

Welcome to Option

An Immigrant's Guide to a Modestly Alien Culture

Third Earth Edition



By 
Bob Niland, Earth Editor

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An Immigrant's Guide to a Modestly Alien Culture

Eleventh [Option] Edition
Third Earth Edition

To Calita

By 
Bob Niland, Earth Editor

Colophon

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The current Earth Edition PDF is freely available at: <https://ftsoe.com>
See that site for metadata to validate that any PDF copy is unaltered.

The Earth Editions of this Guide have to date only been available in English. Commercial use requires permission of the Earth editor, Robert John Niland. Translations and derivative works do not, but as of latest PDF render, none had been undertaken with author participation and endorsement. Any that exist are at risk of having some independent agenda (or just being clumsy machine translations).

In addition to the entire **Editor's Note on the Earth Editions**, the Earth editor added various instances of [*example clarification - Ed.*], covers, **Earth Edition Background** and the **Index**.

Distributor Disclaimer

[*Found in the readme - Ed.*]

Redactions were approved by the sponsoring entity, the First Consortium, and are restricted to sensitive information. Other characterizations herein may represent the [*original - Ed.*] author's opinion, and not that of the FC.

Where material, some statements are tagged with hovertips [*footnotes now, but otherwise the work is provided as-authored - Ed.*]

Editor's Note on the Earth Editions

Read Me First

If you encounter a printed edition of this work lacking this Note section, and in particular, lacking the extensive redaction of this edition, which looks like this (), tell no one. Do not read it. Destroy it. Shredding and incineration is ideal. Stir the ashes. More below.

Earth Editor's Impressions

For an Earth reader, there appear to be four primary themes to the work:

1. the Latencies: just what has our species inherited,
2. an emergent human philosophy informed by that,
3. a possible human culture implementing it agreeably, and
4. transit/destination details unlikely to be of immediate use.

Further remarks in this Note are based on the original readme file. Might the whole thing be fiction? That is hard to say.

However, if anyone tells you to not read this guide, that is exactly why you need make your own decision about that.

If any of the cultural, social, psychological and biological insights provoke a reaction of

“Well, that is enlightening, if somewhat obvious”

be sure to contemplate

“yet, why haven't I heard this before?”

How These Editions Came About

The Earth editor¹ was provided a single floppy disk of obvious Earth origin containing two files briefly described at **Earth Edition Background**. Two years later, USB sticks began arriving.

Despite the necessary redactions, the readme files suggested that Earth readers would still find value in the guide, although even for the original target audience, it appears to cover a bit more than they might have wanted to know.

1. Discuss amongst yourselves. At publication, other than download site ftsoe.com, there were no active web sites, blogs or social media accounts associated with the Earth Editions of this guide. The Earth editor has an idle X.com (Twitter) account. If any of this changes, expect the download site and any subsequent editions or refreshed renderings to note it.

Apparent Motivations

This guide is not being made available on Earth to generate revenue or merely to satisfy curiosity about Option culture. The apparent intent is to increase the chances of an agreeable future for all humankind.

This seems to involve several closely related initiatives:

- mitigating a DeepFleet stewardship lapse,
- increasing choices for Earth residents,
- reducing various longer-term risks,
- opening discussions while at least some on Earth can still read, think independently (or learn to), are at liberty to do so, and
- possibly preparing more individual Earth residents, as yet unidentified, for an opportunity to emigrate to Option. This could include the reader.

A Future For Earth

Do you want a culture based on renegotiable agreement or one imposing intimidations?

Implications of this work entirely aside, majority enslavement or overt global conflict are real possibilities if current Earth cultures continue on their suicidal paths. Soliciting Earth publication of this guide could be some help with preventing that, and might also be seen as a preemptive move to prevent a wider conflict.

Why is a wider conflict possible? The technologies that enabled apparent emigration from Earth, were invented on Earth (see **A Quick History**). Eventually, others on Earth will re-invent them. Considering what is implied by the existence of this guide, re-invention might be sooner than later. At that time, unless Earth has stepped out of its tribo-parental culture structures, with their imperious notions of arbitrary collective domination of geographies, Earth becomes a threat to every place within range of the technology.

It is easy to assume that key individuals of Option might act to neutralize imminent threat, and due to the lack of any formal defense organizations, and the nature of the technologies that could be re-purposed for the task, the results are hard to predict.

An Immediate Problem

The readme for the original Earth Edition suggested that the proximate cause for arranging Earth publication was that after a mission, inventory could not account for a single hardcopy of an older en route edition of the guide. It presumably contains clues to the location of Option, and inferential information that would be of value to any entity intent on re-inventing certain technologies, not to mention anyone with tyrannical ambitions.

This present Third Earth Edition might be identical to a contemporaneous off-Earth edition, except for redactions, illustrations (if any are in Option editions), visual formatting, Earth publisher, and of course this note. The redacted text is plainly denoted by gray blocks² (■).

As the **Preface** states, even had the stewardship lapse not happened, publication of an Earth Edition was contemplated. Presumably, apart from technology rediscoveries, emissions from Option may eventually be detected on Earth. So its existence and location cannot be concealed forever. Nothing still present in the supplied document suggested precisely when that might occur.

You Might be Chosen

Frankly, it seems unlikely in the extreme, but you, the reader, might someday be approached and offered the opportunity to migrate to Option. Missions have evidently been visiting Earth, and transporting Earth's brightest, least appreciated and most threatened individuals for decades. Possibly this process could continue as long as it can be conducted safely.

If asked, you need to decide to go or stay within a few minutes. According to the readme, the offer includes no opportunity to consult anyone not present, nor to wind up your affairs, or pack. After you have read this guide, and the companion volume, you may be able to decide in advance if you would accept the offer.

It appears that departures are rarely prearranged anymore. There is no way of knowing when or if an offer might arise, or if it is ever re-extended, should you initially decline. As an aside, the delivery of the manuscripts to the Earth editor were not in

2. These are rendered as triplets of Unicode U+2588, just to make them obvious. In the source plain text on the floppy, these fields were simple strings of "[rrr]". These appear to have represented redactions of indefinite length, from single characters to multiple pages.

circumstances that could have included an offer. Obviously, extending an offer might have risked defeating the point of soliciting manuscript publication.

No Liaison

*The Earth editor cannot arrange or advise **anything**.*

The Earth editor has no ability to communicate with Option, nor with anyone who can, nor with any mission elements, and has no information on past or future missions.

No list of applicants exists or will be entertained. The Earth editor frankly does not expect *any* future personal contact, however indirect, if only due to the chronic surveillance that could result from this publication.

For Those Still on Earth

*How about something agreeable to everyone,
quite literally by definition.*

This guide describes a way for humans to live with each other that, in principle, complies with that tag line above. Nations, governments, taxes, war, laws (as you understand that term) and crime are not inevitable. Does that interest you?

Do you have a presumption that humans cannot be trusted to govern themselves? Then why can some humans be trusted to govern other humans? And whether via careless electoral entrustment or armed usurpation, why are Earth nations unstable, often becoming thugocracies³: bureaucratic, uniparty, hereditary, theocratic or simply villainous?

If human civilization is defined as a culture in which people live together primarily by agreement, Earth is getting less civilized hourly. You can help turn that around, but only if you have some goal in mind, specifically some notion of what manner of replacement culture would be agreeable, practical, and sustainable.

Consider the options presented here. Understand that you can choose them, or something entirely different. You are free. You always have been. There are no unchosen obligations save those imposed by existence itself. Comprehend that. Make your choices. Have discourse with your fellow humans about their choices. Act for your choices. Create agreement in your life and relationships. Acknowledge your consequences.

3. These dystopias favor collectivist window-dressing, because humans are easy prey for that entrapment, for reasons explained in this guide.

What is described here cannot work? Then what would, and keep in mind that it has to either be agreeable to everyone, or support alternatives, not to mention complete opt-out.

Advance Cautiously

Converting Earth from a pantheon of pernicious political prisons to a fundamentally free planet is a task of enormous complexity – basically defusing a network of inter-connected bombs. Done one nation at a time, each liberated geography could expect prompt invasion by any of the many organized thugocracies.

Further, revolutions based purely on resistance to present tyranny (real or metaphorical), and without a clear and broadly agreeable plan for what replaces it, too often result in dramatically less agreeable societies. Political vacuums tend to be filled by tyrants. If you do not know where you want to go, expect to end up somewhere else.

This guide is *not* a call to the barricades. It is true that you were born with no allegiance, loyalty or obedience owed to those claiming to be your masters. However, do not set about dismantling your current culture's institutions until:

- you have come to some agreement with other humans on what replaces them (where their functions are necessary),
- you have worked to ensure that the replacements are at hand,
- and you have a plan to keep the remaining tyrannies at bay.

Personal Steps

If you live where there is remnant of citizen participation, support candidates (often the least tribo-parental) with a platform and record suggesting that they might preserve a path to personal autonomy.

Wherever you are, practice subversive benevolence and liberation, particularly toward those victimized by the culture. Compulsion-based cultures inherently foster oppression in their institutions (see Corruption). This feeds on itself in a cancerous manner, unless individuals recognize it and step out of it.

What this guide describes is possible anywhere. Do not let it be what you might have had. The readme concluded:

*Most of you won't be rescued.
If you want a more agreeable world,
you'll need to create it.*

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Preface

You may want to leave your seatbelt fastened.

This guide was originally created for a specific audience (recruited and rescued individuals en route to Option — the “you” in this guide), to prepare those immigrants for the dramatic culture shift they experience upon arrival at Option (the “here” in this guide).

Unexpectedly, the first edition was also in high demand at Option itself. Consequently, later editions have widened some assumptions about the audience. After years of debate, a redacted edition was planned and executed for publication on Earth [*evidently what became the First Earth Edition - Ed.*].

Despite the wider audience, the primary focus of the guide is still to assist immigrants in transit. Newer editions contain more exposition on emergent cultural principles. Lists of, and detailed discussions of specific named programs, geography and exotaxa remain deliberately omitted. Many independent comparison guides and compilations address those topics.

Due to the culture being free to adapt to actual human needs, desires and outcomes, details may have changed by the time you arrive.

How to Use This Guide

Begin by reading, in order, the
[0. *Editor's Note on the Earth Editions, - Ed.*],

1. **Preface** (this section),
2. **Introduction**,
3. **Praxeology 101**, and
4. **A Quick History**.

Beyond that, browse the **Information by Topic** section seeking subjects of most interest, perhaps starting with Legal Agreement Group (LAG). In digital renderings, click enabled text, use any margin navigation and exploit any reader client bookmarks at will.

This is now a Digitally-Centric Work

This guide was print-centric in the first few editions, but transitioned to being electronic, for its main purpose, when a single copy of a print edition was lost in a stewardship mishap. The format shift was inevitable in any case, due to the expense and weight of paper, and the sheer convenience of navigation and revision in the digital.

Print editions are now an after-thought. In print editions, rely on the **Index** (page 211), because clear-text cross-references, particularly those with page numbers, are minimized in the interest of page count.

In digital editions, although still page-oriented, virtually all terms of interest are internal hypertext (local links) to defining instances⁴ or related information⁵.

Why is this Guide so Long?

On Earth, you had little or no choice about the warehouses full of laws that constrained your freedom, and which may or may not have defined and protected any rights. Where you are headed, it is *all* your call, and despite the drastic simplifications in this guide, it is a long list of choices. This guide presents the key topics on which others may seek your agreement, plus some topics that are merely frequently asked questions.

There is also this problem: the Latencies. You are leaving behind a very complicated cacophony of chaotic cultures, with destructive root causes too often subliminal. You need to know about all this to avoid accidentally blundering toward re-creating exactly what you are seeking to escape.

In a Nutshell

*You are subject to physical reality at all times, but culturally, you are subject what you **agree** to be subject to, if anything.*

On Earth, you were subject to laws you never read, and usually did not agree to. A typical U.S. citizen, for example, is likely subject to hundreds of thousands, perhaps low millions, of pages of U.S. Code, tax code, regulations, state laws/regulations, local ordinances and often-inaccessible proprietary trade standards that have the effect of laws.

4. [If the link does not move focus off the page, you are already on the page containing the primary content for that topic. - Ed.]

5. [External hypertexting, perhaps to the ILD, was obviously unlikely for the Earth Edition, and no remnants of external network objects remained in the source WTO09R.OHL, WTO10R.OHL and WTO11R.OHL files - Ed.].

Even those in the law profession there have never read more than a fraction of it. Whether anyone has read all those rules seems somewhat immaterial on Earth, due to the dictum that inhabitants of a bordered territory are bound by the entirety of it, without prior consent, and despite great swaths of it being inaccessible.

At Option, your consent/abstention is central to the culture. Consequently, the LAGs (Legal Agreement Groups, if you join one) strive to keep their terms simple, conceptual, hierarchical, and comprehensible to non-professionals — and fully accessible.

If you agree to the terms, however, they all apply. An early (preamble) item in most LAG charters is that you agree to either read all the terms, or accept that they all apply, read or not. There is really no way around this, short of remaining outLAG (or starting your own LAG). So it serves you to read as much as possible, and perhaps follow cites to cases on issues of personal importance⁶. All of it is accessible, to any level of detail. Reading most of the present guide provides useful context, and some LAG charter topics on which you might want to focus.

Feedback

Feedback about the guide is welcome. Once at Option, you can message to [redacted] (but not en route, due to [redacted]).

Regarding feedback, the author often receives comments that the guide looks and reads like a technical reference manual. Acknowledged; this is a due to the author's professional background. Had the idea for this guide first occurred to a polished dramatist, the prose might be more engaging. However, Option is generally short-handed in every profession, so what results is often the work of the first nominally competent volunteer. If you can write (and maintain) a more attractive and engaging guide, by all means do so. The author would be delighted to surrender the maintenance responsibility.

[The Earth editor, on the other hand, can't usefully respond to content feedback, other than as regards presentation forms of Earth editions - Ed.]

§

6. If, prior to some new undertaking, you only then find that your current LAG's terms aren't ideal, you can always switch LAGs before launching.

No Further Content For This Page

Introduction

How do things work at your destination? It turns out that for you, that has been left up to you, to the maximum possible extent.

This guide prepares you for the decisions you will need to make upon arrival at Option. It describes how things presently work there, and a bit of why people there have chosen the current forms. They may have changed a bit before you get there. You are invited to change them further.

You are, as you read this in transit, a refugee being asked to contemplate what ‘country’ you want to live in on arrival, where country is not necessarily a traditional tangible territory.

Do not feel rushed in reading this guide. Transit takes about [REDACTED], depending on the itinerary and other mission objectives for this particular trip. There is ample time to read this guide, current participant’s guides to LAGs, any number of recent buyer’s guides and periodicals, browse on-board databases and screen a few documentaries and entertainments.

It may relieve you to know that most difficult decision of your cultural transition is already behind you — your decision to accept the offer of emigration.

As the crew may have already informed you, that decision is, for the time being, final. Upon arrival, you may elect to settle, roam, further emigrate to [REDACTED] or possibly train for an assignment with DeepFleet, which operates various off-Option task ventures.

You have already acknowledged the Mission Agreement⁷ (MA). The MA defines how you agree to constrain your behavior during transit, and the consequences for failing to do so. The MA did not answer the thousands of questions you must have, nor could it have. That is why this guide was originally commissioned.

In order to obtain your agreement to emigrate, the contact team would have told you something of what kind of life awaits at Option, and may have told you why you were selected (if the case, and if known). Inquiries would have been made about any en route or destination medical risks beyond mission and/or present Option capabilities.

7. [Text of the MA was not found on the source document media, and the readme file indicated that this was due to the terms usually being mission-specific as well as largely irrelevant for the objectives of an Earth Edition. - Ed.]

You have also been provided basic information about conveyance features and schedule of conveyance activities, which vary by mission and are not found in this guide. The crew has probably told you little else, including nothing about the conveyance drive or the power source.

The rest of this introduction restates what crews normally explain about recruitment/rescue and transit. They rarely omit much, but you may have missed details during the crisply choreographed sequence of contact, boarding and departure. It is all a bit much to take in.

Why You?

Unless the circumstances of your emigration were unusual⁸, you were deliberately selected to be offered emigration to Option. Some individual or organization sponsored you, possibly anonymously.

You are under no obligation to reimburse any expenses anyone made on your behalf. Your presence at Option, or your liberation from trying circumstances on Earth, is all the compensation that any sponsor requires.

You may have been selected for any of the following reasons:

- you possess a key technical, intellectual or creative skill set (many professions are in short supply here);
- your life or liberty were in danger on Earth due to your advocacies;
- you have a personal relationship with your sponsor; or,
- you were simply highly likely to be happier at Option than on Earth (Option can easily support steep population growth for some time to come).

But to circle around to the present topic, be prepared for some chance that you might in fact never learn the answer to Why You?

Transit Attributes

Unless an emergency arises, the experience of most of the trip is little different than a ride on a long-distance overnight train. There is very little noise, no vibration to speak of, ample room and freedom of movement in the passenger spaces, and

8. Stumbling into an Earth mission landing site, and saying “yes” would be unusual (but has happened).

numerous activities with which to occupy your time. Immigrant passengers do not have access to all of the operational spaces, other than as guided tours, or virtually via a viewer.

Unless there are atypical intermediate stops, there are times during a routine trip when you need to be secured in a ■■■: departure, ■■■ reversal, and possibly final approach. At the ■■■, there is a brief period of ■■■, accompanied by ■■■ that may induce ■■■. Follow crew instructions during this period. This is normally the only period of ■■■.

During departure and arrival, apparent gravity is typically ■■■ (■■■ Earth gravities, i.e. ■■■ of your weight), but may be higher in some circumstances, which the crew would have by now explained had this already happened. During normal transit, the apparent gravity is usually ■■■. This is unrelated to the normal gravity at Option.

The voyance schedule is based on a 24-hour Earth day, nominally synchronized to GMT. This might seem surprising when you learn the length of the celestial day at Option. See Circadian Matters. Shared spaces on board may be in nocturnal illumination mode at what may seem to be arbitrary times.

Cabin atmospheric pressure and composition are slowly changed from Earth standard to en-route profile, and then to overall destination atmospheric and O₂ partial pressures. Adverse reactions to these adjustments are rare, but advise the crew of any distress (and simple anxiety is not uncommon).

There are two group meals per day (one each crew shift). You may dine with the crew, any other passengers, or alone. Food⁹ consumption at other times is ad libitum, usually as meal replacement preparations or snacks. Food composition is apt to be unfamiliar, reflecting the constraints of mission duration, and is not fully representative of choices at Option.

Follow waste disposal instructions, to avoid contaminating residues. Almost everything is recycled, at Option if not on board. This is due to mission requirements and Option realities, where many natural Earth resources are scarce, and virtually all Earth-compatible organics enter multi-cyclic composting in support of proliferating Earth-compatible biosystems.

9. If you brought on board any packaged Earth foods, consult with the crew before consuming them. Many Earth artifacts, including processed food-like substances, are prized by collectors and nutrition educators (and in the case of food, not because they eat them).

There are no portholes or windows, for a long list of reasons, but there are external cameras, selectable on a viewer. Be sure to observe final approach. It is quite a sight. During [redacted], the cameras cannot register anything. To observe regional phenomena in such route phases, call up a viewer travelogue or [redacted] catalog.

En route Medical

The conveyance is equipped with basic medical equipment, and interactive eMed. The crew have field medic training, although none are likely to be doctors per se. They can deal with some medical emergencies, and common Earth chronic conditions requiring on-going medications for which you are apt to have brought along insufficient supplies, such as insulin for Type I diabetes (you were asked about acute conditions prior to boarding).

The eMed equipment on board can also conduct routine medical assessments, and guide nutrition transition choices. About 80% of chronic, non-infectious, non-injury Earth ailments have been shown to be optional, and transit is a great time to engage remission strategies.

There are [redacted] tests specifically suggested to you by the crew, which identify genetic and epigenetic susceptibility to rare, but dangerous reactions to some native substances at Option (see Allergies). If you test positive for a susceptibility, you may elect to take your chances, assess available current countermeasures, or decline [redacted] fall altogether, and live in [redacted]. If you elect to test, you will get an explanation of risks and current options.

Arriving from Earth is a considered a preexisting condition, so to speak. You are presumed to be suffering from various indications and side effects of being somewhere on the metabolic syndrome \Rightarrow T2D spectrum, plus possible other optional ailments from the Diseases of Civilization catalog.

Barefooted Pilgrims?

You probably left Earth wearing the clothes on your back, but without most other material assets. Any cash in your pocket is now mostly worthless (if it has no value to collectors, the FC may be interested in buying it, presumably for use on Earth missions). Your credit and debit cards and any crypto-currency key(s) are entirely worthless; however, you are not destitute.

On arrival at Option, immigrants are presently presented with [redacted] of [redacted] in your choice of coin, certificate or SVC (secure stored value card). In purchasing power, this approximately equals US\$ [redacted] circa 2024. This is a standard one-time no-obligation grant intended to provide a solid start in your new life. See Banking, Debt and Money in the **Information by Topic** section for more information on financial matters.

In addition, immigrants are offered their choice of a free Plot. Unclaimed plots tend to be in undeveloped areas and are not sites for which any current residents would have requested opening for bids, but because that process starts at [redacted], you might as well pick a spot and accept it. No responsibilities or obligations accrue until you do something with the plot, or make an agreement referencing it — unless you pick one encumbered by unusual easements. Yes, you can elect to immediately sell it to any interested party (and the longer you take to decide, the more likely that you will get solicitations for deals).

Study available resources for any artifacts brought along, as they may also have significant collector value.

You may discover that an income stream is available shortly after arrival. If you are the author or creator of any protected works on Earth, such as art, designs, entertainments, literature, music, software (but probably not patents), and if they would be protected under the IP terms of most LAGs at Option, you can assert ownership with one or more registrars, and set terms.

Phone Home?

Your destination offers an impressive array of options, but this is not yet one of them. Part of the MA is that as far as Earth is concerned, you are simply a missing person. Communication en route is impossible, due to [redacted]. Direct electronic communication between Option and Earth is both [redacted] and [redacted].

What is Option?

[redacted].

[Only how the name arose seems available. See Early History. - Ed.]

Where is Option?

[redacted].

[No clues found. The redactions appear comprehensive. - Ed.]

Cultural Expectations

... relaxed and optimistic ...

Would it not be pleasant if challenges in living arose only from the requirements of reality itself, and not from needless problems created by other humans?

Mutual empowerment is a goal here. This is a ‘win-win’ culture¹⁰. Broadly, everyone here wants this place to work, and for everyone.

... agreement, not manipulation, threat or conflict...

Option runs on agreements: freely-entered, explicit, continually-adapting agreements. Fresh personal contacts tend to include a premise that the encounter will be mutually advantageous.

... mindful of consequences ...

A praxeologically aware culture really is different. Immediate personal priorities incorporate a long term view. The majority of dwellers are fully aware of their contribution to culture-building.

For example, due to the local environment being generally unsupportive of Earth biology, all here recognize the challenge of creating bubbles where Earth life forms can thrive.

To maintain grass-roots influence, exercise grass-roots influence.

Are you heading for utopia?

Not yet, although it might be a ‘you-topia’.

You are invited to propose how to create a utopia.

Challenge: it must either be agreeable to everyone, now and in the future, or compatible with dissidence.

In the meantime, this guide provides an overview of prevailing options, an introduction to issues, and contrasting reflection on what was left behind.

On Arrival

The █ normally █ at █ with a connecting █, but may arrive directly at a campus operated by the FC, such as in the urban settlement of Site One. See maps on board for geographic details. Unless there were MA violations in transit (including concerns about your stated identity), as soon as the airlocks equalize, you are free to walk out, off the campus and set about your new life. However, few choose to do this.

10. Conversely, arguing that a win for one is always a loss for another, works to create a culture in which that is true.

