

Keystone (Socorro)

Keystone is an Oligarchical Police State formed when the city's corporate elite splintered from Las Cruces during the era of systemic federal abandonment, relocating to Socorro to preserve their wealth and influence. Governed like a corporation, Keystone operates with a strict focus on meritocracy and resource control, prioritizing efficiency, long-term stability, and the monetization of the region's waste stream. The Oligarchy controls all major decisions, with key sectors like logistics, trade, and private security overseen by a unified board of directors. Keystone views itself as a pragmatic beacon of order amid a neglected landscape, but its elitist, exclusionary policies and aggressive domination of external trade foster intense resentment among outsiders. The faction's ultimate strategic goal is to leverage its economic dominance, strategic alliances, and covert regional influence to amass enough capital and institutional leverage to formally apply for and be recognized as a sovereign Mega City by the federal government.

Keystone Overview

Origins

Keystone was founded by a group of **elite politicians, business leaders, and technologists** who fled **Las Cruces** as growing **egalitarian sentiment** threatened their influence. Seeking refuge in the abandoned city of **Socorro**, they established an enclave governed by **corporate-style efficiency**, prioritizing **survival** and **control**. Their first major success was the creation of a **biodiesel-powered fleet**, which allowed them to secure **vital resources** that others could not reach. Over time, they expanded their power through **bio-tech innovations, strategic trade leverage**, and **covert operations**, becoming a **dominant force** in the region.

Region

Keystone controls **Socorro** and its surrounding territories, extending its reach through **resource-gathering expeditions** as far as **Albuquerque**. These expeditions focus on salvaging valuable materials from **civic centers** and **industrial zones**. **Keystone** holds a **strategic position** in regional **trade**, providing rare and highly sought-after goods like **designer drugs, medications**, and **biodiesel**. Their trade is especially vital with **Las Cruces** and **Los Chingones**, where these products are in **high demand**.

Faction Type

Keystone is an **Oligarchical Police State**, where a small **elite** controls society through **subtle manipulation**, a **militarized security force**, and a sophisticated **technological infrastructure** that manages trade, resources, and state functions. The general population is constantly monitored, with **advancement** dependent on **loyalty**, **skill**, and **connections** to the regime. Technology and surveillance are central to maintaining order and ensuring compliance, as the **Oligarchy** subtly steers behavior, prioritizing **stability** and **efficiency**. While there are no formal rules, the implicit expectation of loyalty to the state governs social life, and those who rise through the hierarchy experience greater autonomy and **privileges**, with those closest to the regime gaining access to the most resources and liberties.

Leadership and Structure

Governance

Keystone is led by the **Board of Directors**, a small elite that holds **absolute control** over the faction's operations and strategic future. Viewing themselves as the practical architects of the region's stabilization, the Board governs society like a corporation. Their rule is maintained through a **militarized security force** and a sophisticated **surveillance infrastructure** that constantly monitors the population, manages state functions, and subtly steers public behavior to prioritize stability and efficiency.

While there are no formal rules, the implicit expectation of absolute loyalty to the state governs all social life. **Advancement** within Keystone's hierarchy is strictly meritocratic but dependent on a combination of **proven skill**, **loyalty**, and **connections to the regime**. Those who rise through the ranks are granted greater autonomy, distinct lifestyle **privileges**, and direct control over the faction's localized resources.

Hierarchy

Keystone's governance model is a rigid system where authority is concentrated at the top, with the **Board of Directors** and CEO holding ultimate power.

- **Board of Directors:** The ruling elite of Keystone, a select group of individuals who control all political and economic decision-making. They are the true power behind the aspiring state and maintain ultimate control over its governance, economy, and military strategy.
- **CEO:** The public face of Keystone, responsible for executing the will of the Oligarchy and overseeing the daily functioning of the city. While they hold significant executive power, their authority is derived from the Oligarchy and is aligned with their directives. They do not possess independent political power.
- **CEO's Inner Circle:** close group of top executives (such as CFO, CTO, and CIO) who manage key sectors like technology, trade, and security. These individuals hold significant

operational power within their areas but ultimately answer to the CEO and the Oligarchy, providing the necessary logistical and strategic support to maintain Keystone's systems.

- **Vice Presidents (VPs):** VPs manage the day-to-day operations within specific sectors (e.g., bio-tech, security, resource management). They are tasked with implementing the C-suite directives and managing the workforce under them, often through highly controlled and hierarchical structures within their respective divisions.
- **Skilled Laborers and Technicians:** Skilled professionals like engineers, doctors, and tech specialists who form the backbone of Keystone's functioning. They hold more respect and higher status than general workers but are still beholden to the Oligarchy's will, with limited opportunities for advancement unless they prove their value to the ruling class.
- **General Workers** "The working poor who perform basic services and manual labor necessary for the functioning of Keystone. They are tightly controlled and have minimal opportunities for advancement, living in a system that keeps them subjugated to the demands of the ruling elite.
- **Outsiders and Transients:** The outskirts of Keystone are filled with outsiders and transients hoping to gain access to the city. The state operates behind the scenes, acting as third-party facilitators to control who enters. Only those deemed desperate enough to comply or skilled enough to be of value are allowed in. This system ensures a workforce that is both dependent and tightly monitored, while preventing dissent from taking root within the city.

Leadership Conflict

While the **leadership** of **Keystone** is united in its core mission of **attaining statehood**, internal **rivalries** constantly bubble beneath the surface. The **Board of Directors**, though outwardly cohesive, is rife with **tension** regarding control over **day-to-day operations**. The **CEO** is bound to execute the **Board's directives**, but their **inner circle**, including the **CFO**, **CIO**, and **CTO**, wields considerable operational sway that frequently rivals the Board's authority.

VPs are routinely caught in these power struggles, serving as mid-level pawns whose loyalties shift alongside the **political landscape**. These fragile **alliances** fracture over **resource allocation**, the **management of external threats**, and control over vital assets like **technology**, **trade routes**, or **military initiatives**.

This continuous jockeying for position is masked by the enclave's cold, **utilitarian philosophy**. Outwardly presenting a unified front, **Keystone's governance** remains an undercurrent of subtle **manipulation** and hidden rifts.

Infrastructure

Technology

Keystone's **technological infrastructure** is built on a foundation of **salvaged legacy systems** and **recycled state refuse**, combined with targeted, **self-developed innovations**. Central to their hardware development are specialized **bio-tech laboratories** capable of synthesizing complex chemical compounds, **anesthesia**, and tailored **designer drugs**. For governance and security, the corporate enclave relies on dense **silicon compute nodes** running advanced **algorithmic processing** and **machine learning** matrices to optimize **resource allocation**, automate **surveillance**, and drive **predictive tracking** systems. Logistical mobility is maintained through a highly durable mechanical fleet specifically retrofitted to run on locally processed **biodiesel**.

Economy

Keystone's economy converts its industrial and technical capabilities into **regional market dominance** and **trade leverage** to fund its pursuit of statehood. The enclave functions as a massive processing hub, extracting raw value from **recycled state refuse** and converting it into highly sought-after medical goods, fuel, and luxury items. By maintaining a strict monopoly over the regional distribution of **biodiesel** and advanced pharmaceuticals, Keystone forces neighboring factions like **Las Cruces** and **Los Chingones** into an asymmetric trade dependency. This export-driven wealth fuels internal corporate development, funds their private security forces, and allows the Oligarchy to accumulate the massive capital reserves required to petition the federal government for official recognition.

Faction Culture

Core Philosophy

Keystone's core philosophy holds that **corporate governance and the state structure are the only correct vehicles for human progress**, seeing their model as the essential framework required to tame the Outlands. They believe that only those who **contribute meaningfully** to this structure, through technical skill, labor, or capital, deserve a place within it, while others are deemed an expendable drain on efficiency.

The Oligarchy does not see themselves as the sole architects of civilization on the continent, as they recognize and emulate the immense power of the actual Federated States. Rather, they view themselves as the **rightful, indispensable leaders of their territory**, explicitly mirroring the systems of the true states to prove they are worthy of joining them. Their dedication to strict meritocracy, stability, and resource control is designed to validate their right to rule and ultimately secure their own legitimate seat at the federal table.

Daily Life

Daily life in **Keystone** is sharply divided by **class**. The **elite** live in **luxurious districts** with **advanced technology**, **ample resources**, and **high living standards**. Their world is one of **comfort**, **security**, and **convenience**, far removed from the struggles of the **lower classes**.

Skilled workers and **middle managers** enjoy a relatively higher standard of living than others in the **Rio Grande Valley**. While their neighborhoods are **functional** rather than lavish, they have access to basic comforts such as reliable **healthcare** and **education**. These individuals are valued for their **skills** and contribute to **Keystone's infrastructure** and **economy**, but they are also under pressure to maintain **productivity** and **loyalty** to the **Oligarchy**.

In contrast, the **working poor** reside in **overcrowded**, under-resourced **outer districts**, where living conditions are harsh. While not destitute, these areas suffer from constant **shortages**, **poor infrastructure**, and **limited opportunities** for upward mobility. Many of the **poorest** work in low-wage, **labor-intensive jobs**, subject to the demands of the **Oligarchy**, and are kept in check by the constant presence of **security forces**.

Values and Customs

Keystone's culture is built around a core set of values that emphasize **loyalty**, **connections**, and **merit**, but these principles are often selectively applied. **Loyalty** to the **Oligarchy**, and particularly to the ruling factions, is paramount. The city projects a narrative of **meritocracy**, claiming that **hard work** and **skill** are the keys to success, but in reality, the ability to navigate the **political** and **social networks** of **Keystone** often holds more weight. Success is often determined by the **connections** you maintain rather than purely by individual effort, leading to a culture that rewards those who can demonstrate **allegiance** to the right factions or people. There is also a heavy emphasis on **technological advancement** and **innovation**, especially in the **elite districts**, where high-tech industries thrive. **Corporate pragmatism** governs the daily operations of **Keystone**, where decisions are made with an eye toward **efficiency**, **profit**, and the **preservation of power**. Those who embrace this pragmatic mindset are often rewarded with **prestige**, **power**, or **wealth**, while those who challenge the system are **marginalized** or **suppressed**.

Role of Women and Minorities

In **Keystone**, **gender** and **race** do not define one's place in society. The **Oligarchy's meritocratic system** values **loyalty**, **skill**, and **connections**, allowing individuals of any background to rise based on their abilities. **Women** and **minorities** hold prominent roles across the city, from **leadership** to **technical fields**, and opportunities for **advancement** are open to anyone who proves their worth.

However, while **Keystone** is driven by performance and **merit**, its **religious influence** creates taboos surrounding **sexual orientation** and **gender identity**. These aspects of identity are often met with **social stigma**; however, as individuals ascend into higher circles of power, there is generally less emphasis on these factors. Though there are no institutional barriers based on these

aspects of identity, the **societal norms** rooted in **religious doctrine** discourage open expression of diverse **sexuality** or **gender identities**. As a result, individuals who deviate from traditional norms may face subtle forms of **exclusion** or pressure to **conform**, even if they are otherwise highly capable.

Religion and Beliefs

Keystone's dominant religious belief is a form of **Christianity**, similar to **Southern Baptist traditions**, which emphasizes **sacrifice**, **submission to higher authorities**, and **family values**. This faith is widely practiced, particularly among the **working class**, where it provides a framework for enduring hardship and aligning individual **duty** with the needs of the **city**. The faith teaches the importance of **loyalty**, **obedience**, and **fairness**, which align well with the **Oligarchy's** focus on **order** and **control**.

While religious practice is genuine for many, it is also strategically encouraged by the **Oligarchy** as a tool to instill **submission** and a sense of **collective purpose**. The faith's emphasis on **loyalty** to higher powers mirrors the societal structure of **Keystone**, where **loyalty to the Oligarchy** is paramount.

Morality

Keystone's moral framework is **pragmatic** and **utilitarian**, prioritizing **survival** above all else. Decisions are made with **efficiency** in mind, often at the expense of outsiders or the less fortunate, and **class divisions** are rigid, with little room for social mobility unless someone proves their value to the faction.

Aesthetic and Design

Visual Style

Keystone's visual style highlights its **rigid class divisions**. The **elite districts** feature **refined, classical architecture**, with **polished facades**, **elegant materials**, and **high-tech amenities** that evoke power and privilege. These areas exude sophistication, with **grand structures**, **luxurious finishes**, and **pristine surfaces**, reflecting the Oligarchy's desire to transcend their status as an Outland enclave. In contrast, the **middle-class districts** are marked by **well-maintained infrastructure** that shows signs of **practical repair**. Existing structures are **cleaned up** and **mended**, with **repaired facades** and **reworked interiors** that speak to a focus on **functionality** and **sustainability**. **Solar panels** and **community gardens** integrate seamlessly into daily life, underscoring a blend of **comfort** and **resourcefulness**.

The **worker class districts** are the epitome of **utilitarianism**, built from **scavenged materials** and **pre-consolidation tech**. These areas are overcrowded, poorly maintained, and lack the luxury or creativity seen in the elite and middle-class zones. The emphasis here is purely on **survival**, narrow, cluttered streets, **makeshift homes**, and **basic infrastructure** define the worker class's environment. The **contrast** between the high-tech, pristine **elite districts** and the **cramped, resource-scarce worker areas** underscores the deep inequality in Keystone, with the aesthetic of each district reflecting its residents' role in the city's rigid social order.

Symbolism and Colors

Keystone's fashion and color choices reflect its **social hierarchy** and its obsession with institutional legitimacy. **Elite members** of Keystone dress to closely emulate the citizens of the **federated States**, wearing **tailored suits** or **custom corporate-military uniforms**, often in shades of **charcoal**, **black**, and **dark blue** to symbolize authority, executive power, and professionalism. Their clothing is sleek, immaculate, and designed to mirror modern state sophistication rather than Outland ruggedness. **Stylized accessories** like high-tier **silicon compute wearables**, **augmented reality glasses**, or proprietary **corporate wristbands** are common, emphasizing their wealth and access to advanced imported technology. These individuals pride themselves on presenting a polished, state-ready image, aligning with Keystone's drive to prove it belongs among the federated powers.

The **middle class**, in contrast, opts for more **practical and functional clothing**. They wear **modular outfits** like **utility jackets**, **reinforced work boots**, and **cargo pants**, often in **muted earth tones**: **grays**, **browns**, and **deep greens**. This reflects their balance between **efficiency** and **comfort**, highlighting their relative prosperity without the extravagance of the elite. Clothing in these areas is often **durable** and **designed for utility**, with many individuals sporting **tool belts** or **gear holsters** as part of their everyday attire.

For the **working class**, the emphasis is on **industrial endurance and practicality**. They wear **basic, worn clothing**, usually **overalls**, **tattered shirts**, and **sturdy boots**; often in **faded blues**, **rusty oranges**, or **grays** that reflect the industrial, labor-intensive nature of their jobs. Clothing here is often **secondhand** or **scavenged from pre-consolidation tech lines**, with many residents opting to wear anything that offers durability. While not particularly fashionable, there's a certain **resourcefulness** to the way the working class adapts their clothing, often **patching up** or **reinventing** worn-out garments. These individuals may also personalize their outfits with **makeshift accessories** or **homemade insignia**, marking their status within the worker community.

Unique Features

Keystone's design reflects a blend of frontier pragmatism and an ambition to mirror the federated States. The **elite districts** are an artificial vision of modernity, with **polished streets**, **clean lines**, and **high-tech infrastructure** designed to evoke a sense of corporate luxury. These areas are filled with **well-maintained buildings** that are heavily fortified but designed to look sleek and

executive, featuring **digital displays** that advertise everything from city-wide updates to corporate-sponsored propaganda. **Data streams** and **interactive screens** are embedded in the architecture, constantly feeding information to those who live in these areas. At street level, **commercial districts** are carefully curated to appeal to visiting traders and federal officials, with **shops, restaurants, and public spaces** designed to look prosperous and organized, offering a glimpse of a state-ready metropolis, albeit one carefully manufactured for appearance.

In contrast, the **lower districts** are a far cry from the gleaming upper levels. These areas are marked by **scrappy, utilitarian housing** and **functional public infrastructure**, with heavily industrialized zones that are barely maintained. The streets are congested with **sparse lighting, broken signage, and pre-consolidation tech**, which gives the area a rough, worn-in aesthetic. The **biomes** and **hydroponic farms** that dot the city are functional but utilitarian, designed entirely to serve the practical needs of the industrial workforce rather than beauty. Keystone's overall design reflects the sharp **contrast between the high-tech veneer** of the elite and the rough, industrial reality of the lower classes, with a constant tension between the institutional legitimacy they seek to project and the frontier reality they are forced to endure.

Keystone History

The Exodus to Socorro

After escalating tensions between municipal workers and elites in Las Cruces, a group of elite leaders, business figures, and technocrats fled to Socorro. This marked the beginning of Keystone's formation as an oligarchic enclave with a focus on stability and corporate-style governance, driven by a long-term ambition to pacify the territory and petition the federal government for official statehood.

Arrival and Rebuilding Efforts

When Keystone's leadership arrived in Socorro, the city lay in stagnation, choked by crumbling pre-consolidation structures, toxic industrial runoff, and scattered debris from the sudden municipal retreat. With limited internal personnel, Keystone turned to external labor, recruiting workers from nearby independent settlements in the surrounding region. These desperate laborers, many displaced locals or refugees from abandoned territory, were tasked with clearing hazardous chemical spill zones, removing structural hazards, and helping restore basic infrastructure like **power** and **water**. Their efforts were vital to the city's immediate stabilization, and while the work was grueling and dangerous, it provided them with a chance to secure food, shelter, and a small degree of stability.

Attracting A Workforce

When Keystone first established its presence in Socorro, the leadership faced the challenge of reclaiming an abandoned city with limited resources. To attract labor, they offered a **golden handshake**: workers who joined the reclamation effort were promised **middle-management roles** after a set period of service, but with a catch; **advancement** depended on recruiting more workers into the fold, creating a **pyramid scheme** structure. Those who brought in the most recruits earned higher status and better living conditions, while failure to meet quotas resulted in demotion or loss of privileges. This system not only fueled rapid growth but also bound workers to the city through **loyalty** and **competition**, setting the foundation for Keystone's rigid, **corporate hierarchy**.

Formation of the Lower Class

As Socorro stabilized, the external laborers who helped rebuild the city became Keystone's **working class**. Those who had recruited others were rewarded with **middle management** roles, overseeing the new arrivals. However, the last wave of recruits, the **bottom-level workers** who had no connections or recruits of their own, were relegated to the **lower class**. While their labor was vital to Keystone's recovery, their opportunities for advancement were minimal. They remained in the most grueling, menial jobs, with no access to the rewards of loyalty and recruitment, and their status was locked at the very bottom of the city's rigid social hierarchy.

Establishment of Resource-Gathering Fleet

Keystone established a fleet of **retrofit diesel vehicles** powered by **biodiesel**, enabling long-range resource-gathering expeditions. Initially, they scavenged used cooking oil and **corn whiskey** for biodiesel. As they set up farms, Keystone began growing both **corn** and **sunflowers**, using the crops for both **food** and **fuel**. This approach ensured a steady supply of resources, boosting Keystone's self-sufficiency while supporting vital operations like **scrap metal** recovery and **scavenged technology** acquisition.

Consolidation of Power in the Region

As Keystone's infrastructure began to stabilize, its leaders quickly turned their attention to consolidating power through the control of critical resources, particularly **biodiesel** and **advanced medical supplies**. The arrival of **retrofit diesel vehicles**, powered by their own biodiesel, and **anesthesia** sparked confusion and suspicion in neighboring settlements. How had this elite enclave, once fleeing the growing egalitarian sentiment of Las Cruces, suddenly returned as a dominant trade player? With these valuable resources in hand, Keystone leveraged their control over fuel and medical supplies to gain influence in trade negotiations, positioning themselves as a powerful force in the region. The speed and success of their economic resurgence only deepened the mystery of how they had managed such a dramatic turnaround, and what they truly intended for the future.

Keystone's Internal Class Divides Solidify

The **Upper Class** in Keystone emerged from the **golden handshakes** given to early workers, who were elevated to managerial roles as part of the city reconstruction. As the city grew more prosperous, these middle managers began to distance themselves from the **working class**, adopting a more elite status and increasingly mirroring the **Oligarchs** they served. In doing so, they sought to differentiate themselves through **status**, privileges, and authority, effectively sealing off access to the upper tiers of society. The original workers, now viewed as “**less than**” by the new Upper Class, found it increasingly difficult to rise, even if they demonstrated merit. The divide deepened as the **Upper Class** reinforced their position, making the idea of **meritocracy** a tool to justify inequality while trapping the **lower classes** in a rigid social structure.

Keystone's Expanding Security Forces

As **Keystone** grew, so did its divisions, and to protect the city resources, the security forces expanded rapidly. Initially relying on **brutal tactics** and **high-casualty operations**, the force evolved into a mix of **militarized aggression** and more calculated methods to maintain order. This fusion of raw force and systemic control deepened the divide between the **Upper Class** and the **Lower Class**, fueling unrest as the latter endured increasingly oppressive measures to keep the elite's dominance intact.

The Strain on Security Forces

In response, the **security apparatus** grew **increasingly brutal**, with **enhanced drugs** and **psychological conditioning** used to control and suppress the rising unrest. Officers were pushed to their limits, required to **quell protests** and enforce loyalty, even as the strain of their duties took a toll on their mental well-being. The force became **highly efficient**, but their psychological stability began to fray. **Depersonalized** by their use of **drugs** and increasingly **isolated** from the broader community, security officers became more volatile and unpredictable, reflecting the growing **tensions** that simmered in the city.

Keystone Internal Divisions

Keystone's governance model is an oligarchical police state, with power concentrated in the hands of a small elite, the Board of Directors, who make all political, economic, and military decisions. The CEO, as the public face, executes the Board's directives but lacks independent authority. The leadership structure extends through various layers, including the CEO's Inner Circle and Vice Presidents who manage specific sectors. Governance is maintained through a militarized security force, surveillance, and a rigid hierarchy where advancement depends on loyalty, skills, and connections to the ruling class. This system is designed to prioritize stability and control, using coercion and manipulation to suppress dissent and ensure the dominance of the elite. The society is highly stratified, with the general population living under constant surveillance and limited freedoms, while the elite enjoy considerable autonomy and privilege.

Enforcers

- Division: Security
- Head of Department: Chief Security Officer (CSO)

The **Enforcers** are Keystone Corporation's **security and operations division**, tasked with maintaining strict order through **direct action**. They manage the **detention system**, overseeing citizens who have committed **minor infractions** or crimes, particularly those **too valuable to expel**. In **Enforcer-run facilities**, these individuals face **re-education**, with their movements and behaviors tightly controlled until they are either reintegrated or permanently excluded.

For **serious offenses**, such as **treason**, **rebellion**, or **insurrection**, the **Enforcers** act with immediate and **brutal force**, employing **violent suppression** and **execution** to eliminate the threat. Their tactics focus on **instant neutralization**, ensuring no challenge to the Oligarchy's control goes unpunished. The **Enforcers** are the **muscle** of Keystone, carrying out swift **enforcement** and **elimination** as necessary.

To enhance their performance, the **Enforcers** rely on **stimulants** and **pain suppressants**, boosting their **speed**, **aggression**, and **resilience** during high-risk operations. However, these substances take a toll on their **long-term health** and **mental stability**, leading to **physical deterioration** and **psychological strain** over time.

Patriot Network

- Division: Human Resources
- Head of Department: Chief Compliance Officer (CCO)

The **Patriot Network** is a covert agency that combines **intelligence gathering**, **loyalty enforcement**, and **labor management** within Keystone. Operating seamlessly across the city, it monitors **citizen loyalty** across all classes, including the **Upper Class**, **Working Class**, and the outer **transient camps**, through **covert surveillance** and **subtle manipulation**. The Network continuously evaluates individuals for their **workforce potential**, integrating the compliant while **screening out threats** to the regime.

In the outer **transient camps**, the **Patriot Network** deploys **covert operatives** posing as independent, third-party labor brokers, offering **food**, **shelter**, and pathways to employment. Through these predatory interactions, they secretly **monitor** desperate outsiders, selecting those who are either thoroughly broken into compliance or possess **useful skills** for the corporate hierarchy. These selected recruits are absorbed into the **workforce**, while the unviable majority remains trapped in **controlled poverty**, their chances of formal incorporation kept deliberately out of reach.

The **Patriot Network** also conducts **external espionage** and **influence campaigns**, manipulating rival factions and destabilizing potential threats to Keystone's interests. Through a combination of **intelligence operations** and **economic influence**, the Network ensures the

Oligarchy's supremacy both within Keystone and across the regional territory.

The Imaginists

- Division: Marketing & Branding
- Head of Department: Chief Marketing Officer (CMO)

The **Marketing & Branding Division** shapes both the public perception and internal culture of Keystone Corporation. Externally, they craft the image of a **meritocratic** and **stable society**, promoting the idea that success is earned through **hard work** and **individual effort**. This narrative emphasizes the **prosperity** and **security** provided by the Oligarchy, ensuring citizens believe in opportunities for **advancement** and **personal achievement**.

Internally, the division controls **propaganda** through **psychological operations (PsyOps)**, reinforcing loyalty to the Oligarchy. They run **loyalty campaigns** that stress the idea that **obedience** and **efficiency** lead to success, creating a **compliant workforce** where advancement is tied to alignment with the regime. Through **advertisements**, **slogans**, and **mass media**, they embed the Oligarchy's **meritocratic ideals** in the hearts and minds of every citizen.

Logistics

- Division: Logistics Division
- Head of Department: Chief Operating Officer (COO)

The **Logistics Division** is Keystone's powerhouse for economic control, tasked with managing both **legal** and **illicit** trade to ensure the Oligarchy's dominance in all markets. It regulates the flow of **resources**, **contraband**, and **goods**, overseeing **supply chains**, **inventory**, and **trade routes**. The division operates with the goal of maintaining absolute control over all forms of commerce, ensuring both legitimate and black-market activities are monitored and regulated. Through covert operations, **Supply Chain Controllers** suppress any unauthorized distribution of goods and maintain the Oligarchy's monopoly.

In addition to its core trade responsibilities, the **Logistics Division** is heavily involved in **resource extraction** and raw harvest. This includes overseeing the **farming** of essential crops and the reclamation of raw chemical components, ensuring the population remains supplied with basic sustenance while reinforcing the Oligarchy's control over critical inputs. Additionally, the division is tasked with the raw **scavenging and transport** of both **pre-consolidation tech** and **recycled state refuse**, hauling valuable bulk scrap from regional waste streams back to the city to secure a strategic advantage.

The division also facilitates **quasi-legal trade** with external factions like **Los Chingones**, ensuring Keystone's strategic economic interests are safeguarded. By controlling every aspect of distribution and intake management, **Logistics** consolidates the Oligarchy's economic power, securing its hold over both the **public** and **private sectors**, and further reinforcing the regime's stability.

The Foundry

- Division: Manufacturing & Product Development
- Head of Department: Chief Product Officer (CPO)

The Foundry oversees the entire life-cycle of product creation and engineering at Keystone Corporation, taking the raw inputs secured by Logistics and transforming them into finished assets. The division is responsible for a wide range of output, including **everyday consumer goods**, **biodiesel creation**, **designer drugs**, **advanced pharmaceuticals**, and **weapons innovation**. By refining **pre-consolidation tech** and processing **recycled state refuse** alongside their own scientific advancements, The Foundry ensures Keystone remains at the forefront of both essential and specialized product lines that reinforce the Oligarchy's control.

Among its primary responsibilities, **The Foundry** processes **performance enhancers**, **mood regulators**, and **mind-altering substances** that maintain **social compliance** and **economic productivity** within the workforce. The division also develops **advanced medical drugs** like **anesthesia** and leads **weapons innovation**, re-engineering salvaged military components and security systems that uphold Keystone's power. With complete oversight over product fabrication, **The Foundry** ensures that every manufactured asset serves the regime's interests, whether controlling the populace or enhancing the Oligarchy's technological superiority.

Urban Builders

- Division: Infrastructure & Construction
- Head of Department: Chief Infrastructure Officer (CIO)

The **Urban Builders** division is responsible for the **construction**, **maintenance**, and **monitoring** of all **city infrastructure** within Keystone. This includes managing the **design**, **construction**, and **repair** of the city's **transportation networks**, **energy grids**, **water systems**, and **sanitation facilities**. They ensure the city's **physical framework** is constantly maintained, updated, and expanded to support the **Oligarchy's vision** of control and productivity.

Additionally, the division oversees large-scale **urban development projects** that shape the growth of residential, industrial, and commercial zones. These projects are strategically planned to reinforce the **class system**, with areas designated for the **elite**, **upper-class**, and **lower-class** populations. By utilizing **advanced construction techniques**, including **repurposed Old World technologies**, the **Urban Builders** ensure that Keystone is a self-sustaining, **efficient** city, with a focus on **strategic profitability** and **class segregation**. Their oversight extends to **construction standards**, managing **urban sprawl**, and maintaining the **Oligarchy's control** over urban expansion.

Internal Politics

In Keystone, achieving goals is a political game played within a highly compartmentalized corporate structure. Each division operates autonomously, with its own internal power dynamics, strict gatekeepers, and isolated budgets. To get anything done, an individual must first identify the correct division and navigate its unique bureaucracy, aligning the request directly with that department's specific corporate priorities. Success depends entirely on building tactical alliances, framing requests to fit the division's localized goals, and offering reciprocal operational benefits. Divisions routinely hoard resources and resist lateral cooperation, creating constant bureaucratic hurdles and protective turf wars. If blocked, an individual must strategically escalate the issue or leverage internal allies to force the request through. Within Keystone, corporate influence and strategic maneuvering entirely replace traditional civic politics, and fierce loyalty within individual divisions is the primary key to survival and progress.

The Disillusioned

The **Disillusioned** are working class laborers who once believed that absolute institutional loyalty would lead to a better life, but now find themselves permanently trapped at the bottom of Keystone's exploitative social hierarchy. Seeing no legal pathway to advancement, many turn to the regional **black market** for survival and economic autonomy, believing that their defiance is a direct blow against the Oligarchy.

Unknowingly, their subterranean activities, including smuggling, supply chain disruption, and covert deals with rival Outland factions, are routinely monitored and manipulated by the **Patriot Network**. The Chief Compliance Officer's agents deliberately use these underground operations as controlled traps to identify hidden liabilities, gather external intelligence, and further tighten Keystone's regional control.

While the general working class feels deep empathy toward their plight, the increasingly radical methods of the Disillusioned, including violent sabotage against corporate assets, deeply alienate more moderate laborers who fear losing their precarious lifestyles. Though their uncoordinated rebellions are systematically crushed by the **Enforcers** using overwhelming, drug-fueled kinetic force, the Disillusioned remain a persistent source of internal friction, constantly testing the limits of the city's corporate surveillance grid.

Autarkic Nationalists

The **Autarkic Nationalists** are a more **reactionary** faction that sees Keystone's **reliance on external trade** and **Outland connections** as a dangerous structural vulnerability. They argue that the fastest, most infallible path to **attaining statehood** is for the enclave to become **completely self-sufficient in food, fuel, and critical resources** before petitioning the federal government. They believe that **focusing inward, building domestic infrastructure, and severing dependencies on untrustworthy outside factions** like Los Chingones would protect the city from external shocks and allow the Oligarchy to **consolidate control** more effectively.

To prove to the Bureau of Land Management and the Treasury that Keystone possesses a perfectly stable, autonomous tax and resource base, this faction pushes for the **militarization of agriculture, aggressive local resource extraction**, and the **development of closed-loop systems**. They champion a **fortress mentality** where Keystone produces everything it needs internally, arguing that presenting the federal government with a flawless, completely self-reliant territory is the ultimate way to force the United States to grant them official statehood.

Technosophists

This faction advocates for fully embracing absolute **technology and automation** across all sectors, believing that mirroring the technological order of the federated States is the definitive pathway to progress and institutional legitimacy. They envision a future where Keystone achieves statehood by systematically replicating the advanced infrastructure of the existing states, deploying extensive **algorithmic processing, automated logistics networks, and biotechnological enhancements** to maximize systemic output.

Their goal is to use imported and reverse-engineered state tech to **optimize human assets**, drastically improving labor productivity, industrial yield, and overall municipal efficiency. By integrating these advanced systems into daily operations, they believe Keystone can eliminate frontier chaos and present the federal government with a flawlessly synchronized, highly advanced economy. Their vision is one of total **technological integration**, where the enclave abandons crude Outland mechanics to operate completely in tandem with the established, automated standards of the federated States.

Stability-Centric Conservatives

This faction is focused on maintaining the **existing power structures** in Keystone, prioritizing **social stability** and **preserving the established order** at all costs. They argue that **Keystone's internal system of control is fragile** and must be **shielded from any destabilizing forces**, whether from internal labor discontent or external pressures. Crucially, they believe that the preservation of Keystone's current corporate hierarchy is more important than even the pursuit of statehood. They fear that mutating the enclave's laws or opening their borders to meet federal compliance criteria will dilute the Oligarchy's absolute power and introduce catastrophic external vulnerabilities.

Rather than gamble their security on a push for statehood, they advocate for a **conservative approach**, shoring up **internal social control mechanisms** to permanently lock down the existing framework. They push for more **rigorous policing, tighter surveillance**, and **increased military presence** to suppress any signs of unrest. The key principle here is **order above all else**, ensuring that the **Oligarchy's rule** remains unchallenged through a **network of repression** that ensures **complete conformity**. They emphasize **loyalty** to the local regime as the ultimate value, viewing external federal entanglements and internal dissent as equal threats to their survival.

Internal Prospectus

Strengths

Keystone's leadership structure combines strategic oversight with decentralized execution. The **CEO** and the **Board of Directors** work together to establish long-term goals and strategic direction, ensuring all divisions align with the corporation's overarching vision. Each division is given significant autonomy to develop its own methods for achieving these goals, fostering innovation and adaptability. However, this autonomy is carefully monitored through rigorous performance checks, with regular reviews and **KPIs** ensuring that even the most independent divisions stay on track and remain accountable to the larger corporate vision. This balance of freedom and oversight drives both creativity and efficiency, allowing Keystone to maintain control while encouraging experimentation.

Internal competition among divisions is a key strength that drives innovation and efficiency. With each faction vying for resources and influence, divisions are highly motivated to excel. The CEO and Board encourage this competition as a way to maximize Keystone's potential. Divisions that outperform others are often rewarded with greater resources, creating a meritocratic system where the best ideas and strategies rise to the top. This dynamic fuels creativity within each division and pushes them to outdo one another, resulting in an environment of continuous improvement.

Finally, Keystone's bureaucratic structure provides a sense of order and clarity. With well-defined hierarchical layers and clear lines of communication, Keystone ensures that decision-making is streamlined, and authority is unambiguous. The **Board** plays an active role in overseeing the performance of all divisions, and this robust system of checks and balances helps mitigate potential issues. While the system can be rigid at times, it also serves to maintain a degree of consistency and control over Keystone's operations.

Weaknesses

Despite its strengths, Keystone's structure does have its drawbacks, particularly when it comes to cohesion between divisions. The autonomy granted to each division can sometimes lead to fragmentation and internal misalignment. While the CEO and Board work to ensure strategic alignment, the independent nature of each division means that their goals and methods may sometimes conflict. For instance, the **Enforcers'** aggressive tactics could directly clash with the **Imaginists'** more subtle and manipulative marketing approach, creating structural tensions that affect Keystone's overall cohesion and ability to execute a unified vision.

Another significant issue for Keystone is the internal power struggles that arise due to the intense competition between divisions. Each faction is vying not just for resources but for status and influence within the hierarchy, leading to power struggles that can sometimes hinder operational progress. Divisional heads routinely attempt to sabotage each other or manipulate KPIs to gain favor with the CEO or Board, resulting in severe inefficiencies and a lack of collaboration. These

internal conflicts drain resources and lead to divisions working at cross-purposes, undermining the overall effectiveness of the corporate state.

There's also the matter of **substance abuse**, particularly within the **Enforcers**, who engage in heavy drug use to fuel their aggressive and violent deployment strategies. While this provides temporary boosts in tactical speed and focus, it frequently leads to erratic behavior and reduces operational effectiveness over time. This chemical dependency not only creates potential for violent incidents within the division, but it also jeopardizes Keystone's manufactured public image of absolute stability. The CEO and Board work to manage these systemic problems, but the risk of an catastrophic internal meltdown always looms, creating additional tension within the organization.

Keystone's over reliance on **KPIs** and regular performance reviews, while vital for maintaining vertical accountability, creates significant bottlenecks in decision-making. The need for constant approvals and data reporting slows down the company's organizational agility, particularly during fast-moving crises or frontier shifts. Additionally, the corporate focus on meeting short-term targets encourages divisions to prioritize immediate metrics over sustainable, long-term impact. This intense pressure leads to systematic metric manipulation, where divisions present inflated success figures, severely undermining the integrity of the data relied upon by the CEO and Board to make informed strategic decisions.

Keystone's strict control over internal operations may mask a growing vulnerability outside the corporate perimeter. The deep social and economic divide between the elite Oligarchy and the marginalized working class or transient camp populations fosters a boiling resentment. This rage could easily be exploited by organized crime, rival external forces, or radicalized laborers. Despite Keystone's efforts to maintain total control, these class divisions remain an ever-present systemic risk, and they could become an explosive powder keg if manipulated by outside actors looking to disrupt their infrastructure.

Finally, the extreme autonomy given to each division introduces the risk of severe reputational damage if one faction's actions format an open contradiction to Keystone's broader marketing image. A rogue, sloppy operation by the **Patriot Network**; such as an exposed labor entrapment scandal or a leaked internal surveillance memo; could completely compromise Keystone's standing with visiting federal officials. Despite the CEO's ability to mitigate immediate fallout, such corporate exposure risks permanently derailing their petition for official statehood.

Tensions

Keystone's reliance on external trade and contraband generates friction with factions like the Autarkic Nationalists, who view such dependencies as a betrayal of the city's self-reliant ideals. This ideological divide threatens to polarize public opinion and destabilize support for Keystone's current direction.

The clash between the Technosophists' push for advanced automation and the Foundry's focus on practical, incremental solutions reflects deeper philosophical rifts about Keystone's future. These

debates fuel innovation but also exacerbate factional divisions, delaying consensus on critical projects.

Keystone External Relations

Keystone's external relations are characterized by a complex web of alliances, rivalries, and economic dependencies that reflect the broader geopolitical instability of the region. As a powerful oligarchy, Keystone's primary concern is securing its statehood through strategic trade, technological superiority, and military advancements. However, rising tensions with key allies, increasing autonomy of strategic partners, and intensifying competition from regional factions are placing its position of power at significant risk. While Keystone maintains a strong central position, these external pressures are eroding its ability to shape the region's future.

Las Cruces

Keystone's relationship with **Las Cruces** has been mutually beneficial, but the faction's growing **autonomy** is eroding Keystone's traditional leverage. As Las Cruces builds its **self-sufficiency** and strengthens its **external trade networks**, its reliance on Keystone's **advanced pharmaceuticals, recycled state refuse, and biodiesel** continues to decrease, weakening Keystone's influence.

In response, Keystone has shifted its tactics to a more **subtle, indirect form of control**. Keystone leverages the **Patriot Network** to subtly infiltrate key sectors of Las Cruces' economy, such as its **trade councils, labor cooperatives, and resource management groups**. Through operatives planted in these sectors, Keystone fosters **frivolous debates** and **internal conflicts**, often over inconsequential issues or **overly complex trade terms**, effectively stalling progress and delaying decisions within Las Cruces' consensus-driven framework.

While these distractions play out, Keystone paints itself as the **patient, benevolent partner**, offering its support without forcing an agenda. Meanwhile, **Las Cruces' internal cohesion** begins to fray as Keystone's operatives continue to subtly push the rival into a state of **political indecision**, ensuring that the enclave remains tethered to Keystone's economic influence. However, this tactic is high-risk; if Las Cruces' leaders become aware of the manipulation, the fragile alliance could collapse, leaving Keystone vulnerable to a shift in power.

Meanwhile, Keystone subtly inflates the threat of lawlessness through **media broadcasts** and **expert commentary**, promoting the idea that the Rio Grande Valley region must strengthen its **defense**. While the open frontier threat has diminished due to **Los Chingones** consolidating power, Keystone fosters a sense of vulnerability, subtly encouraging the region to invest in **military readiness**.

This push for militarization serves Keystone's interests by creating a **defensive buffer** against potential **Los Chingones** aggression. However, the risk is that a more **militarized** region could

eventually become a stronger, more independent force, potentially shifting the balance of power. For now, Keystone tolerates this risk, seeing a well-armed frontier neighbor as preferable to the threat of a cartel-driven **Los Chingones** expansion.

Los Chingones

Keystone's relationship with **Los Chingones** is a covert, strategically driven alliance. While Keystone doesn't require the cartel's luxury goods, intelligence, or illicit products for its own operations, these resources serve a larger purpose; keeping **Los Chingones** within Keystone's sphere of influence. In exchange, Keystone supplies **biodiesel**, **medical supplies**, and **weapons**; weapons more advanced than what the cartel could acquire elsewhere, though still below Keystone's own front line technology.

The true value of this arrangement lies in the **leverage** it gives Keystone. By ensuring **Los Chingones** remain dependent on Keystone's critical supplies, Keystone maintains subtle control, preventing the cartel from becoming a direct threat. However, as **Los Chingones** expand their reach through **extortion** and **exploitation** of local settlements, they begin encroaching on areas Keystone once sought to influence. Their growing control over these territories challenges Keystone's long-term strategy.

As **Los Chingones** extract more from these towns and frontier enclaves, their influence grows, and with it, the risk to Keystone's delicate control over the region. While the cartel's tactics may not pose an immediate military threat, their expanding economic power shifts the balance, making it harder for Keystone to reclaim influence without drawing unwanted federal or regional attention.

The biggest risk to this covert arrangement, however, lies in the potential **exposure** of Keystone's dealings. If **Las Cruces** or visiting federal officials were to uncover the nature of Keystone's support for the cartel, it could provoke a severe backlash. Such exposure would instantly jeopardize Keystone's carefully curated image of absolute stability and permanently derail their petition for statehood.

Thus, while the alliance with **Los Chingones** serves Keystone's immediate strategic goals, the cartel's growing power is becoming a significant complication. If **Los Chingones** continue to expand their influence unchecked, their ambitions may soon undermine Keystone's own regional control, forcing Keystone to confront a rival it never intended to empower.

The Independent Towns

As independent towns along the **Rio Grande Valley** reclaim abandoned settlements, Keystone sees an opportunity to exert economic dominance without directly occupying these communities. The city's strategy involves explicitly trying to mimic the **Resource Vertical camps** operated by the actual States, establishing their own crude, inferior imitations of these corporate-run outposts to dominate essential localized markets. By deploying these knock-off vertical footprints, Keystone subtly undermines local commerce and creates a profound structural dependency, ensuring that raw material profits flow directly back to the city while maintaining a false veneer of independence

in the towns.

To secure these investments, the **Patriot Network** works behind the scenes, using covert surveillance and psychological manipulation to monitor the loyalty of these communities. The Network's agents infiltrate local council structures and labor pools, ensuring that any anti-corporate dissent or attempts at genuine autonomy are quickly neutralized. By gathering actionable intelligence and subtly shaping local trade policies, the Patriot Network helps maintain Keystone's grip without overt military intervention, ensuring that these towns stay economically tethered to the city's vertical supply lines.

However, this strategy carries significant risks. If Keystone pushes its vertical integration too aggressively, it could completely alienate these communities, pushing them directly toward alternatives like **Los Chingones**, who offer protection without imposing corporate governance. Keystone must carefully balance its predatory vertical approach with the towns' desire for independence to avoid driving them into rival hands. The enclave must ensure the town economies remain locked into Keystone's dominance, while the Patriot Network ensures that these connections stay secure.

External Prospectus

Keystone's external relations are strengthened by strategic alliances with Las Cruces and Los Chingones, leveraging subtle control through the Patriot Network, technological superiority, and economic influence to maintain regional dominance. However, growing autonomy in Las Cruces, the risk of exposure in its dealings with Los Chingones, and the potential alienation of independent towns all threaten the stability of Keystone's influence in the region.

Strengths

Keystone's external relations benefit from calculated alliances with key regional players like **Las Cruces** and **Los Chingones**. Despite Las Cruces growing more autonomous, it remains a critical partner for trade and technological distribution. Keystone maintains subtle control through the **Patriot Network**, which systematically influences Las Cruces' internal politics without overt military interference. This allows Keystone to keep its neighbor economically and politically tethered to its sphere while appearing as a patient, supportive ally.

The alliance with **Los Chingones**, though covert, also provides valuable strategic leverage. By supplying the cartel with essential resources, including **biodiesel**, **medical supplies**, and **weapons**, Keystone ensures Los Chingones remain structurally dependent, preventing them from gaining full autonomy. This subtle control reduces the risk of the cartel becoming a direct threat to Keystone's regional interests.

Keystone's **economic influence** over independent towns in the Rio Grande Valley strengthens its position without direct territorial control. Through crude imitations of the States' **Resource**

Vertical camps, Keystone creates profound dependencies, ensuring that profits flow back to the city while these communities appear independent. The **Patriot Network** supports this by monitoring local governance, neutralizing dissent, and maintaining Keystone's influence from behind the scenes.

Additionally, Keystone's **technological and military superiority** ensures it remains the dominant player in regional security. By trading out advanced weaponry and refined chemical assets while keeping its own front line technology entirely proprietary, Keystone strengthens its partnerships and prevents rivals from gaining matching capabilities, solidifying its central role in the frontier's power dynamics.

Weaknesses

Keystone's regional influence is increasingly threatened by the **growing autonomy of Las Cruces**. As Las Cruces builds its own trade networks and reduces its reliance on Keystone, the city risks losing critical economic leverage. The subtle manipulation via the Patriot Network could backfire catastrophically if Las Cruces' leadership discovers it, leading to a total breakdown in the alliance and a loss of strategic influence.

The **covert relationship** with **Los Chingones** also presents severe risks. If Keystone's material and weapons support of the cartel were exposed to visiting federal officials, it could instantly derail their petition for statehood and destroy their reputation for absolute stability. Furthermore, as Los Chingones expand their territorial control and economic power through extortion, their growing strength could directly undermine Keystone's long-term strategy, forcing Keystone into a confrontation with a rival it actively helped empower.

Keystone's reliance on the **Patriot Network** for covert control introduces immense fragility into its strategy. While effective in the short term, these indirect tactics are vulnerable to exposure. If local leaders or rival factions discover Keystone's systemic interference, it could erode its credibility, provoke regional resistance, and ruin its standing with the federal government.

Finally, Keystone's **economic dominance** over independent towns via its crude imitations of Resource Verticals risks alienating local populations. If these communities perceive Keystone's tactics as overly exploitative, they may shift their allegiance entirely to rivals like Los Chingones, who offer protection without imposing direct corporate control. This delicate balance leaves Keystone's entire outer trade framework vulnerable to sudden regional shifts.

Keystone Goals

Short-Term Goals

In the short term, Keystone's primary focus is on stabilizing its internal systems and maintaining its dominance in the region amid rising external tensions. There is an urgent need to ensure the stability of key resource flows, particularly from **Las Cruces** and **Los Chingones**, while also consolidating power through internal divisions such as the **Patriot Network**, **Imaginists**, and **The Foundry**.

Strengthen Leverage Over Las Cruces

Keystone must take swift action to reinforce its control over the supply of essential resources like **food** and **raw materials** from **Las Cruces**. As Las Cruces becomes more self-sufficient, the faction poses a growing challenge to Keystone's regional dominance. In response, Keystone will offer targeted incentives, including access to advanced **medical technology**, **designer drugs**, and **biodiesel**, to keep Las Cruces dependent. These economic ties will ensure that Las Cruces remains reliant on Keystone for its continued stability.

To further cement control, the **Patriot Network** will deepen its influence within Las Cruces by manipulating the local trade councils and leadership circles. With their presence embedded in these key groups, they can ensure that any alliances formed with rival factions or movements that threaten Keystone's power are quickly neutralized. Simultaneously, the **Imaginists** will engage in a subtle campaign of public persuasion, using media broadcasts and propaganda to portray Keystone as the protector of **Las Cruces' prosperity**. This media influence will be crucial in suppressing any localized unrest or movements seeking absolute independence from their trade loop.

Maintaining Market Share

As **Los Chingones** expands, **Keystone** faces a critical **opportunity loss** that directly threatens its long-term political survival. The cartel's increasing control over independent towns and settlements redirects value away from Keystone, depriving it of the economic benefits it once extracted from these regions. With the cartel siphoning off the wealth that would have bolstered Keystone's economy, the enclave's strategic position weakens, directly making **attaining statehood** far more difficult. To satisfy federal requirements, Keystone must prove it can maintain a wealthy, stable, and autonomous territory; a metric that becomes impossible to hit if Los Chingones dominates the regional market share.

Keystone cannot afford direct military conflict with **Los Chingones**, as a messy frontier war would signal chaos to federal observers and permanently ruin their image of absolute stability. The cartel's influence grows without overt confrontation, forcing Keystone to rely on subtle tactics to retain its economic foothold. By using the **Patriot Network** to discreetly support local leadership and communities, through measures like providing cheap arms, bolstering defenses, or spreading propaganda to promote self-reliance, Keystone can slow the cartel's encroachment, preserving its vital share of regional value without drawing unwanted attention.

However, this delicate approach is fraught with severe risks. Too much interference could expose Keystone's hand, provoking both **Los Chingones** and the very towns it seeks to manipulate. Keystone must carefully balance its covert efforts to prevent catastrophic opportunity loss, knowing that a single misstep could trigger a confrontation that would destabilize the entire region.

and instantly derail their petition for statehood.

Address Internal Unrest

Internally, Keystone faces rising tensions between the **working class** and the **Enforcers**, as disparities in wealth and power threaten the stability of the state. Economic inequality and rising social unrest could trigger large-scale uprisings if left unchecked. To quell these tensions, Keystone will implement economic redistribution strategies and bolster its surveillance network to ensure that dissent is identified and suppressed early. The goal is to strike a delicate balance between addressing the needs of the working class and maintaining the loyalty of the Enforcers, without allowing either faction to become powerful enough to challenge Keystone's authority.

The **Patriot Network** will play a pivotal role in this effort, ramping up surveillance and intervention against any movements that could spark unrest. By infiltrating grassroots organizations and political movements, they can ensure that any seeds of rebellion are nipped in the bud. Meanwhile, the **Imaginists** will use their influence over the media to shift public opinion in Keystone's favor. Through strategic narratives, they will portray Keystone as a benevolent protector of the working class, framing the ruling government as a force for good that safeguards the people's welfare.

Long-Term Goals

Looking ahead, Keystone's long-term strategy is centered entirely on **attaining official statehood** from the federal government, converting its frontier dominance into permanent, legitimate sovereignty. To satisfy federal requirements, Keystone aims to achieve total political and economic consolidation over the **Rio Grande Valley**, reducing **Las Cruces**, **Los Chingones**, and neighboring independent towns into compliant, taxable dependencies. By expanding its territorial assets and solidifying its position as the region's sole stable authority, the corporation plans to present the United States with a fully pacified frontier territory ready for integration. Crucially, ensuring internal stability through its core corporate divisions; the **Patriot Network**, **Imaginists**, and **The Foundry**; remains vital to projecting the flawless image of order required to secure their seat in the union.

Turn Las Cruces into a Vassal

Over the long term, Keystone plans to transform **Las Cruces** into a **vassal** that relies heavily on Keystone for both economic and political stability. By manipulating trade routes and creating economic dependencies, Keystone will ensure that Las Cruces becomes increasingly tied to its larger regional agenda. The gradual erosion of Las Cruces' autonomy will be facilitated through a combination of economic pressure and political maneuvering, effectively making it an extension of Keystone's influence.

The **Patriot Network** will continue its role in embedding agents within key positions of power in Las Cruces, ensuring that any movements towards independence or rebellion are swiftly crushed. Their reach will help prevent any shift away from Keystone's control. Meanwhile, the **Imaginists** will work to solidify Keystone's cultural dominance, ensuring that the people of Las Cruces feel

more aligned with Keystone's vision than ever before, even if they are technically a semi-autonomous state.

Regional Technological and Military Superiority

Keystone is determined to become the **technological powerhouse** of the local frontier, focusing on **biotech**, **military innovations**, and **medical advancements** to solidify its regional dominance. Because the city is not a recognized State and entirely lacks the sovereign direct-access procurement pipelines of the actual federated powers, its technological advancements are built strictly from aggressive local development and reverse-engineered scrap. By staying at the absolute forefront of regional innovation within the Outlands, Keystone can secure exclusive access to frontier resources and gain a strategic edge over rival local factions.

The **Foundry** will lead the charge in engineering these localized technologies, including custom security innovations and bio-chemical assets, ensuring that Keystone remains the most advanced and powerful force in the Valley. Meanwhile, the **Imaginists** will play their part by launching an internal **propaganda campaign** to present Keystone as the territory's savior, positioning this technological progress as a force for collective prosperity and ensuring that the working class supports the Oligarchy's vision of stability and progress.

Expand the Network of Independent Towns

As Keystone expands its reach across the **Rio Grande Valley**, it will continue to establish **commercial outposts** in independent towns. Because the city lacks the absolute resource abundance and legal authorization of the actual States, these outposts are strictly crude, inferior imitations of the States' Resource Verticals. This strategy ensures the economic dependence of these towns on Keystone, helping expand its political influence in the region without the ability to annex them. By establishing a network of interconnected towns, Keystone can build a dependent base of support and ensure its influence remains unchallenged within the limits of the Valley.

The **Patriot Network** will oversee this expansion by continuing its surveillance of these towns, preventing any threats from rival factions or dissidents. Meanwhile, the **Imaginists** will work to integrate these towns culturally, ensuring that their identities are aligned with Keystone's overarching goals. Through media manipulation and propaganda, they will continue to shape the narrative, ensuring that loyalty to Keystone becomes an ingrained part of the local culture.

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