

Credits

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This is an unofficial supplement for Subversion, released as part of the Subversion World Jam. Enjoy!

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April 2025



Subversion in Dakar

Dakar is the monarchical capital of Senekemet, where the ruling firawns reside and preside over matters of state and governance. The firawn serves as the head of state and government, representing Senekemet both domestically and internationally, and is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the nation, articulating policy priorities, and overseeing the implementation of government programs and initiatives.

Dakar is an incredibly advanced port city sitting prominently in the Senekemetian landscape and acting as the “Gateway to Neo Babylon”. It is a nexus of corporate power and technological advancement and is a key player in global trade. The city’s elites are primary partners and rivals to those in Neo Babylon. Dakar has the world’s highest concentration of mega towers: skyscrapers so tall that the streets and alleys below are perpetually shaded. The wealthy of Dakar flit from tower top to tower top aboard helicopters or dirigibles, seldom descending to ground level.

Dakar is a maritime cybertech hub, attracting shipping companies, tech startups, and research institutions specializing in marine technology and oceanic exploration. The city's port facilities are equipped with cutting-edge infrastructure for autonomous vessels, underwater drones, and offshore renewable energy platforms, driving innovation and economic growth in the region. The synergy between shipping logistics and cybertech enables Senekemet to optimize supply chains and streamline operations. They also produce fleets of advanced merchant and military vessels in shipyards south of Dakar. Very few in Senekemet use foreign-made ships. Since much of their trade is destined for Sunaba and Neo Babylon, however, Senekemet’s need to maintain a massive navy of their own is reduced.

Dakar plays a key role in regional maritime megaprojects, such as offshore wind farms, desalination plants, and underwater research facilities. These ambitious initiatives harness the power of the ocean to address pressing challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, and sustainable development, positioning Senekemet as a leader in these areas. While Dakar thrives as a nexus of corporate power and technological advancement, other regions of Senekemet sometimes struggle to keep pace with economic development, resulting in disparities in wealth, infrastructure, and opportunities. While moderated by the Administrative Council, this has led to social unrest and discontent among marginalized communities.

Culture

The city of Dakar is a diverse place which attracts a wide array of innovators, technophiles, and forward-thinkers, including engineers and technology entrepreneurs. The residents of Dakar are adept at navigating an intersection of cultures. While Neo Babylon is more diverse, Dakar has embraced synthesis. Whether they're experimenting with fusion cuisine, remixing traditional music with electronic beats, or reimaging ancient rituals in a cybertech context, the people of Dakar constantly evolve and adapt. Senekemet has a lively surf culture, even in areas without traditional maritime access. On the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts, surfers in Carthage and Dakar hone their skills, but along the Nile, urban surf parks and artificial reef systems provide surfers with opportunities, and participants focus on acrobatic manoeuvres and trick riding.

Neuro-Lutte

One popular sport in Dakar and across much of Senekemet is Neuro-Lutte, where cybernetically-enhanced competitors engage in traditional wrestling. The competitions are particular in that no magic is permitted. Corporations sponsor individual wrestlers and subsidize their augmentations and surgeries. Betting on Lutte is a billion stanz enterprise.

Notable sponsors:

- ✂ **Gear manufacturers:** Athletica and Vanguard
- ✂ **Financial:** Royal Bank of Dakar (RBD) and Apex Ventures
- ✂ **Pharmcorps:** BioNCorp and Synapse Solutions
- ✂ **Tech Companies:** Senetech and Cyber Dynamics

Griots and Digital Storytelling

The ancient tradition of griots finds new expression in the digital age as magically and digitally enhanced travelling storytellers weave tales of heroism, adventure, and rebellion based on complex oral traditions. Many narratives resonate with themes of cultural identity, social justice, and the struggle against corporate oppression, inspiring a new generation of revolutionaries. Corporate and other powerful interests try to co-opt these stories and insert their propaganda.

Music

Mbalax rhythms and traditional Senegalese drumming merge with electronic synthesizers and futuristic beats, giving rise to a unique genre of cybernetic music known as "Pyramid Bass." Underground clubs throb with the pulse of this new sound, and projections of dancers based on ancient models dance along with the attendees.

At its core, Pyramid Bass maintains the polyrhythmic complexity of Mbalax music, with layers of percussion blending seamlessly with electronic elements. Traditional instruments like the sabar drums and tama are augmented by glitchy digital effects. In Dakar, Pyramid Bass is more than just music—it's a cultural phenomenon, a sonic expression of the city's vibrant fusion of ancient traditions and futuristic innovation. It pulses through the veins of the metropolis, a soundtrack for the cybertech revolution that echoes through the alleyways between the skyscrapers.

Food

Street vendors offer a fusion of ancient Kemetian and Senegambian cuisine, blending traditional dishes with high-tech culinary innovations. One favourite dish is Dakar Whitefish Yassa, which combines the zesty flavours of yassa marinade with the warm and aromatic spices reminiscent of Kemet. Unique food experiences are available, such as nano-gel food capsules infused with strong spices to provide a sensory explosion for diners - all taste, no substance.

Traditional kaldi is served in the Senekemet style, unmatched in Neo Babylon or elsewhere. Dark roasted local beans are ground with djar (a local plant with a sharp peppery taste) and cloves. The resulting powder is used to prepare the drink by the drip method through a filter and served black. Most residents of Senekemet have a favourite sidewalk cart where they acquire the drink daily.

Notable figures in Dakar

Amina Sankara (orc, F)

Amina is a cybertech artist and activist known for her groundbreaking work in sculptural installations, which feature Kemetian symbolism and explore themes of identity. Amina was born in Dakar to parents who were both artists and activists, instilling in her a deep appreciation for art as a tool for social change. Her installations, which often feature projections and interactive elements, have been showcased across Senekemet. Through her work, she explores issues such as social inequality, environmental degradation, and the impact of technology on society. Several prominent people in Neo Babylon have attempted to get her to migrate, but she refuses.

Botolo Botolo (human, M)

Botolo is a master of connections, with his fingers on the pulse of the city's underground economy and criminal underworld. He knows everyone worth knowing, from street-level hustlers to high-ranking corporate executives. He labels himself a “problem solver”. Whether it's a rival gang encroaching on turf, a corporate executive with a PR disaster on their hands, or a disgraced scientist in need of a new identity, Botolo Botolo is the man to call. Some say he emerged from the shadows fully formed, while others speculate that he's a former intelligence operative or corporate insider who went rogue. Whatever the truth may be, Botolo Botolo keeps his past hidden behind a carefully constructed veil of anonymity. He travels between his power bases in Dakar and Neo Babylon’s Undercity.

Auset (human, F)

Auset is a freelance operator and sometime assassin based in one of the mega towers in Dakar. She is driven by a sense of purpose and determination that borders on relentless. She is willing to risk life and limb to achieve her objectives, facing danger and adversity with steely resolve and unwavering courage. Auset is trained in ancient martial arts and modern combat techniques. She moves with grace and precision, striking swiftly and silently to eliminate her targets with lethal efficiency. Her cybernetic arm, equipped with advanced weaponry and stealth technology, gives her a decisive edge in any confrontation.