In many cases, a sponsor is present to greet new immigrants on arrival, assist in collecting grants, choosing a destination, selecting a LAG if desired, and making travel arrangements. If no sponsor is present, FC staff provide assistance in the following typical sequence:

1. You are asked a few questions to establish how much you have absorbed and comprehended about life at Option during in-transit study. Further assistance is tailored to your responses.
2. If needed, clothing is provided appropriate to the current weather at the arrival site and, prior to departure, at your chosen destination.
3. You are asked if you wish to exit promptly, or delay your exit for up to a week at no charge. The delay is offered so that you can take advantage of the counseling service at the FC campus. Whether you have been studying in transit or not, taking the full week is advised, if only to adjust to the circadian time zone you expect to adopt. You may remain longer than a week, but would need to use some of your grant to cover the modest residency rate.
4. You are offered advice on the value of any possessions, as well as cautions on any issues that might arise in connection with them (such as any provisions the FC's own LAG might have concerning mood altering substances, harmful chemicals/biologics, weapons, etc.)
5. You are presented with an accounting of any grants and emoluments escrowed in your name. You may immediately collect all, none or any portion of those amounts in negotiable or promissory form, or have the value transferred to the financial institution(s) of your choice. Unless you are certain about your desired disposition of these amounts, a practical step would be to collect pocket change of \square or so, and \square or so more in SVC. You can transfer the balance at an indefinite later time.
6. You are asked if you wish to subscribe to a LAG, remain OutLAG, or receive counseling on the choices available. In addition to FC counselors, various LAG representatives are available to frame the advantages of their plans. If you choose a LAG, you can contract with most at the FC campus.

If you do not choose before exiting, you have by default chosen outLAG, so be sure to understand the implications. This guide does not make any LAG recommendations. Numerous selection and rating publications are available on board and on campus.

7. You are offered career, residential and relocation counseling. If you accept, the counselor asks about your interests, skill set, likely occupation, geographic and life-style preferences, and explains the choices available. You are also advised about how long your grant might support you at various alternative destinations. Terminals are available for browsing the job, real estate and housing markets. Do not jump at the first job offer. This culture has a 'worker's market'.
8. When ready to exit, the FC Travel Office can assist in transportation mode selection and reservations. Do not be too eager to purchase a vehicle. For a variety of reasons, personal vehicles (predominantly electric here) are not quite as necessary or useful as on Earth.

Once you depart the FC campus, you are responsible for the rest of your life. Your assigned FC counselor can answer simple questions for some additional months, but neither the counselor nor the FC is your parent. Your choices, your agreements, and your outcomes are your own.

§

Praxeology 101

*What kind of culture do you want to live in?
 What kind of people make it work?
 Are you willing to be one of them?*

A Clean Sheet Rewrite

On Earth, human behavioral inclinations are frequently based some mixture of oblivious latencies (e.g. tribo-parentalism), ancestral tradition, pragmatism, subjectivism, envy, zealotry and flat out incorrect information (including growing ignorance of, and propagandized re-writing of human history).

This milieu has tended to result in rule sets that are not necessarily optimal for human life, and which may in practice get only lip service. These rules can also favor emotionally attractive near term results (not necessarily obtained), with often dire long term consequences.

At Option, you can find individuals and groups espousing various philosophies common on Earth, but the majority of people, in their interactions with others, are relying on observable reality about human action. This has resulted in an emergent, but by no means universal set of principles (acknowledgments, really) at the personal and cultural level. No single source is authoritative on this yet, so this guide is just one author's attempt to capture a current snapshot of the collage.

Terms have been mooted for where this might end up, none used in this guide. This is a 'what would you want' situation, and a not a matter of 'behold your new {*meme name*} oughts.'

Human social and cultural life can be pretty simple, but on Earth, humans have allowed the Latencies to make it needlessly complicated, burdensome, stressful and unhealthy.

Social Contract(s)

*The mere existence of other human beings
 does not impose any obligations on you — or them.*

Anyone proclaiming the existence of unchosen obligations, or a mandatory 'social contract':

- is more gullible than they might appear,
- wants some sort of affirmation,
- wants you to join them as a co-serf, or
- knows the real game afoot, and intends to be your master.

To interact with others, of course, you need some basis on which you (and they) do so. Option operates on optional, elective, negotiable, *explicit* social contract, and not any single universal obligatory social contract. This guide is essentially just an introduction to the various ways in which people currently chose to do that here, and why being able to re-choose, or ignore such choices entirely, is critical.

What is Praxeology?

... 'olgy; not 'ism ...

Praxeology¹¹ is nothing more than the 'ology (study) of praxis (human action). Although such study can lead to behavioral advocacies (principles), those advocacies may not be foregone conclusions.

Praxeology merely illuminates that a given choice, in a given context, is most likely to lead to a given constellation of consequences. 'ology (study) does not lead to an inescapable 'praxism' (advocacy), because 'ology has little to say about the selections of ultimate goals — preferences in consequences, which are what influence the choices in support of those goals. Further, principles are tempered not just by expected outcomes, but by actual outcomes, and also by several other factors.

Rule 1

*Choices arise, are made or defaulted,
and an outcome constellation follows.*

This is the only non-negotiable rule of human behavior. Anyone telling you there are *no* rules is irresponsible. Anyone claiming *more* (non-negotiable) rules either has an agenda or is contemplating consequences on another plane. See also The Numbered Rules.

The human race has subjected itself to various moral (unchosen), ethical (chosen) or imperious (commanded) behavioral rules, and often presented them as inviolate, none of which seems to stop people from violating them during life. Rule 1, on the other hand, obtains at all times. The irresponsible may ignore or deny their consequences, but the consequences follow anyway.

11. Use of this term in this guide and at your destination may have no concordance with the varied historical uses of the term on Earth.

You do what you do, consequences ensue.

Like a pebble thrown into a still pond, the choice(s) made at every decisional opportunity can ripple out into a spreading constellation of consequences in multiple realms, perhaps including: contractual, cultural, domestic, emotional, familial, financial, memory, philosophical, physical, physiological, psychological, recursive, relational, reproductive, social, spiritual, etc.

Moreover, your consequences interact with other people's consequences, and with less predictable natural events. You are not the only pebble tosser. On a strictly analytical approach to the constellation of consequences, complications multiply.

The conundrum of the constellation

The further out you attempt to project in time, space, and social interaction, the more difficult it becomes to predict more than a small fraction of potential consequences. It is in fact impossible to predict all material consequences in any but trivial near-term scenarios.

Where other people are involved or potentially affected, complications multiply further. If you were to attempt to direct choices without agreements or principles, based solely on projections of consequences, scenario projection would consume all available time and little else would get done.

It would also be impossible to keep everyone else appraised of the plan and projections, nor could you reliably predict their resulting choices (which feed back into the constellation, further confounding prediction).

The Solution: Principles

Because humans lack omniscience, the work-around for this complexity is principles, but not just any principles; agreed principles informed by praxeology.

Do not confuse with pragmatism

Pragmatism is making choices based on a projection of a narrow and/or short-term set of consequences, with perhaps no consideration of agreement. Pragmatism has become a pejorative term for precisely this reason. Pragmatism does not consider the entire constellation of possible outcomes, nor is it principled. Pragmatism is often specifically unprincipled.

Principles of Principles

Principles provide a practical alternative to sprawling projections.

Praxeological principles are merely emergent guidelines to help create a constellation of consequences aligned with agreements and goals, and without having to make an attempt at exhaustively analyzing every possible outcome.

Principles, however, are not absolute. They are subordinate to any actual or foreseeable consequences incompatible with the aims of the principles. Principles are also re-evaluated in the light of accumulated actual results over time.

- Giving principles primacy over outcomes is dogmatism.
- Declaring failing principles to be immutable is zealotry.

If you hear the word “zealot” here, it may not be a compliment.

Principles are themselves subject to agreement, and when part of an agreement hierarchy, can provide a ‘safe harbor’ for unpredicted eventualities. On Earth, you may have seen this in the technical professions, where, for example, adverse medical or engineering outcomes may not generate liability if the practitioner applied due diligence in following agreed principles of professional practice.

If you choose a solitary life at a remote site here (which is increasingly within reach), the only principles that might matter are those which tend to serve your personal goals. As soon as just one interpersonal relationship arises, however, the need for agreement arises as well, and principles are then on the table.

If someone is principled, they choose principles, admit them, advocate them, use them in their choices, mind outcomes, and refine over time. If someone is unprincipled, they ignore principles (or merely posture at advocating them), frequently make contrary choices, and often ignore outcomes.

When people here are referred to as principled or unprincipled, these words are usually meant quite literally.

Responsible people ...

... acknowledge their consequences. They choose principles that lead to desired and agreed results. They adjust instant choices where outcomes are predictable. They make provisions for risks. They accept their role in results. They review their principles based on results over time.

Irresponsible people ...

... tend to be heedless of consequences. They ignore the benefits of principles (or deceive about applying them). They ignore easy-to-make projections. They make inadequate or no provisions for risks. They blame everyone or anyone else for unhappy outcomes.

That someone is “responsible” or “irresponsible” is not merely a laudatory or pejorative term here. These words often actually say something fairly specific about someone’s behavior and reputation.

Primacy of Agreement

Agreement is actually more important than language.

For what is language but agreement on the meaning of sounds, symbols and gestures?

Agreement is the foundation of human relationships. If that strikes you as a novel insight, but seems obvious on reflection, that is due to one aspect of the phenomenon identified here as Parentalism. Parent-child relationships do not (and cannot) initially rely on agreement, so humans too easily mature without directly contemplating the concept.

Relationships are a continuing series of explicit or implicit agreements. Although Option culture is largely based on formal agreements, people otherwise live their daily lives with no more explicit agreement than is common on Earth. People are, however, more conscious of the concept and much less careless about making (and breaking) casual agreements.

An Emergent Code

Oughts may not add much to this

These factors apply in any case, so you might as well attend to them deliberately:

1. Your next thought or action is going to create a record in your memory. Will it be a set you want to have?
2. What are the projectable consequences, and do you seek, accept or acknowledge them all?
3. Because not consequences all can be foreseen, what principle(s) might apply to the unforeseen. Are they being honored?
4. What agreements arise in the situation? Are they being honored?

*So then,
just what are you in service of?*

Make the effort to add to human culture: encourage, support, empower and create. Any mindless minion can subtract; via vacant criticism, demeaning attack or physical destruction.

§

A Quick History

This history is condensed to the minimum required to establish a context in which you may more easily understand developing Option culture. See various histories by other authors for more detail. Many of the more exhilarating events, where not directly recorded, have also been dramatized for the screen. Consult your viewer directory.

Option was first settled in (Earth year) 1970. Two fundamental things made Option possible:

- a conviction held by the conjectors that there might be a more agreeable way for humans to live with each other, and
- the invention of the [redacted] and [redacted] technologies.

The story starts over a decade before that.

Early History

*A key insight was that a central contradiction in **designing** a unified society **for other people** is, in part, the very conceit of doing so.*

Those now known as the First Consortium were an informal group of individuals living in [redacted]. All had an interest in political philosophy and were fond of debating alternative social organizations that fostered individual autonomy. They referred to themselves as the [redacted], and prefer now to be referred to as the conjectors¹². These names, and their individual names, may not be found in the Earth literature of the mid-twentieth-century, as they kept a low profile, and never did come to agreement then on what might done in the context of the dominant Earth cultures.

Several conjectors had been tangentially influenced by the works of the nineteenth-century American Lysander Spooner¹³. The simple striking arguments he presented raised profound questions for anyone crafting a political philosophy (but Spooner did not really provide the answers). In their early years, the conjectors realized that any advocacies resulting from their work would have to pass key **No Treason** tests.

12. Coined term: a presumed contraction of conjectioners, perhaps selected to be identifying, but minimizing any temptation toward veneration.

13. Perhaps in particular his monograph **No Treason, No. VI, The Constitution of no Authority** (1870) [widely available on Earth as it is long out of copyright - Ed.]

They did not think that Spooner had himself advocated a society that passed his own tests. Thus it is important to point out that the place named Option is not a vaguely Spoonerian society, nor does it have any single specific named political philosophy. Lysander Spooner's arguments were merely the motivation that resulted in placing some interesting choices before you.

Without the unanimous on-going consent of everyone in a society (including new arrivals), any singular-order designers are merely would-be usurpers of any inhabited territory in question, and looming tyrants to dissenters. In the unlikely event that a society started out with unanimous consent, existing individuals might change their minds. Further, those born into it might also dissent. This is the social contract conundrum.

The name of this place is an intentional enduring admonishment to those who might seek to impose an immutable culture on others.

It was clear that any truly agreeable society required explicit and continuous individual voluntary assent, and not on a lifetime basis. The conjectors focused on exploring how it might be possible to have a structured society with voluntary association, *individual secession* and — it became evident — probably no governments or nations as known on Earth.

The conjectors did not think it likely that they would ever be confronted with the opportunity to actually test alternatives at small scale, much less be obliged to seed a society on a large scale. All were aware that creating a truly free society on Earth would be mortally threatening to Earth governments. On an isolated artificial island, for example, one or more governments could be expected to fabricate some pretext to attack and destroy any truly free society.

That perception changed in 1957, when one of their number, referred to as conjector E¹⁴ in this work, presented the group with the results of some experiments.

Physical Invention

A freelance engineer in the 1950s, conjector E was working in the █████ field. Conjector E set about personally investigating technologies that might allow a small band of people to permanently depart Earth. Recognizing that such technologies

14. [It's not clear if this was to respect some desire for anonymity, or just to avoid an ambiguous name redaction - Ed.]

would be too dangerous to be made otherwise available on Earth, conjector E never published any work about this on Earth (and avoided clients developing products along such lines).

In 1957, conjector E built and tested sub-scale models using what were code-named, and are still referred to, as the [redacted] and [redacted] technologies. Upon presentation to the conjectors, it was clear that emigration might be a real possibility, and that political philosophy and world-building were no longer a parlor pastimes — creating an agreeable human society was a genuine problem to be addressed.

Social Invention

It was obvious that insistence on a single social contract would eventually head into the same geographic-monopoly-government trap that had partially or totally enslaved humans during all of recorded history. The notion of parallel alternative social agreements was raised (it certainly was not a new idea). Alternative drafts of formal agreement compacts were written. The importance of agreeing to disagree arose.

Although it was deliberately intended to produce nothing like laws, the mooted compacts were informally termed Legal Agreement Groups, or LAGs, and still are, although their formal descriptive names now vary. Unsurprisingly, unanimous agreement on all necessary details could not be obtained.

Well before any constructs were ever actually needed at Option, two distinct implementations already existed¹⁵. Further, one conjector did not come to agreement with anyone else, giving early rise to the OutLAG concept. All of this was welcomed, because it emphasized the concept of Inter-LAG Agreement (roughly equivalent to a treaty on Earth), covering how to settle disputes between members of different LAGs, and for extra credit, between members and outLAGs.

15. These still exist as operating LAGs [redacted] and [redacted].

Deployment

The conjectors agreed to form and finance a consortium intent on emigration from Earth, at which point █████ became simply the First Consortium (FC).

Conjector E led the effort to resolve power and propulsion, while others concentrated on secure construction and embarkation locations, developed █████ systems, designed █████ sensors, worked on █████ navigation. All continued refining the social contract issue.

Although the conjectors had adequate financing, they did not possess all necessary skills for constructing █████. Discrete recruiting of key talent began at this time, and continues today.

A tremendous amount needed to be learned. Recall that this was happening prior to the first publicly known █████. Apart from █████, little was available in the open literature about structures for █████ environments, totally closed █████, █████ and █████ navigation.

Furthermore, there was no immediate destination, no obvious choice of an exploration route, no evidence that human-compatible █████ existed, and, outside of science fiction, little awareness of what problems might be encountered attempting to live █████, if found.

Exploration

During the next four years █████. [*Apparently into 1961 - Ed.*] █████ Perhaps surprisingly, none of this activity appears to correlate to known period █████ reports on Earth.

Locating the first █████ that actually had █████ took two more years [*~1963 - Ed.*]. Locating the first █████ that might support human life consumed five more [*~1968 - Ed.*]. The discovery of such █████ forced a decision on a long-suspected problem for which a solution had not, to that point, been settled.

The Accidental Terraformer

In retrospect, the implications of the carbon cycle and proton gradient seem obvious: any closed system that is already promptly compatible with life-as-we-know-it is virtually certain to already have life. And sure enough, they did — every one of them. Any Earth-contaminated intrusion might pose a grave threat to that ecosystem (and vice-versa). Any consideration of a human settlement, much less human █████-wide dispersal and growth, had to consider the consequences.

The available technology was barely adequate for the task of emigration. Terraforming a sterile environment was simply not an option (and still is not). The FC had to answer a fundamental question before selecting a landing site: personal risks aside, were they prepared to potentially alter all the existing life at the destination?

The membership initially divided into several camps, including primarily:

- Those who were willing to colonize any biologically compatible █, and accept whatever consequences ensued.
- Those who were willing to colonize only compatible █ that had primitive life forms.
- Those who were not willing to threaten any existing life forms, and who thus had to propose a *de novo* environmental approach, or reconsider the whole notion of emigration.

What was ultimately agreed was none of the above. In the 1950s, the hazards of █ were under-appreciated, but as the catalog of surveyed █ grew, a startling percentage of them showed evidence of environment-altering, extinction-level █. It was agreed that the destination █ could be one that was potentially compatible, but about to be destroyed anyway; that is:

- It was in imminent danger of a high probability extinction-level event.
- The event was forecast to occur before the indigenous life forms would be likely to advance to intercede on their own.
- The entity could be saved by human intervention using the available technology.

With this objective, the survey missions focused on at-risk █, on the assumption that any exhibiting █ signs from recent epochs would be likely targets for future ones.

The █ now known as Option is such a █. Had it not been chosen for colonization, it would be been seriously damaged in 1978, and rendered uninhabitable to all but the most primitive local life forms.

It turns out that the █ is merely one of a cluster of periodic █ that have apparently been responsible for an indefinite number of extinction cycles at Option. Without intervention, preliminary archaeological research suggests that life here appears to cyclically advance to about the state presently observed, then get blasted back an eon or so.

Because the [redacted] was discovered in 1970, [redacted] eliminated the [redacted] risk for a few more centuries. Before the risk arises again, the threat may be permanently resolved by [redacted].

An Embarrassment of Riches

Well, an entire [redacted] was just saved; now what?

Put yourself in their situation, and consider what you would do, and why: and based on what philosophical principles. This is important. How to proceed is a critical element of how to create an optimally agreeable human culture.

In the instance, there was prior agreement for a key element of the next steps, which was how to avoid the conundrum of the commons. It had been long agreed to explicitly¹⁶ privatize everything, from [redacted] to [redacted]. The challenge that had to be worked out was that the FC really did not want to be in the real estate, resource management or asset registry business, much less run any sort of enterprise that looked remotely like a government agency.

The entire [redacted] was divided into approximately 10 hectare, roughly quadrilateral plots ([redacted] of them), plus two [redacted] plots. A basic default agreement was created to cover definition (location, 3D-extents, scope), responsibilities and easements for freedom of passage. Unissued plots transfer by grant or sale.

Grants are presently made to each new adult immigrant, and to each new native upon reaching age of majority.

Sales are by auction whenever any individual or entity expresses interest in unissued plots¹⁷. Resales are unrestricted, except insofar as subject to prior and later agreement(s).

Projecting population growth, immigration, and sales by auction, the FC expects to be effectively out of the plot issuance activity by [redacted], although there may never be sufficient interest in some of the less hospitable regions, such as most of those underwater (although some are being picked up for purposes of preservation).

16. Inasmuch as everything is always implicitly privatized whenever more than one human is around; see Property.

17. Proposals for non-grant sales by the FC are subject to FC veto, such as imposing minimum bids, specific development time-lines, or preservation commitments, primarily intended to prevent tying up valuable locations in idled speculation or for purposes of outright obstruction. Once assigned or sold, however, market demand applies (including whatever encumbrances the plot has accumulated).

Colonization

... but as non-colonially as could be managed ...

The first arrival and permanent settlement was in 1970, at what is now known as Site One. The early activities were very nearly a complete failure. Although the atmosphere is acceptably breathable, and rain water is somewhat safe to drink without treatment, very little else about the native environment is conducive to human life. Several lives were lost due to deliberate and accidental ingestion of native materials.

Early housing made from native materials was found to be inadequate for the weather and native mega-fauna, as well as often being acutely allergenic, so the population had to live in ■■■ and in retired ■■■ until construction industries were established. This took several years.

The length of the local day was eventually found to be thoroughly destructive to human circadian rhythm. It is not something that can be adapted to. Early notions of novel calendars and day divisions based on native celestial time were abandoned after learning this the hard way.

The SPD of the natural light is also not human health supporting. Supplements and specific cyclic artificial light exposure are essential.

Extramural terraforming and native-light greenhouses have been entirely non-productive. Crops must be grown in Earth mimic soil, with Sol-mimic illumination, and protected from native contamination (which tends to be biocidal to both Domains).

It took three more years [*~1973 - Ed.*] before Option was nutritionally self-supporting at the macronutrient level. Nutrition was suboptimal for another ten years [*~1983 - Ed.*], due to local challenges, destructive Earth dietary dogma, food fads that had not been re-examined, and the entirely unappreciated topic of microbiome.

Urbanization

For the first two decades, occupation confined itself to contiguous plots adjacent to Site One (other than some purely industrial sites). It was simply uneconomic to situate distant self-supporting residential communities. Further, the FC, which continuously reviews its policy on specific owned technologies, decided to keep █████ and █████ confidential, and deliberately minimized use of these for native transport.

Indeed, to provide some predictability for transportation markets, the FC has committed to withholding these technologies until no earlier than 2040. Consequently, native transport has focused on other modalities, which now reaches communities in most regions.

Development

Option relied heavily on Earth imports for the first 35 years. In 2010, there was enough confidence to proclaim material self-sufficiency if supply lines were cut. Nonetheless, Earth missions continue. Biological sampling dominates objectives, with some recruiting, technology acquisitions and periodic rescues. Monitoring (and periodic mirroring) of Earth internet is expected to continue indefinitely.

Some industries and services do not yet exist here, or only on cottage scales. Opportunities abound if you have the knowledge, skills, ambition and market sense.

Earth Relations

In general, the dwellers of Option would like Earth to become a █████-faring planet. Earth needs a local planetary watch program. The third greatest threat to its environment, after politics and population side effects, is large rogue space objects. Missions here have cataloged numerous threatening Earth-crossers, diverted a few, and while peace prevails, may continue to do so.

No general relations are expected to be possible until at least 2040. What might happen at that time is entirely unclear, because Earth's cultural future is impossible to predict.

§

Information by Topic

Understood so far, but what about ...

This section is not intended to be read linearly, although you can choose to do so. Information in this section is arranged numerically by topic, then alphabetically by topic. It is not broadly in any hierarchical order.

These topics include those most frequently raised by immigrants. In digital editions, virtually all terms of interest are hypertext to where that term is defined or principally discussed.

By no means do all topics represent issues of persistent interest to long term dwellers of Option, although some local issues are included in order to bring them to your attention.

Topics 0-3

Question Zero

*Until there is an answer that everyone can accept,
how might everyone get along?*

0.0 Why is there even a context in which anything exists at all?

And anything means anything, including a dimension in which the anything resides, not to mention what preceded or caused the present and progressing anything. This is a profound question, often ignored or explained-away on Earth. To date, no one at Option has more compelling insight on the matter than has been puzzled out on Earth.

This is the Actual Cosmology question. It is one of the Latencies¹⁸, all of which deserve your attention. It is perhaps the most significant of questions, so at least acknowledging the matter avoids allowing it to have subliminal influence that may be unhelpful (such as making weighty life choices based on an answer that might or might not be correct).

You can expect to encounter a familiar spectrum of people offering diverse answers to Question Zero, including a candid “Important question; I don’t know.”

What you are dramatically less likely to encounter here is anyone threatening violence if you do not accept their answer.

18. You need awareness of how the Latencies have subconsciously influenced behavior of individual humans and their cultures over history, often disastrously. And it is primarily just awareness that you need. Where they represent still-open questions, you are not expected to have an answer.

0.1 Why this particular anything?

See Question 0.0.

0.2 What is the history, extents and fate of this anything?

Thanks to off- observatories and DeepFleet missions, a bit more data is available on that compared to Earth-based investigations. Check the astronomy and cosmology reference materials on board, including recent editions of science journals.

0.3 How does this anything work?

Somewhat more is known than on Earth. For example, you are presently traveling in a that leverages , if not also .

0.4 Does time exist, or is it just a human construct for motion?

While awaiting an answer, see **Time**.

The Numbered Rules

For those who are uncomfortable without rules, here are the absolute rules of human behavior, which apply with or without your agreement.

Rule 1. You make choices (or fail to).

Contributed consequences follow.

There are no exceptions, no appeals and no excuses. If you are responsible, when presented with choices, you apply effective principles and mind the consequences you contributed to, and acknowledge your role in outcomes. If you are irresponsible, you do not. See also Rule 1 in **Praxeology 101**.

Rule 2. There are no other rules.

There are, however, helpful principles, plus whatever you agree to. See Principles of Principles and Primacy of Agreement in **Praxeology 101**, as well as Ethics.

Rule 3. See Rule#2

Anyone claiming additional absolute non-negotiable rules has an agenda. They need your agreement for any traction on that. Do not carelessly grant it.

Topics A

Abortion

Just how young does a human being have to be for arbitrarily killing it to meet with your agreement?

It is just an alphabetical coincidence that this topic appears early, but it touches a wide range of philosophical issues. It is also not presently contentious or prominent at Option due to generally open/informed/cautious attitudes about reproduction, low population, high demand for adoption, and freedom of credible contract in Surrogate Parentage.

Abortion: LAG Terms (if any)

LAGs may or may not have specific terms on abortion, but inspect terms on child abuse, for whether or not any terms implicitly cover any portion of the prenatal period. No LAGs presently fund any medical care, so that particular contention is entirely absent here so far.

Abortion is completely proscribed by only a few LAGs, primarily theocratic. It is a touchstone issue, of course. Some individuals who have strong opinions about it, see it as major factor in LAG selection. This may be largely symbolic signaling, because those who agree to be bound by any particular abortion terms normally would behave the same way with or without a formal covenant, and any woman changing her mind, and resigning such a LAG, is at near zero risk of extradition.

Such abortion-as-agreement-violation cases that have arisen usually involve the catalog of extraordinary circumstances, so be sure to consider various scenarios when choosing terms.

As a practical matter, LAG terms prohibiting abortion have been deemed unenforceable. With medical services of all quality levels widely available, the procedures themselves cannot be prevented, short of pregnancy prisons (which no one has yet been incautious enough to attempt). Other LAGs, as with nations on Earth, usually only provide inter-LAG services (like extradition) for violations of provisions they have in common, and strongly resist both prosecution of their own members for providing the service, and prosecution of former members of the proscribing LAG.

Abortion: Praxeological Considerations

The simple reality and consequences of the situation is that abortion is the destruction of at least a potential human being, an act that in any LAGs (to date) would be murder if committed post birth. Whether or not an agreement violation, abortion creates a permanent fact, and there is a collateral constellation of potential non-negotiable consequences¹⁹: emotional, endocrine, medical, metabolic, physiological, psychological and social; on the whole, an experience worth avoiding (or causing).

Indeed once an unwanted pregnancy is detected, even if only the woman knows, enduring facts begin to accumulate, and weighty choices arise and proliferate. The most reliable way to avoid this cascade, if undesired, is to avoid it at the outset. All of this is routinely communicated by competent parents, and presented in reproductive education where offered.

Anyone contemplating providing or procuring an abortion, or creating a risk of such a decision arising, must weigh all the consequences either way. It is most commonly the case that people here are understanding about unplanned pregnancies, and highly supportive of measures encouraging birth (see Adoption, Children and Surrogate Parentage).

Adoption

*The desire to be a parent is as strong here as on Earth
Becoming so unintentionally is a lot less likely.
Becoming so intentionally has, until recently,
actually been a major problem.*

Adoption is a topic in all LAGs, with varying terms. Some have stronger protections for children than others. Because three or more parties are commonly involved, often from different LAGs, it is important to check the terms to see if all parties qualify under the terms of all LAGs. If all parties are members of LAGs with weak child provisions, it is worth considering a specific adoption contract that includes desired protections (such as for donor remorse). Adoption and child-placement services have model documents available. See also Surrogate Parentage.

19. This constellation tends to be ignored on Earth due to the polarized advocacies, which tend to place primary emphasis on philosophical principles, or political agendas, if not mere procedure provider business goals. To the extent that promoting reproductive irresponsibility creates unnecessary self-loathing, that might be deliberate there, as such unhappy people can be politically useful pawns.

Due to environmental, nutritional, endocrine and microbial issues, intentional conception has only recently been improving in response to corrective measures. Anyone arriving pregnant, or desiring to become a parent (irrespective of gender), simply *must* avail themselves of the latest empowering information. Details are beyond the scope of this guide.

Adoption of Earth children, directly from Earth, is not done. The FC does not support it, as cross-█ agreements are today impossible, and major security issues would arise if they were.

Advertising

Billboards tend to exist. Whether they contain propaganda, or mere product promotion, might be up to you.

Political advertising is not really an issue here, but people do want (and need) to know what choices are available in products and services. However, they usually only want to know *when* they want to know, and not necessarily at other times. As LAG terms empower free speech, and with no distinction for ‘Commercial speech’, promoters have wide latitude in sharing their message. This leads to a natural tension.

Truth in advertising: outside of periodic attempts by gLAGs, there are no trading standards commissars, and consequently, no presumption by anyone that ads are being policed, unless the ad bears a credible 3rd-party certification. People rely more on independent reporting, user reviews and cases that percolate up.

Absent contrary terms in any sales contract, cases have sometimes held that ad claims are enforceable contract terms. To what extent any sort of advertising appears in any venue is entirely up to the venue owner. So if you object, let them know.

Overt and subliminal messaging (such as erotics) in advertising are much less prevalent here than on Earth, because people here tend to see right through it, and have less dissatisfaction to appeal to, often concluding that these ploys identify a product and service to avoid.

Affluence

Affluence consists mainly of living well below your means.

On a definition of how much effort it takes for a basic healthy, comfortable life, meeting chosen obligations, and advancing toward personal goals, the majority of people here consider themselves wealthy.

Generating a surplus is not hard (although it can be for the irresponsible). How to invest, spend, distribute or squander any perceived or received surplus is up to you. See also Charity.

Affluent people are hard to control. Impoverished people are easier to control, as they can be made dependent on some cultural construct. The general desire here is for as many as possible to consider themselves affluent.

On Wealth

Wealth is not mere money, as the intrinsically worthless Earth currency in your pocket now attests.

Wealth ultimately consists of contentment, health, relationships, accomplishments, and the physical assets and consumables that support those. Money per se is often just transient tokens that might be exchanged for actual wealth at some point, if the exchange is still then an option.

People here are generally unimpressed by ostentation, but are also not resentful (more precisely, envious), of anyone's material assets. People are more impressed, however by those who attained affluence by creating real gains for the culture.

Perhaps the greatest disincentive to crime here is that if material wealth is your sole objective, it is achieved easily enough through completely agreeable means. Certainly there are those for whom pure accumulation is their only objective; no doubt their heirs appreciate it.

For most here, the objective in life is creating the desired culture, time to enjoy it, and perhaps space to pursue life's great questions. Wealth is only a means to that goal (and for some, is a distraction from that goal). Some invest their wealth in promising technologies (often medical, metabolic and microbial). Others subsidize education, assistance organizations or charities. Many use their wealth to fund the arts, via patronage or purchase. And a few allot it to extravagant lifestyle — that is their choice.

Most LAG charters have default terms covering inheritance distribution, but there are no estate or gift taxes (including in the gLAGs, so far). Few here express concern for unearned or windfall wealth. If the recipient could have created it, they would have; and if they could not, they may not have it long.

There is concern about concentrations of wealth, and how the holders use that wealth (see CultureWatch and Boycotts), but the fact that a holder stumbled into the wealth is generally irrelevant.

Agreement

*Do you disagree with anything in this guide?
Does your agreement matter?
Case closed.*

Agreement is the foundation of human relationships. A culture is fundamentally a system of agreements²⁰, usually based on language, and language itself is agreement on the meaning of symbols, sounds and gestures. It is not possible to overstate the importance attached to making and keeping agreements in most segments of this culture. If you keep agreements, people go out of their way to help you succeed. If you do not, particularly repeatedly, they avoid you, and perhaps not gradually.

The more formal term “contract” merely implies a recorded agreement. The terms “compact” or “covenant” imply a multiple party mutual contract (with perhaps no exchange of consideration). All are fundamentally just agreements.

Agreement Hierarchy

Where the matter at hand matters, and the outcome is uncertain, there are roughly four basic levels of agreement that may exist between parties, the prior taking precedence over the latter:

1. An explicit agreement specific to the matter at hand (such as a contract, bill of sale, or purchase order terms & conditions, etc.) memorializing matters isolated to, and perhaps unique to the transaction, plus any overrides of LAG and Inter-LAG terms.
2. A topical model agreement specified by each party’s LAG (if referenced), as well as inter-LAG default terms (if any).
3. The underlying charter agreement specified by each party’s LAG, as informed by cases, provides wider default terms.
4. Where none of the above are dispositive in a dispute, the implied agreement based on the words and actions of each party might come into consideration. Avoid finding yourself in this situation.

Beyond formal agreements, casual agreements here, if made, are expected to be kept. If you agree to meet someone “at 12:00”, and show up at 12:45, do not be surprised if they ask how they might understand use of the word “at” in future arrangements.

20. A culture that appears to be lacking overt agreements will be found to have implicit agreements, unless it operates primarily on intimidation.

Agreements matter here. The most important component of your character and reputation is whether or not you keep your agreements. If you were lax in keeping agreements on Earth, take the opportunity to start fresh here. Indeed, you always have a chance to start fresh at every moment, anywhere. But know that your honor is literally at stake, and honor does not arise instantly. It requires building (or rebuilding) a history of agreement keeping.

Agreements are not limited to those drafted by any LAGs involved. What a LAG provides is usually just the underlying or default agreement, an arbitration process, and an enforcement process. In most LAGs, you can override the default terms in a specific contract, sometimes surrendering some LAG protections on your solvency, safety or liberty. Until you are competent at doing this, be sure to have the Agreement Services department of your LAG or a professional agreement consultant evaluate the terms before you certify them.

How to Succeed at Agreements

Here is the common wisdom on agreement that is taught to every schoolchild here:

0. If you do not need an agreement, do not make one. Do not create commitments in excess of necessity.
1. Make agreements whenever someone else has an involved role and the outcomes matter. Do not rely on assumptions; they are the fodder of dramatists and connivers. If you cannot make an agreement, act as if you had one (see also point № 4 in this regard).
2. Make only agreements you are able to keep. This does not mean that the outcomes are certain, only that the remedies are acceptable. Do not get pressured into agreements you cannot keep: “I can’t confidently agree to this.”
3. Make only agreements you intend to keep. Remedies aside, reputations are seriously damaged by agreements discovered in hindsight to be shams.
4. The ‘golden rule’ holds wisdom. Make only agreements that you would accept and keep if you were the other party. People here rarely use the word “fair”, but when they do, this is one meaning. If you are acting without agreement, act as if this is the nature of the agreement. From another important perspective, agreement from a party who has no other options is not much of a consent.

5. Make only agreements that either specify remedies (recourse) for failure, or acknowledge that failure is immaterial (beyond damage to reputation). If the outcomes were certain, or no remedies were necessary, no agreement was necessary (point № 0 above). If no remedies are possible, this is not an agreement — it might be just a bet.
6. Keep your agreements. Keep them without complaint or fanfare. A quietly credible reputation speaks more loudly than any boast.
7. If you cannot keep an agreement, keep it anyway. Reputations are not built solely on easily kept agreements.
8. If you really cannot keep an agreement, advise the other party immediately upon discovering the impediment. If the agreement is at risk, do not add insult to injury by compelling the other party to take the initiative to discover this.
Re-negotiate if the agreement permits. These are, after all, just principles (guidelines). It is possible for events or more important agreements/principles to make it impossible or unwise to keep any given agreement.
9. If the agreement is already lapsed, take the initiative to remedy it. Do not make the other party take the initiative. Do:
 - a. promptly acknowledge a broken agreement
 - b. consent to implement the agreed remedy, and perhaps
 - c. state actions already initiated to ensure that it will not happen again.

Note that excuses, guilt, sorrow, apologies, new promises and other shaggy dog stories appear nowhere above. What you and other people want is for agreements to simply be kept. Upon need to communicate a risk to an agreement, or acknowledge a broken one, stick to the situation and the remedies. Omit the stories and the drama. If the reasons matter, they will ask you.

If you keep your agreements:

- You generate self esteem.
- Others are willing to associate with you, and may seek your association.
- Others will not hesitate to make future agreements with you.
- You have less conflict in your life to worry about. You squander no time contriving excuses.

- To the extent that your agreement was a contract, keeping it also prevents negative information in any subscribed third party reports.

If you fail to keep an agreement:

- You will not be an agreement-keeper. This can have psychological consequences.
- Others actively avoid you and decline to enter future agreements if you seek them.
- You can expect various unknown other consequences to worry about. How long can you get away with it? Will they invoke the remedy? Will they hold it over you? Will they use it as leverage for some sinister purpose? How will it affect future relations? Will anyone else find out?
- You are exposed to prior agreed remedial consequences.

Agreement Prevents Problems

On Earth, the courts are often clogged with civil cases (disputes): plaintiffs appealing to the metaphorical parent (government) to fix it. Sources of these conflicts include:

- The failure to strike agreements beforehand invites dispute, and often puts the resolution into the hands of non-parties. This can lead inventive Earth jurists, juries and lawyers to conjure novel liabilities and immunities out of thin air.
- The complexity of Earth laws allows the deceptive to write incomprehensible contracts that are traps for the unwary.
- Failure of parties to keep agreements is often due to mere lack of comprehension of, or disrespect for the concept.
- The failure of agreements to have effective remedies makes non-compliance more likely, and resolution less predictable. When compliance matters, agreements need to specify what happens if one or both parties fails to keep their part.
- Willful interference with contract by Earth political and legal systems often results in retroactive re-writes, and 'legislating from the bench' to make terms more 'reasonable' and 'fair'. Expect this avenue to be closed here also.

Charter Agreement

Charter is a generic term for the baseline agreement with any LAG. It is the rough equivalent of a constitution. The charter terms apply to your relations with others unless specifically and

mutually modified by terms of a custom agreement or contract. LAGs strive to keep charter agreements concise enough that anyone can completely read them before joining the LAG.

Charter terms may limit possible modifications via contract, or merely leave inconsistent contracts partially or entirely without LAG recourse. If you are going to override any LAG terms, be sure to specify an alternate arbitration venue.

Model Agreement

Most LAGs have these. They are templates for specific situations. They may apply by default where there is no specific contract, or they may apply by reference, or be specifically disclaimed in a contract. Model Agreements often reflect unfortunate lessons from case outcomes, so take advantage of them.

Agreement Consultant (AC)

This is any dispenser of advice regarding choosing, negotiating or executing agreements, and who may (or may not) also act as an advisor in the event of disputes about agreement violations. In Earth terms, the competency can range from your iffy cousin Erin to the equivalent of an experienced paralegal.

Outside of the gLAGs, freedom of speech allows anyone to offer advisory services on any terms, subject only to normal agreement priority on misrepresentation. When a matter escalates to an actual tribunal, the formal procedure normally requires that non-party advocates be at least CTR, if not also admitted to practice in the specific forum.

Agriculture

Earth agriculture always was a Faustian bargain, albeit one that made it possible for you to be where you are, and reading this.

Here, the hazards and deficiencies are more appreciated, and that, plus the economics, leads to very deliberate choices.

All attempts at *exterior* and native-soil agriculture here have been complete failures. Farmers here would feel lucky if they only had to deal with the perchlorate problem on Mars. When Earth crops can be made to grow in the native environment, they are inedible. Consequently, everything grown here for human consumption is produced in Earth-mimic biomes in fully enclosed structures, including agridomes and any enclosure with hydroponics.

Farming and ranching are prominent and prosperous professions here. Agronomy and biology generally, are top career choices at the moment. If you happen to be a micro- or marine biologist, you can name your price at any operation.

Stable, self-contained complete ecosystems are still a work in progress. Pollination is a perennial challenge. Earth atmospheric, weather, season, lake and ocean emulation are topics of continuing investigation and experimentation.

Alcohol

Each generation fancies itself to be the first to discover alcohol, sex and stupidity, too often all at the same time.

Alcoholic beverages may or may not be available en route. This is at the captain's discretion, and for passengers only.

Local alcoholic beverages are apt to be unfamiliar. To date, the economical ones are fermented from the inedible portions of food crops. Wine is just now becoming available, having taken some time to emerge, due to the hectares per grape required, fine-tuning of soil microbiology, time and expense.

There is a similar story for beer. There is widespread avoidance of grains²¹ here as a direct human food, so production of grains is mainly for animal feed and some malting. Demand for distilled grains, however, is comparable to Earth, all resulting in wide price variation.

LAG terms may or may not cover sales or consumption of alcoholic beverages per se. See also Mood Altering Substances for a wider discussion of approaches to abuse management.

Aliens

"Take me to your leader" is surprisingly confessional.

Have any other sentient (i.e. agreement-forming) lifeforms been discovered since the conectors first left Earth?

The answer is: unclear.

Some uncorrelated en route (at speed) phenomena have been observed on various [redacted] missions, but no one knows yet just what to make of them. They may yet turn out to be of natural origin, or an artifact of [redacted] physics.

21. Due mainly to glycemic provocation, specific adverse proteins (such as glutens) and adverse lectins. Organic farming, although common here, cannot fix inherent toxicity.

‘UFO’ sightings are as common at Option as on Earth, as you might expect with frequent operations of █████ and █████ craft, but the percentage of credible unexplained reports is about the same as on Earth. This also may turn out to be natural, perhaps atmospheric in origin, as the █████ and sometimes more violent climate here probably produces rare, and as-yet uncatalogued effects more often than on Earth.

DeepFleet explorations have turned up any number of █████ with various █████, but so far, all are █████. █████ electromagnetic surveys, using large █████-based antenna arrays, have turned up nothing (except █████).

The apparent radio-quiet is not necessarily proof of anything. Considering human technology, it is likely, for example, that Option itself will have been broadcasting (in all directions) transmissions that use simple carrier frequencies, modulations and encodings, for only █████ or so. Increasingly, range-limited, point-to-point, spread-spectrum, digitally-encoded, error-protected, noise-padded and deliberately encrypted transmissions look more and more like stellar radio noise. Much of what humans everywhere transmit today would be incomprehensible if not undetectable to a 1950s radio astronomer. Today’s astronomers might similarly not recognize a culture a mere half-century ahead. Furthermore, other advances — and caution — may well cause an advanced culture to be, or become, effectively emissions-quiet.

A century or two of radio visibility is just a quick flash in a universe with the apparent age of this one. Current thinking on the alien visitation falls into two camps:

- They are not there, or cannot get here (due to physics limits).
- They are out there, and perhaps near, or perhaps here, but choose not to reveal themselves, and very effectively so (otherwise they would probably leave).

If they are out there, we are now pretty sure they are not from around here, that is, they are not within the capabilities of human remote sensing and transport technology. If they are lurking within Option culture range, they do not want to be found, and it would be easy to guess why — they have much more advanced technology, particularly transport. Earth technology is barely inter-satellite. Option culture is █████. There are no reports, so far, that anyone here is actively investigating more capable transport.

If solid evidence of aliens turns up, transport would be the likely explanation. It is far easier to re-invent than to invent, if only because the goal is then known to be possible. Humans are clever, perhaps cunning. The new would probably be in testing within a few years.

If you were an alien, would you want the human race to have the run of the ? Based on Earth behavior to date, the suspicion is: not today. If there are aliens around, they are doubtless watching from well concealed vantage points to see how the Option experiment works out, and implications for whether it (or Earth) might become a menace.

If aliens landed, would they have ...

... art, dimorphism, fiction, government, hearing, music, philosophy, team sports ... deeper insight on Question Zero? What latencies might *they* be saddled with?

The sub-head lead-in above is a rhetorical question sometimes heard here, the point of which is not so much to explore what aliens might be like (which has ample coverage in science fiction), but more to allow contemplation of aspects of human life and culture that have been taken for granted, and too often allowed to become latencies that may harbor hazards.

Allergies

*Legacy allergies usually vanish.
Novel allergies require awareness.*

The vast majority of Earth allergies are now known to be optional ailments resulting from dietary, health care and personal environment errors — mainly food-like substances that provoke and/or impair the intestine and/or immune system, plus under-appreciated side effects of medications and novel Earth agricultural and industrial compounds that do likewise.

Any allergies that you already have, are likely to recede over time, if not in transit, entirely and permanently. For any that persist, just avoid the agridomes where the specific allergens are cultivated or conserved, and get your microbiomes profiled.

There is, however, potentially severe risk of novel allergic reactions to native substances. Chimeric proteins here are one source, with seemingly minor wildlife bites being a particular problem. Most people are non-reactive to normal casual exposure to the Option environment. Some need medications to manage it, which is less than ideal, as the medications

themselves then need dietary supplements to compensate for their own side effects. Getting screened for this en route is optional, but strongly recommended.

For about 0.7% of the immigrant population, the reaction can be fatal if untreated, and on an on-going basis, the current management protocols are materially sub-optimal — chronic medications, or being confined to more-than-usually hermetic enclosed living, perhaps needing bio-protective wear outdoors. Some in this position ultimately elect to live off-████, often eventually joining DeepFleet.

Anarchy & Anti-

This is the most structured anarchy around.

If you want to be an authentic anarchist, the OutLAG option is available. Everything else is basically ‘you-archy’ anyway (perhaps literally, if you can get at least one other person to agree to your desired ‘archy, plus a third party to referee it²² — otherwise it is just ‘you’, with no ‘archy).

Whatever you choose, you cannot expect to impose it on others, nor can they impose their ‘archy on you. If you enter a cultural agreement, of course, it is then at least a ‘we-archy’.

The term “anarchist” is rather like the term “atheist”, and most words prefixed with “anti-”. It vaguely speaks to something opposed, but may say nothing about what is advocated²³ (which is convenient for Earth anarchists and antis desiring to conceal their actual advocacies). Further, many anti-somethings on Earth are actually advocates of what they pretend to oppose.

Anger

Do not give the apparent trigger source that much control over you.

You may notice that people are not just generally happier here, they rarely express anger (nor appear to be suppressing it). This is due to multiple factors: education, endocrinology, personal responsibility and psychology. See also Emotion.

Some anger on Earth arises from being trapped by culture, circumstances or the residue of unwise choices (do fully exploit your fresh, free start here). Some is due to physiologic problems,

22. Most just pick a LAG for the interim — but not all, obviously, as there are multiple LAGs already, and outLAGs are at large. Launching a new LAG is a great deal of work.

23. ... and atheism in particular rarely advances insights on Question Zero.

such as adverse diet, dysbiosis, endocrine disorders and prior brain trauma (get checked and remediated as needed). Some is simply due to anger being a surrogate for denied dismay.

But most anger on Earth arises because people there simply will not allow themselves to assert their self interest until they first get angry. If this has been an issue for you, learn how to plainly and calmly express what you want.

If you feel anger coming on, be willing to experience it, and identify it, but not necessarily act on it. Sharing that you are angry is useful. Directing that anger at others, or blaming them for it, usually does not serve your interests. In general, injecting anger into any relationship here may be expected to make the anger itself the immediate priority and delay resolution of any actual issue afoot (and not necessarily in your favor).

As you learn more about the insanity you left behind on Earth, the natural tendency is to get angry about it. Let it go. There is no need for that place to have any further control of you. Anger, allowed to fester, gives the apparently provoking source continuing and needless power over you.

Art

Demand for Earth scenes, in mural form, still leads the market.

Until recently, there has been little surplus time for the tangible (or performing) arts. However, things do have to take physical form, so inspired design is prized.

Architecture is most in need of talent, due to limitations on construction, resulting in most exposed structures taking a basic dome form. Sub-structures within a dome, particularly within residomes, on the other hand, can be more free-form.

Blank walls are boring, but decorative and inspirational art has further been delayed also by the lack of materials. If you produce any materials for your own use, expect there to be some commercial demand.

Authority

*You are the final authority for you,
but not necessarily anyone else.*

Other than in the sense of 'subject matter expert', there are no inherent authorities here, and you are not likely to encounter the term outside of your own elective delegations.

The topic is raised in this guide because the notion of authority is one of the parental latencies, influential on Earth, but recognized as content-free here. The only parental figures are actual parents and their delegates (e.g. teachers, sitters), and then only relative to the specific children and situations.

If you are religious, you chose to be so (or remain so). You chose which deity to accept, which church to join, which interpretation of which scripture to observe. You were the final authority in choosing your final authority, so to speak.

At and beyond age of majority, there is no one outside yourself whose ideas, demands, decrees, decisions, laws, pronouncements, opinions or rules you must accept and obey (without choice or prior agreement). What ideas you hold, and how you choose to act, are entirely up to you.

This is not true just because this guide says so. It has always been true. Reading it herein does not make it true for you until you acknowledge it. And until you acknowledge it, you are a potential victim of anyone claiming to be an authority.

You may already have suspected that this is true. After all, you did defy an entire planet to come here. So why state the obvious? The point is to prepare you for life in a culture where everyone else knows that they are the final authority in their lives, and they presume that you are in yours. If you prefer to have someone else telling you what to do, you may not be happy here unless you can locate some cult to join.

Aviation

Conventional aircraft, whether fixed-wing or vertical lift, are relatively rare here, and mostly charter. Liquid fuels are expensive. Local batteries are up to the task for modest and recreational applications, but weather conditions make scheduled air travel somewhat unpredictable.

Semi-autonomous rotor-craft (helibots; drones) are often used for material deliveries in challenging situations.

Scheduled █████ transport service exists between █████ and on longer intra-████ routes, but the FC limits this service to minimize the exposure of █████ technology. There is no substantial airline industry, due to rail, the climate, the nominal competition from █████, and the expectation that █████ technology may escape non-disclosure at any time (FC sunset schedule notwithstanding).

Topics B

Banking

... no free checking, but otherwise familiar ...

There is no single concept of bank. You can find entire volumes devoted to the history and current implementations of the concept. For any given LAG, and for inter-LAG, expect to find an evolving list of accepted value bases, recognized tokens, endorsed brokers and repositories. What you use in private transactions is up to you, subject to how much access, negotiability, speed of settlement, and recourse you desire.

Banks are like any other product. People want reliability, efficiency, convenience and economy, possibly not in that order. Independent vetting, user reports, and LAG case files all provide selection support. Markets demand predictable and reliable settlement of transactions, so pay some mind to which banks the brokers use. If you want deposits or transactions insured, get insurance (and from a third party). The premium rate alone tells you a lot about the bank (or vault, if all you want is storage).

Stored Value Cards, etc.

SVCs are similar to debit cards, but the backing exchange unit varies. Cards can be encoded to perform currency exchanges by the card issuer, the payment processor, or the merchant can request re-designation of the base at point of sale. It is not much different than using an Earth credit card internationally.

Credit cards also exist, and a nominally debit style SVC may act as one upon overdraft. Checks, however, are no longer commonly used, due to the usual payment assurance and security concerns, as well as the expensive physical settlement processing and disposition formerly required for these instruments, not to mention just being an inefficient use of valuable bio-safe paper, speaking of which...

Bio-Safety

This place did not really have us in mind.

Unlike Earth, the default concept of bio-safety here has nothing to do with biological warfare, and less to do with acute Earth pathogens and toxins. Earth Bio-Safety Levels only apply here in labs where pathogens are studied. What bio-safety has to do with here is that completely routine elements of native biology at Option can be acutely pathogenic to various Earth life forms.

In consequence, any products containing local materials need to provide some indication of hazard level, and there is an independent standard for Bio-Safety Grade (BSG; full details beyond the scope of this guide). The levels seen at retail, usually bearing suitable icons, range from zero (no reaction so far reported) to 10 (all Earth life forms react to), typically with letter suffixes denoting the most troubling reaction(s) (Allergy, Disability, Irritation, Lethality, etc). Until your own reactivity is assessed, confine exposure to the lower Grades.

Borders

*Outside of the occasional pompous²⁴ gLAG foray,
there are not any passports.*

Property lines may or may not be marked. Community lines usually are not marked explicitly, but often are, in effect, due to needing barriers to ward off the wildlife. There are not really any problems arising from nationalism (more precisely: super-geographic tribalism), primarily because there are few nation-like regions to speak of.

From time to time, ambitious gLAGs attempt to establish marked and/or closed borders. Whether the signs are mere information, or warnings, and whether the barriers are to keep people out, *or in*, are matters for your contemplation.

Boycotts

You do not have to wait for the next election.

By avoiding taxes you avoid concerns over what they fund, but every time you spend, barter or sell, you are supporting someone's objectives, in addition to your own. Although the

24. Author's characterization, implies no endorsement by First Consortium.

annoyance of formal periodic elections might be absent, what policies you support could be considered a matter of continuous choice. Every every gram is a ballot, so to speak.

Informed dwellers pay attention to not just product and service quality, value, and warranty (including what LAG terms apply), but also news, reports from other customers, and producer policies (such as raw material sourcing), employee/subcontractor treatment, and how profits are invested. Product and service test reports often note the wider brand context. User comments abound.

From time to time, disagreeable parties or apparent threats arise, resulting in organized calls for boycotts, but see also Shunning.

Topics C

Calendar

This is one app on your Earth cell phone that still works (after adjustment for [redacted] and preferred time zone).

The calendar and clock use in daily life is synchronized, insofar as possible, to Earth UTC (more commonly still called GMT here), complete with leap years and leap seconds. There is a local clock, but it has only narrow applications²⁵.

The reasons for local clock irrelevancy are:

1. Option has celestial periods materially different from Earth, so much so, for most applications, that the utility of the native calendar and clock ranges from useless to pathological (see Circadian Matters).
2. Any appreciation for human and natural history requires a common time base, to have a comprehensible context.
3. Future open relations with Earth are expected, and this requires at least a common date framework.

The local day, by the way, has a formal term ([redacted], based on [redacted]), but is more commonly called a “[redacted]”, and you will hear outdoor folks use it.

25. The native calendar and clock (decimal, for unambiguous time values) are used for near-Option activities, astronomy, native geoscience, and inform the daily natural light forecast for external activities.

Censorship

... this [redacted] sort of thing (with author's active agreement),
and that is about it here ...

Government censorship does not exist here, including in the gLAGs, so far. Any material restrictions on speech are going to arise either from actual agreement(s), such as NDAs, professional ethics (such as medical privacy), or simple personal choice (in light of your desired constellation of consequences in any situation). The theocratic LAGs may or may not have any enforceable member terms on blasphemy.

This work, for example, was extensively redacted by the author at the suggestion of the FC, in order to enable harmless publication of an Earth Edition. For those reading an en route or Option edition of this, the instances look like “[redacted]” (and are that length, regardless of text span collapsed).

Every act of communication, that is not continuous babble, requires some selectivity in order to achieve efficient transmission of the intended message. Speakers routinely omit material unsupportive of, or disruptive to goals.

Publishers, whether electronic or print, also exercise selectivity. In a discussion forum, for example, the operator may set limits, often agreed to explicitly.

Problems can arise, of course, where a publisher claims freedom and/or being unbiased, but openly or covertly censors, which then may be itself an agreement violation. If you encounter that, fire them. It is easy enough here to start your own network node to express whatever. See also Freedom of Speech, Offended and Political Correctness.

Certainty

*Certainty exists, and you can be certain of it.
It is doubtful that doubt has priority.*

Immigrants often remark that for a society that eschews righteousness, judgmentalism and normative remarks generally, that people seem to be calmly objective and firm about their decisions and positions. They are very ‘black and white’, and acknowledging very little ‘gray’.

Put another way (for the benefit of philosophical skeptics), if there is no certainty (or knowledge, or truth), why are these words in your vocabulary?

There are three basic choices:

- Certainty exists, and you can be certain of it.
- Certainty may or may not exist, but you cannot be certain.
- Certainty does not exist, but you have no way of knowing that, at all.

Absolute certainty is trivially demonstrated in formal systems, and even casually. For example, are you alive and reading this? Are you certain? Everyday life, of course, settles for much less than this level of certainty, often taking calculated or merely accepted risk of considerable undesired consequences.

Informally, what people usually mean here by “certain” is:

- A decision is needed on some matter of consequence.
- You have evaluated all of the immediately available evidence, and found nothing to suggest a risk. Based on the severity of the consequences, extra investigation may be needed.
- If there was suggestion of risk, or reason to suspect that the evidence may have been misleading, additional evidence or an independent opinion is sought.
- There is no reason to suspect that key information was missing or overlooked.
- All of the evidence supports a single conclusion.
- No ‘black swans’: no evidence contradicts the conclusion.

Could you be mistaken on this informal definition? Yes, and that is why precautions are often taken. Being certain does not mean being infallible.

On Earth, academic philosophy is currently dominated by Subjectivist skeptics, who infect their students with doubt. This gives the professors the upper hand, and the resulting endless debates and unresolved issues keep the professors employed cranking out theses that have no (or destructive) relation to real human life. Earth academics avoid objectivity, which is also a mortal threat to their political agendas. They often refuse to even define their terms. They want you to think that you share a common language when that is not the case.

On Earth, the ranks of professional philosophers are actually dominated by two other major groups (politicians and lawyers; not the academics) and both tend to avoid firm principle and positions; the former so that they can pander to the party bosses

or pretend to bend with the breezes from the pollsters, and the latter because their primary objective is winning cases, and not finding truth or setting ideal cultural precedents.

Such eternal fountains of [self] doubt and truth dodging/bending are absent here. The schools here teach philosophy as a comprehensible topic having application to everyday life, politicians do not exist unless you want them to, and tribunal case outcomes have only a minor effect on precedent.

Charity

*Merely **feeling** affluent breeds philanthropy.*

A charitable act enabled your reading of this page. Generally lacking taxes, charity here looks rather like it did in the United States prior to 1917 (U.S. income tax charitable deduction). People use their time and uncommitted assets to help further the kind of culture they want to live in, without the distortions and restrictions of deductions.

Being homeless here, for example, is potentially a very dangerous matter (due to natural hazards and no natural food sources). No one wants to see anyone in that situation, if they can be helped and are willing to be helped. Most major settlements consequently have shelter-focused charities, whose lead objective is to assist people in becoming self-supporting, and providing services from clothing to meals, as well as housing and medical aid. Your selection of LAG may include some consideration for whether fees support such assistance.

Neither does anyone want a child to go without an education. No-fee schools and scholarships are widely available, but as with government schools on Earth, 'free' may include some agenda that the parents or guardians have less control over.

There being no tax advantage to charitable acts, organized entities are not sharply split between profit and non-profit. People direct their funds as they see fit, and usually with long-term objectives in mind.

Children

Minor culture-shock: in general, parents are fully responsible for housing, feeding, clothing, educating and caring for their children.

Absent specific agreements, no one else has obligations for any of the above. Where there is a clear custodial relationship (parents, guardians, etc.), children are generally considered to be provisional members of the custodian's LAG. Divorce, adoption, outLAG custodians and the like, can of course complicate all this.

The status of children may be expected to be a focus in any LAG agreement terms. They require special status because they were brought into existence with no obvious indications of consent, and the younger they are, the less capable they are in terms of basic communication, much less comprehending and keeping agreements. Children are nonetheless capable of actions resulting in considerable material consequences²⁶. LAG terms are therefore more about adult behavior, adult responsibilities and adult liabilities.

In terms of general culture, children are, to the extent possible, treated like small scale adults, with a focus on transitioning from protective obedience-based relationships to agreement-based independence. Notions of 'age of reason' and 'age of contract' are subordinate to 'age of agreement keeping'.

What is an Adult?

Full LAG membership (other than in an over-reaching gLAG) applies only to those capable of choosing, comprehending, agreeing to, and fulfilling their part of an agreement. On Earth, becoming an 'adult' is usually some arbitrary age in years, with possible exceptions for those severely impaired into adulthood.

Here, each LAG is likely to have its own functional criteria for assessing competence to enter formal agreements generally, and individual LAG membership agreement in particular. Screening may²⁷ include interviews and tests. The same criteria may be available to a child seeking parental or other guardian emancipation.

26. This includes consequences for the child. Due to all-too-easy native environmental hazard encounters, toddler protection is crucial.

27. Screening is likely with younger immigrants, because there is often no verifiable evidence of age available.

Child Abuse

LAG terms on this need inspection. The notional obligations of the tag line above are likely to be formal. If whatever anyone else might do to a child is considered a crime, the same terms might apply if done by a custodian. This might include body modifications, withheld or capricious medical treatment, etc.

Circadian Matters

Obey the sun, and that, alas, would be the Earth sun (Sol).

The natural day here is Earth hours. Initially it was thought that people could adapt their sleep cycles to that. It was a disaster. Human circadian rhythms cannot be shifted very far off a 24 hour cycle without a long list of relentless and insidious health consequences. On Earth, this is well known to sleep researchers, but due to the reliable Earth sun (Sol), it takes a deliberate effort there to become severely asynchronous (such as shift work or chronic long distance travel). On Option, it takes a deliberate effort to *obtain* a healthy synchronization.

Consequently, most enclosed locations and activities here have elected a virtual ‘time zone’ (VTZ), and stick to it rigorously. The default reference time base is Earth GMT (~UTC), and the local time standards were roughly synchronized to Earth GMT early on. See Calendar.

Where VTZ is not GMT, common venue choices include an 8-hour offset, such as VTZ:GMT-8 or VTZ:GMT+8, typically declared at site or building entrances. These might be signage “GMT [$\pm n$] Time”, or more casually, “VTZ:Greenwich”, “VTZ:LA Time” or “VTZ:Hong Kong Time”.

You absolutely must select a time zone for your personal day. If, for example, you live in a residence dome on VTZ:GMT, but have an outside occupation on VTZ:GMT \pm 8 time, expect promptly accumulating health problems.

Activities not reliant on natural light are preponderantly on one of these arbitrary 24 hour clock schedules, with no consideration for local native time. Those tasks needing more coverage, such as multi-zone retail establishments and services, teleoperators, emergency services, customer support and shift production, obviously need workers whose domestic lives are aligned to other zones. Not all locales have multi-family residences aligned to multiple zones. In a private residence, or well-isolated domicile, this is less of an issue.

The spectral power distribution (SPD) of the natural light here is sufficient for illuminating external activities, but lacks both adequate content for , and specific content for circadian cuing. Routine artificial light here has been approaching a more Sol-like SPD, but expect to need supplemental vitamin D₃.

You may see people wearing amber wrap-around glasses (blue-blockers). This means they are out and about when it is not their ‘daytime’, and they are protecting specific retinal cells from stray natural and artificial blue light, and perhaps bright light generally. Please respect their intentions.

Citizens

Are citizen and comrade just euphemisms for ‘subject’ and serf?

When inhabitants describe one another, they usually use “dweller”. Due to political connotations, citizen is another word not often heard, and therein reside some observations.

There is considerable ‘civic spirit’ at Option. People often contribute their time, effort and resources to projects and goals that do not appear to directly benefit them personally. This is not the result of indoctrination, nor of urging by political figures (who effectively do not exist anyway). It is the simple result of people acting to create the kind of world they want to live in.

In most Earth societies, you were taught that civic acts are a noble moral imperative, that acting for yourself is selfish (by which is meant: discouraged, if not “evil”), and that acting for others (anyone but yourself) is “good”.

Curiously, on the one hand you are cajoled to get satisfaction from contributing to the community, and on the other, Earth courts hand out sentences of “community service” as punishment, and the compulsory government schools there are helping to reintroduce slavery via mandatory community service assignments, among other means. Basically, in addition to taxes on your efforts, and campaign contributions, politicians expected you to expend additional life-time to back-fill their unsurprisingly failed promises.

On Earth, it is easy to conclude either that civic projects are mere virtue signaling — a waste of time — or that one person cannot make a difference in the long run. Here, people know that they make a difference, and when one, or a group, decide to do something, they just do it. Are you expected to join in? No, but do not be surprised if you do, once you see how it serves you.

Civilization

If it actually makes your life harder, it is probably not civilization.

As generally understood at Option, a civilized culture is one in which people deal with each other primarily by agreement. This differs from the more vague definitions on Earth, where people may think that claustrophobic cities and pandemic government represent some gauge of progress vs. hunter-gatherer status.

Climate & Weather

*You need to pick both an external climate,
and an internal climate.*

Exterior Climate

The climate and weather here are more severe than on Earth. This places constraints on regions suitable for settlement, construction, transport and outdoor activities, although, as on Earth, no place is entirely forbidding, given sufficient incentive.

Weather forecasts really matter, and include at least the external weather, if not also any planned weather emulation for your residence and other major domes in your day's activities.

Interior Climate

Most here live in domiciles within residence communities. The hosting residence structures tend to have blends or variations of four major implementations of Earth environmental emulations:

1. Basic (hotel-like): static lighting and temperature, also implying no specified time zone for the hosting structure. The lighting may include no specific SPD target. Air handling is usually basic as well. Floor may be inorganic.
2. Circadian: Basic, plus a lighting cycle matched to the elected time zone. The light SPD is often Sol. Ceiling may simulate Earth day sky when illuminated.
3. Environmental: weather emulation is added to level № 2. Temperature and humidity are varied to simulate one or more Earth regional seasons. Precipitation may be provided. Sol transit may be simulated. Floor is often Earth-compatible soil, with drainage provisions (for gardens, etc.)
4. Leading edge: level № 3, plus possible emulations of Earth magnetic field, planetarium projector for simulated Earth night sky. Weather emulation may include some wind (but stops short of lightning).

Climate Change

Were it not for human intervention, the climate here would have recently undergone catastrophic change, and would not support most of the current native life forms, much less the Earth forms.

To the extent that humans back on Earth are biasing long-term climate trends, the problem is less one of *what* they are doing, and more a matter of *how many* are doing it. This is exacerbated by the fact that some of the major polluting regions are merely paying lip service to any treaty obligations, their own laws, and/or remediations that might actually be helpful. These regions expect everyone else to ruin their own economies by trying — a form of economic warfare, really — plus the whole “climate change” meme is being politically exploited for the usual continued warfare on personal autonomy.

In any event, what might be the top Earth priority would seem to be ignored there: encouraging reproductive responsibility, and removing government incentives for having more children than parents can support.

At Option, humans are acknowledged to be directly and actively responsible for preventing climate catastrophe, but population size is not yet a factor. The presently low population, and possibly insufficient population growth, is expected to play no part in Option climate trends for millennia.

Clothing

*You might arrive with just the ‘shirt on your back’,
but do not be surprised if you get offers for it.*

People presently dress very differently here compared to Earth. This is not really a matter of deliberate style and lower vanity. It reflects the state of raw materials suitable for clothing (much as most people mainly wore white and black on Earth before the dye revolution).

The priorities here are bio-compatibility, durability and functionality. Materials presently include more hide and wool than you may be used to, plus use of non-traditional plant fibers. There is some pelt but not much polymer, with polymers primarily used in outdoor outerwear. If you have some spiffy style ideas within these constraints, you have a career for some time to come.

Collectivism

*... fine for actual collective species, such as ants,
where the colony **is** the organism.*

You are free to join a collective here, but be sure to check the escape clauses (if any) first. Voluntary communes arise from time to time, and are about as {un}successful here as on Earth, and for the same reasons. Humans working together are capable of great accomplishment, but also great mischief — as well as great indolence, if everyone else is presumed to be doing the heavy lifting, and you personally get no extra benefit from any extra heavy lifting that you contribute.

For why the concept still conjures the credulous back on Earth, see Tribalism, and Tribo-Parentalism. The collective, of course, has always outnumbered the individual, resulting in endless cycles of cultural horror on Earth, and will continue to do so until people recognize it and step out of it.

Communications

*Similar concepts and services,
but hopelessly incompatible technology.*

Telephony

Mobile telecommunication devices are widely available, with competing features, and coverage variations. A basic handset usually only works within a kilometer or so of a system antenna²⁸. Full-coverage devices are available, with rates reflective of bandwidth and tolerable propagation delay.

Dome rebar can act as a Faraday cage, so be sure to understand what transceivers or repeaters are available inside any domes where you spend much time. Fiberline services are available inside and between many major communities.

If you brought along a cell phone, it can be charged, but otherwise can only function as a clock, calendar and off-line pocket computer. You may decide that it has more value to local technology enterprises or collectors than it does to you, once the contents have been transferred to a local device.

28. The short range is deliberate, resulting from a desire to reduce RF signature generally, as well as minimize mitochondrial disruption risk.

Data Networking

Telecommunication and networking protocols (including room-range and near-field) developed in parallel with, but independently of Earth. They are functionally familiar but, unsurprisingly, utterly incompatible in their technical details.

Few enough Earth devices are arriving for there to be a market for Earth-compatible devices, adapters²⁹ or relays. Elements of TCP/IP (but not WiFi) have been implemented on top of native protocols here, but this is used almost exclusively for access to local mirrors of Earth's world wide web.

You can get a feel for how local resource naming and addressing schemes vary as you browse the on-board network, or review the technical references found there.

Broadcasting

The network equivalent of radio and TV are available, but generally limited to wired connections, or over short wireless ranges in communities, often only inside domes.

Network-based streaming took over early here. Although North American standard AM, FM and analog NTSC were available in some locales in the early days, they were all abandoned once digital protocols arose, the risks became apparent, and connection alternatives arose.

Creating and distributing content costs money. Funding sources are familiar: and include advertising, subscriptions, patronage, but not LAG fees or (to date) gLAG taxes.

Construction

Each person added to the population here requires another 0.25 hectares of enclosed Earth biosystem space.

That figure includes mainly arable (Earth biology) soil (for food production), plus average personal dwelling space, and expansion of shared spaces for both personal use and cultural infrastructure. Enclosing spaces and growing the bio-mimic substrate is an unsurprisingly relentless activity.

Someone has already been building 2500 square meters for you. The industry is in high demand, understaffed, and apt to be the first recruiters encountered after arrival. If construction is your profession, be sure to comprehend the circadian, bio-safety and personal safety hazards before accepting an offer.

29. Bench-top rigs purpose-built for one-time data transfer do exist.

Building options here are further severely constrained by seismology, climate, raw materials, and the general need for barriers between human and native biosystems.

Minerals (usually concrete) and metals predominate in materials. Paucity of hydrocarbon sources limits polymers. Native natural fibrous materials are not favored for interior applications (unless encased or highly processed), due to bio-compatibility. Native materials are used in exterior applications, but working with them can be a biohazard situation.

Exterior construction requires careful weather and seismic forecast scheduling, site protection from native mega-fauna (as well as some airborne taxa), and circadian housing for crews.

There is a distinct lack of skyscrapers here, but this is due to not wanting to invest more than necessary for application needs, low population density, few being outside much to appreciate the architecture, plus a general low priority on windows (due to the natural light being a circadian asynchrony issue).

Domes

The most common large structure is the outside-insulated reinforced concrete thinshell dome form. This provides the most economic large-space clear span, outstanding resistance to almost all natural and incidental hazards, excellent thermodynamics, and inherent environmental isolation.

Domes scale to sizes limited only by seismology and climate (basically needing to avoid actual wave formation in, or wind deformation of the shell). Internal characteristics vary by dome application: residome, agridome (farm/ranch), aquadome (marine or freshwater aquaculture), conservatory, manufacturing, recreation, etc.

Consumer Issues

*As on Earth, you are the final watchdog for you.
The difference is that here, everyone knows it.*

See Regulation for a conceptual framework. Although LAG terms implicitly cover misrepresentation, liability hierarchy and contractual enforcement, they are usually silent on matters of product quality, suitability for purpose, and perhaps safety details. Warranties are as enforceable as any contract.

Multiple product and service test/report programs exist, and as on Earth they may be subscription (and thus most likely to be impartial), volunteer review (and thus potentially random, if not at risk of skills), or ad-supported (with presumed sponsor bias).

Service contracts and extended warranties are more common here, and much less likely to be the third-party scams seen on Earth (you give them money, and they somehow never ever give it back). Product producer rate quotes and customer claim satisfaction reports tend to reveal a lot about product (and policy) quality.

Contract

... an agreement by any other name, just memorialized, endorsed, and perhaps witnessed, recorded or registered, as needed ...

Contracts are generally just point agreements, and are as common here as on Earth. Due to the desire to keep LAG charters simple and conceptual, charters cannot cover all possible arrangements. Do not treat any proposed contract as immutable. Darn near everything is negotiable.

Specify a remedy (or remedies) for failure by any party. An agreement with no remedies is more of a bet than a contract.

Starting with your choice of LAG (if any), apply due diligence to all contracts. The more extensive the terms are, the more diligence is needed. Expect various incorporations-by-reference, for which applicable LAG matters. Disclaimers and waivers need special attention. Escrow is popular. Choice of venue(s) for dispute resolution matters, although arbitration is less common than on Earth, because the tribunals here tend to just work, and promptly. Arbitration arose on Earth largely because the courts there are too slow, expensive and often deliver erratic and inconsistent rulings (not to mention risk of novel rulings outside the four corners of the arrangement).

Generally lacking the concept of “legal tender” here, contracts for anything beyond prompt sales usually specify agreed payment forms. Longer term contracts may have terms providing one or both parties with inflation or deflation protection (like the gold clauses of yore on Earth³⁰).

Due to the high cost of bio-safe paper, most contracts are now memorialized in digital form, with various authentication and/or registration schemes to prevent agreement fraud. Hard-copy is usually available, but expect a surcharge.

30. Compare U.S.Const.art II§10 with HJR 192 of 1933 sometime.

LAGs do not retroactively preempt contracts, and as a practical matter, can only really prohibit egregious contract terms for those unwilling to resign from their respective LAGs. Yes, you can ‘sign your life away’, but it takes effort.

Control

For maximum control, fully embrace the lack of it.

Ultimately, humans have limitations on their control of events during life. That can be scary, and leads to the desire for control being one of the Latencies. Seeking control for the sake of the illusion of absolute control is the result.

Cultural forces on Earth, of course, tend to work toward depriving the individual of what little personal control might be within reach. Frightened dependent serfs are much easier for despots to herd.

Desire for maximum control of personal outcomes is understandable. When aspiration seeks metaphorical parents to provide it, and/or desire for control over others, then pathological latencies lurk.

Copyright

Copyright on Earth is creeping toward perpetual lawyer enrichment, destruction of recent cultural heritage, and already menaces free speech.

Casual use of this term (copyright) is encountered here, but more commonly is seen as “IPA”, and see also Rights. Copyright is a form of intellectual property (IP) for which there is a functional level of agreement at Option³¹, but full uniformity and perpetual stability do not exist, just as they do not on Earth.

In general, for new human-created works not otherwise re-assigned, typical LAG IPA terms are: life of the author + one generation. Works created by and for non-human entities, as well as those created by machine or accident, may have different, shorter or perhaps no terms.

New undeclared, unmarked (no ©) and unregistered works frequently default to a relaxed standard roughly equivalent to the Creative Commons CC BY-NC-ND that has emerged on Earth (with varying grace periods for prospectively asserting any stronger claim).

31. Contrast with patents, where functional agreement has never been reached here.

Registration may be required for recourse. Criteria have also developed for orphan works. All of this is subject to on-going debate and LAG terms development. Terms are much easier to change here than on Earth, and negotiations are not dominated by myopic interests indifferent to the unintended long-term cultural consequences.

Speaking of Earth, there is obviously no inter- copyright (or any other IP) framework, nor any entities here that could assert claims in regards to Earth-sourced works (other than for arriving Earth authors). Merely mirroring periodic snapshots of Earth's web here, creates some number of arguably unauthorized copies. This creates an interesting challenge, given that relations are expected to open at some point.

The current presumption is that claims going forward from then would be subject to any negotiated framework(s), but that retrospective claims would be unenforced by LAGs. This does not, however, mean that Earth works are treated as public domain. Attributions and marks are generally respectfully preserved, and the various registries track these insofar as practical, to prevent {un}intentional re-registration locally.

Corporations

Liability may be limited by agreement, but not imposed by law.

People are people. Synthetic entities remain synthetic entities. A LAG may or may not have terms addressing the latter concept. If there are terms, they may literally be restricted to terms, i.e., definitions of what "company", "corporation", "Inc.", "LLC", "SA", and the like are understood to mean for purposes of default contract terms, and any resulting tribunal proceedings.

Groups of people can engage in activities under a single name, such as First Consortium. They can offer contracts in that name, and the terms of such contracts normally declare liability to be limited to the assets of the entity, and not its management, owners, stockholders, employees or agents. Whether you engage on those terms is up to you. If there is any doubt, contract-specific insurance might be useful.

Individuals acting for a corporation need to know what indemnities the organization provides to them. The liability of lenders, investors and customers has so far been held to be limited to any loss of investment, the unless the party is also a direct participant or the entity is a provable sham.

A gLAG might have a more Earth-style concept for corporation, but they cannot assure identical treatment broadly (inter-LAG). So although a gLAG might try to make a synthetic entity somewhat corporeal, that does not mean anyone else has to treat it as life as we know it.

Corruption

*Where political power does not exist
political favor cannot be for sale, or extorted.*

Where power broker positions can be exploited for gain with relative impunity, they tend to attract and reward those who do so. The power also attracts those wanting to bias it to their desires (or merely wanting to avoid being oppressed by it), resulting in all manner of pressure being applied to the broker. Personal compromise can also arise from inter-entity intrigue.

Once corrupted, an individual's priorities shift away from the original job description. Corruption can begin with a bribe, a bonus or a promotion, allowing oneself to become a cog in a thugocracy.

On Earth, idealistic civil servants are usually displaced by avaricious and resentful uncivil serpents over time. Where governments fund activities, that funding tends to be gamed, with continuous lobbying to expand such funding. When regulators are funded by the regulated, corruption is assured. Corruption rates also tend to be in inverse proportion to reassignments, dismissals and prosecutions.

Where people are subject to obligations they never agreed to and cannot escape, they are eventually exploited. Compulsion breeds corruption. Governments, including lethally malfunctioning governments, are very hard to fire on Earth.

In the Earth thugocracies, only the compromised (the corrupted) may be considered loyal enough to promote up the pyramid of intimidation.

Exercising and exploiting power makes enemies. Rising within the structure may be seen as a means of defense against them. Those at the top fear everyone below. Those at the bottom fear everyone above. Those in the middle fear all. Trust is non-existent.

Once a bureaucracy has a critical mass of people who are compromised, reform may be impossible short of complete cultural collapse. A compromised individual desiring to reform the organization, would expose themselves to high risk of

personal destruction, to perhaps no effect on reform. Unsurprisingly, few make the attempt. The safest place in the pyramid is outside it (and often why an immigrant left). Is the formal ‘whistle-blower’ program exposing the malfeasance or the whistle blower?

A LAG here (whether gLAG or not) cannot long survive once its clients detect a hint of corruption going uncorrected. Corrupt enterprises implode faster, including any aspiring to monopoly status.

Do corrupt individuals exist here? Yes, but the scope of the damage they can do is materially constrained, because no one is compelled to support their organization for very long. Staff sizes tend to be self-limiting, and the hosting organizations are motivated to inspire staff integrity.

Courts

Do exist in the gLAGs, but mostly ...

The term court is less frequently encountered here, to avoid mis-set expectations, and due to its association with the Earth concepts of ‘duty’, ‘law’, ‘guilt’, and a misplaced focus on punishment. When encountered here, a ‘court’, if so named, is apt to operate much as such institutions do on Earth, so exercise caution. The formal venues for dispute resolution here are more usually known as Tribunals.

Crime

Are Earth governments ‘weak’ on crime due to frightened defenseless populations being easier to control?³²

Dialectic clarification: “crime” here can imply agreement violations with no specific victim(s), as well as the more typical deliberate act(s) of egregious agreement violation (theft, assault, etc), where the perpetrator’s LAG may have terms requiring action, even if the victim does not bring one.

What crime does not usually imply is some violation of law, absent the above factors. Great swaths of political and victimless crime on Earth simply do not arise here.

32. In oppressed Earth populations, the controlling thugocracy does not need to intimidate directly. It only needs to be selective about prosecuting crime. The criminals figure out that they have a free hand as long as they only prey on the defenseless who lack connections, and dissidents.

With one or more victims, crime is treated initially as a matter of restitution on the facts, and then any other sanctions arising from the circumstances and intent, all as agreed.

Crime does happen here, but infrequently, and it is dealt with — not ignored. Several additional factors that contribute to crime statistics on Earth simply do not exist here to any material degree:

- There are no black markets to exploit. Conditions that favor organized crime on Earth do not exist at all here.
- Employment freedom, and ease of entry into business, expand options and reduce desperation.
- Comfortable affluence is attainable with nominal effort.
- There is no tolerance for LAGs that fail to enforce agreements (no catch and release, limited hand-slap plea bargaining).
- Aggression per se is very risky, due to probable personal defense.
- Persistent personal irresponsibility tends to be terminal, due to the unforgiving natural environment.

Black Markets

If people want a product here, it will be on the market, and no organized crime is required for the supply chain. If people agree to avoid a product, they tend to do so, resulting in no demand. If they are not agreement keepers about agreed contraband, that is usually not their main issue, and they end up in disputes or perhaps outLAG, sooner rather than later.

Customs (cultural)

No bowing or avoidance of eye contact is expected ...

... outside of enclaves and venues where people have chosen to preserve legacy cultural practices. Other than that, it is casual. You are unlikely to give offense, as people usually chose to not be offended. Some behaviors and expressions might identify you as an immigrant for a while.

At many residences, domiciles and a proportion of larger domes, it is customary to remove shoes, due to contamination hazards. Where signed, alternate footwear is usually provided. Residences may not be signed. Look for foyer hints (or just ask).

Topics D

Death

What are you doing between now and then?

See also the key Latency: Mortality.

Involuntary cessation of another's life is as likely to result in tribunal proceedings as on Earth. Murder is a defined agreement violation in every LAG to date. Self defense, once reviewed, is often not a violation. Treatment of suicide varies. Both latter topics are discussed separately.

Treatment of death resulting from negligence (failure to keep some agreement), and from accident, also varies, and you will need to consider these matters when selecting a LAG.

Death resulting from simple inaction may also be a violation in some LAGs. If you want others to come to your aid, you may be agreeing to come to theirs. Check for samaritan terms.

Lacking testable, reproducible evidence to the contrary, LAG charters base their terms on the assumption that an individual's worldly experience of themselves ceases at death. Charter terms are thus focused on the survivors, winding up the affairs of the deceased, and the implications for the living generally (including effective deterrence of present and future perpetrators). Remedies and sanctions are not purported to be for the benefit of the deceased. See Punishment.

Outside of religious sects that prohibit it, organ donation is more easily obtained, but less often needed here. The formal consent of the deceased usually has priority. Tribunals will not generally entertain challenges by immediate family members, without evidence that the donation agreement was defective.

Disposition of remains presently varies from Earth practices. Conventional internment is available, but less used. Many people, having elected organ donation, have also elected to donate their entire bodies for medical research, education or for (very careful) recycling into the growing (but still barely adequate) Earth-like biomasses here. Cremation services are not widely available. Those who desire to have their remains incinerated may be accommodated by the FC, who can launch the departed into ■■■, ■■■ or ■■■ during outbound missions.

For those who accept the idea of an afterlife, death at least represents the end of this life, with these loved ones, these goals and purposes, in this time. Those arriving from Earth may be

disquieted by this, but the question they need to consider are: If it should turn out that death is not what you were told it is, would you live your life any differently? So live that way now.

Debt

A student loan is not the way to learn about the downside of debt.

Debt might be the top selling product on Earth³³, exacerbated by some forms of interest being tax-deductible there. Debt is less popular here, but still widely available, and on a wide variety of terms. Most here prefer to save³⁴ or invest, then ‘borrow’ from themselves.

The two major things about being on either side of a debt transaction are:

1. How is the ultimate settlement denominated? As on Earth, you do not want to be a lender when the basis of the instrument is inflating, nor a borrower when deflating.
2. What is the ultimate recourse? Loans are just contracts, so are subject to whatever recourse terms were agreed upon. As either party, be realistic about the chances of a complete inability to repay.

For high-risk ventures, such as starting a business, consider selling securities (backed by the value of the enterprise, and restricted to that) rather than taking a personal loan or a loan secured by other property. Securities³⁵ are in general much easier to offer here than on Earth (and thus potentially riskier).

Do not assume that all debts are discharged in bankruptcy (or that there automatically is such recourse available). You can insist on terms in a loan contract. LAG terms may only extend to providing a default definition of what bankruptcy is, and may not provide any additional default debtor or creditor protections. Loan fees could easily include a premium for disaster/casualty/mortality or other unforeseen total loss of ability to repay.

33. Earth governments themselves engorge on debt — and guess who is enslaved to pay it off, usually by overt confiscation (taxes), stealth confiscation (inflating the money supply) or frank enslavement (national service, sham-conviction prison labor).

34. Never forget, however, that you are making a loan when you deposit funds in an interest-bearing account, or purchase an investment.

35. Securities (stocks, funds, bonds, warrants, derivatives and other hypotheca) is an extensive topic that was removed from the Ninth {Option} Edition, due to size. See any number of external works, such as [redacted].

Loan sharks (black market lenders) do not exist here, as no LAGs are willing to pretend that usury terms have any real effect. Lenders can set any rate they like. At scale, nothing is too big to fail, and no governments to speak of also means no government bail-outs. You only need to pay off your own debts (if you create any).

If you arrived with unsettled loans³⁶ back on Earth, there is nothing that can be done about them until and unless relations open, and what might happen then is a minor footnote in the greater uncertainty.

DeepFleet

The original exploration never fully ended.

Once Option was discovered, and deemed suitable (more or less) for human habitation, overt exploration for other sites was briefly suspended. The then-surplus resources that had been doing other probes were reorganized by the FC and tasked with Earth supply missions, and comprehensively cataloging the hazards here. As the hazards came to be understood, some assets were reassigned to crosser defense, idling others, which resumed general exploration.

... [A longer roll-up of DeepFleet activities was removed from the Ninth {Option} Edition due to ever-increasing size. See various external references, including the on-board mirror of DeepFleet's netsite.] ...

Some of those probes have turned up interesting things. But none of them, so far, have turned up more ideal places for human habitation. As the adaptation challenges at Option itself get cataloged, it is clear that any place but Earth itself would require similarly major bio-emulation work for sustained occupation (entirely apart from the wider implications of being suitable for that).

36. If your rescue was sponsored, and you happened to owe a debt to the sponsor when they were on Earth, it is forgiven. The FC requires a release statement to this effect from all sponsors, recorded with their LAG.

Defense (regional)

See separately Self Defense.

There are no substantial nations here, few threats, and thus little need of national defense. Your attention and participation is needed to keep it that way. There are no standing armies³⁷, nor are any considered likely. Minding for signs of it is a persistent background activity in CultureWatch reporting.

How to fund 'national defense', or perhaps more precisely defense, has not yet arisen as a pressing issue. However, there is a to defend, against one real and two potential threats. The threats are:

- rogue space objects (asteroids, comets, etc.),
- lethal extraterrestrial energy hazards (supernovas, jets, gamma ray bursters, etc.), and
- war with Earth, or at least invasions by proxy.

Option has a consistent history of destructive space impacts. It is speculated that, but for the frequency of mass-extinction events, intelligent life forms might have developed here. They did not, and the current life forms would already have been destroyed, had the conectors not selected this for colonization, and deflected threats.

Only continued vigilance on the part of regular sky surveys and DeepFleet patrols prevents future disasters. The FC presently funds this specific DeepFleet activity via subsidies from commercial DeepFleet operations. Once these technologies become open, all DeepFleet operations need to find other funding means. It is likely that Space Impact Risk riders will become available from hazard insurers, and that most of the premium would go to pro-active risk mitigation.

Extraterrestrial energy risks are not yet assessed. The fossil and geological records here are so battered by mechanical impact debris that no firm hints of other hazards have yet emerged. A major objective of - and -based observatories, and of missions, is to catalog all possible threats to this . What, if anything, could be done to defend

37. Volunteer militias arise and subside over time, as a response might be needed if some individual or group decided to try their hand at being autocrats, and did raise an army. Reporting on either group activity is a focus of culture watch organizations. People tend to be less concerned about the militias that report their own activities.

against an energy threat is not yet known, but an early warning might at least permit temporary evacuation. Funding issues are similar to impact defense.

The final threat is the risk of war with Earth. The very existence of Option is a mortal threat to parasitic interests on Earth. They may be expected to {mis}construe any publication of this guide on Earth as a declaration of hostile intent. Earth history demonstrates no lack of imagination in crafting pretexts for starting wars.

If Earth re-invents █████ and █████, and becomes a genuine threat, the FC apparently has a plan to deal with it. There is no indication that there has been any investment in weapons or general military build-up, and perhaps none is really needed. It is easy to imagine a strategy of:

- █████
- █████
- █████

Since this could all be done inexpensively during normal Earth mission cycles, visible funding effort here is not presently expected.

Inasmuch as DeepFleet has yet to detect any signs of sentient non-human life, defending against alien invasion is not in anyone's planning portfolio. █████-wide defense of any other kind is not expected to become a major expense here. Preventing local war is up to you.

Democracy

Formal mob rule is still mob rule.

Unbridled majorities tend to vote themselves profligate entitlements, national insolvency, runaway inflation, destructive taxation, populace control shifting from over-regulation to frank enslavement and thugocracy, ultimately resulting in poverty, starvation and death — plus 'election reforms' that block reform.

As Lysander Spooner pointed out, the slave permitted to periodically vote for a new master, nonetheless remains a slave. Earth history is also littered with countries, which having briefly achieved liberty, voted themselves a free lunch, inexorably resulting in poverty, then slavery again. In the constitutional republics, like the United States, the original charter may slow

this process, but the politicians invariably amend, re-interpret or simply ignore it, with the same ultimate result. Once the top court pretends to not comprehend the charter: game over.

But none of the above explains why Option does not have modest or larger regional democracies. The fundamental conundrum is that there is no non-coercive way to found a democracy. Just asking everyone to vote on whether to found one, presupposes that they unanimously and irrevocably agree to the initiative, and to its outcome, beforehand. If a majority approve, overwhelming or not, the minority is kidnapped into it, including those who disagreed with the premise (and voted in self-defense), those who abstained, those who did not or could not vote, those who change their minds, and of course those born or adopted into it.

About the only thing you might get a large number of humans to unanimously consent to is that their consent is required³⁸, which is another way of looking at how Option presently works. In the unlikely event that a community could unanimously agree on a form of government, they do not, and cannot, speak for the generations to come.

Some LAGs here do employ formal member voting to select directors, or effect charter changes, but do not confuse this with elections back on Earth. Anyone who disagrees with the result of an election here is free to withdraw from whatever organization hosted it, and in the case of LAG membership, typically with full refund of pro-rated fees if the resignation is within 30 days of changes requiring a vote.

Nothing, however, otherwise prevents anyone from attempting to voluntarily establish an actual democratic enclave here, whether territorial or some other government-like scheme or not. It merely requires hoodwinking enough people.

38. And if they think their consent is not required, is their opinion then also irrelevant?

Disease

*When you lack an optional ailment,
the expense of treating it is astonishingly low.*

Earth infectious ailments largely do not exist here, but a few do. Where the Earth-sourced infection life cycle is suitably short, transit amounts to quarantine, for both humans and imported animals. When rare outbreaks do occur (usually delayed zoonotic), the dispersed character of current settlements tends to limit propagation.

There are no local wild reservoirs of Earth infectious agents. But the human population (primarily the immigrants) can be a reservoir of chronic infectious ailments, which present their normal risks, but particularly to those born here, who do not share the typical Earth child's exposure to various antagonists. Earth vaccines are available here as needed.

The low infection risk may not be a 100% beneficial state of affairs, for multiple reasons beyond the scope of this guide, but primarily because an immune system might need something do, lest it venture into mischief. Take steps to minimize risk of an autoimmune condition — AI conditions being one of the all-to-common Diseases of Civilization on Earth (below).

Local biology, however, has numerous irritants and pathological agents requiring personal risk assessment, response preparation, or outright prevention via various levels of isolation. There are no vaccines for any of these locals, and none are on the near-term horizon, as there is no evidence to date that an immune response provides a solution.

If you arrive with a lingering chronic Earth ailment, Option medical care has access to the same diagnosis and treatment information as is available on Earth, but not necessarily all treatment agents, there being insufficient demand for those that do not work, or where root-cause-unwinding is more effective.

Diseases of Civilization

*Extant Earth hunter-gatherer: "We have certain health problems,
but not these. Why are you settlers putting up with them?"*

The DoCs back on Earth are the chronic, non-infectious, non-injury ailments. These largely do not exist here, unless you insist on retaining Earth metabolic habits, nutritional deficiencies and insults from microbiome antagonists.

The DoC list of putative diagnoses on Earth runs into the hundreds, perhaps thousands. Treatment is mainly managing symptoms — not addressing root causes — all at some great and needless cost, estimated at 80% of health care expenditures there, or 16% of gross economy product just for the DoCs.

The poster child for usually-reversible ailments might be the metabolic syndrome spectrum, ranging from merely weighing more than you would like, through to insulin-dependent Type II diabetes (T2D) and its often irreversible complications. T2D is not really³⁹ a disease. It is trivially avoidable, and usually reversible (if any developed complications are).

Disputes

And where were you both standing when this arose?

Being a culture with a conscious focus on agreement, disputes are simply less likely to arise in the first place. Being a culture with frameworks built around a hierarchy of explicit agreements, resolution pathways are much more plain, predictable and not easily gamed.

Disputes with outLAGs can of course be more complicated. Disputes between outLAGs are their problem.

Diversity

Here: letting people choose freely.

On Earth: celebrating the differences between people while simultaneously pretending that people are not different.

Explore how to have a satisfying life, and expect others here to be supportive of that (or at least be indifferent, subject to whatever agreements you make).

Before assuming that you know your answer, particularly if you not fully satisfied with it, be sure to understand what you have inherited, and the influence of any undiagnosed microbiome or endocrine disruptions, plus any as-yet unappreciated latencies, most particularly Tribalism. See also Gender, Race and Reproduction. Avoid being dictated to.

39. T2D appears to be a largely predictable biologic response to a chronic metabolic insult: primarily the moderate or higher full-time glycemic diet, awash in industrial grain and legume oils (excess 18:2), both still commonly advocated by Earth governments, and aggravated by dietary disrupters of the microbiome and tight junction status.

Duty

You have a duty to educate yourself about duty.

This word has two, thus ambiguous, meanings on Earth:

1. job description or contractual commitment (agreed action)
It has the same meaning here.
2. unchosen obligation
This doesn't exist here
(outside of religion, but that itself is usually chosen).

On a cultural level, the second meaning, in secular contexts, is yet another fraud upon the human race, emanating from the latency of tribo-parental psychology. The only unchosen obligations are those imposed by nature, and you might notice that Earth authorities do not refer to natural laws as duties.

If someone claims that you have a duty to do something, outside of prior or underlying agreement, either ignore the demand, or give it a more accurate name, like extortion, intimidation, or attempted enslavement.

Topics E

Economy

The only constraints on your freedom of exchange and contract are those you choose.

There is no central ledger here, so there are no precise figures of Gross Economy Product. Estimates exist based on periodic surveys of reports from mutual and stock enterprises obliged to make such reports to their members and holders. Investors and business planners also rely on forecasters and futures markets to anticipate trends.

Lacking central currencies and borders, temporary and local 'corrections' take place without causing widespread or extended disruptions. People also tend to arrange their personal affairs to provide some resilience against currency fluctuations, periodic contractions due to natural disasters, as well as disruptive changes in technologies and business models.

Education

*Be careful about what is taught to your children.
They might think it true.*

Government ('public') schools as you know them on Earth may exist here only in a Government LAG. If you intend to raise children, presume that you assume full responsibility for all aspects of the job: nurturing, food, clothing, medical care and education. The educational marketplace is rich with choices.

Private schools are the norm, whether commercial enterprises, home-school for hire, community cooperatives, and as mature student distance education. Schools often tailor their schedules to the working parent, and may offer additional child-care services. Prices vary, but start substantially below the visible+hidden costs on Earth.

Home schooling is popular, with numerous commercial and cooperative organizations providing curricular assistance. Network-based educational resources abound.

For anyone who is unable to conduct or fund their child's education, alternatives exist. It may be covered outright if the inability arose from an insured event. Grants and scholarships are common, sponsored both by schools and by individuals and organizations interested in Option's future. Many homes here are also open to fostering children.

Complete failure to educate a child is almost always a charter violation for LAG members. All LAGs define parental responsibilities to some extent, and include standards for education, but most provide great latitude for parents, and there is an emphasis on making the process as voluntary as possible for the child, adding increasing freedom with each year.

Children grow to understand the issue of compulsion vs. choice. A child who has no choices in the education process is apt to feel like a helpless pawn (whether or not it turns out to be what the adult them would have chosen anyway). This victim attitude breeds irresponsibility if the child concludes: "What's the point of caring? It's beyond my control."

Post-secondary education, not typically addressed in LAG terms, is focused on productive careers, and may or may not lead to a degree as such. If you have a degree from an Earth college or university, anyone who makes inquiries about it is apt to be interested in whether it signifies accomplishment, enlightenment, compliance, attendance or brain damage.

There are no military schools per se. There is a police academy and a DeepFleet Academy. Both are a post-secondary establishments intended to lead to potential assignments.

Educational Observations

*What is the mission of education? On Earth, for too long now it has **not** been to produce generations of confident, independent, critical thinkers, and instead has increasingly been to produce self-doubting, timid, dependent, compliant serfs.*

On Earth, you paid for the government schools whether you used them or not. If private school was an option, you paid twice to obtain it. Being a near or full monopoly, government school teachers are victims there too, and thus often unionized, with guild agendas increasingly having little to do with educator aspirations, nor optimal educational or student outcomes.

In many Earth nations, if you fail to send your child to a government-endorsed school, agents soon appear to take the child by force⁴⁰. Where private schools are permitted, the teachers and curriculum must usually be government authorized and approved. Individuals consequently have very little direct control over the content of the education, and may have to expend considerable effort at home de-schooling.

Earth government schools are seen here as theft, kidnapping and indoctrination. It is an uncontrolled social experiment lab and a political football, often amounting to 12 years of daycare in an environment that is increasingly prison-like (in multiple senses of that).

Only some back on Earth pretend to be surprised at the consequences: rising school taxes, but an inverse relationship between test scores and spending per student; cheating; lowering of standards; outright illiteracy and cultural/historical ignorance (both students and teachers); sullen, resentful, medicated, bored children; schools becoming angst factories fostering youth violence and becoming vandalism magnets; teacher strikes; political battles over course content and library books, plus direct court meddling. None of these problems exist here.

40. Here, parental educational obligations are whatever was agreed.

Egalitarianism

*Your outcomes are mainly up to you.
No one else owns them.*

Nothing prevents you from becoming a member of, or trying to start, a society here espousing a notion of forced equality of status and outcomes. If you join one, expect to be a contributor (or a sacrifice), not a net recipient, and to have any personal achievement crushed — so as to mollify those who have been misled to think their self esteem is externally generated and/or diminished by the accomplishments of others.

If all the wealth on Option were confiscated somehow, and divided equally amongst all the (current) residents, and the tyranny then magically switched off, allowing free exchange, there would be substantially unequal wealth again within hours.

Elections

Unless “none of the above” is on the ballot, it might be a sham.

Elections are basically optional here. Some organizations rely on them, particularly gLAGs, but most do not. The usual challenges with secret vs. open ballot endure. Where avoided, the time- and resource-wasting campaigns, advertising, debates (scripted, rigged or otherwise theatrical), campaign funding, ballot-gaming, voter vetting, counting errors, fraud-minding and other overhead burdens simply do not arise.

LAG terms do have to adapt over time, of course, so there is a continuous stream of proposed enhancements, often supported by membership or general polling, if not member initiatives, but the bottom line is whether or not a member resigns or renews when the charter changes. There is little point in formal voting on LAG terms, as dissenting members are apt to simply resign.

General elections on Earth generally serve to remind the individual of how little their opinion really matters. Even if the process seemed credible, and your preferred candidate or initiative prevailed, the overall system somehow rarely became more agreeable. Here, the very choice of system is yours.

Then also, every gram you spend is also a balloting instance, so vote wisely.

Emergency Services

The only arguably ‘public’ fire departments, rescue, and ambulance services here are those staffed and provisioned by volunteers, but these are the exception, found mainly in smaller communities. In more populous locales, these services are businesses, privately operated, for the primary benefit of their clients, and for the clients of alternate regional services with whom they have overlapping or backup coverage agreements.

Conditions permitting, they normally respond to any call, but they are not obliged to render service to anyone but direct and indirect clients, without compensation. If they respond to a non-covered event, they may well abandon efforts if a higher priority client call arises before matters are resolved.

Coverage is available via direct subscription or contingency (fee per event) subscription, but is often bundled in any hazard insurance in effect. Insurers typically do not operate their own emergency services, but subcontract it to specialized providers, who may vary in their capabilities. If loss abatement is more important to you than loss compensation, you will need to evaluate the terms of response. Where you choose to settle dramatically affects the level of services available.

Your insurance policy may not cover all possible emergency services, such as air rescue after a remote glider mishap, so be sure to check the terms. Single-event coverage for high-risk activities is always available from some insurers, if not your own. Such coverage is normally included when access to the locale, or the activity itself requires a fee.

LAGs themselves typically do not provide hazard insurance, nor emergency services other than police. Conveniently, concrete domes are inherently multiple-hazard-resistant, and insurance premiums reflect this.

Emigration

Yes, that is a possibility ... just not back to Earth ... yet.

In principle, you are now free to go anywhere within reach of human technology, needing only conveyance. You can get to most Option locales, with periodic services to ■■■ and ■■■.

But in practice, getting to everywhere else is limited by the FC’s acquiesced monopoly on off-■■■ transport. As the DeepFleet research turns up possible habitations, the FC does entertain proposals for new off-■■■ colonization experiments.

Motivations for proposing these ventures vary, and may or may not be accepted by the FC, but the greatest challenge is basic life support, and having a sustainable core population base. The Option biosphere lessons have been solemn. Expect to encounter initiatives recruiting for proposed ventures (and do inquire whether they plan to remain in contact with the rest of humanity).

Re-emigration back to Earth is not expected to be possible until peaceful relations are within reach. A substantial fraction of the population here would value the option of Earth return, but only if Earth can avoid descending into a deeper dystopian era, becoming even more of a prison-planet than it already is.

Eminent Domain

Having no eminences to speak of avoids this as a problem (for the landowner), but can raise obstacles to worthwhile projects.

Eminent domain does not per se exist (outside gLAGs), but might be implicit or explicit in any easements or other encumbrances that were attached to property when acquired, or under LAG terms at the time. With respect to easements, the FC laid out a large number of potential corridors when Option was originally surveyed, reflected in the plot⁴¹ records.

Emotions

Embrace them, but do not mistake them for external facts.

An emotion is usually a physiological response to a conceptual assessment, which might have been provoked by a percept, a conscious thought, or might have been apparently spontaneous (e.g. subconscious, or even triggered/enabled by your microbiome or endocrine status).

It can also be a chronic or spontaneous physiological state, in which case biological enablers must be considered.

Emotions can easily tell you little that is reliable about the external world. They tell you a lot about yourself, your personal history, and often reflect a subliminal legacy of various Latencies. Your emotional responses can and do change over time, as your conceptual framework and nutritional status

41. If you accept a plot grant, consider whether you prefer it to be one potentially accessible via current or future corridor, or one that is unencumbered (and potentially inaccessible via surface transport).

change, and your experiences progress. Do not assume everyone feels as you do. Consider some polarizing figure on Earth: wildly different reactions – but same polarizing figure.

No one can ‘make’ you feel a specific emotion. They might make you feel physical pain, which is an entirely different pathway. “Feel” is another English word that has material ambiguity, exploited on Earth for political purposes. The delusional “safe spaces” popular at Earth institutions of higher brainwashing, for example, simply do not exist here.

- You, and only you, own your emotional responses.
- You do not control anyone else’s responses
(reserve any attempts for romance and the arts)

But what you do and say does provide stimuli to which others may respond. Mind your results. See also Anger and Offended.

Employment

Never take a job you cannot afford to quit.

Jobs are available at any wage or skill level, but consider starting your own business. In fact, do not think in terms of employer/employee, but as equals who need each other.

If you want a conventional job or prefer independent contract, opportunities abound, as ‘worker’s market’ conditions currently prevail. On the other hand, if you have a venture in mind that requires employees, spend some time studying the market before hanging out the help-wanted sign. When people here work for someone else, they often expect flexibility, and to be rewarded (and not exclusively in the form of wages).

Self-employment is far more common here than on Earth, both due to a generally individualist spirit, and because the absence of taxes makes complicated (or indeed any) bookkeeping optional in most cases.

The word “employee” itself is a bit less used here, with terms like “agent”, “associate”, “colleague”, “member” or “representative” being preferred.

On Earth, the words “employer” and “employee” imply a statutory relationship with enumerated obligations and rights. Law there governs hiring, wages, benefits, service hours, limits of authority, safety, preferential treatment and termination. These laws become more rigid every year, expanding to cover promotion, education, personal relationships, and intrusion into

everyone's personal lives. They are increasingly insensitive to what the two parties would mutually prefer, were they free to choose. Nothing like that exists here.

Commercial relationships here, whether business-associate, seller-buyer, mutual traders or independent contractors are just another form of agreed interchange. They are specified by underlying LAG charters, LAG model agreements, and layered contracts.

For anything perceived as on-the-job harassment of any kind, where not an actionable agreement violation per se, you have the ultimate weapon: ask management if they are going to address it, and if not, walk (and/or open a case as terms and scenario facts suggest).

On applying for an actual job here, you may be handed a copy of the business' handbook. This is not just something you toss in the bottom drawer at home and never open — it often is the employment contract. You may be expected to review and affirm it. It is not uncommon to negotiate about the contract, and obtain terms specific to you individually. Do so if you find anything not acceptable.

This is not Earth, and you can often obtain preferred terms on the one hand, and on the other, expect limited success in retroactively hiring a CTR to argue that the agreement was 'unfair'. If you are represented by a union, they likewise will not support a grievance based on simple ignorance of the contract. Read it before affirming, perhaps consulting your LAG's Agreement Services department.

Wages may not be top-line priorities here, nor are benefits. Flexible working conditions (esp. respect for circadian matters), plus opportunities for advancement and career enhancement, tend to be the focus.

Employability

While you might be ranking the enterprise, the hiring agent may be presumed to be rating you. Employees and independent contractors have their own hierarchy, which might be broadly tiered as:

- a. Do only the thing:
The aspirant is primarily motivated to engage in the activity (and might even do it for free if they had independent means of support).
- b. Do the thing:
The aspirant is primarily seeking employment to engage in the activity, but would do less preferred activities as necessary.
- c. Make a contribution:
The aspirant seeks employment that makes a cultural contribution, supports an evangelistic enterprise, or enhances personal growth goals. The specific task does not need to be compelling.
- d. Do a job:
The aspirant is primarily interested in maximizing personal benefits from the engagement, but is committed to contributing credible effort.
- e. Have a job:
The aspirant just needs employment at some rate, and is indifferent to the field and task at hand.
- f. Have an income:
The aspirant just wants the income, and may ultimately not hold up their end of the arrangement.

Endocrinology

This is a huge problem on Earth, and only a bit less so here, but only because it is recognized here.

As a result of deficiencies and early diets here, much had to be discovered about what humans need to consume, avoid, environmentally expose themselves to, and what schedules to observe in order to maintain healthy endocrine systems and hormonal balance.

Although progress has been made in mimic environments, supplementation is expected to remain a core component of diet for some time to come. Self-testing is available to optimize this.

Energy

... you may not find this shocking ...

Electricity predominates, primarily battery-buffered solar and hydro sources, including some pumped hydro. Solar energy conversion and battery technology are about a decade ahead of Earth, a byproduct of sheer necessity. Liquid fuels and nuclear power are not major factors.

Domestic power is typically US/NEMA 240/120 V 60 Hz, selected for ease of implementation. Battery formats and voltages vary considerably, with some being over 48 V DC, which has material safety implications, so mind the warning labels. Adapters exist for powering any USB device you might have brought (but usually power only).

Enterprise

Does the deal make sense if you were either party?

Human cultural life includes abundant trade and exchange between humans. Innovation, organization, specialization, standardization and economies of scale can be pleasantly agreeable. As with employment, treat any trading entities as equal partners.

As a potential customer, there is a general ranking that you can apply to assess the value of any product or service on offer. What does the other party's motivation appear to be?

- a. They are enthusiastic about the product, and recognize that something must support it (usually income). Customer satisfaction is paramount.
- b. Doing the product contents them as an income source. Customer satisfaction is important.
- c. Income is the goal, and the product just happens to be the current source. Customers get some attention.
- d. Income is the goal, and the product is immaterial. Customers are tolerated.
- e. Income is all that matters. Customers are exploited.

Entertainment

*World-building is surprisingly entertaining,
as is living on a frontier.*

Whatever is agreeable to you may be available (or start your own). For example, there has been a deliberate effort to cultivate a pub tradition, to foster community engagement. Gathering events, on one theme or another are common.

Sports complexes, gymnasiums, enclosed pools and arcades are becoming more common⁴² — and necessary, given the risks of outdoor activities. See also Recreation.

Novelty as novelty: the native biology and geology of Option are far from moderately understood, with new developments almost hourly. Following, and participating in the effort is arguably a recreation.

For screenplays, streamed network content spans the expected range, including some content imported from Earth. Subtext may be top-line: the culture here is much more aware of agenda in fictional works, and often reluctant to waste time and money on propaganda.

There are live (stage) theaters, but as yet no purpose-built movie theaters, due to there having been no local silver-halide film industry, and no development of large-scale projection when TV here first advanced beyond standard definition.

Perception of celebrities is somewhat reserved here, due to insight into the social cosmology hazard to which they expose themselves. If you become a celebrity here, or arrive as one, it may also be harder to periodically rent a little privacy.

If you just want to party most of the time, and have the budget (or someone else is voluntarily footing the bill), you may need to locate in one of the larger settlements, in order to find like-minded revelers.

Entitlement

... the main cause of Government LAG failure ...

You are entitled to be treated the way you treat other people, ideally as memorialized by plain agreement. Beyond that you are only owed what others have agreed to owe you, and conversely, you only owe others what you agreed to owe them.

42. Gyms are more likely in larger settlements, so factor that into site choice.

The sense of entitlement common on Earth arises principally as another subliminal side effect of parentalism. Had your parents or other elders not provided everything you needed as an infant and child, you might not be around to read this.

Of course, if you think random people are entitled to certain things, by all means provide. See also Charity and ...

Envy

*Bringing others down rarely brings the bringer up.
Or, if you want success, allow it to be possible.*

Envy, also known as begrudging, coveting, jealousy, resentment or spite, is one of the Latencies, and often a rather destructive one. On Earth it arises from taught hostility to self interest, plus win-lose mindset, and results in policies that basically punish freely won success, just for being success.

Political ruling classes there in particular, having achieved nothing but temporary reins on the oughts, resent those who earned or created wealth and status, rather than merely acquired it by out-maneuvering other seekers of power.

Those unfree to achieve (or free, but have chosen unwisely) may likewise resent accomplishment. These people often fall prey to the political predators in the paragraph above.

Equality

A shot at existence is about all that is truly equally assured.

When someone else raises the topic, be sure to get clarity on equality of what? On Earth it often means forced equality of status or results (see also Egalitarianism, Race and Tribalism). Sometimes equality on Earth means privilege grant due to some assigned group identity, or imposed handicap due your ancestors being formerly favored.

There, it frequently also means forced equality of opportunity resolution, despite inequality of qualifications. What it means here may be up to you.

In employment, a meaning widely accepted here is equal consideration for equal qualifications, and ignoring all factors unrelated to the goals of the decision. Employers are looking forward to a time where they might have enough over-qualified candidates for positions, that further refinements might matter.

Personal circumstances of anyone, including any disadvantaged heritage, can arise as considerations in any relationship or situation. Presupposing that extra advantage or hindrance is needed may be just neo-bigotry. Do not patronize. Be sure to confirm that someone actually desires privileged treatment before presuming that some heritage needs compensation.

Ethics

... dialect alert: not to be confused with oughts ...

This is an ambiguous term on Earth, often blurred with other normatives (such as morality). Here it is understood to be a set of explicitly agreed behavioral principles or obligations, arising by choice, often as professional or organizational terms, usually then in written form. The word does get used casually to identify something that would be a violation of agreed terms, if you had typical agreed terms.

Extradition

This is a central issue for inter-LAG agreements.

Something that is an agreement violation or a crime in one LAG, may not be in another, and just crossing the street might shift what terms prevail. This no different than for cross-border law on Earth. It is just easier for it to arise here, but also less likely, as there are fewer disputes.

It can get complicated where LAG terms materially differ, and in scofflaw and fugitive situations. To some extent this might be biasing the overall culture toward a single set of core principles on certain matters.

There are always going to be some who desire to have a radically different agreement base. They are likewise being biased, but toward spatial separation, so that inadvertent (potentially unresolvable) conflicting encounters are less likely.

Extradition back to Earth does not exist at all presently, and whether it ever will, may be another minor footnote in developments when and if Earth relations open.

Topics F

Fauna & Flora

Look, but do not touch, for all practical purposes.

There is a full range of local ambulatory life forms: microbial, petite crawling and flying, aquatic and mega (up to about elephant size). Many are predatory across the other native species. You and they are mutually inedible, but in any encounter, only you know that.

... [An overview of the Exodomains was removed from the Ninth {Option} Edition due to exploding size. Reasonably current catalogs are available in the on-board library.] ...

The insectoids are a particular nuisance. Reactivity to their bites, and to some airborne microbials, is something you need to have characterized before roaming openly, if not before arrival.

The native vegetation has been found to be entirely unsuited for extended human contact, much less ingestion. This has had severe consequences for developing local textile and paper products, plus some impact on construction. There is no safe local equivalent to lumber for exposed interior use. Earth-like forestation efforts have not yet reached surplus. Most paper here is pulp processed from byproducts of more important textile applications, and material recycled from prior uses.

Taxonomic organization for the native life is not yet a single stable proposal, and is very far from being fully populated with details. This guide omits all currently known detail. The topic is endlessly fascinating. For example, none of the lifeforms here have anything like mitochondria (and perhaps unsurprisingly, local substances can be hazardous to yours).

Fiction

Facts that are not so (errors), arise unintentionally from time to time. It is important to be aware of when non-facts are also non-accidental.

Fiction is one of the Latencies. People here and on Earth have a seemingly limitless appetite for stories that are, fundamentally, an artfully crafted pack of lies. Fiction is entertaining, can be educational, and usually has a more emotionally or esthetically satisfying story arc than real-time life drama or an accurate documentary thereof.

The hazard of fiction is that humans seem not just gullible about it, but actively eager to accept as true something that is obviously a fabrication, particularly when it is deliberately crafted to play on the wishful desires of the audience, such as one or more of the other Latencies. Because the populace here is generally aware of this, fiction is not as dangerous as it has become on Earth (in the hands of propagandists).

The root of the latent force of fiction is not yet fully understood. A leading conjecture is that if theories of oral traditions among early humans are correct, then stories told by elders (or successful outsiders) had survival value, to the extent that they were expositions of correct life-saving/giving knowledge. Since an individual or a tribe could not expect or afford to ‘make all the mistakes’, the distilled key wisdom of the ancestors, survivors and thrivers might have been more valuable than a personally experienced, but traumatic, learning event. Memes, like genes, can confer advantage, and much more quickly than genes.

No doubt there was also an element of escapism. Standards of living have been less than idyllic for most of human history, and it is easy to imagine early peoples actively desiring that nirvana stories be true.

If these conjectures are close to the mark, humans probably developed an inclination to treat oral stories as true, but as an inclination, a latency, and not a rigid instinct.

The comparatively recent inventions of writing, and the modern technologies of recorded speech and images, are consequently still being dealt with by human minds equipped with accepting aptitudes molded by countless generations of ancestrally crucial fireside stories. It is thus in our nature to presume truth – sometimes to our peril – when confronted with a skillful prevaricator, or an expert who is simply mistaken (but perhaps fervently committed to their error).

What do you need to draw from this? Simply that when something is being presented to you; think. In particular, how you *feel* in is not an accurate measure of the truth of the thing.

Now that you have just read all this, fiction may suddenly have much less power over you (yet your capacity to enjoy it is not diminished).

Firearms

... primarily of interest to collectors and enthusiasts ...

This topic is narrowly technological, and regards Earth-style chemical propellant projectile devices (firearms). See Weapons for the wider Option context and philosophical discussion.

Conventional firearms were key survival tools in the early history of Option, due to the dangerous native mega-fauna. They were replaced⁴³ in that role by dewguns.

No firearms were ever manufactured here in serial production, although some ammunition components have been. For enthusiasts, firearm choices are limited to historical imports, shop projects, and whatever immigrants might randomly bring (if they are willing to sell). If you happened to bring a firearm with you, expect offers. Ammunition may or may not be available, and if available, firearms are generally not favored for self defense here, primarily due to the compelling dewgun advantages.

First Consortium

*... made the room possible,
but is less of an elephant in it than you might assume ...*

See **A Quick History** for further detail on the First Consortium (FC). The FC is just an association. It is not itself a LAG, nor does it act like one⁴⁴. Its members may be members of any LAG (or none), just like anyone.

What sets the FC apart, for the moment, are that:

- it has a culturally conceded monopoly on the [redacted] and [redacted] technologies (expected to lapse in 2040 at the latest), and
- it owns all the unissued plots on Option (which may or may not eventually be exhausted, depending on demand).

The FC does not intervene in private disputes or crimes (and is just a LAG client for any involving itself). It assumes responsibility only for those matters arising from the temporary monopolies, such as on-going Earth missions, other DeepFleet tasking and Plot disbursement.

43. Firearms are still carried by Earth mission ground teams, to avoid risk of transfer of dewgun technology. The FC reports no incidents to date.

44. In any contract with the FC, a specific LAG would be referenced.

As the original conectors retire or expire, there is no published succession plan. FC holdings pass to the assigns and heirs. The demeanor and practices of the FC are to some extent controlled by their original compact, but like a constitution⁴⁵, that alone cannot assure perpetual fidelity to the vision. Only praxeology, cultural agreement and dweller choices do that.

Although you might presume that as the largest single real property holder, the FC is an inherently wealthy entity, it has been disbursing plots as fast as demand for them provokes sales. The reserve plots are not all that valuable at any given time.

FC is an ordinary venture in most other regards, and will either thrive or wither as the future dictates. Most here are of the opinion that the long term viability of the Option experiment will not truly be known until the █████ technologies go open, and reserve plot demand goes to nil.

Freedom

This would be your natural state. It is not granted to you.

It can be stolen from you, or you can squander it.

If you were dropped alone on a deserted planet compatible with human life, your actions would only be constrained by your direct consequences (and your understanding of the requirements of human life). Would the introduction of other humans change that? If you think it would, why and how?

Here is the reality: the mere existence of other human beings creates no implicit obligations on your part (*or theirs* — keep that in mind). This is the essence of personal autonomy, personal sovereignty, that is, simple freedom. Any such claim to the contrary by anyone else is mere posturing — a ruse that the bidder hopes you will swallow.

Unlike inanimate objects, natural phenomena, and many animals, you can potentially communicate with other humans, and create mutually desirable relationships with them. It may serve you to do so, but it is your choice to do so. If you do not

45. The average constitution on Earth lasts 17 years, usually succumbing to corruption or tyranny. It is really hard to create a government that prioritizes protecting freedom, and remains stable over generations. The U.S. Constitution is one of the longer-serving instances, and decades ago, made possible what is now set before you. It is not at all clear how much longer it will defend independent thinking of the sort that made it.

create explicit agreements, actions amount to messages. Any interactions create inferred agreements. Inferred agreements (vs. explicit) are at substantial risk of misinterpretation.

Freedom of Speech

It is unlikely here, but if you encounter anyone expressing opposition to free speech, do ask them why they are still talking.

LAG charters are generally non-restrictive on the issue of speech (any communication with other humans). Opinion is usually specifically endorsed. No politics implicitly means no ‘politically incorrect’.

If there are restrictions, they are, by definition, those you agree to, covering such cases as falsehood (in cases where honesty was explicitly agreed), libel, slander and true threats (the definitions of which are generally derived from their Earth meanings). Check for additional LAG terms providing protection of, or obligations for whistle blowers⁴⁶.

Contracts or layered agreements that you affirm may or may not have terms affecting speech. Be aware that you can bargain away some freedom of communication, such as via non-disclosure agreements.

Praxeology abides: words can and do have consequences. Those who read or hear your speech are responsible for their own reactions, but it is always worth pondering just what reaction(s) your words are intended to provoke (if any). If the reactions do not match the intentions, discover where any discordance dwells — it may not be in the listener.

Hate Speech

Given that it is impossible to predict when random people will take offense, and that in any case, their emotional reaction is their responsibility ...

Hate speech is an insidious modern Earth meme, favored by those who hate speech. As above, communications can have consequences. There is, after all, some purpose to it. The *motivation* for it is irrelevant, unless the communication amounted to a provable agreement violation, in which case the motivation might then be a factor at the sanction phase.

If there is no agreement violation, being willfully offensive is seen here as merely confessional.

46. Your empowerment, perhaps obligation, to report agreement violations may well preempt any other agreement to *not* do so (such as an NDA).

Never agree to be inoffensive per se. You can only vaguely predict, but not at all control, how others will react to any given words, assuming the listeners are being both honest about their reaction, and willing to own their emotions.

The only way to assure being inoffensive is to not communicate at all, and silencing you is usually the motivation for the widespread spurious indignation seen on Earth.

Topics G

Gambling

Oh, you mean other than the stock market?

Many choices you make (or fail to make) amount to gambles when the outcome is not certain. This topic is about deliberate gambling: investing in the results of a presumed chance event.

A LAG may not have terms on this topic. Those who think it important to avoid gambling are apt to behave the same with or without terms. Trying to broadly prohibit it merely drives it underground.

Where terms exist, they may focus on the enforceability of formal gambling contracts (not necessarily favoring the bettor). If there are terms, they may exclude verbal contracts, and matters involving games of skill.

Gamer

Do not self-identify as a gamer here until you read this.

Local dialect alert: on Earth in the early 21st century, “gamer” became increasingly associated with enthusiasts of computer game playing. At Option (to date), it came to denote an agreement gamer: someone who generates, exploits or later imagines vague terms, oversights and loopholes in agreements.

Gamers make agreements they never intend to keep, or later regret making, but are not then willing to acknowledge a broken agreement, much less submit to the recourse (to which they had also agreed). Where the motivation of such gaming is to prop up reputation, it usually has the opposite effect.

Gender

Other than to potential partners, most here do not care how you categorize yourself or on what basis.

Where it matters (e.g. health risk factors and some competitive events), the words male and female are most commonly understood here to denote birth gender (where that is unambiguous). In some activities, such as a few occupations and physical sports, the management or organizers may have specific functional definitions.

Intersex⁴⁷ humans exist, as do elective medical interventions, so gender is in fact not always an unambiguous binary issue, entirely apart from individual partner preferences. Those expressing the variations have been choosing or coining their preferred nouns and pronouns. Beyond normal interpersonal feedback, and any point agreements, nothing compels⁴⁸ anyone to use any particular salutations, although they are subject to the same cultural drift as on Earth.

Most of the time, people here primarily care if you are a being that can make and keep agreements. But they generally want everyone to get the maximum satisfaction from whatever hand they hold. A key consideration on that is to understand the hand. Even legacy female and male roles are encumbered with significant burdens that merit your consideration (see Reproduction).

On Earth, entirely apart from cultural factors, hazards like endocrine disruption and dysbiosis (which can easily bias brain function) have pushed people into positions that may or may not be fully satisfying, and which may have a large optional component. Exploring this is optional. Resources are available. You may encounter some with a gender agenda. Do not let them dictate to you.

47. It is a rather long list. Novel provocations here, plus remediations for needless Earth provocations, have shifted the prevalences.

48. It might be your preference to be addressed as “your royal highness”, but nothing dictates that anyone to do so. People here like to be polite, however, and are usually content to just use your name.

Government

If you insist on submitting yourself to a government, make sure it is one that is easy to fire.

If humans cannot be trusted to govern themselves, then surely they cannot be trusted to govern others ... and those actively seeking to govern, are to be trusted least of all. A thought experiment that everyone, everywhere, needs to conduct is: If government did not exist, would you invent it, and if so why?

This was exactly the issue facing the conjectors, and as you are perhaps beginning to see, they have left it up to you to the maximum extent possible. The question is still open, but with each passing year⁴⁹ it appears less and less likely that Earth-style government(s) will be significant here.

If some guru were to invent some sort of flawless hypothetical government that was logically and irrefutably ideal for human life, would it not still require your consent before it applied to you? The only alternative is to impose it without your consent, and that would admit that one of the guru's principles is necessarily compulsion. You might then apply the guru's own principle against the guru, in order to restore your freedom. This is but one core conundrum in the concept of government.

Virtually every human that ever formed a concept has thought about the issue of how people 'ought' to relate to each other. Recognize two important observations on this topic:

1. In this context, there may be no ought.
2. There may never be unanimous consent on the matter.

The only thing all people might consent to is that their consent matters, and that they might later change their minds on any given 'ought'.

Be advised that (at publication time) two clearly government-style LAGs (gLAGs) operate here. Before getting to how that is possible, and how they work (or fail to), it is worth reviewing just what a government actually is.

A government is a group of people who assert fundamental ownership of a geographic region (a nation) and all of the physical wealth that the inhabitants have or subsequently create. Fundamental ownership means that although you might think you own property, the gang can physically throw you off it or seize it at their whim, for failing to pay tribute (taxes), because

49. If governments are still a factor when and if Earth relations open, developments after that are entirely unclear.

your ownership becomes trivialized by some political requirement (eminent domain), because some functionary just felt like stealing it (civil forfeiture), or because the government simply fails to enforce its own laws regarding whatever rights you might have supposed that you had.

Governments sometimes further claim to own bodily all of the hapless inhabitants who happened to be there when they took over, plus all the inhabitants who are later born or wander in. They may have notional laws against slavery, but almost all resort to some sort of slavery (from national service, to medical mandates, to the simple forced labor of productivity taxes), and virtually all conveniently ignore slavery prohibitions for raising an army. If you escaped from a nation that controlled emigration or had national conscription, you quite plainly were owned.

Thugocracy

In a considerable fraction of Earth regions, the cultural structure is less ‘government’ and more ‘thugocracy’ – pyramids of fear and intimidation. Everyone lower in the pyramid is oppressed by those above. Everyone higher in the pyramid fears those below. Corruption and inefficiency are standard features. Thugocracies nonetheless disguise themselves, with misleading terms like:

- Peoples (translation: everyone except you)
- Democratic (translation: sham elections, often mandatory)
- Republic (a blatant inversion: sovereignty will be found to reside in the top thugs, not the people)

The reason that there are so few ‘benevolent dictators’ on Earth is that by the time someone reaches that position, it is too late and too dangerous to become kind and empowering. The person, position, party, theocracy or hereditary line has accumulated too many enemies, contenders, surviving victims, and an unsettled populace.

Government LAGs

How is it that governments can exist here? Bluntly put - nothing prevents people from forming whatever associations they wish, and some people are so uncomfortable with leaving the tribal nest, that they insist⁵⁰ on the familiar. Some are as reluctant to discard government as others are to leave their parents for the first time, and that is no coincidence. See Parentalism.

50. Author’s characterization, no First Consortium endorsement implied.

These government LAGs typically do not call themselves LAGs. They may use the trappings of Earth, such as “commonwealth”, “federation”, “nation”, “republic” or “state”. This guide calls them gLAGs.

One of these gLAGs purports to operate on a strict interpretation of the U.S. Constitution (but does not claim to be part of the U.S, due to FC reversion terms). Another is based on a secular moralist philosophy. An arguable third is theocratic.

A major difference between these gLAGs and Earth governments is that gLAG membership is initially freely entered. None of these schemes had the temerity to abduct anyone who disagreed. G-LAGs typically purport to require lifetime membership, claim sovereignty over children born of members, and claim sovereignty over member property in perpetuity. They attempt to grow by recruiting new members as well as via outright property purchases. Due to inter-LAG discordance, the FC may decline to sell or grant property directly to gLAGs (or their members, once joined), but others might.

In practice, gLAG memberships tend to be unstable. Once the children figure out what their compelled chant of allegiance implies, it can inspire them to flee. Other LAGs may or may not repatriate children who leave solely on such grounds. None repatriate adults, unless the ‘citizen’ left over a dispute covered by inter-LAG agreement.

However, most other LAGs honor a gLAG’s property claim, because gLAGs have been clever about it, such as making the act of becoming a citizen include an actual bill-of-sale for real property, a nominal exchange of consideration, and ‘assured’⁵¹ rent-back as long as the taxes are paid and laws complied with. These sales have stood up in inter-LAG cases. Losing property to a gLAG in this manner is considered to be just a lesson in ‘good government’ for the possibly now-wiser ex-citizen.

Although it might seem that the gLAGs can only grow in territory, no one here is terribly concerned that they represent a sort of political cancer that threatens to swallow up Option. What is likely to happen, already has. There was a fourth gLAG, and it was sufficiently abusive that exodus by disillusioned citizens rapidly brought the population below critical mass. The remaining members ultimately had to start selling off property to obtain essential goods and services. The whole house of cards collapsed when the last members dissolved the experiment.

51. And the recourse would be?

Guilt

... perhaps not a terribly useful concept ...

Outside of religious and gLAGs contexts, both major senses of this word are disused here.

- Tribunals do not determine “guilt”. They determine what the responsibilities were, who was at cause, to what extent, and the remedy/sanction, as separate issues. See Trials.
- Emotional guilt is seen here as,
 - an unnecessary distraction from addressing the now-regretted choice(s), and/or
 - an excuse for the “guilty” party to just keep on doing it, as long as they feel or feign guilt about it, perhaps with an impressive apology, but only if they get caught out.

Guilt is nearly a major industry on Earth. Too many things that are sought are taxed, regulated or prohibited. Since the objects of ‘illicit’ desires tend to exist there anyway (with the disastrous sides effects of crime, corruption, etc), it is plain that the intent might not be to actually prohibit, but to create guilt or chaos, and use either to increase the control and coffers of the leadership.

People here avoid emotional guilt primarily by:

- keeping agreements, which includes ...
- not agreeing to avoid things they expect to indulge in anyway,
- not agreeing to results they know they will not deliver, and
- doing what they do, and choosing to not feel guilty about it.

This does mean having a strong commitment to the concept of agreement, and giving agreements more weight than immediate whims. But it also means refusing to burden yourself with guilt.

Do what you do, and own it. Be willing to accept the consequences, usually openly admitting any agreement violation, particularly if there is looming evidence of downstream adverse consequences for all involved.

On Earth, if you confronted someone who had broken an agreement with you, they already knew it, and had not advised you in advance, you might get an all too typical response of: “I’m so sorry. I feel so bad. I promise to try to do better. But, I have this excuse ...” Here, such an event is less likely to happen in the first place (or you get advance notice), but if it does, you will more likely get a response of: “I acknowledge a broken agreement. How can I resolve it?”

Topics H

Hazardous Materials

... the whole place is, alas, but do not aggravate the situation ...

The human experience on Earth includes a lot of:

- implementation of unwise substances and practices, with consequences possibly unknown at the time,
- eventual tracing of unexpected/unintended (or expected-but-concealed) consequences back to causes, and
- waiting for the at-cause parties, or pseudo-parents (courts and/or regulatory bodies) to act, if they ever do, in any effective manner.

Entire fields of risk, such as chronic food toxins and frank microbiome antagonists, still remain under- or completely unappreciated there. Proactive preemptive regulation there is as apt to prevent progress as to prevent problems. Here, it is up to you. No one here assumes that anyone has their back, with no attention required.

The first line of defense is that staying safe is your job. For example, as for ancestral feral humans on Earth, a long list of things in the native environment here could kill you pretty promptly, and none come with caution, warning or danger labels. Engage on resources that prioritize known and suspected natural and introduced hazards, and any mitigations.

LAG terms at least implicitly address hazmats in broad terms covering disclosure, falsehood and withholding in contracts. Reference may be made to independent industry or open professional standards. LAGs generally desire to not drown in detailed regulations, nor do they want to stand up expensive departments to administer same.

Culture-wide, see also Pollution. Any number of non-LAG interests follow developments, seeking emergent hazards and solutions. The HazWatch[®] netsite might presently have the most followers. Mind emerging science. Read product claims. Subscribe to product test netsites. Vote by purse.

Health Care

... vs. what you got on Earth, which was more typically sick care, expensive, regimented, rationed; and tended to keep you sick, if not make you sicker...

Health care as an industry is a lot smaller here, due to the optional ailments being basically non-existent. Medical care pricing here ranges from cheap to as much you care to spend. There are several reasons for this.

There is freedom, if not active competition for developing what actually works. Compare this to rigid standards of care, which on Earth have become delivered dogma resulting from monopoly practitioner certifications, resulting in eminence-based medicine. The outcome-based medicine favored here focuses on all-cause mortality and long-term healthspan.

Self-care and semi-automated care are available. eMed is very popular, and it, plus 'Dr. Net' can be used for mere screening, or as far as circumstances and wisdom motivate you to take it. If you choose to settle in a remote location, only remote care may be available.

The available cures and treatments here are only slightly advanced over Earth (although general health seems a century ahead in many respects). Most of the novel treatments are for novel conditions unique to the local situation. The state of the medical arts is only slightly beyond Earth because some local advancements are being fed back to Earth through covert means. Of course, treatments are on the market here that will be held up for years in testing and agency approvals on Earth, a circumstance that has both risks and benefits, in both places.

Dentists are relatively rare here due to a near total lack of non-injury dental problems in the now-native and long term population. The majority of dental clients are recent immigrants. If you are arriving with oral health issues in need of attention, factor it into your choice of initial residence location. If you are an oral care provider, you have a lock on a job, because almost no new professional training is underway, and the barbers do not want the responsibility back.

There is no 'right' to care here. Fees and premiums are comparatively low⁵² because they are typically covering only *your* risk. Hospitals are not obliged to provide free treatment (although many do, funded charitably, perhaps by you.)

52. ... and also due to dramatically lower incidence of the optional ailments.

There is no central, mandatory, monopoly authority which controls physician licensing or access to pharmaceuticals. Physician certification exists, and although voluntary, any medical insurance you have is likely to only reimburse for care from providers meeting issuer standards. Some LAGs do have defined terms on who (without misrepresentation) may call themselves a “doctor”, but they do not purport to proscribe who may practice under other labels.

LAG terms for uncertified care may be just about limited recourse. With lower barriers to entry into the medical professions, there is more competition, and that is another contributor to lower prices.

Education, competence, skills and outcomes vary, sometimes dramatically, from doctor to doctor (this is also true on Earth, but the government licensing programs there pretend it is not). Here, you may want to actually read the fancy certificates on the lobby wall, if not check the doctor’s ratings and client reports on the net. And have no doubt; frauds, quacks and the self-deluded are no more or less likely in this profession than any other. If there is no credible, independent analysis available for the ‘micropathic modulation tomography’ treatment being pitched, it may only cure you of solvency.

Option presently lacks the huge government and delegated health care agencies, and the enormous documentation overhead in which most Earth doctors are drowning (ultimately paid for by you). Here, you, the client, decide how much Standard of Care you care to bear, and how much documentation trail you care to fund.

Malpractice

Unhappy outcomes are not automatically grounds for a suit against every deep-pocket within 20 kilometers of the operating room. The liability of the care providers is limited to your agreements with them, and their professional ethics.

If you want to be rewarded for unexpected pain and suffering, single-event medical insurance is available (but is priced proportional to your health status, the risk of the procedure and the insurer’s assessment of the care provider’s qualifications). As you might imagine, excessive medical testing to protect the physician is non-existent here. Consequently, malpractice insurance is cheap, and does not represent the huge proportion of the fee that it does on Earth.

Experimental treatments get to market much more quickly here. This has the benefit of lower cost and earlier access, but carries the not insubstantial risk that the experiment could fail. Unlike on Earth, the choice is entirely yours.

History

Cannot be changed. Could be misunderstood.

Must be learned from (or risks repeating the most painful parts).

This is about the subject generally. Local history and its lessons are still largely in living memory. It was extensively recorded in raw data form, and so is easily accessible to immigrants and future generations here.

Earth history is of great interest to dwellers here. Earth mission data collection prioritizes gathering electronic records of source data and documents. History is exceedingly important, and spinning it is a major industry on Earth. Here, the focus is on what actually happened, as Earth historical narratives tend to be severely distorted by agendas, if not actual evidence destruction.

People who feel they have a future tend to be interested in history. People ignorant of, or misinformed about, or in denial about history, may have no future.

Honesty

We are much too selfish and lazy to be dishonest here.

And let us be precise on this — the word “lie” is commonly abused on Earth to mean any misstatement, if not merely things that can be spun as misstatements. Here it is understood as only willful misstatement, often intended to mislead.

You have just escaped from a world where honesty is considered to be naive, or acceptable if convenient, or perhaps actually dangerous. You may have resorted to deception to effect your escape, and you may be wondering if you can leave that behind. It will serve you to do so. Lies, misrepresentation, rationalization, exaggeration, withholding and other forms of reality denial are not necessary or welcome here.

Not surprisingly, LAG charters have language addressing the truthfulness of testimony, contractual affirmations and the like. Dishonesty violates an informal agreement as well (the meaning of words), but these factors are not the foundation of attitudes here. You need to be aware of a pervasive respect for, and expectation of honesty here that is not common on Earth.

Another significant factor is that there is simply a lot less to lie about here. The ‘rules’ you are expected to live by are the ones you select and agree to (so be sure to be honest with yourself when you pick them). Be open and unashamed about what you want. Big parts of the motivation for dishonesty on Earth are: avoidance of cultural predation, and the dogmatic deprecation of self interest (which being essential for life, thus has to disguise itself there).

The general principles are:

- Avoid choices that compel future lies.
- Avoid falsehood.
- Avoid withholding truth.
- Keep your agreements regarding the honesty of your statements.
- Act to encourage honesty in others, rather than focus on discouraging dishonesty.

Whatever you do, or do not do, creates a spreading constellation of consequences. Honesty is more likely to create the constellation you desire, and if there are any undesired effects, people are more likely to be supportive if you were honest. If you grasp the essentials of the discussion on Principles, you have seen that honesty is like any other frequently confronted choice. It is less work to be honest on principle than to exhaustively analyze alternative behaviors.

Note that the principles above say simply “avoid”, rather than “absolutely never”. Clearly there are situations in which honesty might have a catastrophic outcome constellation. These include obvious ‘lifeboat’ cases such as dealing with someone who is already in total violation of an agreement with you, such as an armed criminal. You may have done this yourself if you lied to escape hostile officials on Earth.

Withholding, whether by silence, misdirection, or a misleading ‘mental reservation’ or other subterfuge, is widely considered to be little different than active lying. Withholding consists of not fully providing information that you agreed to provide, or would expect to be given if you were the other party. “Expect” is a key word, for in some contexts, such as a business negotiation, both parties expect to withhold adverse information that was not specifically or generally agreed to be provided.

As always, the principle (honesty) may be subordinate to the consequential constellation. The following advice on when to withhold is typical of the considerations that arise when contemplating an exception to (a violation of) the principle of honesty. You might withhold if all of these elements exist:

- As withholder, failing to provide the information has no benefit to you.
- The benefit of the other party requires withholding (i.e. you would not want to know the truth at that moment if you were the other party). For example, a traumatic revelation might transform a fragile health state into a fatal one.
- As withholder, it is your honest estimate that the other party would (perhaps later) agree with the choice to withhold. Do not be paternalistic.
- As the withholder, you accept both responsibility and liability for the consequences.
- If the information may safely be conveyed at a later date, you are completely willing and committed to doing so, although it reveals you to have been a withholder.

Honesty, Observations

Here are some consequences in the constellation of a lie:

- A lie often starts before it is formulated and uttered. It starts when a choice is made that cannot later be acknowledged. If you want to only create memories that you don't regret causing, start here.
- The liar might get caught.
Most liars consider this the only risk, but it is actually a minor factor. Further, liars rarely consider the wider constellation that ensues from getting caught, including damaged trust, reputation, and relationships. Chronic liars often fail to consider consequences of any kind, relying on their charisma and skill at dissembling.
- The liar becomes a liar.
Do you personally seek and associate with liars, or avoid them? What does this imply for the liar's self esteem?
- The liar probably has broken an agreement, possibly a charter term. They are no longer an agreement-keeper, and if no one else knows yet, they do.

- The liar might get caught by someone other than the victim. This can put the discoverer in the awkward position of choosing between betraying the liar or becoming a co-conspirator in the lie. In the extreme, it exposes the liar to risk of blackmail.
- Lying is hard work (which could have been invested productively). Lying amounts to creating a false reality for those being lied to, a fake reality that must be maintained indefinitely. It compartmentalizes the liar's mind, requiring tracking both the real world, and the fake world (often worlds; per-victim, per-incident worlds). This is not just tiring, it creates a serious risk of triggering aspects of schizophrenic or multiple-personality disorder. To paraphrase an old psychology cliché:
 - neurotics are people who lie to themselves, and
 - psychotics are people who believe their own lies.
- There is a growing blackout. A liar must keep the victim away from locales, people and evidence that might expose the lie. This usually results in a cancerous list of conversational topics to be avoided, replaced by sullen silence or babbling about distractions, and ultimately avoidance of the victim altogether. The death of open communication in a relationship, then the relationship itself, can easily begin with a single lie.

You cannot achieve happiness without self esteem, and you cannot have self esteem without having a consistent principle of honesty. If this strikes you as a simplistic platitude, try the following test (and not as a thought experiment - actually do it).

1. Stand in front of a mirror.
2. Can you look that person (you) in the eye and say "I am an honest person"?
3. Pretend that the mirror is a pane of glass, and the person there is not you, but someone else. Assume that you know as much about that person as you know about yourself. Would you trust that person? Would you have them as a friend?

Consider your reaction the mirror test. Did it simply reaffirm your self image? Did it make you aware that you are not entirely comfortable with who you have been? Was the test too threatening to take? If you dismissed the test as too 'silly' to take, then it is indeed too threatening.

If honesty is an area of your life that could use some attention, do not feel guilty about it, do not condemn yourself and do not make promises. Just start changing your behavior. One scene of any prior dishonesty (Earth) is already beyond reach. Leave it there. You have a fresh opportunity.

Start by not creating a need for any future lies — the usual trap. When you make a choice you will need lie about later, you have placed an order for the burden of lying — lit the fuse.

Exceptions to honesty are not something done casually, because they have all the baggage that attends dishonesty, not the least of which being that, forever, you are no longer a completely honest person.

Are people here absolutely honest 100% of the time? No — and although much smaller here, there is a minority of chronically dishonest people, and you need be aware of it. See Fiction for a completely different look at the topic.

Housing

... a mostly similar array: charity, pack, drive, rent, lease, own or be owned by ...

Overnight shelter is basically mandatory here, regardless of the weather. This is a requirement imposed by the wildlife, who do not seek anyone's agreement in the matter. The bare minimum personal shelter is a portable collapsible sleeping cell, but more elegant options are widely available.

Where you reside, or just spend the night, has to be somewhere, so the form of any portable shelter needs to be acceptable to the property owner. If it is your property, it is easily entirely your call. Housing standards are not like zoning (often a euphemism for low-cost housing discrimination on Earth). Standards are by agreement, and enforced more by the native environment, insurance carriers and lenders than by LAG terms. Shelter is available at every price point, and is a primary charitable offering.

In addition to being a weather/wildlife barrier, any sleeping quarters must provide circadian isolation, and varying degrees of temperature management, depending on region. A safe water source, and access to waste recycling are also important. Consequently, most people reside in settlements with barrier protection and basic utilities.

Although stand-alone single-family homes are possible, they are still uncommon, due both to the relative expense⁵³, and complexities added by the need to disconnect from the natural cycles here. Much more common are residomes, community-scale domes in which smaller dwelling units (domociles) of variable configuration are erected or merely spotted. A domocile needs only to provide whatever isolation is desired from the neighbors.

Hunting and Fishing

*... basically non-existent, or upside-down really,
but not due to cultural attitudes ...*

Outside walled settlements, terrestrial or aquatic, *you* are the hunted. Work-group protection and bio-research specimen collection are actual job options⁵⁴. No otherwise-game class creatures are edible, or worth collecting as trophies (due to bio-compatibility hazards).

Inside settlements, neither Earth-species animal husbandry nor aquaculture have so far achieved sufficient surplus to support sport harvesting. Until and unless sporting reserves arise, you can express your inner hunter in an arcade. If you prefer to be the prey, the wildlife, alas, routinely oblige.

You are, however, a member of a species that, for most gene lines, were ancestrally hunter-gatherers. Tribal survival depended on the success of food provisioning. It is likely that humans today still have natural aptitudes for hunting and foraging. Sport hunters on Earth often go to effort and expense that is dramatically disproportionate to the apparent fruits of the hunt. This places hunting in the pantheon of Latencies — inclinations that need to be acknowledged.

53. The same factors leading to the prevalence of large domes also result in single-family structures usually taking dome form. Having multi-century expected service lives, the capital costs may seem a bit elevated, but non-dome architecture raises the costs higher still.

54. As with any outdoor occupation, have a handle on Circadian matters before taking.

Hydrocarbons

When you have to make them, the economics shift.

Although minor reserves of geologic hydrocarbon crude oil substances exist here, they have so far been uneconomical to exploit. Synfuels are, so far, cheaper than mined and refined, but are still dramatically more expensive than on Earth. They are used only where batteries are unsuited, such as standby power for sea vessels, and motive power for extended duration conventional aircraft.

Topics I

Identity

... papers please? — usually not ...

If you elect to subscribe to a LAG, they normally offer to generate a reasonably secure form of ID, which may or may not be a card, and may or may not bear a picture, fingerprint or other biotoken. The main use of such IDs is in formal contracts, where the other parties to it want some assurance of with whom they are dealing, perhaps with an eye toward whatever inter-LAG agreement terms might come into play. Tribunals also need to know that the correct parties are engaged for an action.

Any entity, including you, is at liberty to demand arbitrary identification from anyone else for purposes of whatever matter is at hand. It is negotiable, just like pretty much everything else. Having and using a secure ID token reduces risk of identity theft.

If you want to change your identity, and some immigrants quite understandably do, be pondering the matter in transit. If you wait too long after arrival, you will then also need to get any additional records revised, where you cause them to get created. Over time this can get more challenging to run down, in the wake of life activities. See also Privacy.

Group Identity

Group identity is infrequently encountered here, due to awareness of the Latency of Tribalism. Expressions might be limited to fans of team sports. See also Equality and Race.

Considering genetic, cultural, familial, regional, adopted, assigned, imposed or imaginary group identity — to the extent that these matter, it tends to mean that you, individually, don't matter. However, your personal history and circumstances might be factors in any relations (if you want them to be).

Immigrants

You are one, and so what?

Population influx is presently limited by technology and FC security practices. If free movement between Earth and Option arises, the nature of that epoch may give rise to considerations impossible to predict for this edition. See also Emigration.

In the present instance (your case), with no borders to speak of, you can, in principle, go anywhere here. Places where visitors and travelers are inadvisable or unwelcome are usually marked by barriers and/or signage. Random outdoor locales, of course, may or may not advise where it is unwise to wander without suitable precautions.

Check Your Virtual Baggage

Immigrants are always welcome here, but they are more welcome when they leave behind the very problems they are fleeing, particularly the cancer of:

collectivism → corruption → crime → cultural collapse.

Be sure to review the all of the Latencies, so that they no longer exert any unwanted control over you.

You probably have some Earth-government-issued ID, but no one here is likely to ask for it, unless representations concerning your identity on Earth come into question. No entities here presently issue passports, as there is no need for them. Any entity that proposes to do so, for local use, is likely presaging their own demise.

Importation

The main import is you.

As of this Edition, there is no open trade with Earth, and very little with the various . Anything you happened to bring along might be something in high demand here, or worthless.

The FC maintains a priority list for needed Earth bio-matter, and of course has its own list of items for supporting FC operations. It also maintains a wish list of products and materials not yet locally produced. From time to time, specific acquisitions are added to mission objectives, but this is not something that can be relied on for any project needs you might pursue. It is also expensive if actually undertaken.

Inheritance

Passing on success chattels is less important than bequeathing successful character.

What happens to any property of yours, upon your passing, is defined by your agreements (including agreements about what constitutes a valid will). Absent an effective will, LAGs have default terms or negotiated terms for inheritance. Where there are no taxes, there are of course no death taxes — the creditors, assigns and heirs get it all.

Yes, you can build an empire, and pass it on intact. But unless the recipients were also gifted with the demeanor to have built their own, chances are they will not have it long (nor necessarily value it as you did).

Insurance

*If you cannot afford to insure it, can you really afford to own it?
Or — do the insurance providers really run things?*

Is this topic really that different on Option?

Only in a few significant conceptual ways:

- Insurance is understood here to be mutually shared *risk*, period...
...whereas on Earth many people have some notion of an entitlement: a reward for any misfortune, including highly predictable misfortune, if not misfortune that may have already occurred (preexisting condition), possibly including misfortune resulting from willful irresponsibility.
- Insurance is thus not an entitlement, and is in general not obligatory on the part of the issuer. Due to freedom of contract, no one is obliged to sell you any.
- Also due to freedom of contract, insurance is available in wildly varying forms and terms, responding to trends, developments, as well as market needs, such per-trip travel, and other per-event coverage.
- As available, premiums typically reflect both risk, insofar as it can be estimated, and evidence of risk abatement⁵⁵.

55. Earthquake and flood coverages are available, and affordable, but rates usually depend on industry building standards compliance in addition to regional seismic and hydrological risk.

Preexisting Coverage

A preexisting condition is not a risk. It is already a fact. To call retroactive coverage for it “insurance” is linguistic fraud (if not actual fraud where concealed from a provider). On Earth, when compelled by law, it is enslavement of the issuer and a tax on the other premium payers who actually foot the bill.

People who would not imagine that they could retroactively obtain insurance for an already-destroyed vehicle, have been misled by Earth politicians to expect coverage for already-existing medical conditions (and conditions that are too frequently consequences of their reliance on defective government dietary advice). But see also Health Care, as alternatives are available.

Intellectual Property

Musing regarding Earth: if the only people getting rich on it are the lawyers and the brokers, what was the original point?

As if you did not have enough to ponder, be thinking about this (IP) en route. Perhaps before contemplating it, establish your posture on the issue of Property generally. Property is just a human concept. IP is a further abstraction, dealing with often intangible property. On Earth this class included copyrights, patents, trademarks and trade secrets. Of those, patents do not really exist here, and the others get varied treatment.

There is not a lot of tolerance for counterfeits here, but there is also not necessarily any automatic copyright upon creation of a work, nor are works-for-hire automatically assigned to the funding entity. If you want protection or need enforcement, be mindful of your context and intent.

In addition to any terms your LAG might have, registrars also have policies that can amount to terms.

The usually-encountered abbreviation for this topic is IPA (IP Architecture, or simply IP Agreement). The general goals of any IPA framework here can include:

- Attribution

Sometimes the creator only wants credit, and perhaps just attribution honesty. Attribution terms are intended to ensure that everyone is being truthful about who originated a work, and in the case of marks, who produced any physical or ephemeral instance of it, and for trademarks, who is using it.

- Utilization

More often the goal of IP is simple compensation, or frank ownership — control over copies, perhaps merely to ensure authenticity. LAG IP terms are usually of limited ...

- Duration

What would you agree to? Conduct the thought experiment both as creator and consumer. Duration terms can differ for attribution and utilization.

- Provenance and Assignment

What is the work? When was it created? Who is (are) the author(s)? Who is the present claimant or holder? This is an issue of record-keeping. A number of IP registries exist, and you can register a work with one at varying fees and terms. They coordinate with one another, so any given work may be reported by any as, for example: active (with registrar), recognized (active elsewhere), limited (partial recognition), disputed, lapsed⁵⁶, abandoned, relinquished, revoked, etc.

- Chain of Custody

A claims holder can transfer, relinquish or abandon their claim. Registrars track this, so it is important that changes be logged with them.

- Compensation

Registrars usually also indicate if they broker any licensing. Where they do manage licensing, they also usually manage payment or escrow on behalf of claims holders of record.

- Confidentiality

Registered IP is open for inspection. What is ascribed to whom is no secret — it is rather the point. Due to lack of patents, however, non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) and trade secrets are more common here. Terms covering these are simple contracts.

LAG IP terms (if any) apply to both what you produce, what you might copy, and what you consume, subject to further modification by contracts. Honoring agreed terms is expected from either perspective.

56. Orphan works are a growing problem on Earth, as IP lobbyists have made copyright terms essentially perpetual. With registrars here, initial terms and renewal periods set default limits. If lapsed, a holder may be able to reinstate, but may not be able to retroactively act against copies made, and otherwise infringing uses, while lapsed.

Digital Rights Management (DRM), on the other hand, is uncommon here, in large part because there is no central authority dictating that devices must be crippled by authentication hardware. The focus is instead on making agreement keeping as easy as possible, rather than making agreement breaking as difficult as possible.

A note on notation: marks which are claimed for exclusive or licensed use here generally use the typographical symbol circled-I[Ⓢ], which is informally called the “IP Mark”. It may or may not also be accompanied by a glyph unique to the registrar. The [Ⓢ] was chosen to avoid confusion with Earth marks [Ⓒ], [Ⓟ], [®], SM, TM, and more recently [Ⓜ] and [Ⓞ], which retain their Earth meanings, but not necessarily, to date, their recourse.

Earth Mark Re-Use

Registrars here may track Earth marks as being such (to prevent local claims duplication), but do not track their provenance. Any re-use is presently non-conflicting, but that is apt to be a temporary matter. Accidental conflicts are going to arise, of course. What transpires when and if trade opens with Earth is not at all clear.

Topics J

Judgmentalism

This is a behavioral product of Normatives.

This is “good”. That is “bad”. The practice of assigning various content-free associations to persons, things and events on Earth is a generator of needless additional conflict and generally a waste of time. It can create results opposite to those intended.

There are two major Earth attitudes about it:

- Judge not, lest ye be judged.
- Judge, and expect to be judged.

The attitude here is:

- Make actionable decisions, only as necessary, unless you actually are a judge.

Outside of a tribunal case, a judgment often signals a decision that did not need to be made yet, if ever, or is merely an empty characterization. If something strongly moves someone here, what they usually do is focus on the facts and acts. They may well

express an emotion, such as “I am outraged”, “I am delighted”, which are simple truths. They usually do not say “This makes me outraged”, which is false, or “This is outrageous”, which is relatively content-free. See **Emotions**.

You are more likely here to encounter analysis of the facts and principles involved, such as “what just happened here?”, “if the facts are as they appear to be, this situation violates the following principles and/or agreements” or “this is likely to have the following consequences.” This can include an action plan, such as: “In response to this situation, you can expect me to take the following actions.”

If you find yourself tempted to say something typically Earthlian like “this is wrong and I oppose it”, expect some quizzical looks as your listeners await additional statements of substance. Being ‘right’ is pointless. Creating your desired results is what matters.

Shunning

A related topic to keep in mind as you abandon judgmentalism is what might be termed ‘opposition’. An apparent contradiction in life is:

Whatever you actively resist, you tend to empower.

Proclaiming yourself as anti-anything tells no one what you are *for*. You are more likely to create the kind of world you want by working to build, rather than by investing time, energy and resources in opposing what you do not want, and in particular wasting effort sabotaging other people’s lives over philosophical differences. Eschew shunning unless required by your religion. Focus instead on constructing your you-topia, and being an effortless radiant exemplar of your advocacies.

Justice

That “justice” on Earth often needs to be prefixed by the word “equal” indicates just how much abuse this term has endured.

And the majority of other terms used to prefix “justice” can usually be replaced with “not”, or “in-”, because if something is ‘xyz justice’ then it is plainly something other than simple justice. On Earth, the word is also being co-opted to ‘justify’ egalitarianism.

In any event, the term is not commonly encountered here, but when it is, what people usually mean by it is: obtaining what was agreed to (and absent any prior agreement, see “fair”).

Topics K-L

Language

... only slightly alien ...

The dominant language at Option is American English, an unsurprising result of the origin story here. Other languages are encountered, representing the relative numbers of individuals recruited/rescued from various regions. Most LAGs support English. Many have support for alternate languages. A few are language-specific.

Because technology and philosophy diverged from Earth around 1961, language⁵⁷ has as well. Expect to encounter unfamiliar terms (or unfamiliar uses of existing words). This is most common for technology developed independently. Due to its primary audience, this guide avoids most disparate terms. On arrival, a pocket electronic dictionary (or translator device or app⁵⁸, as needed) may be a useful investment.

On the other hand, since Option residents are as informed about Earth matters as they can tolerate, they are apt to completely comprehend you. You do not need to ‘speak down’ to them, although they are more likely to be amused than offended if you do.

Language as Latency

... another case of: what has our species inherited?

You are reading the written word, and for the Earth Editions, you are reading it in the emerging Option dialect of English (with some deference to the target audience). Language, and more particularly, written language, is a relatively recent development in the time-line of human history, and one that is still in flux.

As with parentalism, human infants, by default, unquestioningly accept almost all of the context into which they are born and raised, and this includes modes of communication (sounds, expressions, gestures, symbols). If you have cultural baggage, the language that supported that culture has baggage of its own, including both normal historical drift, and deliberate co-opting and distortion by factions with various agendas.

57. Computer character encodings diverged as well, but the locally extended Polytext was harmonized with Earth’s Unicode some time ago.

58. Any such app on your existing mobile device is likely to not work, to the extent that it relies on a database on a now-inaccessible network server back on Earth.

Language as Subordinate to Agreement

As pointed out in **Praxeology**, “Agreement is actually more important than language. For what is language but agreement on the meaning of sounds, symbols and gestures?” Be clear on terms. Demand definitions as needed (especially in contracts). Do not necessarily accept emergent re-definitions (the co-opting of legacy definitions seen on Earth).

Latencies

Becoming aware of these influences gives you some power over them, instead of the other way around.

The cultural history of Earth has been largely a festering disaster, with sporadic, temporary respites. Although cultural critics tend to blame Earth dystopias on cultural principles based on myth (resulting in conflicting, subjective, floating-abstraction oughts), the real root causes may be simpler, but more subtle and diverse. Do not be lulled by the latencies.

Each of these is a separate guide topic, listed below to emphasize the cross-instigation amongst them, if you allow it. Each deserves your awareness. Those so far identified include:

- Actual Cosmology
- Authority
- Control
- Emotions
- Envy
- Fiction
- Hunting
- Language
- Leadership
- Magical Thinking
- Memory
- Mortality
- Music
- Normatives
- Parentalism
- Patterns
- Race
- Reproduction
- Social Cosmology
- Time
- Tribalism

Most here have awareness of and mastery of the Latencies. They may presume that you do as well, once an established dweller.

Laws

*So then, there are here few law makers?
It is more case of; there are here few law takers.*

There are two concepts known as laws:

- Natural (scientific) laws⁵⁹
- Human (political and religious) laws, with two subcategories:
 - Agreements
 - Threats

The so-called ‘laws of nature’ set forth conceptualization of the current state of human knowledge about the physical universe. The actual cosmos, of course, does not need to obey these laws, it just is what it is. To the extent that the inferred laws of nature are correct, they are non-negotiable and cannot be broken. Being human concepts, they may be incomplete or actually mistaken, but because they often predict physical consequences with great accuracy, you disregard them at your peril.

Human laws purport to constrain human behavior, and in fact do nothing of the sort (inasmuch as people often ‘break’ them at will, sometimes evading the specified sanctions as well).

At Option, agreements are usually called agreements, although the word “bylaw” may be encountered in some organizational agreements, and is synonymous for Ethics.

Non-negotiable threat-style laws (“thou shalt”) exist primarily in religious contexts. Note that gLAGs and the theocratic LAGs may initially present their codes as agreements (perhaps only up until you agree with them).

Lawyers

Winning cases at any cost has costs.

Outside of the gLAGs, there are no “lawyers” here, because there are no ‘laws’. However, there are indeed lawyers here, but to recalibrate expectations they are termed “Agreement Consultant (AC)”, “Certified Tribunal Representatives” (CTRs) or almost anything but “lawyer”.

Title aside, this is also unlike Earth, where lawyers dominate the political process of many nations, profit from exacerbating (rather than mediating) disputes, and distort precedent due to the client’s desire to prioritize winning the case irrespective of

59. Lysander Spooner himself postulated natural “laws” of human behavior. This is another topic of his on which the conjectors diverged.

the facts or cultural consequences. ACs and CTRs tend to not be significant philosophical forces at Option. Case results are equally likely to result in charter revisions, precedent, footnotes or mere enlightenment of the litigants.

For issues and contracts where there is no potential conflict of interest on the part of your LAG, you might rely on their Agreement Services (or similarly named) department, often at no extra charge.

If there is a potential conflict, or you simply want a skilled impartial representative who is familiar with both the text and cases of your LAG, you may want to employ an AC.

If you are ever charged with an agreement violation (either by your LAG or by someone else's complaint to your LAG), you probably need a CTR, as only forum-certified CTRs may represent parties in most LAG tribunals. Your LAG agreement provides for CTR defense representation at no extra charge, but since that CTR is LAG-appointed or possibly LAG-employed, you may want to retain your own. Most LAG agreements, with varying fees, have provisions for "preferred CTRs" or perhaps a basic rate subsidy for you to apply to any CTR you desire. This much like the cost-vs.-choice issue in health care, so consider it when selecting a LAG.

Leadership

*Be one as the need arises, and the rest of the time,
do not confound principals with principles.*

Follow-the-leader is another latency, arising primarily from both parentalism and tribalism. The concept of leader does have value, in that human group activities tend to be more effective if coordinated — ideally by visionary management with task competence, loyalty to the goals, and respect for the team.

To forestall hazard, resist promoting leaders to icon status, regardless of how charismatic they may be. Where a leader originated a valuable idea, even if they embody it, thank the person, but treasure the idea.

When the fate of a culture hinges on the leadership of a single individual, that culture has been in serious decline for some time.

Notice that there are no contemporary names in this guide. On arrival, also expect some difficulty in finding statues⁶⁰, and certainly no posters and murals of cultural figures. Authentic cultural heroes are primarily interested in the results, often not the accolades, and may be horrified by any effigies.

Where a leader adds value, stand ready to be one. Most people have the capacity. Also stand ready to stand aside if a more effective leader arises. Focus on results, and not the role. Treat leadership as something you do, not something you are.

Legal Agreement Group

*If it is too much trouble to think about how to live,
there is often someone willing to tell you.*

On Earth, you took the law for granted (or rather, it took you). Here, you are obliged only to chose what principles to live by, and although one of the choices is “none of the above”, most people prefer to have some kind of consistent, if not formal agreement framework. These agreements are extremely effective at empowering harmony, preventing disputes, and efficiently resolving disputes when they arise.

If you are wondering why there are so many LAGs to chose from, keep in mind the rather larger number of nations on Earth. However, because that is not an entirely apt comparison, consider that there are fewer LAGs here than organized religions on Earth, and people there are often free to switch religions. The same forces of family, background, education, experience, exposure, observations, objections, reflections, philosophy, and ultimately outcomes, motivate people to have varied preferences in their principles of agreement.

In time, there may be some convergence, but it seems unlikely that a single common agreement will emerge. Indeed, if a single LAG were to approach market dominance, that alone would make many members nervous enough to secede, perhaps to an essentially identical framework by some other name.

A subtle effect of choosing a formal agreement framework is that your personal advocacies are more apparent than on Earth. On Earth, although everyone in a bordered region was subject to

60. Those statues found here tend to depict persons of exceptional artistic creativity, but even so, raise the question of: what is the intention of the statuary? Where some figure is exemplary of some principle(s), the focus needs to be on the principle(s), and not the exemplar, else, as often seen on Earth, the principle(s) recede from consciousness, leaving just an icon.

the same laws, they might well disagree with much of it. Here, unless you remain outLAG, your LAG choice is often clear, and you are presumed to endorse the core principles it represents.

LAG agreement structures typically have a hierarchy, such as:

- Preamble and Charter - a statement of objectives, principles and a set of underlying agreements that always apply, and may or may not be disclaimed or overridden by layered agreements and contracts.
- Default Agreements (DAs) - agreement terms that apply unless specifically disclaimed. They may also be overridden by layered agreements or contracts, but the new terms must include the disclaimer.
- Model Agreements (MAs) - suggested boilerplate agreements on specialized topics. These may only apply if specifically invoked or referenced. They are often referenced and amended in contracts.
- Indemnity Agreements (IAs) - suggested agreements that provide indemnity or affirmative defense if adhered to. These are like codes, rules and regulations on Earth, except that compliance is voluntary.
- Any preventative terms could be voluntary, with an indemnification for outcome if guidelines are followed.

LAG terms represent reflective wisdom based accumulated experience of what often did not work as expected. When you see terms that raise an eyebrow, by all means dig into why.

Characterizing LAGs

LAGs are effectively, if not clearly businesses. They may be profit/non-profit, privately-held, publicly traded, or mutual companies (composed of their subscribers). