country under a democratically elected government. UT members have been known to launch propaganda balloons into North Torbia when the wind conditions blow south to north, something that occurs on an infrequent basis. While UT is pro-democracy, it is not necessarily pro-government. UT takes a pragmatic approach to supporting the government when it believes it is progressing toward unification, and opposing any government actions that it believes hurt unification. The South Torbian government publicly disavows the actions of UT, but there are probably some governmental leaders that may secretly agree with the ambitions and ideology of UT. UT exerts domestic influence within South Torbia, often seeking to promote and



normalize their views within public discourse. While UT may focus primarily on information operations during competition, it is prepared to organize for military operations should a conflict break out.

Go to the [United Torbia](#) page for additional information on this group.

Criminal Organizations

South Torbia generally enjoys a low crime rate when compared to other industrialized nations. However, much of South Torbia's criminal activity in urban areas is violent in nature, and organized criminal activity is disproportionately prevalent and growing. While there is some crossover between insurgent groups and organized crime, the ITA and TCA are generally more focused on political activity. See South Torbia Political, Social (Criminal Activity) and Economic Variables for contributing factors.

Osongco Syndicate

The Osongco Syndicate is a large-scale criminal network that is based on the island of Mindoro in Bongabong. It is led by Zikri Osongco. Osongco may sometimes work in cooperation with the Tantoco Cartel, but it is not part of the latter. The Tantoco Cartel leaves the Osongco Syndicate alone if their activities are confined to Mindoro. The Osongco Syndicate is primarily involved in the acquisition and sale of stolen goods and smuggling but will not hesitate to delve into other areas on the island that can make the organization money. Possible other criminal activities include extortion and bank robbery. While Zikri Osongco is a Muslim himself, and the majority of the syndicate's members are also Muslims, they do not frame their organization as a Muslim organization and have no known links to the fundamentalist Islamic Torbian Army. Many of the poor on Mindoro view Osongco as a modern-day Robin Hood who takes from the rich and gives to the poor. This leads to them overlooking some of his activities, and while they may not actively help protect his organization or its members, they are also unlikely to help outsiders who pose a threat to the organization.

For additional information on the [Osongco Syndicate](#), go to their own page.

Tantoco Cartel

The Tantoco Cartel is a regional criminal organization that has expanded from its roots in South Torbia, to now include operations in some of the largest cities of Olvana. The Tantoco Cartel is involved in almost every type of criminal activity imaginable: drug and weapons smuggling, extortion, motor vehicle theft, illegal gambling, money laundering, counterfeiting, and murder-for-hire. The Cartel is also known for bribing government officials, at all levels from local mayors to senior government figures.

Go to the [Tantoco Cartel](#) page for additional information on this criminal organization.

Piracy

Fishermen with guns have been known to board yachts operating off the west coast of Mindoro Island. If those on board are locals or perceived by the boarders as not worth the effort, the pirates force the boaters to swim to the beach near the towns of Mamburao, Santa Cruz, or Sablayan. The pirates then sell the boat and its contents for whatever they can get. If the yachters are perceived to be rich, especially those from western countries, the pirates will hold the boaters for ransom. When the families pay the ransom, the pirates will release their kidnap victims on the beaches near the same three towns. While the South Torbian government attempts to stop the piracy and kidnappings, the limited number of military watercraft and higher competing requirements makes it almost impossible to stop all of them. Whenever one of the hostages' families pays the kidnappers what they want, it only causes additional attempts by the pirates to board other yachts due to the financial incentives found in the kidnapping for ransom business.

Street Gangs

In South Torbia's larger cities, such as Manila, street gangs are a common occurrence. The street gangs are usually confined to a defined neighborhood and



focused on robbery and extortion, or small scale drug operations. In many cases, larger criminal organizations will often use local street gangs as hired hands. Many street gangs have ongoing rivalries with other gangs as they attempt to expand their influence. In general, most street gangs will avoid taking on endeavors that bring them into open competition with the Tantoco Cartel, however, there have been occasions where a gang may attempt to usurp the Cartel's grasp on a particular sector of the illicit economy. The largest street gang in Manila is Dimaslang, which means "Untouchable" in the local language. There are probably less than 100 official members in Dimaslang, but many smaller gangs consisting of petty criminals may work with the group. These gangs are less organized than the larger gangs, but still capable of causing problems in the larger urban centers.

Private Security Organizations Overview

There are several small security firms that provide personal protection to South Torbian businesses and persons. These companies must be licensed through the Mol, and their personnel must undergo background checks and receive approval for carrying small arms weapons.

Foreign Military Presence Overview

There are no permanent foreign military personnel presence in South Torbia except those assigned to the embassies in Manila. During the last two decades, foreign military personnel have deployed to help train the South Torbian army, navy, and air force personnel and units. In the last decade, the South Torbian military has partnered with several western militaries to conduct operations throughout South Torbian territory, airspace, or territorial waters.

Nonmilitary Armed Combatants

There are approximately 300,000 licensed private gun owners in South Torbia. Private gun ownership is not guaranteed by law. All guns must be registered with the NPF, However there is an illicit market for unregistered firearms. While open carry is

against the law, it is not strictly enforced in some of the more rural parts of the country.

Unarmed Combatants

The preponderance of the anti-South Torbian unarmed combatants is associated with existing insurgent forces and/or criminal networks. They provide support through non-lethal means, such as money laundering, raising capital, social media manipulation, conducting anti-government cyber operations, or providing logistical support. While most unarmed combatants seek to maintain a low-profile and remain anonymous, there are a small number who are willing to openly recruit activists and organize public events and demonstrations.

One Torbia Peoples Council: The One Torbia Peoples Council (OTPC) is an unarmed combatant organization of approximately 1000 to 3000 members, living along South Torbia's border with North Torbia. The OTPC have no official affiliations with the North Torbian government or the army, but they do ideologically agree with the North Torbians government's economic and social policies. They are active supporters of North Torbia and, believe that both Torbias' should be united under the government of North Torbia. They maintain communications with the government of North Torbia through encrypted email and social media. Each regional cell has the capability to produce print media and broadcast local radio messages, if necessary, with the assistance North Torbian INFOWAR capabilities, the OTPC synchronize messaging, instructions to sympathizer and conduct a denial of service attacks to enhance the effectiveness of North Torbian Army's attack. Also, the OTPC can conduct limited non-violent direct action (DA) to disrupt movement of government and civil traffic. In the past, OTPC has disrupted commerce through intimidation of individuals or businesses.

Military Functions



Military Functions Overview

As the South Torbian military continues to modernize through the purchasing of superior western equipment and their ability to function as a modern military force continues to improve. Their ability to adapt and integrate their new capabilities is critical. Discussed below is an assessment of select military functions:

Each of the military functions below exist in varying degrees in the Republic of Torbia Army, as well as in some paramilitary organizations. Thus, military functions as sub-variables can have values on a scale of High, Medium, or Low, defined as follows (See TC 7-101, Exercise Design, Table 3-13. Military: military functions):

High: Can conduct sustained, complex, synchronized tasks of the selected military function; ability to influence friendly forces is not limited to the theater of operations; and/or associated equipment is predominantly Tier 1, as specified in the Worldwide Equipment Guide (WEG).

Medium: Can conduct limited, complex, synchronized tasks of the selected military function; ability to influence friendly forces is primarily limited to the theater of operations; and/or associated equipment is predominantly Tier 2, as specified in the WEG.

Low: Cannot conduct complex, synchronized tasks of the selected military function; ability to influence friendly forces is limited to local, tactical impact; and/or associated equipment is predominantly Tier 3 and below, as specified in the WEG.

Joint Capabilities: Medium

The South Torbian military continues to improve their joint operations between the army, navy, and air force with the goal of continual improvement. The air force is flying SAR missions to assist the navy. The air force flies CAS missions for the army. The army is responsible for air defense and must coordinate with the air force to

prevent friendly fire shootings. The army works with the navy to practice amphibious landings.

Command and Control: Medium

The South Torbian military have blended Olvanan/Donovian C2 procedures and adopted some Western methods of mission command. Orders are delegated to subordinate units and units must decide how to act to complete their assigned missions. South Torbian military officers will take the initiative in the absence of orders to complete the commander's intent. See also TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 2, Command and Control.

Maneuver: Low

There is a lack of vehicles for the infantry in some ground force infantry units. The 1st Army Force Command is an exception with all its infantry units mounted in tanks, mechanized vehicles, or in trucks. The maneuver divisions that report directly to the SHC also possess their own transportation. Most of the 2nd Army Force Command, almost all the 3rd Army Force Command, and all the militia units are traditional infantry. These units must move on their feet or receive vehicles from some other organization to travel major distances. When on the defense, this lack of mobility may not cause issues. In offensive actions, these regular infantry units could only move as fast as their feet could carry them.

Air Defense: Medium

Defense of South Torbian airspace is an assigned mission to the army, but they must coordinate with the air force to prevent friendly fire accidents. The 457th Air Defense Command, which reports directly to the SHC, fields long-range, medium-range, and short-range missile capabilities. Each Army Force Command fields a smaller number of air defense weapons for all ranges, but at different tier levels. The South Torbian army recognizes that air defense is an all-arms effort.



Thus, all ground units possess some type of an organic air defense capability to differing degrees, depending on the type and size of the unit. Many weapons not designed as air defense weapons will also damage and/or destroy tactical aircraft when within range.

Throughout maneuver units, there are several systems designed for air defense and other systems that can be used in an air defense role. The heavy antiaircraft machine guns on tanks are specifically designed for air defense. Machine Guns on armored personnel carriers and automatic cannon on infantry fighting vehicles can engage both ground and air targets. Most antitank guided missiles (ATGMs) are extremely effective against low-flying helicopters. Several ATGM manufacturers offer anti-helicopter missiles and compatible fire control, which are especially effective against low-flying Rotary-wing aircraft. Field artillery and small arms can also be integral parts of the air defense scheme. All these weapons can be extremely lethal when used in this role. The South Torbian military considers every soldier with a man-portable air defense system to be an air defense firing unit. These weapons are readily available at a relatively low cost and are widely proliferated. The small size and easy portability of these systems provides the opportunity for ambush of enemy airframes operating in any area near RoTA units. Ground units also employ them to set ambushes for enemy helicopters, especially those on routine logistics missions. See also TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 11, Air Defense.

INFOWAR: Low

The South Torbian Information Warfare (INFOWAR) campaign is primarily directed against North Torbia, but there is some residual effect on their own people. While both countries would like to see a unified Torbia, neither is willing to make the compromises. This is especially true for North Torbia that sees their government being in charge as the only legitimate end to the split between the homogeneous country.

South Torbia directs some of its radio and television programming at the North Torbian people, trying to show them the economic and social benefits of a democracy. At times, South Torbia may also send balloons over North Torbia to drop leaflets and portable radios to get their message straight to the people as the North Torbian government attempts to filter and influence all messages aimed at its people.

South Torbia does not currently engage in any offensive cyber warfare but is in the process of adding offensive cyber capabilities. Most of South Torbian computer expertise is on the prevention of cyber-attacks, especially by the North. North Torbia has been known to hack into South Torbian computer systems to steal defense secrets, bank account information to take funds, and even rob bitcoin accounts. See also TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 7, Information Warfare.

RISTA: Medium

The South Torbian military possesses reconnaissance, intelligence, surveillance, and target acquisition (RISTA) capabilities, with a reconnaissance battalion in each of its maneuver brigades. Additional RISTA assets include the 454th Reconnaissance Brigade and the 465th RISTA Command at the national level that fields a signal recon brigade, signal battalion, UAS battalion, and an INFOWAR battalion. Each of the Army Force Commands also contain a reconnaissance brigade. Most of the equipment is Tier 2 in the best Army Forces Command, but of a lower tier in the units in the other two commands.

Intelligence

Produce and Process Intelligence: Medium

South Torbia maintains a sophisticated intelligence apparatus that operates both at home and abroad. The Ministry of Defense Intelligence Department controls all the different intelligence disciplines both at the national and military defense level. Different intelligence disciplines are well trained and resourced to ensure that



national security is not threatened. The Human Intelligence (HUMINT), Open Source Intelligence (OSINT), Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) and Imagery Intelligence (IMINT) are the largest and most advanced of the disciplines, with Measurement and Signatures Intelligence (MASINT) in the research and development stages. South Torbian advancements in intelligence are the result of training and resource support from Western allies over the past few years and will continue to improve in the future with new advancements.

Human Intelligence: High

The HUMINT program is considered South Torbia's most important discipline and is well established and trained. The program focuses on internal security and external threats from regional nations. The HUMINT services will continue to focus on the border region with North Torbia with most of its assets. The focus for internal security is on opposition groups who see the government as not supporting the needs and wants of the populace according to the groups' stated agendas, such as reunification. These groups operate primarily in the capital and the northern portion of the country. South Torbian counterintelligence service will most likely focus on threats from external agencies seeking to acquire information on government and military forces, as well as major industrial companies, to gain an advantage over South Torbia. South Torbia may also have assets operating in other nations.

Open Source Intelligence: High

South Torbian intelligence analysts utilize its internet infrastructure to conduct OSINT operations. Analysts utilize the power of the internet to obtain key information on other nations from multiple sources to exploit vulnerabilities and advancements of militaries and industrial concerns. They conduct research to support strategic objectives by reviewing reporting from multiple media agencies to determine intentions, significant new advancements, and political agendas of nations that may pose a threat to South Torbia.

Signals Intelligence

South Torbian SIGINT assets include ground, aircraft, and maritime capabilities. Even with this array of capabilities, South Torbia still relies on assistance from other nations as part of its SIGINT program. South Torbia uses this capability against regional competitors to gain an advantage to better position themselves in the event of hostilities. This capability is used primarily for defensive purposes but can be transitioned to the offense to assist with targeting of high payoff targets. South Torbia continues to research future capabilities such as the use of satellites to support SIGINT operations.

Imagery Intelligence: Medium

South Torbian IMINT collection capability maintains a fleet of manned and unmanned platforms for strategic and tactical collection, as well as an overhead space collection capability. These assets are utilized along the international borders of South Torbia to identify any buildup of enemy forces or other threats to their stability, with additional capabilities provided by multinational partners. Unmanned aerial systems are utilized as a tactical collection platform along the border with North Torbia, and in support of maritime security and interdiction operations. Fixed- and rotary-wing assets are used as both strategic and tactical collection platforms. South Torbia maintains three dedicated military imaging satellites with electro-optical capabilities and synthetic aperture radar. In addition, South Torbia has access to multiple commercial imaging capabilities through lease agreements with indigenous satellite companies.

Measurement and Signatures Intelligence: Low

South Torbia does not have a robust MASINT capability and relies on its multinational partners for any such information. South Torbia is currently researching ways that government could obtain more mature and advanced MASINT capabilities to counter advancements by other regional countries.



Fire Support: **High**

While the South Torbian ground forces contain several units that use indirect fire weapons, the South Torbian army does not rely on artillery to the extent that the North does. It is likely that South Torbia would receive more support from their air force than North Torbia would receive because of local air superiority. Each of the Army Force Commands field their own artillery command with artillery and multiple rocket launchers systems. At the SHC level, fire support assets include self-propelled artillery, multiple rocket launchers, ballistic missiles, and short- range air defense weapons that can be allocated to reinforce subordinate units where necessary. If available, foreign air forces may also provide additional aviation assets to support the South Torbian ground forces. See also TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 9, Indirect Fire Support.

Protection: **Low**

Because much of the infantry is foot-mobile, the soldiers lack protection even from small arms fire. Tank and mechanized infantry units would enjoy some protection from small-arms fire. Four engineer commands and four chemical brigades provide some protection against indirect fire and chemical weapons. The South Torbian military, like many countries, does not train that often while wearing protective masks. While equipment is available, there is a lack of knowledge on chemical protective measures throughout the military. The government has issued a protective mask to each civilian in case of a chemical attack, but many South Torbians ignore any drills associated with a potential attack. All maneuver brigades also contain engineer and chemical defense units. Radar and the air force should provide necessary protection against the North Torbian air force or any other enemy in the region except that of Olvana. See also TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 12, Engineer Support and Chapter 13, CBRN and Smoke.

Logistics: **Medium**

The South Torbian military continues to improve its logistical capabilities, especially in comparison to that of North Torbia and even Olvana. The RoTA sees the importance of securing the supply line and maintaining equipment properly to win on the battlefield. While logistics are currently adequate for their units, more modernization will force South Torbia to continue to improve its supply procedures and maintenance capabilities.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear: **Low**

South Torbia is against the use of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons and possesses no offensive capabilities in any of these areas. Their chemical units concentrate on protecting their force from these weapons and remediation of the situation after their use.

Individual soldiers outside of the chemical units detest wearing protective masks and may suffer needless casualties in a chemical environment due to a lack of regular training. Each of the Army Force Commands fields a Chemical Defense Brigade while a Chemical Defense Battalion supports the SHC and the government. See also TC 7-100.2: Chapter 13, CBRN and Smoke.

Research and Development Goals

South Torbia has recently relaxed laws that limited the export of military arms. This has created an economic opportunity for the domestic defense sector and has led to the opening of a defense industrial complex in Lamoia. This complex provides weapons, ammunition, and munitions for the nation's military and police. South Torbia is attempting to obtain contracts with foreign governments to export helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. Factories in South Torbia do have dual use potential such as the automobile, aviation, and communications industries. South Torbia is investigating the feasibility of getting involved in launching their own satellites into space but has already used other countries' rockets to place eight



commercial telecommunications satellites, three navigation satellites, and three dedicated military imagery satellites into space.

Special Considerations

South Torbia lives in a constant state of preparedness, anticipating that the North will act on its threat to unify the entire country under its dictator's control. As such, the South Torbian military focuses on North Torbia as its primary enemy leaving the country vulnerable for smuggling and other criminal activities. The RoTA operates many guard posts along the common border with North Torbia and patrols the area between the guard posts. The rough terrain makes it impossible, however, to prevent some personnel crossing over the border into South Torbia for nefarious activities. South Torbia continues to look more to the foreign military powers for its training and equipment as it looks for a way to stymie the threat from North Torbia.

It is believed that North Torbia may have built several infiltration tunnels under their mutual border with the South. While South Torbia has been searching for the tunnels for many years, none have yet to be found. If the tunnels are present, they would most likely be used by North Torbian SPF to get behind the RoTA, attack strategic targets and C2 nodes, and assassination.



ECONOMIC

Economic Overview

South Torbia is a highly developed, mixed-market nation with a strong economic core. Sixty to seventy percent of the economy is driven by free-market dynamics. Measured on a purchasing power parity basis, South Torbia is one of the world's largest economies. For three postwar decades, overall real economic growth was impressive - a 10% average in the 1960s, 5% in the 1970s, and 4% in the 1980s, making South Torbia the world's fastest growing economy in terms of real GDP per capita following World War II. Growth slowed markedly in the 1990s, averaging just 1.7%, largely because of the aftereffects of inefficient investment and the collapse of an asset price bubble in the late 1980s. This collapse required considerable time for firms to reduce excess debt, capital, and labor. Modest economic growth continued over the last two decades, after governmental reform and reduction of much of the previously entrenched bureaucracy. The economy, however, fell into recession four times in the last ten years. This pattern echoes a standard structural transition from primary goods into manufacturing and then, ultimately, into services. South Torbia accomplished this transition primarily through labor productivity growth with a focus on exports, expanding their human capital through both education and size of work force. Notably, despite this economic success, South Torbia is still reliant on imports due to a limitation in agriculture diversity and natural resources.

In the last five years, South Torbia has had a slight uptick in growth, due to the President's economic revitalization agenda of monetary easing, flexible fiscal policy, and structural reform. Led by the Bank of Torbia's aggressive monetary easing, South Torbia is making modest progress in ending deflation, but demographic decline due to a low birthrate and an aging and shrinking population poses a major long-term challenge for the economy. These challenges, coupled with declining trade with Olvana and the potential for a nuclear North Torbia, are immense. The government currently faces the quandary of balancing its efforts to stimulate growth

and institute economic reforms with the necessity of addressing its sizable public debt, which stands at 197% of GDP. To help raise government revenue, South Torbia adopted legislation to raise the consumption tax rate gradually. The first such increase, however, led to another recession, so the government has postponed further increases. The government believes that structural reforms combining a cultural ideal of communal happiness and harmony with a military mindset of discipline, hierarchy, and time management are the keys to unlocking productivity and strengthening the economy in the long run.

South Torbia has one of the strongest economies in not only the region, but also the world. However, economic growth has slowed as the nation transitions from technologically advanced manufacturing exporters to a services-oriented market. While high youth unemployment, a rapidly aging workforce, and declining population present challenges for the South Torbian government, economic conflicts in the region run the gamut from relatively low hostility disagreements over shipping lanes to the potential for full-scale warfare, in part due to economic sanctions South Torbia joins the international community in imposing. Potential flash points with North Torbia and Olvana influence much of South Torbia's international economic policies.

Economic Activity

Over the past 70 years, South Torbia expanded from abject poverty to one of the largest economies in the world. A combination of government-industry cooperation, a strong work ethic, and an embracing of technology allowed a shift from a closed economy focused on import substitution to an export oriented growth strategy. Export values rose from 5% of GDP to nearly 50%, though the transition was not always smooth nor steady. The South Torbian government actively pursued membership in international trade institutions as well as bilateral, multilateral, and regional free trade agreements. Unlike traditional free-market economies—which see state-driven policies as a hindrance to growth—South Torbia complemented trade openness with a command-driven industrial sector, with emphasis on export manufacturing, a



strategy later successfully echoed in part by Olvana. Combined with increasing world demand, the economic growth allowed average incomes in South Torbia to climb from well below global norms to over three times the world average.

South Torbia is one of the world's leading countries in terms of embracing and adapting information and communications technology. This helped sustain growth coming out of a series of financial crises two decades ago. The South Torbian government also developed a series of reforms as it shifted from strict state control to a more pro-business environment. A restructured corporate sector and labor market produced a leaner and more flexible workforce that then became a main factor in attracting foreign investors.

More recently, the economy of South Torbia began a natural restructuring away from manufacturing and into services. As a result, the growth rate has dropped significantly from previous double-digit growth, to smaller, more sustainable amounts. Small business growth and consumer confidence remain extremely high. A weak currency and healthy global demand are propping up economic activity. However, limited wage growth, uncertainty regarding economic policies in the United States and a sizeable slowdown in Olvana could derail economic stability. The nation faces a potential future crisis with a shifting demographic in its labor pool. The population is both aging and shrinking, with population expected to drop from its current level of 128 million down to 95 million within the next 30 years, due to changes in health, birth, and migration patterns. This has an adverse effect on the country's economic outlook. Additionally, a looming potential conflict with North Torbia hinders some aspects of economic growth. South Torbia already has one of the slowest per capita growth rates among developed countries over the past decade, with an annual growth rate of only 0.13%, stagnant compared with the rest of Asia. By comparison, the United States had a growth rate of 1.6% over the same period.

Economic Actors

Torbias Ministry of Financial Strategy and Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) exert a major influence on the economy. These two ministries drive much of South Torbias overall economic policy. Additionally, large conglomerates—wherein corporations have combined separate companies that make up the entire value chain of a particular product, market, or industry—are also major players in the South Torbian economy. Groups of parliamentarians form familial factions that represent the interests of occupational constituencies, such as farmers, small businesses, and the construction industry. The factions, special interest groups, and bureaucrats all work closely together in formulating policy in such areas as agriculture and environmental issues. The cooperative nature of these groups became a major factor in South Torbias tremendous postwar economic growth, because in the pooling of resources, the investments made by these groups in developing industries were large enough to make these industries competitive worldwide. Another key contributing factor to South Torbias postwar growth was a generally independent and fair judicial system, providing secure protection of real and intellectual property. The direct exchange of cash for favors from government officials is extremely rare. However, the web of close relationships among companies, politicians, government agencies, and other groups fosters a business climate that is conducive to graft, most often seen in the rigging of bids on government public works projects.

The South Torbian military plays a critical role in economic and international policy development. Military spending takes up an average of 2.5% of the annual GDP and the military leadership supports a partnered foreign military presence, even as popular opinion regarding foreign troops has ebbed and flowed. The civilian leadership in the military has helped guide the development of some key industry to support a future independent military or at least one that has a defensive reach to support allies abroad. Many former military members take jobs in the industries that support military procurement and design after leaving or retiring from service.



International Trade

South Torbia is postured well in the foreign trade arena as an economic and demographic trendsetter among the world's advanced countries. The nation is a technology and manufacturing powerhouse that plays a leading role in the global economy and international supply chains. South Torbia's large middle class demands a variety of consumer goods and services and drives a consumer economy that leads the national economy. South Torbia actively pursues bilateral free trade agreements since the country remains reliant on exports for growth and is therefore vulnerable to continued slowing of the global economy. South Torbia is habitually one of the initial signers of any regional or global trade pact that promises to increase foreign competition and create new export opportunities. Because of concerns regarding food production and agricultural security, however, South Torbia has high tariffs on any food or agricultural product imported into the country.

South Torbia has imposed unilateral trade sanctions on North Torbia based on several military actions, including ballistic missile testing and attacks on South Torbian military and fishing vessels. These sanctions historically include banning North Torbian ships from using shipping lanes in South Torbian territory, suspending inter-Torbian trade, and prohibiting most cultural exchanges. Trade tensions between these two nations have broader regional implications. Olvana is the largest trading partner in terms of both imports and exports for both nations. Approximately one-fourth of all South Torbian trade is with Olvana.

Commercial Trade

South Torbian trade is diverse in terms of both product and partners. The nation is home to a large middle class and a broad-based, highly developed consumer economy that offers great potential for consumer products and services. Key exports include vehicles and vehicle components, integrated circuits, passenger and cargo ships, and natural gas. South Torbia's main export destinations are Olvana (24.5%), the US (13.5%), the EU (10.3%), OPEC nations (6.9%), and Belesia (2.5%). Another

26.2% of South Torbian exports go throughout the rest of Asia, with the remaining 16.1% exported to the rest of the world. The value of South Torbian exports is \$632.5 billion.

South Torbia's national policies favor free trade and economic liberalism. They generally seek to establish bilateral free trade agreements with existing trade partners. South Torbia's free trade agreement with Olvana removed tariffs on 90% of products. The bilateral trade with Olvana exceeds \$290 billion per year, making Olvana the nation's largest trading partner. Olvanan trade volume exceeds South Torbia's next three partners combined, while South Torbia is Olvana's fourth largest partner. South Torbia's reliance on raw materials, however, makes the country vulnerable to economic warfare. South Torbia's most significant imports are crude petroleum and the materials for the manufacturing of integrated circuits and vehicle components. Olvana tops the list of import trade partners at 22.5%, followed by OPEC nations (15.9%), the EU (13.3%), the US (10.1%), and Belesia (1.9%). Importation from the remainder of Asia stands at 22.5% and 13.8% from the rest of the world. The value of South Torbian imports is \$536.6 billion.

Military Exports/Imports

Last year, the South Torbian government relaxed its arms export rules, enabling exports of military technology for the first time since 1967. Now such deals are legal and only require government approval. The government is attempting to bolster the manufacturing industry—especially shipbuilding—by expanding the country's defense industry, enabling its participation in international weapons development programs and easing rules governing military export products to ensure industrial growth. Olvana warned against this move; South Torbia responded by approving a new national security strategy and increasing defense spending to record levels. Last year's 1.4% increase was the fifth straight annual increase in outlays, giving South Torbia the fourth largest level of nominal military expenditure in the region at 2.5% of GDP.



South Torbia already had defense industries centered on self-defense and maintaining an economic exclusion zone around its islands. The relaxed restrictions on arms exports should revitalize the defense industry, which for many years suffered from a virtual ban on arms exports and a steadily decreasing defense budget. Like much of the manufacturing industry, focus is on high technology components, such as high-performance sensors for US-manufactured surface-to-air missiles, both for the US military and allies in the Middle East. Soon after the President revealed the new policy on arms exports, the Defense Ministry presented a strategy to boost the competitiveness of the domestic industry, hoping that the loosened restrictions will bring concrete gains. South Torbia relied heavily on its relationship with the West to address traditional military threats. This special relationship enabled conglomerates to access US defense-related technologies through licensing and collaborations on defense R&D. South Torbia does not currently possess a sufficiently developed industrial base to support a completely self-reliant defense sector but seeks this as an eventual outcome. With these advances, South Torbia is also looking to open military export markets in non-Western markets. In addition to the relaxation of export bans, the defense sector is consolidating, especially in troubled areas such as the shipbuilding sector that agonized over global stagnation in demand. Military procurement is extensive and widespread to counter both the conventional and asymmetric threat from North Torbia. A major percentage of GDP (3.1%) directly or indirectly underwrites importation and research and development efforts for the military. Over the next five years, South Torbia will buy hardware including drones, low-observable aircraft, and amphibious vehicles.

Manipulation/Weaponization of Economic Activity

South Torbia's free market system enables it to be resilient against economic manipulation by other actors. That said, the open nature of the South Torbian market means that any actor with the means to exert economic influence has the potential to impact the economy. While the overall risk of foreign manipulation may be low, the

opportunity for external actors to exert influence within the South Torbian economy is high.

Arctic Economic Strategy

South Torbia's economic interests in the Arctic are ambitious for a non-Arctic nation. The Government of South Torbia is focused on measures to support South Torbian companies to develop greater awareness of business opportunities in the Arctic. The government is actively involved in networking companies and individuals within the business communities of Arctic nations. The South Torbian Government has established itself as a member of many of the economic councils regarding the development of the Arctic. South Torbia wishes to continue to promote an environment for the utilization of its shipping companies through the Arctic Sea Route by constructing systems to support navigation and predict sea ice distribution. South Torbia desires to manufacture and produce Arctic specific technology and equipment for export to further its economic goals.

Economic Sectors

The three main sectors of South Torbia's economy are all technologically advanced. Agriculture, the smallest sector, can meet some domestic needs, although most foodstuffs must be imported. Industry, the second largest sector, has a highly advanced and efficient manufacturing branch that drove economic growth for decades. By developing state-of-the-art finished products, they successfully captured many markets to ensure healthy annual trade surpluses. Like most matured industrial economies, services constitute South Torbia's largest economic sector. South Torbia has been one of the world's top countries in terms of embracing and adapting information and communications technology, which helped foster and sustain growth coming out of an Asian financial crisis two decades ago. South Torbia's past strategic alliances and economic integration with Western nations provides opportunities in innovative sectors including space, defense, and security. South Torbia is a leading importer of US aerospace and defense equipment and,



increasingly, an integrated co-developer. Fast-growing markets include advanced manufacturing, healthcare, cyber security solutions, and e-commerce. Although most analysts consider the aging population in South Torbia as a drag on the economy, it also presents business opportunities for development in sectors that such a shift in demographics will drive. These include medical devices, pharmaceuticals, healthcare facilities and infrastructure, biotechnology, healthcare information technology, safety equipment, robotics, leisure and travel, and educational services.

Raw Materials Sector

While South Torbia enjoys a variety of natural resources in terms of both quantity and diversity, industrial demand, particularly in certain rare elements needed for high-tech industry, outstrips proven reserves. Once heavily forested, the drive for industrial growth and agricultural expansion largely stripped the urban areas of trees. The government is trying to carry out a greening program in urban environs, replanting trees in numerous city parks. The country's mineral resources include iron, copper, gold, manganese, and nickel.

Agriculture

The South Torbian agricultural sector accounts for 2.3% of the country's overall GDP and 3.5% of total employment. To counter the decreasing proportion of arable land to population farmers adopted and improved upon modern Western agricultural methods. This results in one of the world's highest levels of crop yields per unit area. Overall agricultural self-sufficiency rate is about 50%, on fewer than 2.3 million hectares. Still, South Torbia is a major importer of agricultural products and has no significant agricultural exports apart from some fruit. Most of the cultivated land—particularly irrigated land—is dedicated to rice production, which is still inadequate to meet domestic demand. While South Torbia maintains a free agricultural market domestically, South Torbian farmers are protected by a wide array of subsidies and import barriers, especially on rice, corn, and sugar. Deficiency payments pay farmers all or part of the difference between a fixed target price and the actual market price in

the current year. These barriers, especially tariff rate quotas that can range from 100% to as high as 778% for rice, contribute to high food costs in South Torbia. Despite these protections, South Torbia imports over \$30 billion in agricultural products each year. One-third of these imports come from the United States, making South Torbia one of the largest export markets for US agriculture. Domestic fruit is limited in variety; the importation of apples, peaches, pears, oranges, grapes, and plums from the US and Oceania is seasonally dependent.

The future of agriculture in South Torbia is dichotomous. On the one hand, agriculture has a long historical and cultural importance. Recently, a weak exchange rate and greater focus on high-quality commodities lifted food exports by over 22 percent in the past two years. At the same time, however, the agricultural labor force faces both a rapidly declining overall population and migration of young people from rural to urban areas for educational, economic, and cultural reasons. Additionally, South Torbian farmers are taking action to try to counter the effects of climate change. A lengthening growing season requires later planting and rice varieties that are more heat resistant. South Torbian farmers have already seen a decrease in both quality and quantity of paddy rice harvests, with 12–13% decreases expected by the middle of the century. The post-war industrial growth spurt largely stripped the trees from a once heavily forested land, especially in and around urban areas. The nation continues to deplete its remaining forestland at a rate of 0.3% per year.

Climate change poses another potential threat to the South Torbian agricultural market. Researchers at the National Rice Research Institute near Manila have found that for each 1° C rise in average temperature, rice yield drops by anywhere from 3% to 10%. Some researchers believed that warmer temperatures and increasing levels of carbon dioxide could lead to higher crop yields, but it appears that this is more than counter-balanced by other factors such as water availability, better conditions for pests, the timing of the growing season and the impact of heat on flowering.



Forestry

While some paper production occurs within South Torbia, it is not a major economic factor. The trees that are native to the area are not the type that are best suited for commercial enterprises. Sizable forests are located outside of North Torbia, but within easy import distance.

Fishing

South Torbia has the largest, most capable, and most commercially successful fishing fleet in the region. Its capacity far exceeds the productivity of its own territorial waters, both in shallow water and deep-sea fishing. With increasing domestic demand, fishing has become an increasingly important factor in the South Torbian economy. This expansion, coupled with the depletion of fisheries and a global increase in demand, is creating friction and territorial disputes over catch limits and rights-of-passage involving nearly all East Asian countries. These disputes, which in the past have been resolved diplomatically, are resulting in slowly increasing violence and diplomatic crises, a trend that will almost certainly continue.

Oil and Natural Gas Extraction

South Torbia has few fossil fuel deposits on or offshore, making its economy susceptible to global energy price fluctuations and crises. The South Torbian government formed the Torbian National Oil Company (TNOC) to bring stability to the oil and natural gas supply. TNOC, which is 100% government owned, is responsible for the importation of all crude petroleum products, while processing and distribution of refined products is in the hands of the private sector. TNOC is a major player in worldwide oil and gas exploration and the development of non-Torbian natural gas fields.

To compensate for a lack of domestic production, South Torbia has dozens of large oil storage tanks for strategic oil reserve purposes. These reserves are intended to keep the country functioning if imports suddenly dry up. It has stockpiles of 1.1 billion

barrels of oil, or enough to last for 172 days. South Torbian refinery capacity is sufficient to meet demand for processed petroleum. In fact, the refining sector has encountered excess capacity because domestic petroleum product consumption has declined, leading to the MITI calling for the petrochemical industry to consolidate production facilities to reduce overcapacity. This decline is a result of the contraction of industrial output, the mandatory blending of ethanol into transportation fuels, more fuel-efficient vehicles, and shifting demographics leading to less driving each year. Crude oil production averaged 6,600 barrels per day (bbl/d) over the last two decades, ranging from a high ten years ago of 13,000 bbl/d to a record low of 3000 bbl/d last year.

Because domestic production is minimal, South Torbia imports about 97% of its natural gas, all in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Import volume amounts to over 4.7 billion cubic meters annually, 60% of which comes from Southeast Asia. This makes South Torbia one of the largest natural gas importers worldwide, making up about 35% of all globally traded LNG. Most of the LNG is used for electric power generation, and natural gas accounts for 24% of overall energy consumption. Those natural gas fields that South Torbia does possess are located along the western coastline. The state-owned Torbia National Oil Corporation is responsible for extraction and transportation of natural gas from these fields via a pipeline network that crosses to the Manila metropolitan area.

South Torbia's limited domestic natural gas reserves are concentrated primarily along the country's western coastline. These small fields clustered near the Lubang Islands supply less than 3 percent of the country's demand. Exploration efforts are complicated by territorial water disputes with North Torbia. South Torbia is prepared to launch a \$27.5 million project using sonic waves and other methods to research the subsea floor structure along 19 miles of the sea border between North and South Torbia.



Mining

The operation of mines and employment in the mining industry has been in decline for many years because of depleted ore reserves, high mining costs, and the availability of cheaper imports. The country continues to operate some nickel mines in the northern mountains, along with copper, iron, gold, and manganese. Generally, the existing mining industry consists of small-scale, low-tonnage mining operations with high-value-added processing activities. The country has an excellent metallurgical industry for nonferrous metals, and the reliance on raw material importation led many major metal processing corporations to invest in mining projects abroad. Additionally, exploration efforts discovered deposits of rare earth metals off the coast, in fields that intermittently stretch into the North Torbian mainland. Overall, mining is the smallest sector of the industrial-based economy, accounting for less than 0.2% of GDP. However, the mineral-processing industry is among the world's largest and most technologically advanced, accounting for 5.2% of GDP, and playing a key role in supplying steel, nonferrous metals, and chemicals for the country's manufacturing sector, as well as to those of the region. South Torbia is a leading global producer of chromium, cadmium, slab zinc, and steel, and a leading regional producer of refined copper, pyrophyllite, cement, zeolites, and talc.

Manufacturing and Industry Sector

Manufacturing—a critical piece of South Torbia's post-war growth strategy—remains a significant part of the overall economy, even as the country transitions to a more service-oriented base. South Torbia ranks third in the world in steel production, much of which transitions to the world's largest shipbuilding industry and fourth largest automotive industry, producing cars, construction vehicles, motorcycles, ATVs, and engines. South Torbian manufacturing is heavily dependent on imported raw materials and fuel. With increasing competition from Olvana, manufacturing in South Torbia now focuses on high-tech and precision goods such as optical instruments and robotics, as well as smart phones and consumer electronics. South Torbia ranks as one of the most innovative countries in the world, leading global patent filings in

several industries. Driven by talent and innovation mixed with low-cost manufacturing, four-fifths of manufacturing exports are in high skill and technology intensive sectors. South Torbia is a world leader in automation, with over 50% of the global market in factory robots, and best practice implementation in manufacturing operations.

Despite the need to import the raw materials necessary for refining, South Torbia remains one of the five largest steel exporters, maintained a persistent trade surplus in steel products. Last year, South Torbia exported over 40 million metric tons of steel, representing 9% of all steel exports worldwide and 3.9% of overall South Torbian exports by value. Auto production has steadily risen over the last five years due to a weaker currency and a stronger global market for motor vehicles. This in turn led to extended export expansion and a smaller focus on domestic sales. The increased complexity of modern vehicles evolved the auto industry into an integrated supply chain of companies, with parts from hundreds of suppliers applied into each vehicle that comes off the assembly line. As a result, an expansive network of auto parts suppliers grew into substantial part of the South Torbian economy, spanning across multiple industries such as chemicals and rubber.

Manufacturing in the defense sector is a potential growth area, but also presents a regional risk with Olvana. The government has introduced new policies that relax many restrictions and allows South Torbia to export arms to a wider array of nations as well as participate in joint weapons development and production. The focus of these exports will be non-lethal, defense-oriented equipment, but there is also work on joint development of strike aircraft.

Energy Industry

With limited domestic natural resources, South Torbia relies on importation of fossil fuels for generation of electricity. The government monitors the energy sector very closely in comparison with other sectors of the economy, as South Torbia must import 93% of its natural gas, oil, and other fuels to produce energy. The government



is making efforts to push for greater use of renewable energy and over the last decade the amount of renewable energy consumed has increased from 6.1% of the total to 23.0%. Total energy consumption mainly comes from natural gas (43%), petroleum (27%), and coal (24%). South Torbia possesses an adequate if somewhat dated refining capability. Last year, South Torbian oil refineries produced 3,816,700 barrels per day (bbl/d), making the country the fourth largest refiner in the world. The government is seeking to promote operational efficiency in the refining sector, including increasing refinery competitiveness, which may lead to refinery closures in the future. As a result, South Torbian refineries have scaled back on refining capacity from about 4.7 million bbl/d less than a decade ago.

The MITI interfaces directly with the energy industry, providing subsidies to influence research and development as well as exploration. South Torbia has a very modern, state-of-the-art energy sector with no real inhibitors to progress. However, the sheer volume of imports could cause problems if OPEC or individual countries default on agreements with South Torbia. The MITI recently published a white paper that established a framework for action, presenting three strategic goals to drive growth in the energy sector. These goals were to strengthen and grow upstream and downstream oil and gas activities; to ensure safe, secure, reliable, and efficient supply of energy to the populace and industry; and to maximize economic spin-off from the energy industry, securing high participation of the local workforce.

The largely state-owned Torbian Electric Power Company (TEPCO) provides 87% of South Torbia's power supply, primarily from thermal plants. Industrial demand accounts for over half of the annual output. The South Torbian government controls 51% of TEPCO. In response to deregulation, which requires TEPCO to spin off all its fossil-fueled power generation operations, the company plans to divest half of its domestic-based generation assets while building an extensive power plant portfolio in other countries. However, the efforts to privatize the industry display some of the problems South Torbia faces in its labor reform. The privatization process has taken

over thirty years and met strong opposition from workers, labor unions, management, nationalists, and those who profit from rent seeking.

Following a major storm over a decade ago, South Torbia shut down its sole nuclear reactor, located in Morong. This made the industrial sector even more dependent on fossil fuels and increased in overall CO₂ emissions. The government sought to restart the nuclear plant with strict revised safety standards, while emphasizing nuclear energy's importance as a base-load electricity source. However, opposition from local governments and the populace placed the restart on indefinite hold. In part, concerns were based on the plant's location near a major fault line and a dormant volcano. While the plant is still maintained and could be recommissioned, the government has chosen to place greater emphasis on future sources of renewable energy.

Chemical Industry

The South Torbian chemical industry is the country's second largest manufacturing sector behind transportation machinery. In its broader definition—including plastic and rubber products—it makes up over 14% of all output value, at over \$300 billion, and 12% of the manufacturing workforce.

Services Sector

South Torbia's service sector accounts for just over half (59.7%) of its total economic output. Banking, insurance, real estate, retail, transportation, and telecommunications are all major industries. South Torbian conglomerates rank as some of the largest in the world in each of their respective sectors. One of the five most-circulated newspapers in the world is South Torbian, and the country is home to 250 companies from the Forbes Global 2000 list. However, many service sectors remain closed to foreign investment.



Banking/Finance

As an ever-increasing power in the global economic system, South Torbia's banking and financial system continues to rise. The South Torbia stock market consistently shows that South Torbians want to invest in their own country as they see a future with untapped potential for economic growth. The South Torbian banks are also taking advantage of the growing economy as they provide loans or participate in what appears to be lucrative investments. South Torbia has not lived up to its promise as a destination point for foreign banking investment. This is due, in large measure to the cost of adhering to the strict and bureaucratic guidelines of South Torbian financial regulators. The opportunities to enhance returns from fee-based financial services rather than traditional lending are very limited.

Information Communications Technology

South Torbia is a major player in Information Technology (IT) and continues to grow this industry at a steadily increasing rate. IT comprises about 13% of all output value at about \$250 billion and over 10% of the manufacturing workforce. These numbers are only expected to increase in the future as the demand for communication devices continues to increase as new and more innovative products are developed. In recent years, smugglers have found a lucrative market for South Torbian phones and other communication devices in North Torbia. North Torbian residents living near the border with South Torbia, are taking advantage of cellular towers located in the 50 miles closest to the border.

While many older South Torbians still read the paper, younger people are now accessing the Internet for their news—either from local newspaper websites or from foreign countries. Social media is taking over the country as in most of the rest of the world. The cell phone, for those under 40 years of age, is the means South Torbians use to connect to the world. As with other developing countries, South Torbia did not have the same technological evolution as many developed countries. Developing countries had heavy investments in infrastructure, such as phone lines. South

Torbias, coming out of decades of war and insecurity, invested in cell phone and other digital technology, rather than step back into technology that slowed developing countries from fully embracing new technology.

Professional Services

Professional Services is an evolving industry. As the standard of living for South Torbians has increased, so has their disposable income. The services industry is expanding as South Torbians find they have more free time and increased income. Entrepreneurs are finding opportunities to provide a variety of services ranging from those that make life easier for busy professionals to enhancing family life.

Tourism

The largest segment of the services sector is tourism. Last year, South Torbia was the fifth most visited country in Asia and the Pacific, with over 8.3 million tourists, in part due to weaker currency and easier visa requirements. The government hopes to double the annual tourist numbers by hosting an upcoming Summer Olympics. Some of the most popular tourist sites include the shopping centers of Manila, the historical and cultural sites around Luzon, the white sand coastlines of Lubang and the reefs popular for diving off the coast of Mindoro. The latter two islands have seen an increase in luxury hotel construction. Outbound tourism is also a component of the services sector, as South Torbia is one of the largest sources of overseas travel and tourism to the United States.

Government Services

For the most part, most South Torbians are satisfied with the services provided by the government. Those in the upper-middle class and above are the most satisfied as most government policies support their quest to increase their wealth. For the poor and disabled, the country is investing in social services that provide nominal support. The level of support is an ever-present discussion as activists lobby for more spending on social programs and less on the military. Public education through



high school is compulsory and considered a right to be paid for through taxes. University education is paid for by those who qualify. Additionally, roads, utilities, and other infrastructure, while never perfect, are acceptable to most South Torbians. The amount and distribution of tax dollars to discrete government services is debated passionately in the NA as it allocates finite resources to various needs.

Participation in the Global Financial System

The economy of South Torbia is one of the largest in the world by nominal GDP and purchasing power parity and in the top 25% of GDP per capita. Due to a volatile currency exchange rate, South Torbia's GDP, as measured in dollars, fluctuates widely. One of the most advanced and developed economies in the world, South Torbia tends to split its investments into both Eastern and Western markets. The volume of trade that drives the South Torbian economy can also have political ramifications, as countries like Olvana can threaten reduced trade in retaliation for economic exclusion zone enforcement. South Torbia must also deal with piracy along the sea lines of communication, enforcing navigable law-abiding use of the sea away from Torbia. Like Olvana, South Torbia seeks to strengthen economic and diplomatic ties with Africa, especially Amari and Kujenga, through infrastructure development. While Olvana seeks improvement of the transportation infrastructure, South Torbia has sought to improve digital connectivity.

World Economic Organizations

As a member of the G20, South Torbia participates in most international economic organizations. These include the following:

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

South Torbia is one of the 195 countries belonging to the IMF who work together to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. The IMF uses the World Bank to support these goals.

World Bank

The World Bank consists of five institutions including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD); the International Development Association (IDA); the International Finance Corporation (IFC); the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA); and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). South Torbia, like most economically developed nations, is a creditor for the International Bank for Reconstruction. In the 1950s and 1960s, South Torbia borrowed 31 times for a total of \$863 million, primarily directed at urban infrastructure projects. South Torbia made its final repayment over 30 years ago. South Torbia is now a creditor to the World Bank, receiving its last distribution in 1971. Since 1984, it has been one of the largest suppliers of capital, gaining a greater voice as one of the most important partners. The World Bank maintains active portfolios for South Torbia, focusing on supporting climate mitigation and adaption activities to other nations.

International Development Aid

While South Torbia does participate in Official Development Assistance (ODA), it is not a major ODA member. Instead, it tends to focus inward on its own people helping themselves before helping others. Charity is marginally important in South Torbia. The country lacks a tradition of private philanthropy, and the expectation is that the family will provide support for the needy within the family. Governmental unease towards non-profit organizations (NPOs) reflects this. Qualifying for favorable tax treatment, which Western governments provide to charities, is nearly impossible in South Torbia. Of 90,000 NPOs in South Torbia, only 223 have a special tax status. That compares with 160,000 in Britain and 1.8 million in the United States. Officials tend to regard NPOs as meddlesome amateurs, and even though public attitudes are changing, the law and formal attitudes tend to lag.

Until 20 years ago, centralized government planning and controls limited what private and not-for-profit corporate organizations could do. Because of inflation and social



needs, the government altered the law, allowing NPOs to make up the difference between what the government used to subsidize and what people needed but could not afford, such as healthcare. However, roadblocks still exist. Following Super Typhoon Haima in 2016, volunteers flooded to the most stricken areas. One group from Manila struggled to find an evacuation center willing to accept its offer of food because they came from out of town, and therefore lacked the local government's blessing. Another complained that centers turned them away because they did not have enough food for everyone. Local police refused to recognize special passes meant to let aid groups use the deserted expressway, forcing them on to congested side-roads.

Other Major World or Regional Economic Organizations

- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Organization for Economic Co-operation-Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC)
- ASEAN Plus Three
- East Asia Summit (EAS)
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- East Asia Summit

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Early in its economic reform, the South Torbian government recognized that foreign direct investment was critical to its restructuring and growth efforts. It therefore focused on removing some of the business-related information asymmetry regarding social, cultural, and language barriers. By abiding by norms and laws both locally and internationally as well as adopting traditional cost saving policies, South Torbia has been able to attract knowledge-based investments that raised FDI inflow from 0.4% of GDP to 4.0%. The President stated that the government would like to double that figure to 8% by maintaining a large and healthy national economy, an excellent technology sector, an outstanding workforce, and a democratic and relatively stable

political environment. There are, however, some limits to the inflow of foreign ownership in South Torbia. For example, for traditionally Torbian agriculture, such as sugar and rice, regulations ban foreign ownership, enforced with extremely high tariffs. Additionally, a high level of corporate bureaucracy as compared to other developed nations stifles some of the desire for FDI in South Torbia.

Economic Sanctions

There are no economic sanctions against South Torbia. South Torbia has developed trading partners who are often adversaries of each other, for example the US and Olvana. The complexity of these trading partnerships is most acutely felt when one trading partner expects South Torbia to participate in sanctions against the interests of another trading partner. South Torbia normally supports the UN and other sanctions against North Torbia. Since the two Torbias often have family ties that cross their mutual border, South Torbia often has local organizations that wish to provide food, medicine, and other essential goods to their cousins in North Torbia. If these groups confine themselves to humanitarian aid and request permission for their charity work, the South Torbian government generally acquiesces to their wishes.

Finance and Banking

Most South Torbians operate within the standard finance and banking laws. Any remnants of pre-modern banking procedures are only found in the most extremely rural areas of the country. South Torbia's highly restrictive and regulated banking system has discouraged foreign investment in this industry. While there are a few foreign banking companies operating in South Torbia, most have felt the costs of doing business and complying with regulators are too great.

Private Banking

State-owned enterprise banks and private (corporate) banks share in South Torbia's financial sector, although this was not always the case. In the 1970s, the



combination of a global oil crisis and recent membership in the World Trade Organization convinced the legislature to shift regulations allowing for expansion of banking and opening the commercial banking industry to the populace at large.

Banking System

Established in 1882, the Bank of Torbia (BoT) is the central bank of South Torbia. The BoT implements monetary policy through control of the money supply and acts as the lender of last resort to the banking system. It controls the money supply primarily through its control of the discount rate, the interest rate for loans from the BoT to commercial banks. The government owns 55% of the BoT and private investors own the rest. There is an uneasy relationship between the Bank of Torbia and the Ministry of Finance.

The relationship between the central and commercial banks is both modern and harmonious. The banking system encourages foreign trade and FDI, which South Torbia recognizes as critical to greater diversification and continued movement from an industrial to a service-centric economy. Lending rates vary based on location, but the central bank keeps them even and fair. Despite this regulation, there is little overall impact on private loans, and lending rate caps do not cause undue stress on the financial system. Certain state-owned enterprises and government-sanctioned agencies receive special privileges in the form of low-interest loans, which has the added effect of making commercial banks more competitive. Both the government and commercial banks are equally effective, except that the Bank of Torbia charges more interest or fees to non-state owned enterprises. The largest commercial banking operation in South Torbia, and 75th largest in the world, is an independent conglomerate with assets exceeding \$368 billion.

Stock/Capital

South Torbia's national stock market, The Torbia Exchange, is in Olangapo and has 3,559 members. While most economic sectors are represented on the Torbian Exchange, some are not as they are completely privately held, or, like the Torbia

National Oil Company, are state-owned enterprises. The Torbia Exchange is a leading global market, with the seventh-most liquid stock market in the world. There is some volatility in non-government stocks, especially in tech-based companies. Overall volatility has been downward trending since about for the last decade, dropping from a high of 51% down to an eventual 2.3%. Torbian stocks are mainly undervalued on the global market, with a price-to-earnings ratio half that of US stocks. A prevailing attitude in the Torbian business world is that foreign gains equate to Torbian losses, undermining the country's image among investors. Additionally, there are occasional anti-foreign business backlashes—reflective of mood rather than policies—that persist in keeping stock prices low.

Informal Finance

Informal relationships based on familial, school, or communal ties play a major role in job search and career advancement. This directly affects the personalities of both government agencies responsible for making economic policy decisions and the ruling boards of conglomerates. The strength of these relationships and the role they play in business and government is unique, since in most economically advanced nations these types of ties have a decreasing role in economics as the nation advances.

In South Torbia, however, informal ties strengthened as the economy advanced. In addition to economic policy, the government also tends to grant privileges to special interest groups based on personal connections. These special interest groups often merge within political parties that represent the diverse concerns of all citizens. Many groups identify so closely with the ruling political party that it is often difficult to discern the boundaries between the party and the various groups. The ruling party pushes for the election of officers of agricultural, business, and professional groups to the national legislature, which enables the formation of specific factions.

Public Finance



South Torbia generally promotes global economic liberalism and free market economies. That said, the nation's agricultural rice subsidies/ tariffs are the highest in the world, but nearly every other area of the economy is left to the free markets. Wages fell steadily during the country's long battle with deflation following both Asian and Global financial crises. Raising wages is a focus of the President's growth program, which seeks to reflate the economy through a cycle of higher corporate profits, worker pay, and consumer spending. One key component of policy is research and development. Using tax incentives, South Torbia is in the top five worldwide of direct R&D funding, spending 3.8% of GDP, and is second only to the US in post-secondary education and patents.

Public Policy

Inflation in South Torbia was 3.4% last year. Inflation has remained low since the global financial crisis, increasing only 9% over the past decade, but recently rates have increased. Multiple factors generate the inflation effects including imports, especially costs of fuel, economic policy including efforts to manage the exchange rate, and trade imbalances with Olvana and the US. While inflation has not had a major impact on corporate investment decisions, citizens believe the government could do more to keep inflation low while also increasing pay. Rising costs without corresponding increases in interest rates caused some not to invest beyond personal savings, forced others to subsistence farm in community or personal plots because of rising food costs, or sent families to seek assistance from private and not-for-profit organizations.

The South Torbian government faces a steadily increasing level of public debt. In addition, South Torbia now has its highest household debt level in recorded history. The office of the President has claimed that ongoing expansionary fiscal policy is not problematic despite the debt size because the level is still less than the average for developed nations. However, parliament is doubtful that the government will be able

to endure the debt surge and fiscal deficit, given the gaining of the South Torbian populace.

Like many developed nations, South Torbia uses subsidies to keep critical industry solvent despite market losses. To boost wages and lower to middle class income levels, the country raised the minimum wage by 16% last year, affecting nearly 25% of South Torbian workers. Due to concerns about these wage hikes generating closures in small businesses, the government also authorized direct subsidies to fund small businesses and keep them at currently existing employment levels. This subsidization will cost the South Torbian government approximately \$2.7 billion. The South Torbian fiscal year runs from January through December. While in the past, the fiscal year began after Buddhist New Year, the government changed to January 1 to fall in line with international calendars as more globalization occurred.

Taxation

South Torbia applies its taxation fairly and equitably, with tax credits focused mainly on new business growth, such as investing in R&D, foreign direct investments, and production/manufacturing. Older businesses such as agriculture and heavy industry production see less fair or equitable tax applications and adjustments over time. Corporate taxes are assessed on worldwide income for resident companies (those with corporate headquarters in South Torbia), but only on Torbian-sourced income for non-resident companies. The national corporate tax rate is either 15% or 25.5% depending on company size. Small to medium enterprises—valued at 100 million Yog or less—pay the smaller rate. However, companies must also pay local corporate taxes, which in some locations can make the total tax rate 31.3%, one of the world's highest.

The South Torbian government is working to bring tax rates down, as important trading partners in Africa, South America, Europe, will not invest until the taxes come down further and inflation goes up. The sales tax rate in South Torbia stands at a



maximum of 8%, with lower rates on certain products and services. Personal income taxes are a progressive rate ranging from a low of 0% to a high of 38.0%. The country also imposes a flat VAT of 10%, not counting the various applied tariffs, especially on agricultural products.

Currency Reserves

The legal tender South Torbian currency is the *yog*. The subunit of the *yog* is the *yon*. The country no longer uses the *yon* for everyday transactions, and the denomination only appears in foreign exchange rates. There is not any significant alternative currency or credit system in the country. Both major businesses and individuals conduct credit applications verbally, and approval is often tied to facilitating through the informal network, policy adjustments, conflict resolution, and consensus building.

South Torbia has steadily increased its foreign exchange reserves. Starting at a low point in 1957 with US dollar equivalence of \$455 million, total reserves reached a high a decade ago at \$1.306 trillion. Although total reserves dropped during the global financial crisis, over the course of last year, total reserves climbed from \$1.242 trillion to \$1.251 trillion.

Employment Status

South Torbia's economy has held steady over the past several years. The economic figures including the labor market are some of the best in the world. It is anticipated that the South Torbian economy will continue to maintain a 3%-4% unemployment rate for the foreseeable future.

Labor Market

South Torbia fueled four decades of economic growth by combining improvements in the size and quality of the workforce with rapid accumulation of capital through

exports and growth in total factor productivity. The country enjoys a labor force participation rate (LFPR) of 62.8% (50% for females and 71% for males), with 4.5% of all workers in the agricultural sector, 26.2% in industry, and 69.3% in services. This equates to a total labor force of nearly 66 million workers, 40% of whom are women. The vast majority (90%) work in urban settings. South Torbian workers rarely change companies during their careers, frustrating policy makers' efforts to drive wages up. The President recently said that changing the way South Torbia works on a fundamental level is the biggest challenge in reviving the economy, and a lack of worker mobility is one reason economists say South Torbia badly needs labor-market reform. Part of the problem is a lack of mid-career opportunities, as companies continue the longstanding practice of hiring mostly new graduates and employing them until they retire. When workers quit their jobs, it is usually for reasons other than money. Most leave to escape unsatisfactory conditions—such as personnel problems or excessive working hours—rather than to seek better opportunities. While wages overall are stagnant or declining, wage growth at the minimum wage level, which directly affects 2.6 million workers, has outpaced inflation, reversing the trends of the previous decade.

The South Torbian workforce faces age issues. The LFPR, that segment of the populace working or actively seeking employment, among those over 65 is 31.5% compared to 80.7% for 25-49 years old. In conjunction with the aging workforce, is a shrinking population with an annual growth rate of -0.1%. Within 40 years, more than 40% of the population will be over 65 years old, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare. This sweeping shift in South Torbia's demographic outlook brings with it a range of new challenges, with broad implications for its economic outlook, health and welfare systems, and relationships in the Asia-Pacific region. At the same time, the unemployment rate of 20-29 year olds is three times that of the national average. The government is struggling to conduct reform to resolve issues of youth joblessness, female underemployment, and a division between



overprotected full-time workers and under protected irregular and part-time workers who now make up 90% of new hires.

Like many developed nations, women are underpaid relative to men in the workplace, with an unadjusted gender pay gap around 30%. Men are still generally the breadwinners of a family and oversee household finances, while women stay at home and take care of the children. Even though gender roles have been progressively evolving throughout the last century, South Torbia is still behind other leading countries concerning gender equality. This is a combination of cultural discrepancies, where women are likely to work part time due to childcare duties, as well as discrimination in the labor market. Additionally, there is a significant amount of sexual harassment in the workplace. In a one-year online survey conducted by the Women Graduates Association of the University of Manila, research found that 54.5% of respondents had been asked inappropriate questions of a sexual nature at work, while 62.5% said that the inappropriate questions were addressed to them more than twice. A staggering 65.5% said that they received comments of a sexual nature based on their appearances and body shape, while 12.5% admitted to receiving gifts in exchange for an intimate relationship. Forty-nine percent acknowledged that they received text messages in the form of sexually inappropriate jokes or emails at work, while 70.1% said that the frequency of the inappropriate texts or messages occurred more than twice. A majority of those who took part also said that they had declined to file reports because they were embarrassed and uncertain about where to turn to for help and said that the experience left them with intense feelings of anger and humiliation.

Despite these challenges, the number of working women is growing. Many are part-timers who support their family budget while most men remain the chief breadwinners. Women typically leave the workforce after marriage or during pregnancy. With the labor supply shortages in certain segments, especially low-paying and unskilled jobs, increasing female employment will be necessity. The situation is gradually improving, as roughly 50% of South Torbian women are now

working, up from around 30% a decade ago. That is a record high for the country, but still far below the 80% figure for men. It is also lower than the average of many other developed countries.

Employment and Unemployment

Areas where the South Torbian labor market shows growth can be misleading regarding the overall labor situation. In the last quarter of the previous year, the jobs-to-applicants ratio reached its highest point in the last 50 years. Employment that quarter increased by 30,000, but there was a significant slowing in growth from the seasonally adjusted 260,000-worker increase in the preceding quarter. Most significantly, the preponderance of new entries in the labor force came from previously detached workers reentering the labor force, not from initial entries of secondary school graduates.

The unemployment rate in South Torbia rose to 3.1% at the end of the last quarter, up from 2.8% in the previous 3 months, and expected to climb to 3.8% within a year. Among people aged 15 to 24 years old, the jobless rate rose to 5.2 percent from 5 percent last month. Even more concerning, the jobless rate climbed to 8.2% for people aged 25-29, the most active job seekers, resulting in rare political protests in front of capital buildings. Although the overall number of available jobs is increasing, a lack of turnover at the more senior levels is creating a ripple effect. Upward mobility has been stifled, and entry level hiring in the more technologically advanced or education dependent skillsets is down. Recent college graduates are finding little opportunity in their chosen fields and are unwilling to settle for unskilled labor without promotion potential.

Illegal Economic Activity

Most crimes that occur in South Torbia are non-violent and crimes of opportunity, including residential burglaries and vehicle break-ins.



Government Sponsored

Government involvement in criminal activities can be described as corruption in varying degrees of culpability and entanglement.

Non-government Sponsored

Apart from this level of petty crime, most illegal activity within South Torbia falls under the purview of a transnational organized crime syndicate, the Tantoco Cartel. Despite their criminal activities, the South Torbian syndicate styles themselves as an apolitical, beneficent, loose business conglomerate. While their methods are often questionable, they do perform charitable acts, such as donating and delivering supplies to homeless victims. Over time, crime has shifted toward the white-collar variety, relying more and more on bribery in lieu of violence, and over the last two decades South Torbia has had one of the lowest murder rates in the world. These activities make the relationship between organized crime and police a complicated one. Membership itself is not illegal, and criminally owned businesses and headquarters are often clearly marked. Police often know member whereabouts and activities without taking any action. Some South Torbians view the criminals as a necessary evil, considering their chivalrous facade, and see the organizational nature of their crime as a deterrent to impulsive individual street crime. To counteract this romanticized version, the police refer to the group as essentially thugs or scum to reinforce their criminal nature corresponding with the government imposing stricter laws against criminal organizations. Four years ago, the Minister of Justice resigned his post when the press revealed his links to organized crime. Yet having these links has not always been so damaging for South Torbian politicians. The main opposition party that controlled the parliament for most of the last fifty years had extensively documented links to transnational crime.

One of the main criminal activities in South Torbia is large-scale bribery and blackmail. Fifteen years ago, this had reached such endemic proportions that South Torbia introduced laws making it illegal for corporations to pay blackmailers.

Unfortunately, the law did little to curb this criminal activity and led to criminals creating more sophisticated methods of hiding the schemes. The most effective tactic to counter blackmailers has been to align shareholder meetings, as the criminals can only be in so many places at once. Up to 90 percent of corporations on the Olangapo Stock Exchange hold their annual shareholder meetings on the same day.

Another major activity is theft and smuggling. According to the International Union of Maritime Insurance, last year the total loss (shrinkage) through the Port of Manila equated to 240,000 twenty-foot equivalent units, with an estimated value of \$6.3 billion, with an estimated annual increase of 2.0% by shipping volume and almost 24.98% by value. With over three-fourths of this loss attributed to theft, industry analysts credit criminal organizations with shifting to higher-value items, often of military origin, rather than the more pedestrian civilian black market items. Smugglers avoid paying transaction taxes on gold by using travelling retirees as mules. This crime is appealing since this typically has no victims except state coffers and does not call for violence or weapons. People see it as an easy way to earn extra cash, almost like a part-time job. Prior to a tax increase a decade ago, police arrested about 10 people on suspicion of gold smuggling-related tax evasion in a typical year, while last year there 294 arrests. Furthermore, organized crime is involved with smuggling MDMA and cannabis from North America into the country, or, in coordination with African drug smuggling cartels, methamphetamines from Latin America, Olvana, and Africa. Contrary to most countries, South Torbia imports most of its cannabis rather than local sourcing; this creates unusually high retail prices for the drug. Additionally, South Torbia faces a prescription medication problem, with over 50% of all drug-related treatment in the nation relating to amphetamine-type substance abuse.

South Torbia is a destination and, to a lesser extent, a source and transit country for men and women subjected to trafficking in persons. Most victims are subject to forced labor and forced prostitution, while children are subjected to sex trafficking.



Traffickers use fraudulent marriages between foreign women and Torbian men to facilitate the entry of women into South Torbia for forced prostitution in bars, clubs, brothels, and massage parlors. Traffickers strictly control the movement of victims using debt bondage, threats of violence or deportation, blackmail, and other coercive psychological methods. Trafficking victims also transit South Torbia between East Asia and North America. Traffickers expose male and female migrant workers from across Asia—especially Belesia—to conditions of forced labor, including through the Trainee and Technical Internship Program (TITP). The TITP is a government-run program originally designed to foster basic industrial skills and techniques among foreign workers but has instead become a guest worker program. During the “internship,” many migrant workers are placed in jobs that do not teach or develop technical skills—the original intention of the TITP. Some of these workers then become victims of forced labor. The Government of South Torbia does not fully comply with the minimum international standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government conducted a comprehensive review of TITP and submitted a reform bill to the legislature that establishes a third-party management audit body, with the capacity to punish perpetrators of forced labor and improves redress mechanisms for migrant workers. It also issued a revised national plan of action and established a minister-level committee to implement the plan. The government, however, did not develop or enact legislation that would fill key gaps in the law and thereby facilitate prosecutions of trafficking crimes, nor did they implement measures for trafficking victims, such as establishing a nationwide network of shelters exclusively for trafficking. The government did not accede to the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

Table of Economic Activity

Sources of GDP are 46.3% consumer spending, 18.2% government spending, 28.7% investment, and 6.8% net exports. While growth has been consistently slow over the last five years, the most recent quarter showed an improvement, perhaps indicating that South Torbia’s changes to economic policy may be taking hold.

Inflation remains low, except for the volatile food sector, which trends at a much higher level.

Table 2. Economic Activity

| Measure | Data | Remarks |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| GDP (Official Exchange Rate) | \$27 Billion | Estimated |
| GDP – Real Growth Rate | 1.2% | Estimated |
| GDP – Per Capita (PPP) | \$43,000 | Estimated |
| Gross National Saving | 34.81% | Estimated as a percent of GDP |
| GDP – Household Consumption | 48.78% | Estimated as a percent of GDP |
| GDP – Government Consumption | 16.09% | Estimated as a percent of GDP |
| GDP – Investment in Fixed Capital | 31.7% | Estimated as a percent of GDP |
| GDP – Investment in Inventories | 31.1% | Estimated as a percent of GDP |
| GDP – Exports of Goods & Services | 44.01% | Estimated as a percent of GDP |
| GDP – Imports of Goods & Services | 38.99% | Estimated as a percent of GDP |
| GDP – Agriculture Sector | 621 million | Estimated |
| GDP – Industry Sector | 10.26 billion | Estimated |
| GDP – Services Sector | 18.711 billion | Estimated |
| Labor Force | 26.6 million | Estimated |
| Labor Force – Agriculture | 1.197 million | Estimated |
| Labor Force – Industry | 6.969 million | Estimated |
| Labor Force – Services | 18.434 million | Estimated |
| Unemployment Rate | 3.4% | Estimated |
| Poverty Rate | 14.6% | Percent of the population living below the international poverty line (Estimated) |
| Net Foreign Direct Investment | -\$22.60 Billion | Estimated |
| Budget – Revenues | \$304.28 Billion | Estimated |
| Budget - Expenditures | \$321.38 Billion | Estimated |
| Public Debt | 197.2% | % of GDP (Estimated) |
| Inflation Rate – Consumer Prices | 0.8% | Estimated (5-year average = 2.4%) |
| Economic Equality/Inequality | 0.38 | Gini Coefficient (0 = Perfect with everyone in the country has the same amount of wealth; 1 = all income/wealth is in the possession of a single person) |



SOCIAL

Social Overview

While South Torbia still maintains a close connection to its cultural heritage and tradition, it has embraced many aspects of western culture and market capitalism. The economic growth experienced in South Torbia, paired with an increased exposure to global influences, continues to shape the social landscape within South Torbia. Whereas many countries within the region have diverse populations, South Torbia's relative homogeneity allows it to avoid many of the ethnic and social tensions that occur when different population groups experience urbanization, and increased interactions. That said, South Torbia has been experiencing a cultural evolution as younger generations gain more access to education and global influences. These outside influences create challenges between those Torbian's who seek to maintain their cultural identity, and those who wish to embrace a more global identity.

Brief History

The primary major social event in the last century for South Torbia is the Torbian War that resulted in the division of the country and the Torbian people. Torbian families were split up with many of those living in the northern part of the country fleeing to the south. When the Torbian War ended, these families were not allowed to reunite. Those that had fled to South Torbia did not want to return to the northern part of the country and those family members living in the north who wanted to join their families in the south were stopped by the North Torbian government. This family separation has now hit affected five generations and has enhanced the sense of divide between the two societies. While perspectives in the south may vary, the older generations are more likely to still feel an emotional, and familial connection to relatives in the north, even if it has been decades since, they were last in contact. Middle aged and younger South Torbians are less likely to maintain

emotional ties to relatives in the North, with the youngest generation of adults having very few linkages to the North.

The adoption of democracy in South Torbia following the war was gradual, with the nation experiencing multiple setbacks. On several occasions, the military has stepped in to exert and maintain control through force. Perhaps one of the most important domestic events that has impacted South Torbia was the rise of the democratic movement and protests that ultimately led to the end of authoritarian rule, and the re-establishment of democratic principles. The return to democracy has enabled freedom to flourish for the people and the economy has prospered. These improvements have allowed the younger South Torbians to embrace and even influence the aspects of western culture, leading to the development of a pop-culture that is uniquely South Torbian. The spread and popularity of this pop-culture influence is an example of the disparity between the quality of life for Torbians living in the south versus those living in the north. Those under 30 years of age use cell phones, enjoy music, and party in nightclubs just like their peers in other modern countries.

Demographics

Languages

Torbian is the dominant language and official of South Torbia; it is a language shared with North Torbia and spoken by Torbians worldwide. There are at least 5 major unique Torbian dialects in South Torbia; all are mutually intelligible to Torbians but can confuse non-native speakers. Though Torbian in the South now differs significantly from North Torbian; they are still mutually intelligible, however they differ enough that issues may arise when large numbers of uneducated North Torbians interact with South Torbian or allied soldiers.

English is the second-most common language spoken in South Torbia. Younger South Torbians receive English instruction as part of a mandatory curriculum, and



nearly 80% of the population under age 45 can speak and write English at a functional level. There is a push from business leaders to switch the language of business in South Torbia to English, to better facilitate business dealings with the global market, specifically western nations and Olvana. This movement is strongly resisted by older generations of South Torbians who believe that their language is a major part of the Torbian cultural identity and represents one of the few remaining linkages connected the peninsula. The debate remains a major point of contention within political circles, particularly when establishing national school curricula.

Olvanan, Arabic, and various regional languages are also spoken in specific areas inhabited by immigrants or foreign workers. In general, however, one must be versed in either Torbian or English to conduct business in South Torbia.

Ethnicities

The entire country of South Torbia is composed almost exclusively of Torbian people. About 85% of the people in the country claim to be of Torbian descent. The remaining 15% is a mix of various ethnic groups from the surrounding Archipelago and ethnic Olvanans. South Torbia's thriving economy brings in a wide variety of travelers for business, and while some of them are permanent residents (but not citizens) most business travelers are transient.

Religions

Freedom of religion is enshrined in South Torbia's Constitution, and the government has made efforts to ensure that South Torbians are not constrained in how they express their faith. While the government avoids creating faith based tensions, there is still the potential for tension to exist between different communities of faith.

South Torbia is home to a variety of religions and faiths. Most of the population prescribes to Christian faiths, with an estimated 42% being Roman Catholic, and 15% belonging to Protestant denominations. While Buddhism was once the

dominant faith and continues to be an influential factor within Torbian culture, today only 7.5% of the population claim to be Buddhists. 5.5% of the population are Sunni Muslims, who adhere to the Shafi'i tradition. While this population is small, it is heavily concentrated in some of the more southern regions of the country, and therefore plays a major role in those area. Of the remaining 30% of the population, roughly 25% identify as not affiliating with any religious organization, and 5% adhere to a variety of traditional local practices.

The Christian community consists of both Protestants and Roman Catholics. South Torbia's Muslim community is primarily Sunni, following the Shafi school of Jurisprudence.

Education

By most measures, the South Torbian population is one of the best-educated nations on earth, with an estimated 95% of students who being primary school being expected to finish secondary school. Currently roughly 90% of the population 25 years and older, both male and female, has at least some secondary education. The result of South Torbia's emphasis on education is that it enjoys one of the world's best educated workforces.

Literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate for all South Torbians over the age of 15 is 98.5. Males (99.1%) are slightly more literate than females (97.8%). Most illiterate people reside in the rural areas where sometimes a young girl would be pulled out of school to care for an ailing grandparent.

Educational System

The education system consists of both public and private schools. All educational institutions receive government funding; public schools are fully funded by tax revenue. While in the past there were significant advantages to attending private schools, it is generally thought today that public schools are at least their equal, if not



better in key areas. Schooling begins with an optional but almost universally attended pre-school, then 6 years of primary school with a universal curriculum. Following primary school, students attend 3 years of middle school: middle school is considered difficult and strict; competition for limited spots at elite high schools is intense. Testing and academic achievement are used to place students in high schools.

High school curriculum varies based on the focus of the school. Various types of high school include math/science, arts, general education, and vocational. Math/science high schools are the most prestigious and widely sought after, while vocational schools are considered disappointments. Math/science and arts schools are strictly college preparatory, while other schools have a broader and more utilitarian curriculum. Frustration with perceived socio-economic inequalities regarding education has led to the South Torbian government announcing that it will begin abolishing higher cost elite private high schools to reduce educational disparity across the population over the next decade.

College in South Torbia is a major life milestone: college entrance exams are incredibly difficult, and college admissions are hotly contested. Students and families alike spend large sums (or take out large loans) to pay for university educations, and graduation from a top university is a huge event for both student and family. Thanks to a broad expansion in availability of university education, more South Torbians today attend university than any other country on earth. While this is seen as a mark of pride in South Torbia, it has resulted in a flood of educated workers into a slowing economy. At the same time, the university expansion resulted in a significant shortfall in blue-collar workers. The government is attempting to address this issue by investing in vocational schools, developing a more effective apprenticeship program, and emphasizing the career potential of blue-collar positions.

Educational Attainment

Higher education is seen as the most prestigious pursuit in Torbian society, especially in the urban areas, and a degree from a well-regarded university is a huge socioeconomic advantage. Conversely, people who lack higher degrees face significant prejudice both socially and professionally. Children of both genders are encouraged to succeed academically by their parents. In urban areas there is no prejudice against females receiving a top-notch education. In the rural areas, this is not always the case.

Population Density

Overview

South Torbia is defined largely by its heavy urbanization and its very high population density. Rapid economic development in the 1980s and 1990s led to mass movement into cities, resulting in one of the world's most heavily urbanized populations. Manila is the largest urban area and is one of the densest cities on earth. Other cities across South Torbia have experienced similar growth patterns, though not in the same quantities. South Torbia's terrain has contributed to the canalization of the population by limiting the amount of useful land.

Today, the vast majority (80 %+) of the South Torbian population lives in cities or urban areas. Most of these settlements are coastal; there are relatively few inland population centers. Even rural settlements tend to be concentrated and centralized, coalescing at key transportation nodes and around valuable land areas. Large areas of South Torbia are virtually unsettled due to difficult to access terrain. The five largest urban areas by population are all part of the greater Manila metropolitan area.

Urban Areas

There are five cities within South Torbia that contain a population of over 750,000. These are all densely populated cities.



- Quezon City, population 2,936,116
- Caloocan, population 1,583,978
- Manila, population 1,280,148
- Taguig, population 804,915
- Antipolo, population, 776,386

Rural Areas

An estimated 20% of the South Torbian population lives in the rural areas. Almost all are involved in agricultural pursuits either directly or indirectly.

Population Movement

The island of Torbia remained largely homogenous both ethnically and linguistically throughout its history, despite repeated invasions and occupations by various foreign entities. A close-held Torbian ethnic identity is one of the most significant long-term consequences of these occupations; this ultimately resulted in widespread migration throughout the island, but relatively little emigration or immigration. The Torbian War created a mass migration event as both families and individuals moved north or south depending on political affiliations and family connections. The Torbian War also created a significant refugee crisis, with over 500,000 Torbians seeking asylum in other nations around the region.

Internal Migration

Urbanization

While urbanization occurred at a rapid pace in the 1980s and 1990s, the rate of urbanization has slowed down considerably in the present. Those living in the rural environments are largely going to stay in the locations where they were born and raised passing down the family farm from generation to generation.

Displacement

There are several types of displaced people in South Torbia, but the numbers are quite small for a country with its population size. Various categories of these include.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

There are very few IDPs in South Torbia. The Torbian War caused many people from the northern part of the country to flee the North Torbia regime and moved further south in the 1950s. These people, while they were IDPs then, were eventually able to move back to their traditional regions if they were from the south or were assimilated into the areas they are living.

South Torbia's government is well positioned to organize the temporary evacuation of small populations due to extreme weather. Due to the lack of open land, it is expected that any evacuated population will return to their homes and rebuild. Those populations that are unable to return home do not receive government assistance for relocation and are often left to fend for themselves.

Stateless Personnel

There are few stateless personnel in South Torbia.

Migration Cycles and Transhumance

Since it is an island, relatively overpopulated, and underpopulated regions are due to the difficulty required to access them, transhumance, (i.e., the seasonal migration of pastoral populations) does not occur within South Torbia.

External Migration

Inbound

Temporary economic migration accounts for most of the immigration to South Torbia. Though it does not represent a significant number, there is also a well-documented flow of immigrants who risk their lives to flee North Torbia for a better future in South Torbia.



Economic Migration

Most economic migration to South Torbia is temporary, consisting of both white collar and blue collar workers, either for the short-term or for longer periods of time. A few decide to remain behind and go through the onerous paperwork required to become a South Torbian citizen. Recently, possibly because of having an over-educated population, many blue collar and unskilled labor jobs are filled by economic migrants seeking the better wages provided by the South Torbia's economy.

Forced Migration

Given that a significant percentage of Torbian's were displaced during the Torbian War, the South Torbian government takes an empathetic stance toward forced migrants. That said, the population is more significantly more accepting of forced migrants who are of Torbian descent and will often look down upon migrants from other regions of the world. Almost all forced migrants coming to South Torbia are fleeing North Torbia, driven by famine and government persecution.

Outbound

Most outbound migration is done for economic reasons as South Torbians are always looking to improve their lives and their lives of their families. If there is an economic opportunity in another country, a South Torbian will consider pursuing it.

Economic Migration

Many South Torbians study abroad at universities in the United States and Europe working to hone their foreign language skills. Many of these students end up working for South Torbian companies with offices abroad or for foreign countries conducting business in South Torbia. Whether temporary or permanent, most of these South Torbians retain their South Torbian citizenship as they are proud of their country.

Forced Migration

There is little to no outbound forced migration from South Torbia. That said, there is still a significant Torbian diaspora that had fled the island during the Torbian War and settled in countries across the globe.

Culture

Dimensions of National Culture

There are studies that show that there are six basic cultural traits, or dimensions, that can be used to better understand a national culture. While these studies are not encompassing, they can provide a foundational understanding of how populations may differ. Power distance is whether the society accepts unequal distribution of power, or they seek to distribute the power more evenly. Individualism is whether the society desires each person to be a separate entity or if the individual is just a cog in the societal wheel. Uncertainty avoidance is whether the society tolerates ambiguity in life or wants life to be more certain. Some societies look long-term and save while others do not see the need because the future planned may never arrive. Restrained societies live to work while indulgent societies work to live. Some societies encourage individuals to be competitive and do their best while other societies value cooperation over individual success.

Power Distance

South Torbia has a high degree of power distance, creating a relatively hierarchical society. South Torbians typically accept the power structure as it exists without requiring explanation or justification. In South Torbia, some inherent inequalities occur without complaint and power is traditionally centralized. Increases in democratic values have led to a greater demand for equality among younger generations, however the political and economic systems have been slow to adapt.



Individualism vs. Collectivism

South Torbia is a collectivistic society. South Torbians often place group considerations above individual considerations and will often prioritize creating strong relationships and remaining loyal.

Uncertainty Avoidance (Tolerance for Ambiguity)

South Torbian culture is extremely intolerant of ambiguity. South Torbians believe in a rigid code of behavior being busy, working hard, being on time, completing their work accurately, and maintaining job security. This often causes them to over plan and can stifle innovation. Rural South Torbians differ though and are significantly more tolerant of ambiguity than urban South Torbians.

Long-Term Orientation vs. Short-Term Orientation

South Torbian culture lends itself to be extremely long-term oriented. Decisions are rarely made without consideration for longevity, and South Torbians often consider the potential impact of their decisions on future generations. This cultural value has slowly been shifting with younger generations however, as the pace of life continues to increase and economic pressures force attention onto achieving quick results.

Indulgence vs. Restraint

South Torbian culture promotes restraint and the ability to curb personal desires and prioritizes being industrious over leisure time. As with other cultural values, South Torbian social norms that may have reinforced restraint in the past are being challenged by the more globalized perspectives that younger generations are being exposed to.

Competitiveness vs. Consensus

South Torbian culture is traditionally more oriented toward consensus, valuing solidarity, equity, and compromise.

Cultural Norms and Values

South Torbian culture has six primary core concepts.

Harmony

In the tradition of many Asian countries, Torbians seek harmony in their life. This traditional value has eroded somewhat recently with the younger generation that has embraced the western way of life amid a capitalist world.

Tenacity, Toughness, and Adaptability

The Torbian people know how to survive as their tenacity for survival dates back centuries. This has built a toughness within themselves and the ability to adapt to the ever-changing world. Torbia has been ruled by several other countries over the centuries and with their great tenacity maintained their traditions and eventually won their freedom from their oppressors.

Face

As in many Asian cultures, Torbian people have learned to control their range and frustration under a mask that hides what is going on inside their heads. This self-control shows others they have dignity, honor while building the person's reputation and increasing their influence. This is another value that is slowly decaying with the younger generation as more people are becoming emotional from being influence by western movies and culture.

Filial Piety

Within South Torbia, there is a social hierarchy based on one's position, occupation, education, and age that creates a logic of obedience, responsibility, and adherence to the rules. Many of these precepts are found in Confucianism where the younger are to give devotion, respect, and reverence to those older than them. While children usually give their parents respect, it is not the same today as it was even two generations ago.



Nationalism

South Torbia has overcome much and with the embrace of the capitalistic system, the country has become a leading economic power in Asia and in the world. This rise to become one of the world's economic elites has also made the people proud to be South Torbian. Generally, the young support the country and until recently were very willingly to serve their national service without complaint. Lately, some of the younger South Torbians have questioned the need for every male to serve in the military or another form of national service.

Education

South Torbians believe that education is the way to get ahead in society. Most South Torbian families highly encourage their children to do well in school and go onto college. (See the education section elsewhere in this variable for additional details)

Centers of Social Power

South Torbia has numerous centers of social power. Foremost is the family: virtually all Torbians, even the most recent generation, follow traditions and customs venerating the family loyalty. Business, particularly larger corporations and conglomerates, have enormous influence on Torbian society, from their employees, to media, to politics. Torbia often looks toward western culture for influence: American culture is particularly influential especially among younger cohorts. Information and communications technology (ICT) has enabled digital media to have an outsized influence in South Torbia, as high rates of connectivity and widespread use of mobile devices has enabled the internet to become pervasive throughout daily life.

Communication

Traditional Methods and Symbolism

Communication within South Torbian society has traditionally centered on the family, and community. Almost all communication between average South Torbians and North Torbians occurs through family ties.

Role of Technology and Media

South Torbia has embraced the electronic age. Over 93% of those over the age of 15 in the country use a smartphone. This is an increase from 85% just a decade ago with expectations that the number will rise to over 97% in the next decade. The cell phone is changing the way South Torbians are receiving their information as they rely less on newspapers and nightly news shows and gravitate to obtaining the latest news and information over their phones. The smartphone may be also responsible for a break in the traditional reverence of the elderly. Instead of being taught by their parents or grandparents, younger South Torbians are turning to other sources when a generation ago, they would have gotten the information from a relative.

The South Torbian media still attempts to hold their government accountable for their actions and media investigations have sometimes led to government charges of corruption against political leaders and government workers. While there seems to be as many journalists around as always, they no longer work for the major newspapers, television stations, or radio outlets. Instead, they often are those that operate blogs where they share information about a niche subject with their readers. The information monopoly is no longer in the hands of a few corporate elites that owned a conglomerate of media outlets but is as diverse as the Internet allows the coverage to be.

Social Impacts of OE Hazards



Disease

There are five major health concerns within South Torbia, Rural areas are often disproportionately impacted by illness and disease.

Cholera

While cholera is rarely found in South Torbian urban areas due to the availability of clean drinking water, this is not true in the rural areas of the country. Some parts of the country still do not understand that drinking water needs to be treated in some fashion before its use. Poor sanitation leads to the contamination of water sources that are used for drinking. The government and other organizations, usually South Torbian, continue to administer programs teaching the rural communities about public health issues including the connection between better sanitation, clean drinking water, and people's health, however the problem is likely to continue until the infrastructure required to bring clean water to rural communities is developed.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is another disease normally found in the rural areas of South Torbia more often than the urban areas. TB is caused by a bacteria, and typically affects the lungs, but can also affect other parts of the body. Over 25% of the world's population has latent TB, meaning that the person has TB but is not currently displaying any symptoms, but are not yet ill with the disease and cannot transmit the disease. Those infected with the TB bacteria have a 5-15% lifetime risk of falling ill from TB. People with compromised immune systems or use tobacco have a higher risk for TB. A high percentage of the South Torbian population, maybe over 50%, smoke tobacco. Males are more likely to smoke tobacco and therefore more susceptible to TB. The cost to treat TB can be expensive to treat and therefore many rural Torbians do not seek treatment.

HIV/AIDS

The acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the one disease in South Torbia that is more likely to be found in the urban population rather than in the rural areas. HIV is highly transmitted between individuals, especially through unprotected sexual activities. Those South Torbians that frequent prostitutes, engage in high-risk sexual activities, or share needles for drug use are more susceptible to catching HIV than those that do not engage in such risky behaviors.

Shigellosis

The Shigella bacterium is the cause of shigellosis, and it is transmitted in the same way as cholera—contaminated water and food or through contact with feces contaminated with the bacteria. While less prevalent than cholera, shigellosis is caused by poor sanitation practices that effect the drinking water supply. This happens more often in the rural areas than the urban areas. The same organizations that are stamping out cholera will also do the same with shigellosis because the prevention methods are the same.

Highly Communicable Infectious Diseases

South Torbia, as part of the global community has been exposed to several viruses that have the potential to cause a pandemic over the last several decades. While each of these viruses is different, the South Torbian response has been effective at understanding, isolating, and neutralizing the risk to the population. South Torbia's culture, with its collectivist and restrained characteristics, lends itself toward the population making individual sacrifices for what it believes is the greater good.

Natural Disasters

As part of the "ring of fire," South Torbia faces several types of potential disasters.



Typhoons

The most common disaster is the typhoon that is a seasonal activity that normally occur between the months of May and October each year. A typhoon is a hurricane that occurs in the Pacific Ocean. Typhoons strike South Torbia almost every season, some of them are small and do little damage while others cause tremendous damage to the country. South Torbia's economic means have enabled it to prepare for typhoons, and low lying communities that are at risk for damage have emergency plans for what their population should do. That said, South Torbia's lack of open space and over population means that people who are displaced by typhoons are expected to quickly return to their homes and begin rebuilding.

Floods

One of the results of typhoons or just heavy rains in South Torbia is flooding. Rural areas with poor infrastructure that is unable to deal with the water runoff are hit harder with floods than urban areas that have drainage systems. That said, in overpopulated areas where the existing infrastructure is insufficient, floods can have significant and challenging consequences.

Earthquakes

There are at least 20 active volcanoes in South Torbia. There have been no major eruptions in the last twenty years so South Torbia is probably due for one. While the South Torbia government has an agency to handle natural disasters, the longer there is not an earthquake the fewer people believe that one will occur in the future. This has resulted in less funding for disaster planning from the government over the last decade as some see government leaders see it as a waste of resources. Urban areas are increasingly vulnerable as overpopulation continues to strain existing infrastructure, and informal and unregulated settlements continue to grow on the outskirts of cities.

Tsunamis

Earthquakes or volcanic eruptions in other parts of the Pacific or even underwater can cause a tsunami (giant tidal wave) to hit a landmass up to several hundred miles away from the origination point. South Torbian coastal areas are most vulnerable to tsunamis, probably more on the west coast than anywhere else. Recognizing the potential danger, the Torbian government has invested in early warning systems, and as with other disasters, has plans in place for evacuating affected populations.

Social Volatility/Fragility

Fault Lines and Friction Points

While there may be many minor points of friction within South Torbia, there are two major friction points that possess the ability to divide the country and is often reflected in political policy.

Economic: Disparity (Haves and Have-Nots)

Some young adults, women, and the elderly are sometimes marginalized in the work force feeling trapped in their job with limited upward movement potential. The younger generations may feel there are limited, if any, opportunity to improve their situation even when they have invested in an education. They often work long hours for limited pay and little promotion potential while trying to survive in an economy that continues to increase the cost of living. Those without connections feel that their path to upward mobility is stymied because of nepotism or the right connections. Whereas previous generations may have accepted their lot, younger generations who have been exposed to more influences are increasingly frustrated by a system that they feel is designed to work against them.

Torbian Re-Unification

While North and South Torbia were once the same nation, this is no longer the case. South Torbia has surpassed its northern neighbor economically while North Torbia continues to struggle. At one time, it was an almost universal hope that the two



Torbias could be re-united. Recent polls suggest that this is no longer the case. Generational differences continue to have social ramifications, and in this instance the younger generations are less likely to support the reunification of the two countries. Many of those under the age of 40 see that the reunification would be costly to South Torbia to bring its northern cousins up to the economic, social, and infrastructural standards of the south. These younger South Torbians that feel no traditional connection to the north think the cost in taxes on them would be too high. This pits, often age-based, is from those that wish to unite Torbia at any cost against those that are for reunification—as long as it is not too costly. In contrast, older generations, who may still feel a connection to former communities in the north may be more likely to seek out and support re-unification efforts.

Criminal Activity

There is a relatively low crime rate in South Torbia due to the traditions of obeying authority ingrained in the youth from an early age. As such, there is a low population within the prison system. There is some organized crime activity, but much of it is of a non-violent nature. (See the political and military variables for additional details)

Cultural Approach to Punishment

For minor crimes (theft), the criminal is required to apologize to the victim of their crime and make restitution. If the criminal is employed, their wages can be garnished to pay back the victim.

Prison System

There are only 100,000 criminals in the federal prison system. Each province has a small prison for pre-trial confinement and short-term sentences. Local jails have holding cells for those accused of very minor crimes such as drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

Human Rights

South Torbia is considered “free” based on the Freedom House Civil Liberty criteria with a score of 84 out of 100. This breaks down to a score of 34/40 under political rights and 50/60 under civil liberties. For the last two decades, South Torbia has operated a democratic system that features regular changes of powers. With an almost total homogeneous population, there are times where the non-Torbians are not socially integrated and at times, their minority rights are threatened. South Torbia lacks a comprehensive antidiscrimination law, but that could be because there are so few non-Torbians in the country. In every category rated by Freedom House, South Torbia scored either a 3 or 4 on a 1-4 scale with 4 being the best possible score.

Demographic Statistics Chart

| Social Statistic | South Torbia | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|--------|
| Primary Languages (%) | Torbian: 90% | | |
| | Other: 10% | | |
| Ethnic Groups (%) | Torbian: 85% | | |
| | Other: 15% | | |
| Major Religions (%) | Not Affiliated: 25% | | |
| | Roman Catholic: 42% | | |
| | Protestant: 15% | | |
| | Islam (Sunni-Shafi): 5.5% | | |
| | Buddhist: 7.5% | | |
| | Other: 5% | | |
| | Overall: 98.5% | | |
| Literacy Rate (Older Than 15 in %) | Male: 99.1% | | |
| | Female: 97.8% | | |
| Age Distribution (%) | Age | Male | Female |
| | 0-14 | 14.1% | 12.5% |
| | 15-55 (Military Age) | 55.10% | 50.9% |
| | 55-64 | 13.10% | 14.3% |
| | 65+ | 15.500% | 24.5% |



| <i>Social Statistic</i> | <i>South Torbia</i> |
|---|---|
| | Overall: 44.6 |
| <i>Median Age</i> | Males: 43.1 |
| | Females: 46.1 |
| <i>Population</i> | 42,375,386 |
| <i>Annual Growth Rate</i> | 0.13% |
| <i>Birth Rate Per 1,000 People</i> | 8 |
| <i>Death Rate Per 1,000 People</i> | 7.9 |
| <i>Urban Population (%)</i> | 80% |
| <i>Annual Urbanization Rate</i> | 4.6% (make sure it matches discussion) |
| <i>Infant Mortality Rate Per 1000 Live Births</i> | 3.5 |
| | Overall: 83.0 |
| <i>Life Expectancy At Birth (Years)</i> | Male: 79.3 |
| | Female: 86.2 |
| | Cholera |
| <i>Major Diseases In OE</i> | Tuberculosis |
| | HIV/AIDS |
| | Shigellosis |
| | Highly Communicable Infectious Diseases |



INFORMATION

Information Overview

Onset of the Information Age

The economic expansion that occurred within South Torbia during the 1990's was accompanied by a rapid growth and evolution of how the population engaged with information. Since that time, South Torbia has become a leader in the development of information and communications technologies, and therefore they are at the forefront of most tech trends.

Contemporary Situation

South Torbia has a thriving and relatively free information environment. Internet and television media are state-of-the-art, and the most important form of media in South Torbia. South Torbia's mass media operates with freedom of the press, but an anti-defamation law means journalists must continue to use self-censorship to ensure they do not face harsh penalties from the government on adverse reporting. The internet is the freest form of information media, with social media being the preferred means of expressing individual opinions. South Torbians have access to information from sources around the world.

Information Industries

Information Products (Content Industries)

News Media

South Torbia's constitutional protections guaranteeing freedom of speech and freedom of the press has led enabled a diverse number of private companies to influence and shape the information environment. Some companies have maintained the ability to mass print and distribute physical content, however most companies have transitioned to being relying on digital content. As information dissemination has shifted from printed media to digital media, a wider and more

diverse array of perspectives have been given a platform, potentially amplifying narratives that previously may have lacked a platform.

South Torbia's government has attempted to keep pace with private industry to ensure an ability to remain relevant among its intended audiences. The government's media services can create printed and digital media.

Entertainment Media

While certainly not on the same level as either Hollywood or Bollywood, South Torbia has quietly become a non-traditional force within the entertainment world. While South Torbia's film and television industries are rather nascent in comparison to other regional and global film industries, they have begun to carve out their own niche, blending traditional Torbian values with influences from around the globe.

Social Media

While not every South Torbian uses social media, those that do are engrossed by it. People of all ages use social media to communicate with friends, learn about new topics, and stay up to date with current events. Roughly 90% of South Torbians between the ages of 20-29 use some form of social media. The use of social media begins to taper off as people age, however, use by people between the ages of 30-49 is still above 80%. There are a wide variety of different social media platforms available to the population. Certain platforms are more popular within different age groups, for example Facebook and Instagram are popular among people between 20 and 30 years old, however they are significantly less popular among older South Torbians.

Information Services

Financial Services

As one of the fastest growing economies in the world, South Torbia's financial institutions function in a digitally interconnected world. The financial market consists



of a blend of South Torbian companies and international companies. Given the fact that South Torbian financial institutions are operating within the global financial system, they have developed state-of-the-art protections against cyber-crime and cyber-attacks to protect their businesses and the private information of customers.

Control/Regulation

The degree of control and regulation of the financial institutions within South Torbia ebbs and flows with the political landscape.

Medical System

South Torbia's system of providing universal healthcare, paired with privately funded insurance has enabled it to uniformly digitize healthcare records and connect healthcare providers. This has enabled South Torbia to have a highly effective and integrated healthcare system. While the general healthcare system is highly functioning, those providers who specialize in mental health are often not integrated. This is because there is an enduring social stigma within South Torbia that not only discourages people from seeking treatment, but also incentivizes providers to be "unplugged" to encourage business by promising to protect patient information from cyber security threats. This means that while most healthcare issues across the population are well documented, mental health issues are often either underreported or even undiagnosed within the population.

Control/Regulation

Regulation of the healthcare system has been a contentious issue, with politics often getting in the way of progress. For this reason, the healthcare industry is relatively self-regulated, with private companies preferring to avoid government interference altogether.

Legal/Criminal Records

Legal and criminal records have been digitized and integrated into a country wide database. This enables members of the legal system, law enforcement, and

government officials to have access to legal documentation from around the country. While this database covers the entire nation, the data inputs are maintained and updated by the local jurisdictions. This can lead to administrative errors and create opportunities for potential corruption associated with contracts, deeds, licensing, and property titles. While this may seem like an obvious issue that needs correcting, South Torbians view the decentralization of legal information as an additional layer of protection against any cyber threats from bad faith actors. If the national record is compromised, the local records should remain secure.

Control/Regulation

Criminal records are maintained by the jurisdiction in which the criminal trial occurred. South Torbia's national government maintains an overarching system that integrates information from across every jurisdiction within the country, however all data and inputs into the system must be recorded and updated by the jurisdiction. While this system typically works smoothly, it can lead to challenges when there are administrative errors or when criminal records are expunged. If an issue is not identified and corrected, it can mean that the national system will contain incorrect information.

Navigation (Global Positioning)

South Torbia operates three navigation satellite systems using L-band transponders. The combined systems create a network of navigation services and provide regional coverage of the Asia-Pacific region. The three satellites are each 120° apart, in a highly inclined, slightly elliptical geosynchronous orbit. Because of this inclination, they are not geostationary, making their ground traces appear in an asymmetrical figure-eight pattern designed to ensure that one is always almost directly overhead of South Torbia. When necessary, South Torbian military units purchase commercial off-the-shelf satellite navigation receivers for navigation support. There are plans to launch a fourth satellite to enhance the accuracy of the system soon.



Control/Regulation

South Torbia's government, in particular its military, is heavily involved in the regulation and maintenance its global positioning infrastructure.

Electromagnetic Spectrum Management

South Torbia's Electromagnetic Spectrum Management is like what it is in the U.S. as they reserve certain frequencies for government use. About five years ago, South Torbia auctioned off the frequencies from 3.5GHz and 28 GHz to for commercial countries to install 5G service. 5G penetration currently covers about 15% of the country with about a 5% increase each year as new 5G towers are being built. 5G is believed to be faster, cheaper, and better for the environment than previous communications networks. In the last year, South Torbia, following the lead of the U.S., also auctioned off the frequencies in the 6 GHz band from 5925 to 7125 MHz for unlicensed services.

Control/Regulation

South Torbia aims to strictly regulate how the electromagnetic spectrum within its borders and territory. South Torbia is continuously competing with North Torbia over the use of certain frequencies and attempts to ensure that unregulated signals that may come from North Torbia are not creating congestion.

Information Distribution

South Torbia's public communications sector had been dominated by television over the last several decades. In recent years, however, as access to the internet has increases thanks to lower cost providers and advances in cellular and mobile technology. Today, the internet has made considerable inroads into this area, especially among more urban, young, and educated populations. While television, radio, and print media have a longer history within South Torbia, they have been rapidly supplanted by mobile technology. While South Torbia's government censorship efforts focused on television, radio, and print are generally viewed as

being permissive, official efforts to censor online content are almost non-existent. The internet in general is less well monitored and controlled through official government regulations, leading to social media platforms becoming the preferred outlet for reporting of a wide array of uncensored and potentially unverified news and information.

Internet

Almost 43 million South Torbians—or over ninety percent of the South Torbian populace—use the internet daily. The internet in South Torbia is considered excellent by regional standards, even with an apparent digital divide between rural and urban areas. For the majority of South Torbians, both urban and rural, the internet has become an integral part of daily life at home, at work, and on the go. Many businesses and public spaces offer free access to Wi-Fi, and while it has not become a part of official public policy, many South Torbians have begun to consider access to the internet, and therefore information, to be a basic right. The use of social media platforms has exploded over recent years, with usage often crossing generational divides.

Infrastructure Support

Planning includes the upgrade of infrastructure, increasing the internet broadband speed in rural areas to be raised from five megabits per second (Mbps) to 20Mbps and up to 100Mbps in urban areas after completion. While urban areas either have been or are receiving updated infrastructure designed to enable wide access to the internet, rural areas are more likely to be dependent upon mobile access to the internet. Non-mobile access to the internet in South Torbia is provided by four main Internet Service Providers. These four providers have very close associations with members of the government, ensuring any future developments will remain with them. The monopolizing of the service ensures that any outside business will fail trying to enter the internet provider system.



Control/Regulation

Censorship and regulation of the internet falls under the purview of the Torbian Communications Standards Commission. The South Torbian government view is that if internet activity does not threaten South Torbian government interests, it is allowed. Anti-Defamation laws apply to websites in the same manner as they do for print media, however the degree of anonymity related to publishing information online, and utilization of foreign sources to create content makes these laws more difficult to enforce online.

Television

Television in South Torbia is the most mature and pervasive media, but with the introduction of the internet it is slowly declining, especially among the younger generation. Most South Torbians subscribe to digital cable, satellite, or streaming services (Internet Protocol TV). There are two national cable networks, South Torbian Broadcasting System, and the Manila Broadcasting Corporation, and over 50 local stations that cover the entire country. The Torbian Broadcasting System represents the largest and most widely available of the national networks. On average, cable and television services are relatively affordable, with annual costs being roughly equivalent to \$40 USD a year. Satellite television is broadcast from several providers, many of whom originate from outside of South Torbia. In addition to the private networks, the South Torbian government operates a public broadcasting system that is focused on providing educational content. Approximately 20 million households own television sets so almost the entire populace has access to television. While not having a television used to preclude being able to watch televised content, the ability to stream content to mobile devices has substantially increased the number of South Torbians who regularly watch television shows.

Infrastructure Support

The physical infrastructure for terrestrial television broadcasting is still in use, however the growth in popularity of streaming television over the internet may impact future investments toward maintaining the terrestrial infrastructure.

Control/Regulation

Censorship and regulation of televised content falls under the purview of the Torbian Communications Standards Commission. Anti-Defamation laws apply to television broadcasts.

Radio

South Torbia dedicates a portion of its electromagnetic spectrum to the use of public and private radio stations on AM, FM, and shortwave bands. There are 61 AM, 130 FM and 2 shortwave stations operational in South Torbia. The top four radio networks are a combination of private and public broadcasters. Unlike with television, in South Torbia, registered broadcast stations that are privately owned are likely to have significant ownership links to the key government officials, and therefore may be unlikely to report adverse material about the government. The introduction of streaming services and satellite radio has created alternatives to traditional radio, enabling more South Torbians to gain access to a wider variety of information and media, and enabling them to become content creators (using podcasts), ultimately leading to a wider variety of perspectives on the “airwaves.”

Infrastructure Support

The infrastructure supporting the use of radio waves for information purposes is robust and modern. Traditional AM/FM broadcasting stations remain in use. The infrastructure support for both digital and satellite radio is continuing to grow as both forms of broadcasting continue to become more mainstream.



Control/Regulation

Censorship and regulation of radio content falls under the purview of the Torbian Communications Standards Commission. Anti-Defamation laws apply to radio broadcasts.

Print

South Torbia maintains a remarkably large print media establishment, with over 30 national and local dailies available in a variety of languages. The South Torbian press benefits from the availability of a highly literate audience: the adult literacy rate is estimated to be over 98%. As a representation of freedom of speech, printed media is guaranteed by the constitution, and is thought to have played a large role in establishing a more democratic government. Many of the newspapers are owned by a conglomerate of wealthy industrial businesspersons who rely on large corporations for advertising revenues. The growing availability of online information sources has led to readers questioning the reliability of large corporate owned news sources.

Infrastructure Support

Despite the growth of online sources, South Torbia's newspapers continue to distribute printed versions, however many have lowered the frequency with which they are published. Almost all newspaper companies in South Torbia have an online presence.

Control/Regulation

The existence of defamation laws, and their associated punishments (prison sentences and monetary fines) prompts a degree of self-censorship by journalists. Print journalists in particular practice self-censorship since they are more easily identified than online sources who maintain a degree of anonymity. Print journalists may also face direct pressure from the government on issues or topics considered politically sensitive in nature, such as national disasters, and how the government responds to such disasters.

Telephone/Telecommunications

The telephone infrastructure in South Torbia is one of the most advanced in the region. The continued advancements in speed and dependability of mobile services are outpacing the fixed main line infrastructure. There are currently over 30 million fixed main lines in use, mainly used by businesses and the government. Use of fixed main lines in homes is declining in popularity.

The number of mobile phone subscribers in South Torbia continues to grow each year, outpacing the fixed main line subscribers. There are currently over 60 million mobile phone subscribers, and subscriptions are expected to grow by five to ten percent each year. There are three main mobile phone service providers in South Torbia, with ST Telecom being the largest with over 55 percent of the business. With the younger generation relying more and more on mobile phone service, the mobile phone industry will only continue to grow in popularity and services. Cellular plans are available to the population as both prepaid contracts and using SIM cards with pay as you go refillable/rechargeable accounts.

Infrastructure Support

Fixed main lines are supported in the country using seven submarine fiber optic cables connecting South Torbia with key regional countries, as well as satellite earth stations in major urban cities. South Torbia is slowly transitioning from fixed main line to internet Protocol telephone infrastructure for business and government telecommunications operations. Cellular towers are present throughout the country; however, service may be of a lower quality in rural areas.

Control/Regulation

Personal use of mobile devices is not subject to regulation; however, service providers are regulated by the government.



Postal/Courier

South Torbian postal and courier systems are well established, reliable, and capable of moving significant amounts of freight throughout the nation. There are two types of postal facilities in South Torbia: standard post offices and the larger distribution centers. Distribution centers offer a wider range of services for businesses than standard post offices do. Along with the South Torbian national postal system, international freight provider's local freight forwarders are well established throughout the nation.

Infrastructure Support

The postal services and private delivery services are present throughout urban areas and make deliveries directly to the destination address. In rural areas, it can be common for the postal services to drop off packages in a central location, either with the expectation that recipients will come to pick the package up, or that the local community will ensure its delivery to the destination.

Control/Regulation

Postal and carrier services are regulated by the government, thanks in part, to their role in the finance industry (insurance and banking).

Oral Communication

Despite continued advances in information and communications technology, direct oral communication continues to play an extremely important role in the information environment. While direct communication cannot replicate the amount of information shared within the population, direct communication may carry a higher degree of reliability among the audience due to the amount of trust the audience may have already established with the sender. That said, while the quality of communication may be high, oral communication is limited in terms of how many people it can reach and by immediacy. A combination of the rise of the internet, mature TV and radio media, and widely available print media has made more traditional forms of communication less frequent, and frankly less effective for reaching larger

audiences. The rise of text messaging first among youth—and increasingly among much of the rest of the population—is changing the dynamics of personal interaction. As social media platforms continue to evolve, word of mouth communication between South Torbians may become more important. As for now though, text, image, and short video loops have become the primary forms of expression for younger generations. The process of urbanization has broken down traditional community based networks, as families have moved to different cities. While urban South Torbians may be living closer to each other than ever before, there may be more distance between them (in terms of relationships).

Infrastructure Support

Not applicable

Control/Regulation

Anti-defamation laws apply to oral communication just the same as the apply to digital media, however they may be more difficult to enforce since evidence of defamatory speech may be hard to prove.

Satellite

South Torbia possesses a wide range of satellite capabilities, with most suited for dual use by the South Torbian military and for civilian purposes. Currently, South Torbia operates eight commercial telecommunications satellites utilizing Ku-band and Ka-band transponders in a geostationary orbit, all powered by solar array panels. Since these satellites are owned by South Torbian companies, they can be requisitioned by the military in times of emergency. Additionally, the South Torbian military operates three communication satellites using Ku and C band transponders. The satellites are in a geostationary orbit powered by solar array antenna. The South Torbian government also leases Ku, L, and SHF bandwidth from commercial satellite companies that support government and military operations as necessary.



Infrastructure Support

The South Torbian space monitoring system is in Batangas, a medium size city on the southern coast. South Torbia chose the location as it is almost as close to the equator as possible and still be in South Torbia. If the space monitoring system ever needs to expand, Batangas has the workers and resources necessary to build additional infrastructure.

Control/Regulation

While the South Torbian government exercises regulatory control over satellites that are owned by South Torbian companies, there are also a few satellite companies that offer communications services within South Torbian territory but are not owned by South Torbians.

Internet of Things

South Torbia's economic prosperity, and tech-forward population, has led to a near ubiquitous presence of interconnected digital products. In higher socio-economic areas, the idea of the "smart home" has taken grasp, with Wi-Fi and Blue Tooth enabled appliances that can be controlled using a smart phone. While not quite as overtly present, even lower socio-economic areas are inundated with smart technology. While higher quality things are designed with more protections, less expensive and more widely available products may have a few vulnerabilities that could be exploited. The internet of things also plays a role in public projects and newer infrastructure developments, with things as common place as traffic lights and streetlights all being digitized and interrelated. The influence and impact of the internet of things on the daily lives of South Torbians can be seen in things as simple as a daily commute using one of the bus routes through a city: commuters can use their smart phones to identify where a specific bus may be on its route, estimate the times of arrival for each stop, and see how much space may be available on each bus. All of this is enabled through smart phone apps to that are used to create user

specific accounts, pay for passes, and use Blue Tooth and Wi-Fi when and where a rider gets on and off a bus.

Infrastructure Support

South Torbia's government has recognized the potential that the convergence of smart technologies and public works has for streamlining urban development. Using real time analytics, empowered by machine learning, South Torbia is hoping to lower costs, reduce maintenance requirements, and overcome many of the challenges associated with rapid development and urbanization.

Control/Regulation

All these technological advances also come with a degree of risk and vulnerability. South Torbia's government has sought to regulate the security measures associated with the internet of things. As mentioned before, higher quality products come with more protections, while lower quality products may have increased vulnerabilities. South Torbia's government has sought to balance regulation to secure these systems with an economic desire to be at the forefront of technological advances.

Information Cohorts (Information Consumption)

Information cohorts should not be confused with organized groups and entities. Cohorts are grouped by shared traits, behaviors, and or beliefs regarding how they engage with information, but they are not a cohesive organizations. These are examples of cohorts that are found within South Torbia; however, they are not the only information cohorts that exist. It is possible for an individual or group of individuals to be part of multiple information cohorts based upon how they identify themselves.



Cohort: Generational - Baby Boomers

Baby-Boomers consist of the generation of South Torbians born between 1946 and 1965. While not a monolithic group by any means, the shared experiences of their generation have shaped their perspectives. The baby boomer's generation represents the first generation to experience childhood and to come of age in a divided Torbia. As a result, their worldview is one that struggled to come to terms with the division of North and South Torbia being a permanent one. They were likely raised in an environment where reunification was a distinct possibility. Depending upon your perspective, this generation either represents the last traditionally Torbian generation or the first generation to break from tradition, either way their generation came of age during a cultural transition within South Torbia. The baby-boom generation played a critical role in the student protests which brought about the fall of the Third Republic and the increased democratization of the Fourth Republic. As young adults, this generation provided the workforce for the wave of economic growth and development that South Torbia experienced during the 80's and 90's, and they are also the generation that ushered in the beginning of the technology age.

Biases (positive, neutral, and negative)

Given the fact that they came of age during an era of democratization, economic growth, and technology development, Baby-Boomers in South Torbia often believe that the contributions to Torbian life that their generation made places them beyond reproach. Often the biases held by this generation may seem to conflict with each other. As an example, they fairly view themselves as the generation that brought about cultural change, however, given that they are more closely linked to a unified Torbia than younger generations, they also view themselves as the torch-holders for Torbian cultural traditions, often protecting these traditions against the misguided attitudes of younger generations. When faced with the modern social movements of younger generations, Baby-boomers may tend to succumb to the rosy-retrospection cognitive bias which causes them to inaccurately recall past events.

Perceived Antagonist Cohorts

Baby Boomers in South Torbia often find themselves aligned with the aging Generation X population in their general disdain for the millennial population. They often view millennials and zoomers as being ungrateful toward any sacrifices made by Baby Boomers. Additionally, they are more likely to categorize characteristics and behaviors of millennials in a negative light. Their disdain for millennials may be well deserved however, as often millennials just don't seem to care about the important aspects of life.

Media Engagement/Perception

While many modern information and communication technologies were developed by members of this generation, the generation is less likely to engage with or adapt to the capabilities of new technology. While they may embrace new technology, like the smartphone, their usage is often limited by their previous experiences with mobile phones, and they may be less likely to adopt new applications for mobile devices. As the information age continues to evolve and enable more sources of information to disseminate their views, some – but not all – baby boomers in south Torbia are more likely to trust more traditional sources of information.

Presence/Activity in Cyberspace

As late adopters of Social Media, Baby Boomers might be best described as pragmatic social media users. They are more likely to prefer straightforward social media accounts over trendy social media platforms that may be more content specific (i.e., a preference for Facebook over Twitter, Instagram, or TikTok). In the respect, they are very similar to many people from Generation X (born between 1965 and 1980) and some older millennials. While not exactly a law of nature, South Torbians, like many other technology engaged populations, often seem to lose interest in new trends at some point in their mid-30s. Baby Boomers using social media platforms may be susceptible to finding themselves in echo-chambers, or



information silos since they their opinions, views, and beliefs may already be firmly established and may not be actively seeking alternative perspectives.

Cohort: Generational - Millennials and Zoomers (Generation Z)

While Millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) and Zoomers (born between 1997 and 2012) are technically two separate generations they are often lumped together. Both generations have come of age in a South Torbia that was democratically free, economically, stable, and seemingly disconnected from North Torbia. They have spent almost their entire lives using mobile technology and exploring the internet. Their grandparents may have some childhood memories of a unified Torbia, but for many millennials and zoomers unification just isn't an issue on their radar. As a result of being two or more generations removed from what some consider traditional Torbian culture and being the first generation to grow up with a truly global access to information, many younger South Torbians may feel that they have more in common with their peers from other nations than they have with older generations of Torbians.

Biases (positive, neutral, and negative)

While millennials and zoomers may have come of age with greater access to information, it doesn't necessarily mean that they are more open to information. Coming of age with almost limitless access to information has led to some younger Torbians developing identities based upon their opinions or views rather than their experiences. Opinion-based pop-culture movements can be rapidly amplified by social media influencers, gaining a near pervasive presence among the daily lives of millennials and zoomers, and then be almost immediately discarded. This creates a media/pop-culture cycle that is always evolving and lends itself toward recency bias that older generations may attribute to a lack of focus.

Perceived Antagonist Cohorts

Older generations are naturally perceived as either being antagonistic, or just not aware of what is going on within the younger population.

Media Engagement/Perception

Younger Torbians have been engaged with a variety of media for their entire lives. As a result, they tend to be extremely engaged in the development and consumption of digital media. They are quick to adopt new trends within media engagement. While external observers might perceive their willingness to adopt new trends as being flighty, the fact remains that the overarching trend of high media engagement and technology reliance among these generations has remained steady.

Presence/Activity in Cyberspace

Millennials and Zoomers within South Torbia are likely to be heavily networked into a variety of social media platforms, and engaged within digital forums that touch one nearly every aspect of daily life. While they may not be dependent upon the internet, it is safe to say their ability to engage with others, and to engage with information plays an extremely significant role within their lives.

Cohort: Non-Mainstream (Minority) Torbians

This group typifies what it means to be an information cohort, as there is no primary group identifier beyond consisting of Torbians that do not view themselves as part of the mainstream identity, and therefore may consider themselves as outsiders. Torbian culture, society, and identity promotes a very structured view of what is acceptable and what may be less acceptable. While South Torbian's are generally very forward thinking, open, and democratic, the society is still very Torbian-centric. Therefore, any group of people who are not easily identified as being part of the broad collection of "mainstream" Torbians, have the potential to be included within this information cohort. These are the proverbial "them" when mainstream Torbians have "us-versus-them" discussions or perspectives. These include



migrants, religious minorities, individuals, and groups found on the extremes of the political spectrum, and the poor who either are not viewed as contributing to society or viewed as being dependent upon others. This cohort may be broken down into numerous other, more specific cohorts.

Biases (positive, neutral, and negative)

As described, perhaps the most significant characteristic of this information cohort is the prevalence of in-group and out-group biases. In general, this group is made up of those peoples that are generally thought of at the out-group within South Torbia, however it is a collection of out-groups, who share the common feature of not being typical South Torbians. As a result of these implicit biases, this cohort tends to engage with information in an insular manner, trusting information sources that they can relate to, or that may have shared interests with them. Biases within this cohort tend to be defensive or reactionary because of being primarily made up of minority groups.

Perceived Antagonist Cohorts

The obvious antagonist cohorts are those South Torbians who believe that they fit within the culturally accepted definition of what it means to be a Torbian. While this cohort is extremely diverse, both in thought and identity, it is not unheard of for different groups to perceive transgressions or abuses against a single group by the main-stream Torbians as being an aggression against all non-mainstream Torbians.

Media Engagement/Perception

Despite often having their differences spelled out for them, non-mainstream Torbians engage with main-stream media sources in the same manner as other Torbians. The difference lies in how they perceive the information and how they react. In many cases the non-mainstream Torbians engage in positive discourse with the rest of the public and can be the drivers of social change. However, there is also a risk that these typically insular communities may, by their very nature, be more susceptible to

information being manipulated in a many that causes unpredictable reactions. It is important to note that reactions within these out-groups can be the result of either real or perceived injustices by mainstream Torbians, regardless of the intent of the mainstream Torbians.

Ex. If a new article highlights the lack of employment opportunities in Torbian Muslim areas, working aged males in those areas may be more susceptible to narratives that further separate them from Torbian society, and place them at increased risk for radicalization.

Presence/Activity in Cyberspace

Non-mainstream Torbians share many commonalities with mainstream Torbians regarding how they engage with digital forums and cyberspace. They are just like typical South Torbians, who may look to digital forums to discuss political or socially sensitive topics that they might otherwise not discuss in public. The difference though, is that non-mainstream South Torbians may be more adept at utilizing closed forums, which reflect the insular nature of their communities.

Information Suppression

South Torbia's constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech precludes the ability of the government to directly control the information environment. As a result, the government finds itself in a steady state of competition for influence both domestically and internationally, against state and non-state actors alike. The government uses a soft approach to shaping the information environment, seeking to use what legal tools it can to inhibit troublesome narratives, and suppress information that it believes to be harmful to the nation or to its leaders. Faced with the complexities of a multipolar world, the South Torbian government also often relies upon its people to self-censor based upon cultural norms. To date, the government's soft censorship efforts have succeeded in shaping the information environment, however with the increasing popularity of an ever changing forum of



social media platforms, there are more competing narratives being injected into the information environment than ever before.

Government Censorship

South Torbia's constitution guarantees freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. As a result, South Torbia's information environment is varied and diverse. The government is unable to directly suppress sources of information unless the information is associated with illegal activities. As a result, most government efforts to censor or suppress opposing views is focused on providing its own narrative or counter narrative. Government led censorship has evolved over the last few decades, whereas at one point the military leadership actively suppressed opposition and negative views of the government, now the free press is expected to investigate and uncover government corruption. While multiple scandals have been uncovered in recent years, existing anti-defamation laws inhibit open challenges to public figures unless evidence of claims is readily available.

Public (popular) Censorship

Public – or popular – censorship is a phenomena that exerts force within South Torbia every single day. In line with the cultural norms of the country, South Torbians will generally try to be respectful of others. This means that public discourse on contentious topics is unlikely to occur in the open. While based on a cultural norm, this restriction is a form of censorship that limits the amount of political and social discourse among average South Torbians. This doesn't necessarily mean that these types of discussions don't happen, it just means that South Torbian's are adept holding discreet conversations within trusted circles, and when new information or perspectives do surface into the public sphere is likely already has some degree of popular support. Over the last several years, the ability to publish views anonymously online and to use social media has led to more open public discourse on important matters, however this is limited to online forums.

Non-Government Entity Censorship

There is relatively little censorship by non-governmental organizations within South Torbia. Groups and organizations are more likely to seek to manipulate information to change a narrative than they are to seek to completely suppress information.

Cyberspace

Most South Torbians under the age of 40 have grown up in the tele-communications age and are comfortable with computers, digital devices, and operating in cyberspace. Many of those over 40 have limited knowledge of cyberspace and often only do what is necessary to conduct business. As these older South Torbians retire, the percent of the workers comfortable with operating within cyber space will only increase.

Strengths

One of the strengths is the willingness of young South Torbians to accept working in cyber space as standard operating practices. Those under 40 have been on a computer since almost birth. The willingness of the South Torbian government to open frequencies in the 5G and 6G range will only increase the availability of the spectrum available for business to flourish in the country.

Vulnerabilities

The more reliant a country or business is on cyberspace, the more that the company is vulnerable to attack from hackers. North Torbia is alleged to have conduct cyber-attacks against South Torbian civilian companies and government computer systems as well. Of course, North Torbia denies these claims. Due to the restrictive environment in North Torbia, where the public is not allowed to access the Internet, many of these hackers operate in other countries such as Olvana and Donovan.



OE Specific Challenges

South Torbia computers use a keyboard with the Torbian symbolic letters on them. This could create a challenge for U.S. forces trying to work with South Torbian government and military forces, but Google translate seems to do an adequate job translating into English.

The South Torbian population's reliance on an 'internet-of-things' creates a unique set of considerations for military operations. Under normal conditions, a functioning internet of things can be vulnerable to attack, though it would likely be a localized effort that would not damage the entire system. During a conflict, the domino effect of a single attack has the potential to create unforeseen challenges if South Torbia's 'internet-of-things' ceases to function.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure Overview

While the region's five major countries have a significant number of rural residents, South Torbia breaks this trend with having roughly 88% of its population living in urban areas. The quality and condition of urban areas can be quite diverse, with some neighborhoods being quite modern while in other areas the infrastructure is clearly outdated and struggling to meet the needs of the dense population. Most rural villages would be considered primitive in comparison to the cities. That said, even Torbians living in austere conditions will find ways to access and engage with modern technology. Modern utilities are found predominantly in the major cities and at reasonable levels throughout the rural countryside. 95% of the nation has access to electricity with 98% of urban areas and 80% of rural areas respectively. 98% of South Torbia has access to potable water, while only 90% of the nation has access to a sanitation systems (predominantly in the developed urban areas).

South Torbia experienced rapid urbanization throughout the country in the decades following the Torbian War. While its growing economy initially enabled urban spaces to keep pace with the development required by the growing population, they quickly began running out of open land to develop. As a result of this lack of open land, South Torbian cities began to expand up creating densely populated residential buildings that often exceed 20 floors. While the infrastructure system is certainly stressed, South Torbias' economy has enabled it to adapt and update its infrastructure, and its overall quality is still among the best in the world regarding services provided. Significant emphasis has been placed on the modernizing of the infrastructure in recent years, but it continues to be stressed by the rapid urbanization. While most of the population approves of the government's efforts to modernize existing outdated infrastructure, local governments often experience pushback from communities when updates require the demolition of existing structures.

South Torbia's mass transit system is robust. The density of urban environments has made traffic congestion a large problem, and the lack of urban space forces inordinate prices on parking. As a result, South Torbia's mass transit system is robust. In theory, the public transit system can connect almost every part of the country. Currently the public transit system is centered upon a bus model, in which several bus companies provide transportation in major cities and to rural areas. While this bus model has been able to meet demand thus far, it can still take an entire day to travel distances that more modern transit forms might cover in a fraction of the time. In recognition of this challenge, the government has begun investing in rail systems that will eventually integrate into the bus structure. Airports range from large international airports that can handle almost any aircraft currently in operation, to small, unimproved dirt strips. Seaports are modern and can handle any modern cargo vessel; most have several platforms for the offloading of petroleum. The country suffers from high levels of pollution in the urban areas and the government has made policies to combat pollution in urban environments and water supplies.

Urban areas contain skyscraper buildings over 100 meters tall, large apartment complexes, and residential suburbs. There is a shortage of available housing that meets the minimum standards causing some of the poorest residents to construct makeshift dwellings. This is predominately in the outskirts of the major urban areas. The local governments are actively creating new low income housing areas. Typical rural construction is low quality wooden houses with corrugated roofs. Antiquated infrastructure is unable to meet the demands of the new urban landscape, and the South Torbian government is investing heavily in modernizing. They are expected to take decades before completion.

Construction patterns in South Torbia's urban areas are similar, with the high-rise construction and low cost public housing (requiring modernization due to being constructed over 50 years ago). City planners, however, have extensive knowledge of strategic and sustainable city planning. In lieu of being able to expand urban areas outwards, planners have begun looking at innovative ways to expand city space



vertically, both above ground and below. Building materials typically consist of concrete, steel, and rebar. In areas prone to flooding, houses are built on pilings to prevent flooding.

Military operations in urban areas will initially benefit from modern electricity, water, sewage, and other utility services. As the size of the force increases, it will further stress the grid and could cause catastrophic failure. Due to ongoing modernization projects, much of the electrical infrastructure has been centralized, creating situations where there are not redundant systems to address power failures, and “down-stream” neighborhoods will be affected by events that occur closer to the power source. Urban areas provide additional networks of subterranean and vertical construction that will provide hiding places for the enemy and possible refuge to civilians in times of conflict. Because of its expansive metropolitan population, any military operation in South Torbia will involve intensive urban operations.

Major Cities and Urban Zones

There are four cities with a population of over 570,000 people. The greater Manila metropolitan area is composed of Manila itself and many suburbs. This area will be treated as a single city.

Table 3. Infrastructure Matrix

| City | Pop | Pop Dens/km² | UBD | Roads | Air | Rail | Sea | Power | Water | Sewage/ Sanitation |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|-------|-------|--------------------|
| Greater Manila | 12,950,000 | 20,785 | C | C | C | C | C | Dv | Dv | Dv |
| Dasmariñas | 650,019 | 7,300 | M | C | M | NE | NE | Dv | Dv | Dv |
| Bacoor City | 600,609 | 13,000 | M | M | NE | NE | NE | Dv | Dv | Dv |
| San Jose del Monte | 574,089 | 5,400 | M | M | NE | C | M | Dv | Dv | Dv |

Legend: Population (Pop); Density (Dens); kilometer (km)
Per TC-7-101: UBD = Urban Building Density; low (L); medium (M); high (H); primitive (P); moderate (M); complex (C); non-existent (NE); degraded (Dg); developed (Dv)

Manila

Manila, South Torbia’s capital city, serves as South Torbia’s major port on the South China Sea and sits at the mouth of the Pasig River. The areas north of the Pasig River tend to be the centers of trade and commerce. The city center is the home of the presidential palace and numerous universities. The buildings in the main urban areas consist of high-rise buildings, single family and duplex dwellings, and high-rise apartment buildings. On the periphery of Manila are the government tenement housing and makeshift shantytowns. In most cases, shantytowns are either using makeshift ways to access critical infrastructure like electricity, or they are not tapped in at all. When shantytowns lack access to the electric grid, they are dependent upon gas and diesel generators. Ninoy Aquino International Airport serves as the major international airport for the residents of Manila and the surrounding areas. The Metro-Manilla area is one of the fastest growing areas in the world. The expansion and urbanization have created one of the largest cities in the world and will continue to expand for at least the next 20 years. Manila is made up of 896 barangays (administrative divisions formerly known as *barrios*). There have been a few political efforts to reduce this number, but each has met with stiff resistance.

Dasmariñas

Dasmariñas is located 35 kilometers south of Manila and is the second largest city in South Torbia outside of metro Manila. The recent expansion in Metro Manila created an economic and construction boom in both economy and construction in Dasmariñas. The population grew from 52,000 to over 379,000 in 20 years. Modest economic growth over the past 20 years has brought several industries and universities to the area and increased the population significantly. Tourism plays a significant role in the economy of the city. Construction in the city is modern multi-story buildings in the urban areas and apartments. In the suburbs, the construction is typically single-family homes or duplexes made of wood and earthen material. Dasmariñas is divided into 75 barangays.



San Jose del Monte

San Jose del Monte is located 48 km northeast of Manila. The city was used as a resettlement area for some of the poorest people in the country, which caused its rapid expansion the last several decades and rather poor city planning. The city is divided into 59 *barangays* and was historically an agriculture center, with swine being the major income for the residents. As the city grew, agricultural land was repurposed for housing and industry. The Sierra Madre mountain range lies to the east of the town. The city has a robust road network and bus system to move the inhabitants around the city and to other major metropolitan areas. Of note, the police force consists of only 65 officers, and must be augmented by neighboring police forces and private security companies. San Jose del Monte’s fire department is inadequately supplied, with only five available fire trucks to serve the entire city. Military operations around San Jose del Monte must be cognizant of the local terrain, as it has hills and mountainous areas that have been historically able to provide criminal elements and bad actors to conceal their presence.

Bacoor City

Bacoor City is located 25 km south of Manila. Its population increased from just over 90,000 residents to over 520,000 in in 30 years. Bacoor City serves as one of the major suburban areas surrounding Manila and consists of 73 *barangays*. Commuter infrastructure, including roads and mass transit, has not kept pace with the rapid population growth; massive gridlock is a daily occurrence. The rapid influx of residents caused the city to go from an agricultural and fishing based economy to a residential and commercial based economy. The construction patterns for residential areas are modern construction with multistory houses and apartment buildings standard and made of cement and rebar. There are few high-rise buildings in the area.

Energy Sector

Nuclear Power

South Torbia current has no active nuclear power plants, and none are currently planned.

Renewable Power

In the last two decades, South Torbia has built several renewable power plants to help the environment. These include geothermal, wind, and biomass power plants. The issue primarily is that while these are greener than hydrocarbon plants, except for geothermal they do not produce large amounts of power. The cost/benefit ratio is still not up to those of hydrocarbon plants.

Hydrocarbon Power

Coal power plants are the primary source for energy in South Torbia. Efforts are being made to phase out the coal plants in favor of other types of plants. There are also a small number of natural gas and diesel power plants in the country.

Hydroelectric Power

There are only two major hydroelectric power plants in South Torbia. The primary reason is the lack of major rivers that would make hydroelectric economically feasible.

Power Plant Data Matrix

The following chart provides the major power plants in South Torbia.

Table 4. Power Plants

| Name or Location | Fuel Type | Capacity (MW) | Latitude | Longitude | MGRS |
|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Angat Hydro Electric Power Plant | Hydro | 11256 | 14.9071 | 121.1608 | 5APUS0215748867 |
| Bataan Nuclear Power Plant | Nuclear | 0 | 14.6292 | 120.3136 | 5APTS1060719028 |
| Calumpit Coal Plant | Coal | 1300 | 14.8952 | 10.7715 | 32PPB9056847492 |



| Name or Location | Fuel Type | Capacity (MW) | Latitude | Longitude | MGRS |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Globally Green Power Corporation | Biomass | 21 | 14.5783 | 121.0577 | 51PTS9074912577 |
| Kalayaan Pumped-Storage Hydroelectric Project | Hydro | 186685 | 14.3172 | 121.4742 | 51PUR3543883349 |
| Limay Power Plant | Coal | 1300 | 14.5247 | 120.5964 | 51PTS4096607120 |
| Luzon Wind Farm | Wind | 148 | 18.5278 | 120.7139 | 51QTA5866650111 |
| Maibarara Geothermal Power Plant | Geothermal | 3123 | 14.1382 | 121.1655 | 51PUR0197963785 |
| Makiling-Banahaw Geothermal Power Plant | Geothermal | 34893 | 14.0881 | 121.2264 | 51PUR0851358191 |
| Malampaya Onshore Gas Plant | Natural Gas | 3200 | 13.7179 | 121.0655 | 51PTR9080417365 |
| Mariveles Coa-Fired Power Plant | Coal | 1652 | 14.4225 | 120.5375 | 51PTR3449395875 |
| Pacific Energy Corporation Plant | Coal | 1500 | 15.2356 | 120.6103 | 51PTS4330885791 |
| Quezon Power Plant | Coal | 2500 | 14.2296 | 121.7558 | 51PUR6576373477 |
| STEP Power Corporation Plant | Coal | 2600 | 13.9303 | 120.7886 | 51PTR6106441128 |
| South Luzon Thermal Energy Combine | Geothermal | 33875 | 13.9201 | 120.8265 | 51PTR6515139961 |
| Sual Power Station | Coal | 2294 | 16.1241 | 120.1005 | 51QST8985784843 |
| Subic Diesel Power Plant | Diesel | 2160 | 14.7673 | 120.1944 | 51PSS9794734474 |
| TES Corporation Plant | Coal | 1600 | 15.5672 | 119.9228 | 50PRC1349623209 |
| TNOC Combined Cycle Power Plant | Natural Gas | 2011 | 13.7713 | 121.0261 | 51PTR8659023308 |
| TNOC Diesel Power Plant | Diesel | 2650 | 15.4984 | 120.9804 | 51PTT8335014473 |
| TTT Consolidated Power Corporation Plant | Coal | 1600 | 14.5198 | 120.5984 | 51PTS4117606575 |

Legend: megawatt (MW) MGRS: Military Grid Reference System

Home Heating

Houses in South Torbia are often quite small, especially those in the rural communities. Due to the climate, heating is not needed for most months. In the cities, most houses use heat produced by electricity. In rural areas, houses are normally heated by burning wood.

Water and Sanitation

There is a dichotomy in South Torbia between the urban and the rural people when it comes to water and sanitation. Most of the people that live in the urban areas have modern water and sanitation facilities. The exceptions are the squatters that live on the outskirts of the cities in shantytowns. In rural areas, access to modern water and sanitation is often troublesome as the people must find inventive ways to cope with the lack of resources.

Water

Nearly all the urban population in South Torbia has access to potable water through indoor plumbing, though some of the plumbing is aging. In rural areas, access becomes more limited, with people relying on rivers, lakes, or community wells. Rapid urbanization caused significant strain on water delivery systems and has led the government to initiate several projects to improve the water quality and access. In many of the rural areas, the water infrastructure is obsolete. South Torbians have three tiers of water accessibility - levels I, II, and III. Level I – standalone (e.g., hand pumps, shallow wells, rainwater collectors) serving an average of 15 households within a 250-meter distance. Level II - piped water with a communal water point (e.g., bore well, spring system) serving an average of 4-6 households within a 25-meter distance. Level III - piped water supply with a private water point (e.g., house connection) based on a daily water demand of more than 100 liters per person. The South Torbian climate creates issues with the water system. During the rainy season when the major urban area floods, especially the slums, much of the debris, trash, silt, and general refuse (to include sewage) is washed into rivers and stream. The silt and debris also clog the drainage systems and the treatment plants causing problems with the production of fresh water. This challenge has caused the government to invest in upgrades to the underground viaduct system and the installation of a subterranean wastewater treatment plant. Military personnel should find potable water in the major urban areas but will see shortages in rural areas. Local water should be tested and treated for contamination if necessary.



Sanitation

South Torbians that reside in the metropolitan areas, in apartments or single-family homes, have access to sewage disposal. 90% of residents have access to sanitation services. 85% of residents have access to a sewer system with the remaining using septic systems. Only approximately 10% of the wastewater is treated which has led to contamination of 58% of groundwater. Over the past forty years, the government has invested in wastewater treatment facilities, and most domestic wastewater is discharged with treatment. With the recent completion of an underground treatment facility in Quezon City, this has made strides to limit the contamination entering the Marikina River. The government has several projects approved for modernizing the sewage system in both urban and rural areas.

While marginally capable sewage systems exist in major metropolitan areas, sewage systems in rural areas are either antiquated or non-existent. 85% of rural South Torbians have access to a sewage system that are predominantly in form of septic systems. In the past 20 years, the South Torbian government subsidized and privatized sludge removal and septic system cleaning, substantially reducing ground water contamination.

Transportation Architecture

The transportation architecture in South Torbia ranges from the most modern (some airports) to dirt roads that are barely passable to only four-wheeled drive vehicles forcing most people to walk.

Road System

Other than interstates, roads in South Torbia are below US or Western European standards. Driving can be hazardous and becomes more hazardous at night and during the rainy season due to lack of drivers' skills.

The South Torbian government is responsible for 1,873 bridges spanning over 91,888 linear meters across the country. There are 1,864 permanent bridges covering 91,207 linear meters. 1,758 bridges covering 83,482 linear meters are constructed of concrete. 106 bridges spanning 7,725 linear meters are constructed of steel. There are nine temporary Bailey bridges spanning 682 linear meters throughout the country.

Military traffic on road networks will be stressed due to large amounts of traffic. When South Torbians begin a road construction project they typically work on one section (direction) causing it to go to a single lane for travel with traffic moving both directions. These construction projects often take several months to complete. Densely populated urban areas are also known for having extremely narrow streets that limit the size of vehicles that can use the street. Military traffic, particular for mechanized units, may be unable to gain access to some urban areas unless they are willing to dismount.

Paved Roads

South Torbia has a vast national road network of 6,753 km that includes 6,495 km of paved roads. The road network consists mainly of three types of national roads: primary, secondary, and tertiary. Primary interstates connect three or more major population centers with 100k or more populace. Secondary interstates connect major population centers to smaller cities. Tertiary interstates are any other road that is maintained by the national government. The South Torbian government maintains a total of 6,752 km of road networks. The breakout of paving material is 3,001 km (44%) paved with concrete; 3,494 km (52%) paved with asphalt for a total of 6,495 km (96%) of national roads are paved.

Unpaved Roads:

The unpaved portion of national roads consists of 254 km (4%) gravel and 35 km (0.005%) earthen roads for a total of 289 km (4%) of unpaved roads. Most roads



have heavy traffic and are viewed as dangerous because of a constant state of maintenance and reckless driving habits.

Local Driving Habits

South Torbians are known for being aggressive and unpredictable when driving in traffic. Military convoys will need to be cognizant of the situation, deciding when to allow local traffic to mingle with the convoy versus forcing local traffic to wait until the entire convoy passes. The following list includes several of the issues associated with reckless driving on South Torbian roads.

Continuously honking their horn

This does nothing to speed up the flow of traffic in the urban areas, but South Torbians are always honking their horns at pedestrians that jaywalk drivers that cut them off in traffic.

Texting while driving

There are no laws against texting while driving and so many South Torbians try to dual task while driving causing an inordinate number of accidents.

Beating the red light

In metropolitan areas, South Torbian drivers always attempt to beat the red light when turning from amber.

Changing lanes too often

Urban South Torbian drivers will change lanes because they think the other lane is moving slightly faster. Drivers will switch back and forth between lanes within a block thinking it will help them reach their destination faster.

Tailgating

Tailgating occurs throughout South Torbia, not just in the urban areas. Not having the safety distance between cars increases the number of rear end collisions.

Lax seatbelt use

South Torbians, especially in the city, are known not to wear their seatbelts. When traffic is going 10 kph or less, this may not be an issue. The habit developed, however, continues when the drivers are on the open roads throughout the country.

Using hazard lights to park anywhere

When an urban South Torbian driver wants to make a quick stop like getting cash from an ATM, they will double park, turn on their hazard lights, get out, do their transaction, and then get back in their vehicle. This backs up the traffic for blocks, if not longer.

Unloading passengers anywhere

South Torbians will stop just about anywhere to let out their passengers instead of looking for a parking spot.

Public Transportation

Urban areas have a few public transportation methods, while rural public transportation is normally limited to the bus. The larger the city the more likely it is to be a hub for bus traffic. The bus companies are independently owned and operated. The bus system connects and operates in both in the major metropolitan areas and to the rural areas. Due to relatively low cost of other methods of public transportation buses are typically used for longer distance travel between major urban areas and rural towns and villages.

Buses operate throughout South Torbia, providing mainly long distance travel to the civilian population. Very few South Torbians use them for travel within urban areas, as there are other more efficient and reliable ways to navigate the congestion often found in the major metropolitan areas. The buses used by the private companies do not come from any predominant company. For the smaller companies that cannot afford to purchase new buses many are refurbished and updated. Many of the major bus companies originate their lines from the major metropolitan areas and then run



to the more rural areas. Typically, the routes traveled are limited to only a few companies to each area.

Any military operations in the country that affect the bus system may cause strain on the transportation system and cause extended delays resulting in a decreased perception of military forces by the civilian population. Military operations in South Torbia would involve inspecting buses for contraband and illegal weapons.

In metropolitan areas, other public transportation options may include a subway system (Manila) or a light rail system. There are also other private transportation options for city dwellers that include taxi cabs, car rental, and even ride-hailing applications such as Uber.

Rail System

South Torbia has 400 km of rail lines. Several projects to modernize the rail system and improve commuter travel are underway. The main project is a high-speed rail line from Angeles to Manila with two branch lines extending to San Pablo and Batangas respectively. The purpose is to help decrease pollution and congestion throughout the country. The major terminal and railyard are in Manila. South Torbia rail is standard gauge, which is incompatible with the gauge used by North Torbia. All the locomotives used in South Torbia are diesel electric, and the fleet was modernized approximately five years ago.

Air Transportation System

South Torbia maintains both paved and unpaved runways of varying distances. Many of the unpaved runways are little more than cleared dirt strips and are only suitable for aircraft with extreme short take-off and landing capability (STOL) or aircraft that are capable of vertical take-off and landing (VTOL).

South Torbia Airlines is the flagship carrier for South Torbia. South Torbia Airlines flies internationally with destinations in 23 countries across the world. Three

international airports operate in South Torbia at Subic Bay, Clark, and Manila. Assuming all runways are in serviceable condition, South Torbia's airport infrastructure can support major military operations.

South Torbia contains 34 airports with 16 known to have paved runways. The chart below shows the details for each runway. South Torbia's known runways by length include the following:

Paved Runways

There are 16 paved runways in South Torbia. Most are civilian but are useable by the military.

- Over 10,000 feet: 3
- 8,000 to 10,000 feet: 1
- 5,000 to 8,000 feet: 4
- 3,000 to 5,000 feet: 4
- Under 3,000 feet: 4

Unpaved Runways

There are 18 unpaved runways in South Torbia. All are civilian-operated, but some military planes may be able to use them as well as all rotary-winged aircraft.

- Over 10,000 feet: 0
- 8,000 to 10,000 feet: 0
- 5,000 to 8,000 feet: 1
- 3,000 to 5,000 feet: 3
- Under 3,000 feet: 14



Table 5. Airfield Data Chart

| City | Length (feet) | Width (feet) | Elev (Ft) | MGRS | Lat | Long | Surface Type | Lts |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|----------|-----------------|-----|
| Alaminos | 1368 | 50 | 417 | 51QST8281287103 | 16.1436 | 120.0344 | D | No |
| Bamban | 971 | 50 | 262 | 51PTS4135793031 | 15.3008 | 120.5914 | D | No |
| Binalonan | 2942 | 50 | 138 | 51QTT4131576008 | 16.0503 | 120.5822 | C | No |
| Calatagan | 2827 | 50 | 92 | 51PTR4421331660 | 13.8433 | 120.6336 | D | No |
| Castillejos | 1640 | 50 | 187 | 51PSS9775554343 | 14.9467 | 120.1903 | D | No |
| Cavite City | 2004 | 50 | 23 | 51PTR4197692353 | 14.3914 | 120.6072 | G | No |
| Cavite City | 7769 | 98 | 8 | 51PTS7300703107 | 14.4913 | 120.8939 | A | No |
| Concepcion | 1237 | 50 | 118 | 51PTT4500402279 | 15.3847 | 120.6244 | D | No |
| Floridablanca | 10390 | 148 | 11 | 51PTS2933958016 | 14.9833 | 120.4833 | C | Yes |
| Iba | 2953 | 50 | 11 | 50PRB1877096567 | 15.3260 | 119.9685 | C | Yes |
| Jomalig | 3991 | 50 | 37 | 51PVS2795625716 | 14.7042 | 122.3308 | G | No |
| Lipa | 4953 | 50 | 1220 | 51PTR9738043483 | 13.9544 | 121.1244 | A | No |
| Lingayen | 3422 | 50 | 7 | 51QTT0482874781 | 16.0351 | 120.2416 | A | Yes |
| Lubang | 3969 | 50 | 43 | 51PSR8739133857 | 13.8575 | 120.1081 | A | Yes |
| Mabalcat | 10499 | 200 | 484 | 51PTS3780880339 | 15.1858 | 120.5597 | C | Yes |
| Magalang | 1677 | 50 | 151 | 51PTS5055287772 | 15.2542 | 120.6775 | D | No |
| Mangatarem | 1876 | 50 | 105 | 51PTT1383936449 | 15.6900 | 120.3303 | D | No |
| Mamburao | 4265 | 50 | 13 | 51PTQ4046561388 | 13.2081 | 120.6053 | A | No |
| Mansalay | 2780 | 50 | 35 | 51PUQ0529684635 | 13.4231 | 121.2017 | G | No |
| Masinioc | 1840 | 50 | 75 | 51PST8554724729 | 15.5808 | 120.0681 | D | No |
| Morong | 9003 | 148 | 64 | 51PTS0621437351 | 14.7942 | 120.2708 | A | Yes |
| Paniqui | 5755 | 50 | 112 | 51PTT4294734373 | 15.6744 | 120.6019 | D | No |
| Paranaque | 12261 | 200 | 75 | 51pts8658604867 | 14.5083 | 121.0197 | A | Yes |
| Pinamalayan | 2424 | 50 | 64 | 51PUQ2926236158 | 12.9864 | 121.4258 | A | No |
| Plaridel | 2953 | 50 | 19 | 51PTS6898547349 | 14.8907 | 120.8527 | A | Yes |
| Polillo | 5010 | 50 | 25 | 51PUR9642994304 | 14.4192 | 122.0392 | C | Yes |
| Rosales | 2625 | 50 | 107 | 51PTT4321257619 | 15.8844 | 120.6019 | D | No |
| San Jose | 6024 | 98 | 14 | 51PTP8761567292 | 12.3614 | 121.0467 | C | Yes |
| Santa Cruz | 3261 | 50 | 0 | 50PQC9922946795 | 15.7819 | 119.7928 | D | No |
| Santa Cruz | 3581 | 50 | 0 | 50PRC0268741614 | 15.7347 | 119.8244 | D | No |
| Santa Rosa | 5249 | 50 | 249 | 51PTT9474707230 | 15.4339 | 121.0872 | A | Yes |
| Tanauan | 1919 | 50 | 505 | 51PTR9660959257 | 14.0969 | 121.1161 | G | No |

| City | Length (feet) | Width (feet) | Elev (Ft) | MGRS | Lat | Long | Surface Type | Lts |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|----------|-----------------|-----|
| Tanay | 1235 | 50 | 1775 | 51PUS2367907494 | 14.5347 | 121.3636 | D | No |
| Tarlac City | 2648 | 50 | 144 | 51PTT4571906732 | 15.4250 | 120.6306 | G | No |

Legend: Elev = Elevation MGRS = Military Grid Location System Lat = Latitude Long = Longitude Lts = Lights

Maritime

As an island nation, maritime commerce plays a major role in South Torbia’s economy. South Torbia operates several major seaports and there are other cities along the coast that are heavily involved in the commercial fishing industry. The local economies of many of the small coastal towns and villages often dependent upon their ability to trade with other communities along the coast.



Seaports

South Torbia has 6 seaports located along the South China Sea and the Torbia Sea. There are 4 South Torbia ports that average more than 1 million tons of cargo throughput annually. The only ports that can accommodate Military Sea Lift (MSC) Commands Large, Medium-Speed Roll-on/Roll-off (LMSR) are the Port of Manila and the Port of Subic Bay. South Torbia’s largest and most productive port is the Port of Manila, which is the capital of South Torbia and lies on the mouth of the Pasig River in western Luzon Island and stretches along Manila Bay's eastern shores. The Port of Manila is about 645 nautical miles southeast of the Port of Hong Kong and about 880 nautical miles east-northeast of Saigon Port. The Port of Manila is also the country's main economic, cultural, and political center. Metropolitan Manila contains 17 cities and municipalities, including the Port of Manila. One of the world's most densely populated cities, the Port of Manila was home to almost 1.6 million people in 2000, but the metropolitan area had a populating of over 9.9 million.

The Port of Manila has a diverse economy. In addition to housing South Torbia’s major seaport, it is an important center for publishing and manufacturing. Products manufactured in the Port of Manila include textiles, chemicals, clothing, electronics, watches, leather goods, shoes, and iron and steel. Local businesses process commodities for export, including plywood, rope, refined sugar, coconut oil, and copra. The food, beverages, and tobacco sectors employ many of the city's

residents. With more than a million visitors each year, tourism is a thriving and important economic sector in the Port of Manila. Except for the Port of Manila, every district in the city has its own public market where local commerce is busy, particularly in the early morning. The urban renewal program includes refurbishing some of these markets. The Port of Manila also has plenty of modern shopping malls and chain stores. The Port of Manila refers to the collective facilities and terminals that process maritime trade function in harbors that serve the Metro Manila Area. The South Torbia Ports Authority, a government-owned corporation, manages the Port of Manila and most of the public ports in the country. The Port of Manila is composed of 3 major facilities namely National Capital Region – North (NCR-N), National Capital Region – South (NCR-S), and the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT).The ports are open year round and handle cargo and passengers from around the world.

The NCR-N contains terminals for cargo, oil, and passengers. It handled over 6,861 vessels, 33,742,902 metric tons of cargo, and 1,292,508 passengers two years ago. The NCR-S contains terminals for cargo, oil, and passengers. NCR-S handled 5,025 vessels, 8,058,484 metric tons of cargo, and 43,508 passengers two years ago. The MICT serves as the largest and most important container port on the South China Sea, handling over 23,255,594 metric tons of cargo in the past two years from 2,082 vessels. NCR-N has seven piers and is accessible through Radial Road 10. Recent

Table 6. Major South Torbia ports

| SOUTH TORBIA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|--|---|----------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| Sea Port of Debarkation (SPOD) Infrastructure | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name of Port | Chart | Sailing Directions | Latitude | Longitude | Harbor Size | Harbor Type | Maximum Vessel Size Length Overall (LOA) | Large, Medium-Speed Roll-on/Roll-off (LMSR) | Depth of Water | | | | Metric Tons Per Year (MTPY) of Cargo | Load On/Load Off (LO/LO) Capability | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Channel Depth | Cargo Pier Depth | Oil Terminal Depth | Anchorage Depth | | LO/LO | RO/RO | Fixed Crane | Mobile Crane | Floating Crane | Crane Capability |
| MANILA | #91297 | Pub. 162 | 14° 35' N | 120° 58' E | Very Large | Coastal Breakwater | LOA more than 500 Ft. | Yes | 31 - 35 ft. | 36 - 40 ft. | 26 - 30 ft. | 36 - 40 ft. | 71 Million | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 200 Tons Max |
| SUBIC BAY | #91286 | Pub. 162 | 14° 48' N | 120° 16' E | Medium | Coastal Natural | LOA more than 500 Ft. | Yes | 36 - 40 ft. | Above 76 ft. | Above 76 ft. | Above 76 ft. | 7.5 Million | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | 100 Tons Max |
| BATAAN (MARIVELES) | #91280 | Pub. 162 | 14° 26' N | 120° 29' E | Very Small | Coastal Natural | LOA less than 500 Ft. | No | 31 - 35 ft. | 46 - 50 ft. | 46 - 50 ft. | Above 76 ft. | 3 Million | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | 49 Tons Max |
| BATANGAS CITY | #91309 | Pub. 162 | 13° 45' N | 121° 3' E | Medium | Open Roadstead | LOA more than 500 Ft. | Yes | Above 76 ft. | 36 - 40 ft. | 46 - 50 ft. | 71 - 75 ft. | 2.3 Million | Yes | yes | No | Yes | Yes | 49 Tons Max |
| MASINLOC | #91273 | Pub. 162 | 15° 33' N | 119° 57' E | Small | Coastal Natural | LOA less than 500 Ft. | No | 41 - 45 ft. | 31 - 35 ft. | 31 - 35 ft. | 71 - 75 ft. | No Data | Yes | No | No | No | No | No Data |
| CALAPAN | #91300 | Pub. 162 | 13° 25' N | 121° 11' E | Very Small | Open Roadstead | LOA less than 500 Ft. | No | 41 - 45 ft. | 21 - 25 ft. | NA | 56 - 60 ft. | 109,000 | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No Data |



modernization efforts increased its capacity. It has been going through upgrades to the passenger terminal to increase efficiency.

NCR-S has five piers and two passenger terminals. It also operates two ferry terminals at pier 13 and 15. It is accessible by road on Bonafacio Drive. It is also undergoing modernization process to increase throughput

MICT is the main cargo terminal for South Torbia and can simultaneously service six vessels at a time. Its total length is 1,520 m, the entrance channel depth is 11.8 m with controlling depths of 10 – 12m. There are 14 cranes operating that have a max lift capacity of 200 metric tons. The container yard is 3.3 hectares and has a capacity of 4,836 twenty-foot equivalent units using an eight-tier stack.

Navigable Rivers

South Torbia has approximately 1,500 km of navigable rivers. Many of the rivers are quite shallow and are only navigable by vessels that possess a draft of less than 1.5 meters.

Ice Breaking Ships

South Torbia has a historical fleet of four icebreakers with one still active for Antarctic use which could be repurposed for the Arctic. South Torbia has started building an advanced icebreaker specifically for the Arctic. It is a world class scientific research vessel that will carry a full range of equipment for studying the Arctic seafloor and biological resources, as well as for taking oceanic and atmospheric measurements. This new vessel was scheduled to set sail in 2026, but progress is moving rapidly and the timeline for its launch is expected to move up.

Pipelines

South Torbia has approximately 100 km of transmission pipelines and 130 km of distribution pipelines. Most are natural gas pipelines that run from the western coast to the Manila metropolitan area. The Torbia-1 and Torbia-2 pipelines, owned by the

Torbia National Oil Corporation, carry the natural gas from the coast to Manila and surrounding power plants. Twenty-four percent of the power in South Torbia comes from the fuels transported by these pipelines.

Petroleum

There are roughly 40km of crude transmission pipelines within South Torbia, however most are no longer operational and have fallen into a state of disrepair. South Torbia closed most transmission petroleum pipelines over 20 years ago because the cost to extract the oil was greater than the profits. There are a small number of pipelines that are profitable, and these have remained operational. There are refined petroleum pipelines that run from various seaports to the greater Manila area supplied by ships bringing the finished product from overseas.

Natural Gas

Like the petroleum transmission pipelines, there are no operational South Torbian natural gas pipelines as the extraction cost is currently too expensive with today's technology. There are pipelines that bring natural gas from ships in the ports to the larger South Torbian cities.

Water

All water pipelines in South Torbia are local. Due to the heavy rain that falls in most of the country, South Torbia has an abundance of water. The local water purification plants in the urban areas transport the treated water to the homes throughout the metropolitan areas. These local water systems are not counted in the pipeline figures above. There are some water desalination plants in South Torbia, but the desalinated water is used to meet local needs in the immediate area around the desalination plant. While there have been studies conducted to use desalination as a method to provide Manila with additional water, the prohibitive cost has prevented the start of any such construction.



Telecommunications Architecture

In South Torbia, most citizens have access to a telephone and listen to radio or watch television, and over 90% of the population has access to the internet. The deregulation of the telecommunications industry over 20 years ago led to major upgrades and increases of service providers for mobile, landline, internet, and other service providers. South Torbians operate approximately 30 million landlines and 60 million cell phones. The country has multiple radio stations that are both government owned and private, and broadcast religious, pop culture, and music. There are two national television network providers and approximately 50 local television providers with approximately 15 million subscribers (30% of the population.)

Industry

As a democracy that has embraced the free market system, almost all industry in South Torbia is privately owned. The only exception is that there are some public utilities that are owned by the local governments. There are some private utility companies in addition to the government-run facilities.

Food and Agriculture

South Torbia is a net food importer as the country cannot produce enough food to feed its people. South Torbia exports finished products while purchasing raw materials and food from abroad. Last year, South Torbian purchased \$8 billion more food than they exported. Imports desired by the South Torbians include premium products, health food, beef, confectionery products (chocolate and snacks) as well as fresh and dried fruit.

In some rural areas of South Torbia, the poor road system makes it difficult for farmers to get their crops to the market. This is especially true during the torrential rainstorms that often wash out the dirt roads. Additionally, the poor road network in rural areas can also restrict the flow of food and goods from urban centers to the villages.

Oil/Gas

South Torbia has a very small on shore oil infrastructure that only produces approximately 6,600 barrels of crude a day. The country must import oil to meet the demand in the country, which is equivalent to 215,800 barrels a day of oil to operate efficiently. There has been exploration done in the contested South China Sea to locate more oil but there has been limited success. The country has a reserve of approximately 1 billion million barrels of oil.

The population's dependence upon imported oil and petroleum products leaves it in a precarious situation if conflict were to impede imports. Oil will continue to be imported to support the economy and citizens of the country to ensure development during and post hostilities.

South Torbia has focused on the exploration of natural gas resources in the contested South China Sea. Currently 30 percent of the energy that the country consumes is created using natural gas. The city of Manila is working with private bus companies to install Compressed Natural Gas fuel stations to reduce cost and limit pollution.

Defense Infrastructure

South Torbia already had defense industries focused on improving self-defense and maintaining an economic exclusion zone around its island territories. Like much of the manufacturing within South Torbia, the defense industry's focus is on high technology components to augment defense imports, such as high-performance sensors for US-manufactured surface-to-air missiles, both for the US military and allies in the Middle East. South Torbia's defense sectors specialization has enabled a relationship in which conglomerates to access US and other defense-related technologies through licensing and collaborations on defense R&D. South Torbia does not currently possess a sufficiently developed industrial base to support a completely self-reliant defense sector but seeks this as an eventual outcome. Military



procurement is extensive and widespread to counter both the conventional and asymmetric threat from North Torbia.

Nuclear Facilities

South Torbia has one nuclear power plant that was decommissioned ten years ago. The plant is located 20 km south of San Antonio on the western coast of South Torbia and approximately 100 km west of Manila. The power plant consists of a Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) and was intended to produce an estimated 621 MW of energy. The decision to decommission the nuclear power plant was made after it was realized that it was built near an active fault line and a dormant volcano. While the power plant no longer produces energy, it is still being maintained since South Torbia does not possess the ability to safely dispose of the radioactive material. Therefore, it still houses a significant amount of radioactive material in the form of both unused fuel and unprocessed spent fuel. It has been claimed that the plant could be brought back in service in several months if required, and while many oppose its use there are some who believe that Nuclear is a better alternative to fossil fuels. The original design and construction are from 40 years ago, and though it may be capable of operating, it lacks many of the safety and technological features often found in modern nuclear power plants.

Space

South Torbia has been actively pursuing a nascent space program. Currently they use partner nations' rockets as delivery vehicles for their satellites as they are still developing their own launch capabilities, though recent developments in privately launch capabilities could change their focus. It currently has a total of fourteen satellites in orbit: eight satellites for communications purposes, three for navigation purposes, and three for dedicated military imagery. They are also currently working on sending their first astronaut into space. Currently there are no testing facilities or launch facilities specifically for space purposes in South Torbia, but the government

is planning to construct them in the next twenty years south of Manila to launch satellites and possible manned space flight.

Arctic Satellite

The Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer 2 (AMSR2) carrying satellite was launched by South Torbia in 2012. The AMSR2 provides data on Arctic precipitation, ocean wind speed, water vapor, sea ice concentration, and brightness temperature.



PHYSICAL

Physical Environment Overview

South Torbia is a small country located in an archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean. It borders Belesia, Gabal, and North Torbia—its primary regional opponent. The country’s terrain consists primary of forested mountains interspersed with low valleys. Valleys are typically fertile and comprise most of South Torbia’s arable land. Both vegetation and climate are tropical in nature. Multiple hazards result from the country’s geology, weather, native wildlife, and human activity. While this terrain offers considerable challenges, they are not insurmountable. Natural disasters such as typhoons and landslides will complicate missions. Troops and equipment will be affected by extreme temperatures and humidity in the lowlands, and high altitudes in the mountains. Frequent rains and seasonal cloud cover will hamper operations and maneuverability.

Table 7. Physical Environment Data

| Measure | Data | Remarks |
|------------------------------|--------|--|
| Land Area (km2) | 45,641 | Includes inland water |
| Land Border (km) | 217 | Belesia (37); North Torbia (180) |
| Coastline (km) | 3,650 | |
| Highest Elevation (m) | 2,567 | Mount Halcon |
| Lowest Elevation (m) | 0 | Sea Level (many locations) |
| Arable (cultivated) Land (%) | 39 | |
| Permanent Crops (%) | 10 | |
| Permanent Pasture (%) | <1 | 6% grasslands that could be used for pastoral purposes |
| Irrigated Land (%) | 15 | Rice (primary crop) |
| Forested Land (%) | 36 | Conifers (7); rainforest (9); scrub 914) |
| Urban Areas (%) | 5 | Primarily Manila area |

Terrain



Data sources: NGA, OpenStreetMap, Natural Earth v2.0, World Linear Water, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, OurAirports.com, Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) 3 arc-second [NASA/NGA]

Map 5. Physical Map of South Torbia

South Torbia occupies the central part of Luzon Island, one larger additional island, and several smaller islands and islets. The country is part of a larger archipelago bounded by the Philippine Sea to the east, the South China Sea to the west, and the

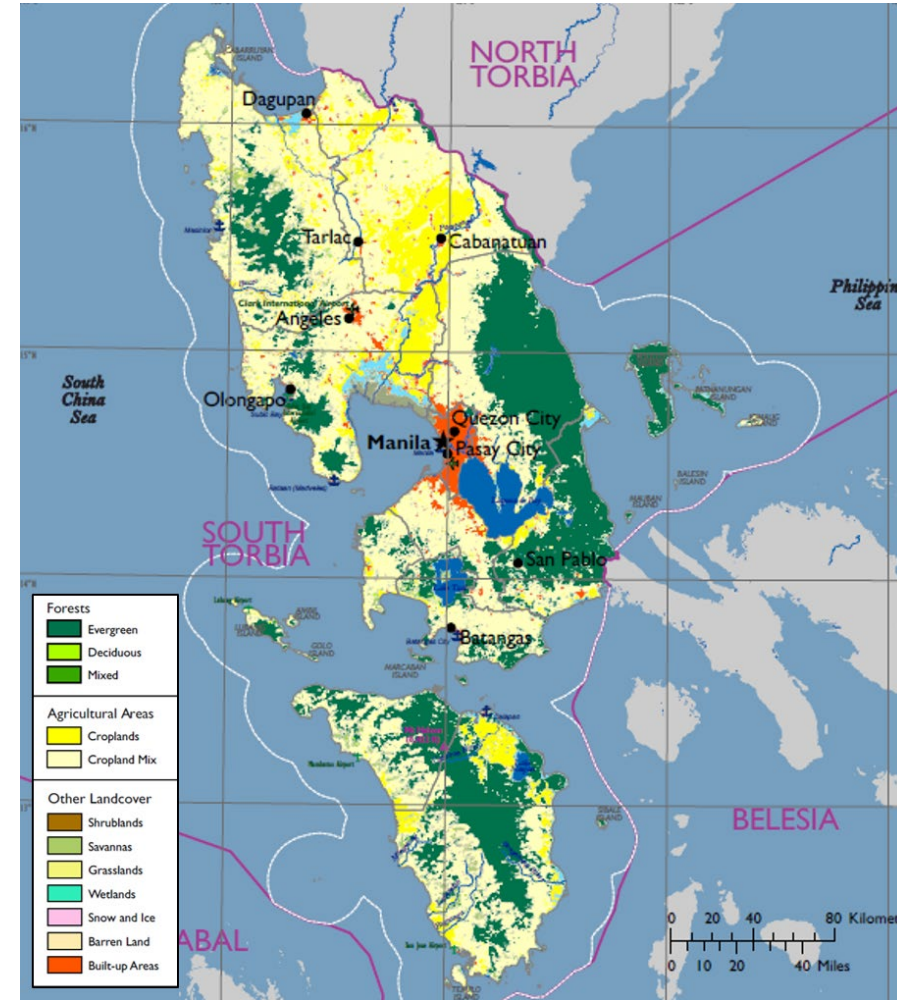


Celebes Sea to the south. South Torbia shares land boundaries with North Torbia to the north and Belesia to the southeast, but only maritime borders with its other neighbors, including Gabal to the southwest. The islands are mountainous in nature, with interspersed valleys on the larger islands.

South Torbia can be separated into two main parts, Luzon, and Mindoro, which are separated by the Verde Island Passage. The country's share of Luzon Island consists of a large central valley bordered by mountains: the Zambales in the west and the Sierra Madre in the east. Two significant lakes and a large bay take up much of the southern portion, with large areas of swampland north of the bay. Mindoro Island lies south of South Torbian Luzon and contains a north-south mountain range with valleys on the eastern and western coasts. A few small islands, including Pulong Polillo to the east of Luzon, and Lubang to the southwest, are also part of South Torbian territory. Surface and subsurface caves are common in the archipelago.

Bodies of Water

South Torbia is surrounded by bodies of water. The South China Sea lies to its west, the Philippine Sea to its east, and the Sulu Sea to its south. The country is separated from Gabal in the southeast by the Mindoro Strait, and it shares the Lingayen Gulf with North Torbia. South Torbia also shares several bays and the Tablas Strait with Belesia. Manila Bay, in southern Luzon, is the largest and most important natural harbor. Several rivers run from the mountains to the coast; the most important of these include the Agno, Pampanga, Pampanga Chico, Pasig, and Tarlac on Luzon Island, and the Bucayao Silonay and Bongabong on Mindoro. Due to the mountainous terrain, most rivers are navigable only for short distances by shallow-draft vessels. South Torbia features several lakes, both natural and man-made. The largest, Laguna Lake, lies in southern Luzon. Formed naturally, it has since been dammed for hydroelectric power generation. Another large natural lake, Taal Lake, lies to the southwest of Laguna Lake. The third-largest lake, Naujan, is also natural, and lies in northeastern Mindoro Island.



Map 6. South Torbia Agriculture Map

Mobility Classification



Movement in South Torbia is difficult due to mountainous terrain, dense tropical vegetation, and numerous bodies of water. Water or air transport methods are required to and between islands. Once on land, mountain ranges and steep river gorges naturally canalize movement. Heavy rains, flooding, and mud/landslides can seriously hamper troop movement during the rainy season. The presence of forests at higher elevations limits mobility and provides cover for enemy forces and smugglers, while multiple rivers and streams challenge mechanized and motorized movement in the valleys. Air operation impediments include mountain ranges, forests, steep valleys and gorges, clouds/fog/haze, and cyclonic storms.

Subterranean Environment

The islands are full of caves, both above and below sea level. In addition to the multitude of naturally occurring caves, past and current mining operations produced networks of artificial tunnels. Higher-level tunnels and caves are sometimes used as emergency shelters by residents during and after larger cyclonic storms.

Vegetation

Around 36% of South Torbia is forested, primarily consisting of rain forest in the upper elevations of the mountains. While coniferous pines are found at the highest elevations, most trees are broadleaf varieties such as balau, meranti, and narra. Other plant species found in montane forests include bamboo, ferns, orchids, and climbing palms (rattan). Due to the country's climate, trees keep their leaves year round. Except for the metropolitan Manila area, lowland valleys are devoted almost completely to agriculture, while forested areas are confined to the mountains. Small mangrove swamps can be found on some of the coastline.

Agriculture

Agriculture takes place primarily in the lowland valleys, with 80% of agricultural land dedicated to annual crops. Permanent crops include abaca, cashew, citrus fruit,

coconut, lemon, maguey, mango, oil palm, pineapple, papaya, other fruits, and rubber, while annual crops are cabbage, cassava, corn, cotton, eggplant, garlic, onion, peanut, sweet potato, rice, sugarcane, tobacco, and vegetables. The country's main crops are rice, corn, pineapple, other fruits, and sugarcane. Agricultural exports include pineapple and other fruits, the country imports flour, grains, rice, soybeans, and other foodstuffs.

Considerable amounts of land dedicated to rice production are irrigated to counteract the occasional droughts experienced in the country. Slash-and-burn agriculture, while widely practiced in the past, has today been nearly eliminated to help protect South Torbia's remaining forests. Western agricultural methods, such as commercial seeds, fertilizers, and insecticides, are now widely used. Despite the potential for land and water contamination with these products, South Torbian farmers are careful to use them properly, thus minimizing the risk of pollution.

Climate and Weather

Climate

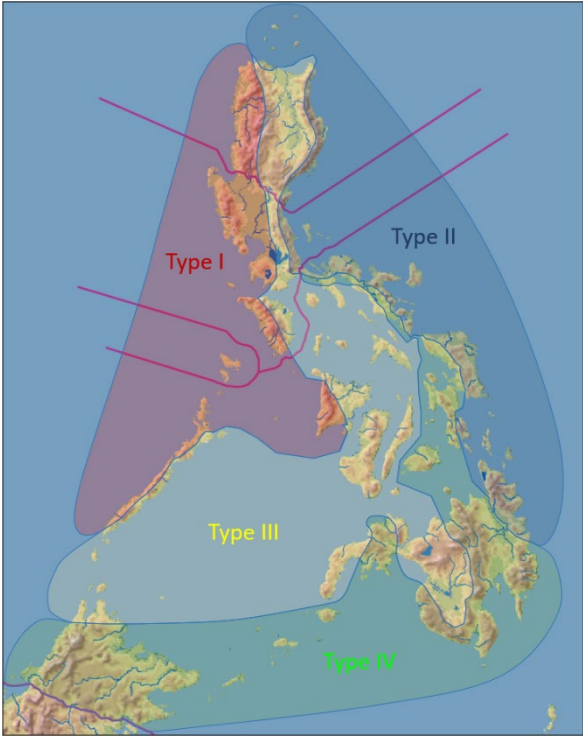
There are three different climate types found within South Torbia. These climate types can be broken into two broad categories: a tropical wet climate, where rain falls year-round, and a tropical wet and dry climate—also called a monsoonal climate—with distinct wet and dry seasons. The first climate type, called Type I, describes the climate west of the Sierra Madre Mountains, on the Lubang island group, and on the southwestern half of Mindoro Island. A wet and dry climate, it has a dry season that runs from October–April and a rainy season from May–September.



A second climate type, called Type II, is found on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, the far southeastern part of South Torbian Luzon, and on the Pulong Polillo island group. A wet climate, it has no true dry season, with the least wet months being from February–April.

The third climate type, Type III, describes the climate of the western slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains, a small region south of the same on South Torbian Luzon, and the northeastern half of Mindoro Island. Also, a wet and dry climate, it has a short dry season from February–April and rainfall during the rest of the year, which is somewhat heavier during July–September.

Winds follow a distinctive northeast, east, southwest cycle (NE monsoon, easterlies, SW monsoon) that corresponds to—and causes—the country’s seasons. The coolest part of the year falls during the northeast monsoon, while the warmest temperatures occur during the easterlies. Relative humidity is high year-round, though relatively lower inland, at higher elevations, and during the evenings.



Map 7. DATE Pacific Subregional Climate Types

Table 8. Köppen climate classification

| Zone | Precipitation Type | Acronym: Description |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Tropical Climate (Zone A) | Rainforest (f) | Af : Mainly found on the eastern half of any Belesian islands, away from the prevailing west winds. This is the warmest climate in the classification system with no dry season. |
| | Monsoon (m) | Am; Mainly found on the western half of any Belesian islands. This is a warm climate with only a short dry season. |
| | Savanna, Dry Winter (w) | Aw: Located in only a few spots scattered throughout the Belesian islands. This is a warm climate with a winter dry season. |

Seasonal Overview

The seasons can vary depending on the climate zone. Overall, the temperatures are normally quite warm with very few really cold days or nights.



Table 9. Seasonal chart - Manila

| Month | Temperature Coldest (F) | Temperature Hottest (F) | Precipitation (inches) | Days of Rain | Wind (Avg mph) |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| January | 64 | 84 | 0.75 | 4 | 3.60 |
| February | 68 | 86 | 0.75 | 2 | 7.60 |
| March | 72 | 88 | 1.00 | 2 | 9.40 |
| April | 75 | 91 | 1.00 | 2 | 9.40 |
| May | 75 | 90 | 10.25 | 10 | 7.60 |
| June | 75 | 88 | 10.25 | 17 | 4.70 |
| July | 75 | 88 | 13.80 | 22 | 4.70 |
| August | 75 | 88 | 15.00 | 22 | 4.70 |
| September | 75 | 88 | 13.60 | 21 | 4.70 |
| October | 73 | 88 | 9.45 | 20 | 4.70 |
| November | 22 | 88 | 4.90 | 12 | 4.70 |
| December | 68 | 84 | 2.35 | 7 | 4.70 |

Legend: F = Fahrenheit

Table 10. Seasonal chart - Dasmariñas

| Month | Temperature Coldest (F) | Temperature Hottest (F) | Precipitation (inches) | Days of Rain | Wind (Avg mph) |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| January | 70.5 | 84.9 | 0.8 | 9 | 10.2 |
| February | 70.5 | 86.7 | 0.4 | 6 | 9.8 |
| March | 72.0 | 89.4 | 0.5 | 8 | 9.0 |
| April | 74.5 | 92.1 | 0.9 | 11 | 7.1 |
| May | 75.6 | 91.8 | 5.6 | 19 | 6.1 |
| June | 75.0 | 88.9 | 10.0 | 25 | 6.8 |
| July | 74.3 | 86.9 | 14.6 | 27 | 7.4 |
| August | 74.3 | 86.0 | 16.1 | 25 | 8.1 |
| September | 74.1 | 86.4 | 12.5 | 25 | 7.1 |
| October | 73.8 | 86.9 | 7.5 | 20 | 7.9 |
| November | 73.0 | 86.4 | 5.5 | 12 | 9.1 |
| December | 71.6 | 84.7 | 3.2 | 12 | 10.4 |

Legend: F = Fahrenheit

Table 11. Seasonal chart - Bacoor City

| Month | Temperature Coldest (F) | Temperature Hottest (F) | Precipitation (inches) | Days of Rain | Wind (Avg mph) |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| January | 75.0 | 86.0 | 1.3 | 6 | 10.1 |
| February | 75.0 | 88.0 | 1.3 | 6 | 9.9 |
| March | 77.0 | 90.0 | 1.1 | 4 | 9.1 |
| April | 81.0 | 93.0 | 1.1 | 4 | 7.4 |
| May | 81.0 | 93.0 | 7.4 | 12 | 6.9 |
| June | 79.0 | 91.0 | 8.9 | 18 | 6.7 |
| July | 79.0 | 90.0 | 16.5 | 21 | 7.2 |
| August | 77.0 | 88.0 | 14.9 | 23 | 8.2 |
| September | 79.0 | 90.0 | 13.1 | 21 | 7.5 |
| October | 79.0 | 90.0 | 5.7 | 17 | 7.6 |
| November | 79.0 | 88.0 | 5.1 | 14 | 9.2 |
| December | 77.0 | 86.0 | 3.0 | 10 | 10.3 |

Legend: F = Fahrenheit

Table 12. Seasonal chart - San Jose del Monte

| Month | Temperature Coldest (F) | Temperature Hottest (F) | Precipitation (inches) | Days of Rain | Wind (Avg mph) |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| January | 68.0 | 84.0 | 0.3 | 3 | 8.9 |
| February | 68.0 | 86.0 | 0.3 | 4 | 8.5 |
| March | 70.0 | 90.0 | 0.4 | 11 | 8.0 |
| April | 73.0 | 93.0 | 0.8 | 8 | 6.9 |
| May | 75.0 | 91.0 | 4.0 | 19 | 5.7 |
| June | 77.0 | 88.0 | 6.0 | 24 | 5.8 |
| July | 75.0 | 86.0 | 7.4 | 26 | 6.6 |
| August | 75.0 | 84.0 | 6.7 | 26 | 6.8 |
| September | 75.0 | 84.0 | 6.3 | 25 | 5.4 |
| October | 73.0 | 86.0 | 4.5 | 20 | 6.2 |
| November | 72.0 | 86.0 | 1.9 | 10 | 7.8 |
| December | 70.0 | 84.0 | 1.1 | 6 | 9.0 |

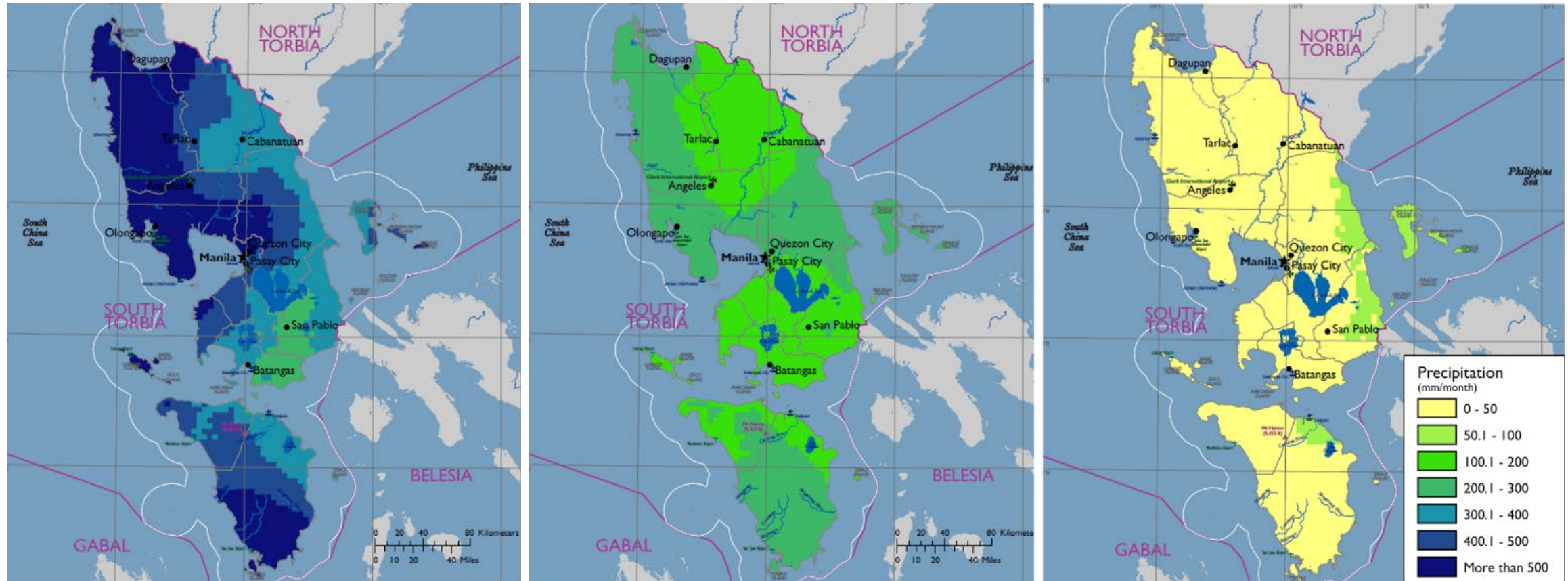
Legend: F = Fahrenheit



Precipitation

Precipitation in South Torbia comes in the form of rain, with an annual average of 50–140 inches, depending on location. This usually takes the form of afternoon or evening showers, which are light and infrequent during the dry season and nearly

daily and often heavy during the rainy season. Daily amounts vary, with maximums ranging from a low of 8 inches in inland Luzon and eastern Mindoro Island, to nearly 20 inches on the highest peaks of the Zambales Mountains. During the dry season, monthly rainfall can drop to less than one inch in some areas, while as much as 40



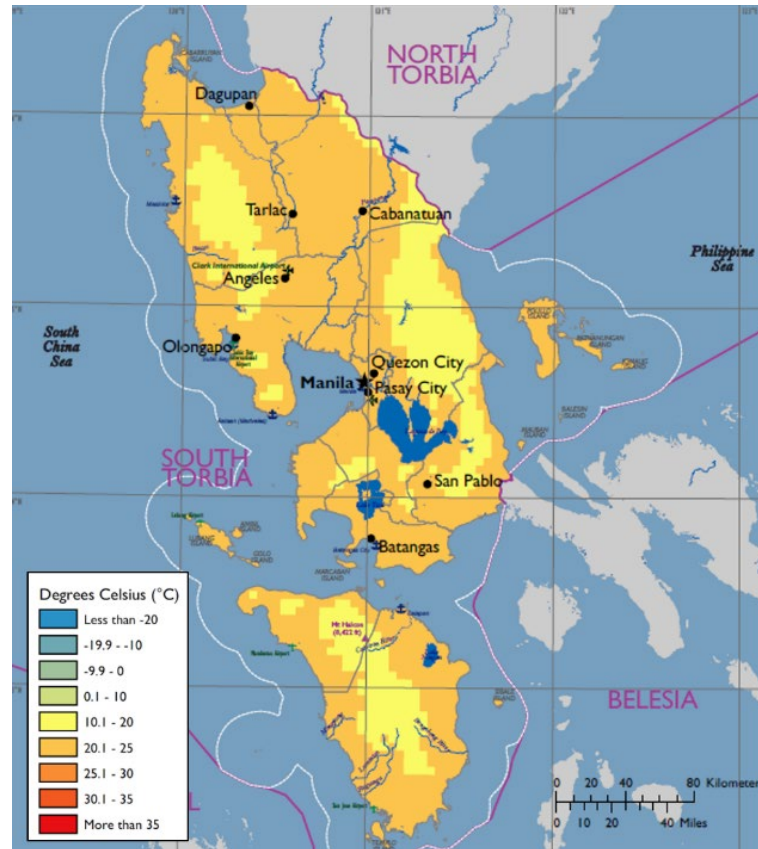
Map 8. Precipitation Map



inches can fall during the height of the rainy season. Dry and rainy seasons vary by local climate type (Af, Am, or Aw).

Temperature-Heat Index

South Torbia lies in a tropical zone, and the country's temperatures reflect this. The average temperature difference between night and day is usually greater than the seasonal variation of either highs or lows for any specific location. The hottest month of the year is April, while the coolest is January. Altitude has the greatest effect on temperatures, with the inland valleys being warmest and the high mountains being coolest. Average monthly highs range from the mid-70s to the mid-90s degrees Fahrenheit and monthly lows are not much cooler, usually dropping less than 15 degrees. Record highs



Map 9. High Temperature Map

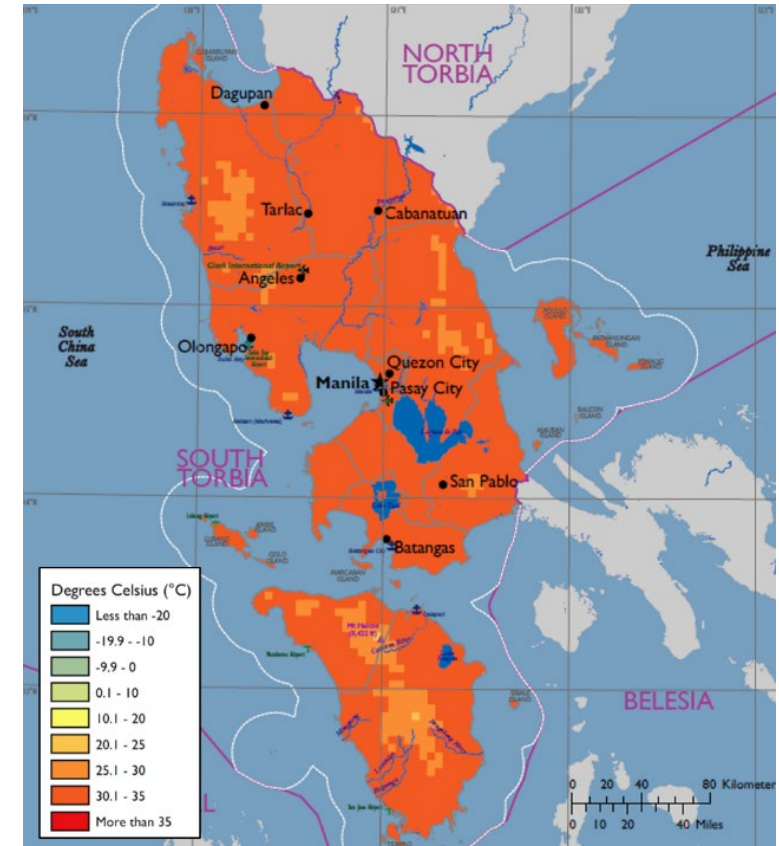
usually fall in the 90s but have been known to exceed 100 degrees. When combined with South Torbia's high relative humidity, the heat index can easily reach levels that affect military operations.

Temperature-Wind Chill Index

Temperatures very rarely drop below 70 degrees at night, even in the coolest part of the year. The only exception is in the mountains, where the weather can be cool enough to necessitate a light jacket at night. Record lows in South Torbia do not fall below 45 degrees.

Relative Humidity

Relative humidity is high throughout the year in South Torbia. Ranging from the low 70s to the mid-90s with an average of 77%, humidity is higher in the coastal and low-lying areas than inland or at higher elevations. Relative humidity is typically



Map 10. Low Temperature Map



higher in the mornings and drops several percentage points by evening. When combined with the country's high temperatures, it produces the type of hot, humid conditions typically associated with tropical jungles.

Wind

South Torbia's annual wind cycle drives the country's seasons. Trade winds from the northeast begin blowing in November. These winds, known as the *amihan* or the northeast monsoon, blow through February and bring cool air to the country. They recede and are replaced with the *silanganin*, or "easterlies," from March–June, which bring heat and increasing rainfall. The *habagat*, or southwest monsoon, begins in July and runs through October. This wind brings cooler temperatures and higher humidity. Precipitation in the country peaks and then recedes during this time.

Winds during the NE monsoon are usually light and variable, with the eastern coast experiencing stronger winds than the rest of the country. The SW monsoon pattern is similar, except that it is the western coast that receives stronger winds. Winds during the easterlies period are slightly less than during the two monsoons, and periods of calm are more frequent.

Tropical cyclones, which are rated from tropical depression (mildest; winds under 32 knots) to super typhoon (most severe; winds over 118 knots), occur from June to December. Though the country's northern neighbor usually takes the brunt of these storms, South Torbia is not immune to them. Cyclonic storms hit regularly, with an average of nearly four typhoon-category storms on South Torbian Luzon, and two storms on Mindoro each year.

Visibility

South Torbia experiences an average of 5–9 hours of sun daily, with more sunshine and correspondingly fewer clouds during the easterlies and the transition period from southwest to northeast monsoon. April is the least cloudy month. Haze, fog, and low

ceilings are common, with the latter two occurring most often during December and August. Cloud cover is lightest on the leeward coast and the leeward sides of mountain ranges, and fog is usually restricted to the mountains and inland valleys. Blowing dust may occur on the leeward coastline. While clouds rarely exceed 8,000 ft. during the northeast monsoon, they reach higher than that during the southwest monsoon. Sunshine is more common during the morning periods, while clouds are more frequently seen in the afternoon.

Hazards

South Torbia is subject to many types of natural disaster, disease, and poisonous flora, and fauna.

Events

Major climatic weather-related events include droughts, earthquakes, flash floods, land and mudslides, tropical cyclones, tsunamis, and volcanic activity. Mountainous areas and those cleared of vegetation are most prone to land and mudslides, while the coastal areas are more likely to be affected by cyclones and tsunamis. Mount Taal, located in the middle of Taal Lake, Mount Banahao in southern Luzon, and Mount Pinatubo in the eastern part of Luzon and are all active volcanoes. Mount Taal erupted in 1911, killing over 1,000 South Torbians, while Mount Pinatubo had a major eruption in 1991. Several active faults are in the Sierra Madre Mountains and run north south; their seismic activity triggers landslides, as well as causing direct damage to South Torbia's infrastructure. A major earthquake centered near the Torbian border killed over 1,500 people in the two countries in 1990. Occasional droughts hit the country, including one in 1990 that limited the country's capacity to produce hydroelectric power. Cyclonic storms hit regularly, with an average of 2–4 typhoon-category storms making landfall annually. One recent storm, Super Typhoon Haima, featured 140 mph winds and caused considerable damage. The country is concerned about deforestation and possible rising sea levels due to climate change.



Disease

Major diseases in South Torbia include cholera, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and Shigellosis. See the Social Variable for more detail on these diseases.

Flora

There are at least ten types of poisonous plants in South Torbia. The following are the top ten most poisonous plants:

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|---------------|---|
| Pong-Pong | This is called the “suicide tree” by locals and has a beautiful flower on it. It contains a powerful poison that is so potent that natives have used it to commit suicide for many years. |
| Trompeta | This beautiful flower is called the “Angel’s Trumpet”, but it is a hallucinogen that needs to be avoided. Too much of the plant being ingested can cause death due to the dangerous alkaloids it contains—atropine, hyoscyamine, hyoscine, and metoloidine. |
| Belladonna | Properly used, this plant has medicinal purposes. Improperly ingested, especially from a young plant, the victim will lose their voice; suffer from dry mouth, headaches, and convulsions; with a difficult time breathing. The berries are most dangerous and being naturally sweet attract children. Only ten to twenty berries can kill an adult. |
| English Yew | This plant is often used for landscaping, but it is deadly. The fruit is the only non-toxic part of the plant. 50 grams can kill a human. Symptoms include muscle tremors, breathing difficulties, convulsions, and then a final collapse. |
| Wolfsbane | Found only in the cool mountainous regions, the plant bellows to the buttercup family. People in South Torbia and other countries have been known to use the poison for their arrow times in the not too distant path. Once eaten, there is a burning sensation in the abdomen and the extremities. Death can occur in as little as two to three hours. |
| Castor plant | This plant is found in many parts of the world and can be used for healing as Castor Oil. The seeds are poisonous and only four or five of them can kill an adult if eaten. If eaten, there is a burning sensation in the mouth and throat. The victim also vomits and is affected by diarrhea. Death is due to dehydration. |
| Rosary Pea | This red pea is found in medium altitude areas in South Torbia. Three micrograms have been known to kill an adult. The poison is 75 times more deadly than the castor bean. |
| Dieffenbachia | Often used as a home decoration, this plan can cause severe problems if eaten. These symptoms include severe swelling of the moth, drooling, dysphagia, respiratory compromise, and dermatitis. Many years ago, locals would use it to make their arrows poisonous. |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Talumpunay Tree (Cachubong) | This plant contains hallucinogenic properties. Locals may add it to their tea in very small doses, but it can cause the user to exhibit wild behavior. |
| Buta-buta | This is called the “blinding tree” by locals. Its wood is ideal for firewood and timber, but its sap is toxic. It was used once upon a time as a fish-poison preparation. The sap causes the skin to blister and if it gets in one’s eyes, the person can lose their sight. |

Fauna

Dangerous animals include poisonous centipedes, crocodiles, jellyfish, scorpions, sharks, snakes, spiders, and disease-carrying insects. The top 10 most dangerous animals include:

| | |
|------------|---|
| Mosquitoes | Mosquitoes cause several diseases including dengue. Dengue victims begin showing symptoms three to fourteen days after infection with a high fever, headache, vomiting, muscle pain, joint pains, and normally a skin rash. There is no cure for dengue fever and victims need to rest, drink fluids, and take a pain medicine that includes acetaminophen. Other diseases that mosquitoes can carry include the chikungunya virus, Japanese encephalitis, malaria, West Nile virus, yellow fever, or the zika virus. |
| Dogs | Dogs carry rabies and every year about 150-200 South Torbians are diagnosed with rabies. Dogs may be man’s best friends, but rabid dogs are not. |
| Jellyfish | Many jellyfish are dangerous and even a small amount of its venom can lead to heart seizures or cause it to stop. |
| Snakes | There are 179 species of snakes in South Torbia with 14 of them being poisonous. The most dangerous is the South Torbian Cobra. They like being around rice paddies so it can hunt for mice and rats. |
| Crocodiles | The biggest crocodile ever was caught in South Torbia. It was over 20 feet long from the snout-to-tail and weight over 2,370 pounds. While rare, there are reports of death by crocodiles almost every year in South Torbia. South Torbia is home to both freshwater crocodiles and their larger relative, the saltwater crocodile. It is against South Torbian law to kill a crocodile. |
| Sharks | Even though there are only about 60 attacks around the world annually, South Torbian fisherman must be extremely safety conscious. Shark species that are found in the waters around South Torbia include the Bull Shark, Tiger Shark, and the Great White Shark. |
| Scorpions | While they do not bite, Scorpions sting. Many species are harmless, but some are dangerous such as the Arizona bark scorpion. |



| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Red Black Spider | This is the same type as found in Australia and is quite poisonous. |
| Centipedes | Most are harmless, but one of the three deaths by centipedes has occurred in South Torbia. |
| Blue-ringed Octopus | Blue-ringed Octopus: This beautiful creature has a bite that is not too painful, so the victim often does not know they are bitten until it is too late. One Blue-ringed Octopus can carry enough venom to kill ten human adults. |
| Cane Toad | The skin of the cane toad is toxic to humans because it contains the chemicals bufotoxin and bufotenine. Both are dangerous to animals and humans. While not native to Torbia, it was introduced in 1930 and have multiplied while spreading out through the entire country. |



TIME

Time Overview

South Torbians follow a cyclic approach to time, believing that all opportunities, like the sun, will set and then rise again later. However, this is not taken as an invitation to slowness or laziness, as their concept of harmony requires a degree of respect that extends to strict observation of timetables. South Torbians see time as a set of imbedded cycles: day, season, year, life. The result is a national culture that promotes a deliberate, time-conscious lifestyle focused on politeness to others. Scheduled events are expected to begin on time. Both National and Religious Holidays play an important role in South Torbia, and most businesses shuts down on these days. While day to day life for most South Torbians follows the same Gregorian calendar that is used by the United States, traditions associated with the lunar calendar maintain a degree of cultural significance. Several minority populations use the lunar calendar to determine the observation of religious holidays. South Torbia sits within the South Torbia Time Zone (STTZ), which is eight hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)/Coordinated Universal Time (UTC); it does not observe Daylight Saving Time (DST).

The standard workweek in South Torbia is 0900 hours to 1800 hours with a one-hour lunch period. On average, South Torbians work approximately 2000 hours a year for over 38 hours per week. This is one of the higher figures in the region. Since the standard workweek is Monday to Friday, Saturday and Sunday are the normal off days for those outside the service industry.

There are no specific monthly holidays for the majority of South Torbians. Those that practice the Buddhist faith, however, follow the lunar calendar and conduct religious holidays on the new moon, quarter moon, half-moon, three-quarters moon, and full moon. South Torbia’s minority Muslim population uses Saudi Arabia’s *Umm al-*

Qura calendar to determine the official beginning of each month and for religious holidays.

Key Dates, Time Periods, or Events

See *Political History* for more details

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| The Torbian War | 1950-1953 |
| Student Uprisings | 1962 |
| Second Republic | 1963 |
| Third Republic | 1965 |
| Fourth Republic | 1981 |
| Economic Growth and Modernization | Mid-1990s through the Mid-2000s |

Routine, Cyclical Key Dates

South Torbia celebrates 13 government holidays each year, nine of which have fixed dates while four are considered floating holidays. Two of these holidays, the Torbian New Year, and the Harvest Festival, last for three days and most non-service businesses and the government are closed even if the three days fall all on weekdays. Even though the dominant religion in South Torbia is Christian, there are minority populations that practice a variety of faiths. South Torbia’s constitution provides protections for religious freedom, therefore under normal conditions the government will make every effort to respect the holidays of all faiths.

South Torbians follow a cyclic approach to time, believing that all opportunities, like the sun, will set and then rise again later. However, this is not taken as an invitation to slowness or laziness, as their concept of harmony requires an ultra-politeness that extends to strict observation of timetables. South Torbians see time as a set of imbedded cycles: day, season, year, life. The result is a deliberate, time-conscious



lifestyle focused on politeness to others. All scheduled events begin on time, and the views of all participants are considered. Holidays play an important role in South Torbia, and most businesses shuts down on these days. US personnel that focus on promptness, courtesy, and ritual over speed will see the most success when dealing with South Torbian military members and the general populace. South Torbia sits within the South Torbia Time Zone (STTZ), which is eight hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)/Coordinated Universal Time (UTC); it does not observe Daylight Saving Time (DST).

Table 13. National Holidays

| Date | Holiday | Type | Remark |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1 January | New Year's Day | Government | |
| 15 March | Children's Day | Government | |
| 1 May | Labor Day | Government | |
| 15 June | Armed Forces Day | Government | |
| 15 July | Constitution Day | Government | |
| 20 August | Liberation Day | Government | |
| 15 October | Torbias Day | Government | |
| 15 November | Torbias Language Day | Government | |
| 25 December | Christmas Day | Government/ Religious | |
| January/ February | Torbias New Year | Government/ Religious | Starts on the first full moon of the new year; usually in January & lasts 3 days |
| April | Election Day | Government | Always the second Tuesday of April |
| April/May | Buddha's Birthday | Government/ Religious | Occurs on the eighth day of the fourth month of the lunar calendar |
| September/ August | Harvest Festival | Government | Starts on the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month & lasts 3 days |

New Year's Day: Occurs on 1 January each year. All government workers and most business workers outside of the service industry do not work. If 1 January falls on a

Saturday or Sunday, the closest day (Friday or Monday) is designated the federal holiday.

Children's Day: Occurs on 15 March each year. Government workers and business workers do not work and often take their children on picnics or to local amusement parks if the weather cooperates. The children have the day off from school, if it is a normal school day, and spend it with their parents doing what children like to do if the family is in the middle class or better. If the holiday falls on the weekend, the government holiday is either the Friday or the Monday, whichever is closest to the 15th.

Labor Day: Occurs on 1 May each year. Begun in 1955, Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of South Torbian workers in the development of the country economically and socially. Many South Torbian families, especially blue collar workers, take a picnic lunch to a local park to hear local politicians rave about the relationship between government and industry. If the holiday is on the weekend, the holiday is either the Friday before or the Monday after 1 May, whichever day is closer to the actual date.

Armed Forces Day: Occurs on 15 June each year. On this day that government and business employees are off, a major military parade is held in the capital city. In other parts of the country, the local military units including the reserve units put on a static display or small parade. Families of military members, if they can afford it, often use it as a chance to visit their children in military service. The holiday is either the day before or the day after 15 June if that date falls on the weekend.

Constitution Day: Occurs on 15 July each year. Even though the government employees are off work along with the business workers, politicians use the day to make political speeches in the local community celebrating South Torbia's political system. Many families still watch the speeches, but there has been a steady downward trend in attendance. Many South Torbian families now consider the



holiday as additional time to spend with their family. Like most other official government holidays, it is celebrated on the Friday before or the Monday afterwards if the actual holiday falls on a weekend.

Liberation Day: Occurs on 20 August each year. This is one of the most widely celebrated holidays of the year as the South Torbian people celebrate their freedom from their oppressors during World War II. This day is celebrated with parades, parties, and picnics with their extended families in parks or just large extended family gatherings. The celebration is always conducted on 20 August, but if that day falls on the weekend government workers and most businesses are closed either the Friday before or the Monday afterwards.

Torbias Day: Occurs on 15 October each year. This holiday celebrates the traditional founding of greater Torbia that dates back over 4000 years. The Torbian people dress in traditional clothing, play traditional Torbian musical instruments, participate in traditional Torbian dancing, and conduct traditional Torbian theater. This is a cultural day where the Torbian children are taught their history. The celebration always occurs on 15 October, but the official government holiday may fall on a Friday or Monday if the 15th is during the weekend.

Torbias Language Day: Occurs on 15 November each year. This holiday celebrates the creation of the Torbian alphabet in 1400. Schools hold contests among the students to write the poems and short stories. Parents go to their children's school to hear the winners recite their poems and read the short stories. Refreshments are served. If the holiday falls on the weekend, the visit to the school for the celebration will occur on the Friday before or the Monday after the actual holiday.

Christmas Day: Occurs on 25 December each year. Now that Christianity has become the dominant religion in South Torbia, Christmas is both a government and religious holiday. Christmas is not a major holiday for South Torbians, however, so this is not usually a gathering of the extended family. Most Christian families attend

church, eat a nice meal, and exchange personal gifts with each other. Most of these gifts are either handmade or if purchased, not expensive. Non-Christians just usually celebrate having the day off. Government and most major businesses give their employees the Friday before or the Monday after if the holiday falls on the weekend.

Torbias New Year: This is a 3-day holiday that begins on the first day of the lunar calendar in the New Year. This date is either late in January or early in February depending on when the last month of the previous year ends. If the 3-day period encompasses either one or two days of the weekend, employees do not receive additional workdays off. South Torbians wear traditional clothing, eat special rice cakes, and play games with their family.

Election Day: This holiday occurs the second Tuesday of every April. This is the day when people vote for their elected leaders. South Torbian citizens vote for their president every three years, but any other elections are held on this same day in the off years. Due to the designated holiday and the South Torbian enjoyment of the vote, turnout is always quite high.

Buddha's Birthday: This holiday occurs on the 8th day of the 4th month of the lunar calendar, so it always falls in late April or early May. If the day falls on the weekend, businesses and the government do not compensate their workers with an extra day off during the workweek unless that is part of the collective bargaining agreement between labor and the company. While only a small minority of South Torbians still adhere to Buddhism, when the religion first arrived in the region during the 13th Century is played a significant role in shaping Torbian culture (Islam was also introduced during the 13th Century, however its influence was limited to the extreme southern areas). This holiday is primarily recognized by the Buddhist minority, though a large portion of the Christian majority celebrate its significance for the national culture and local traditions. It is common for Buddhist Temples to hold lantern festivals and give visitors free tea and a small, but special meal. In areas with a larger Buddhist population, the community will often hold a procession or parade



through their local streets. While South Torbia's Muslim population has historically been respectful of the holiday, there are some voices among ultra-conservative communities that actively reject the holiday as a form of idolatry.

Harvest Festival: This holiday occurs on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar and then lasts three days. Usually, this holiday occurs in September but could fall in early October. While the holiday could fall on the autumn equinox, it is not a holiday celebrating that event. If the holiday falls during the workweek, many workers will receive three days off. If the holiday encompasses part or all the weekend, the workers will only receive the days off in the designated three-day period. South Torbian people celebrate the holiday by preparing special food and then taking a picnic lunch to the gravesite of a revered ancestor. South Torbian people will often travel far distances to see extended families and to honor their deceased ancestors. Those traveling great distances will travel on day one and three of the holiday and conduct their celebration activities on the second day. Given the agricultural heritage of this holiday, its significance is generally recognized by people of all religious faiths. That said, the recent injection of politicized Islam has resulted in small, but largely ignored, protests by ultra-conservatives.

Wedding Season (culturally specific observation)

South Torbians usually plan their wedding dates based on two factors: weather and proximity to major holidays. Most couples prefer to get married in the cooler months of the year (November–February), but the presence of multiple holidays during this time limits their options. As a result, the main wedding season occurs from late January through February. While planting and harvest times have historically played a role, this is no longer true, as few modern-day South Torbians are involved in agricultural activities.

Harvest Cycles

Agricultural cycles in South Torbia are primarily determined by regional climate and the crop in question. Some crops, such as pineapple, are grown and harvested year-round; others—e.g., rice, corn, and sugarcane—follow distinct cycles. There are usually two crops per year for rice and corn: one grown during the wet season, and the other during the dry season. If a region's wet season is long enough, farmers may be able to plant and harvest two successive crops during this season instead of just one. Sugarcane is harvested only once per year during the cooler part of the dry season.

Natural Disaster Cycles

The one natural disaster that occurs on an annual cycle in South Torbia is the typhoon. Typhoon season occurs from early summer to late fall and is often at its peak during August and September. Due to its location, approximately 10-15 typhoons hit South Torbia each year. Many of these cause only minor damage, but there are sometimes major typhoons that cause extensive problems. In addition to the storm itself, Typhoons have the potential to cause extensive flooding. While South Torbia's infrastructure has been designed to accommodate flooding, storms occurring in rapid succession can quickly overwhelm the infrastructure, particularly in overpopulated and rural areas.

Election Cycles

National elections in South Torbia are held every three years: with the President and half of the National Assembly (NA) being selected in a single election, and the other half of the NA being elected during the mid-term election. Local elections typically occur on the same day as national elections. Officials elected to national offices hold terms that are six years in length, while local officials are elected for three years. All other elections and referendums are held annually on the national election-day, which is the second Tuesday of April each year.



Cultural Perception of Time

While most South Torbians are no longer Buddhist, and the cultural significance of the religion continues to be reflected in their perception of time. Instead of a line, South Torbians view time as a circle: the sun rises and sets, then rises again; the rainy season comes, then it goes, then it comes again; a person is born, dies, then is born into the next life. All events in life are seen as following this pattern. As a result, there is no such thing as a “missed chance,” as the same opportunity will appear again at a later point in time. This viewpoint is seen in the common South Torbian expressions, “the same rain that fell yesterday will fall again tomorrow,” and “the circle of the sun is eternal.”

This mindset dovetails with the South Torbian concept of balance and affects how the day is ordered. While Westerners will typically follow a routine out of habit, South Torbians give considerable thought to when specific daily events should occur. Meetings are usually held in the morning, the more prestigious the attendants, the earlier the meeting time. Time is spent with friends after work, and family time is in the evening. Even the local diet follows a cycle: coffee, known for its stimulating effect, is consumed in the early to mid-morning, whereas tea is seen as relaxing—as reflected in the length and elaborateness of the associated ceremony—and is reserved for the evening hours.

Balance also plays out in the promptness and courtesy of South Torbians. They consider tardiness a disruption to balance—the opposite of harmony—and view it with disdain. Planned activities have a start and an ending time, and both are strictly adhered to; a South Torbian meeting simply does not “run late,” and any insistence on extending meetings has the potential to cross social mores. Ritual is also important and must be adhered to with very few exceptions. This is especially true for South Torbia’s business community, who, despite global influences have made adherence to rituals and traditions a matter of pride.

Tactical Perception of Time

The South Torbian perspective on time leads to an interesting dichotomy: while promptness is of the utmost importance, courses of action are rarely determined after a single discussion. Instead, decisions are made through a series of meetings that gradually bring the attendants closer to each other both personally and professionally. Once an initial decision is made, future courses of action are decided in a similar fashion. Emphasis during decision making is often placed upon long-term outcomes rather than immediate solutions.

For the South Torbian military, their long-term orientation and cyclic perception of time places an emphasis on understanding patterns and is reflected in the popular adage, “Where the enemy once was, there he will be again.” Military members understand that the cultural adherence to routine likely means that when an enemy patrol (typically North Torbian) is discovered at a specific location means, they will eventually reappear at the same place. As such, South Torbians rarely view an opportunity to achieve their military objective or to gain a tactical advantage as having passed; if they are unable to initially exploit a situation to their advantage, they believe that the opportunity has merely been delayed until the next turning of the cycle.

The time perception of South Torbians will initially appear incongruous to US military members. While the idea that all events follow a repeated cycle may be foreign, keying on promptness, courtesy, and ritual can help in smoothly interacting with South Torbians. US personnel should expect multiple meetings at regular intervals that will increase the participants’ familiarity with each other while simultaneously drawing the group closer to a decision. During this process, it is essential that the same person(s) continue to attend the meeting; any change will be viewed as a disruption to the pattern that may make it necessary for them to begin the process all over again. For the most part, Americans can expect the South Torbians to adhere to their established pattern of life and keep to an agreed upon schedule; that said, their



prioritization on time may create challenges if they are unable to complete tasks within a set timeframe.

Decision-making

The cyclic perception of time, long-term orientation, and a desire to have everything organized and coordinate may hinder the decision-making process of South Torbian political and military leaders. Their aversion to situational ambiguity can lead to them prioritizing gathering more information over the ability to act quickly and decisively. Adversaries could exploit the South Torbian preference for gathering information and considering alternatives by presenting challenges in rapid succession, accelerating their own decision making process, and enabling them to outpace any South Torbian response.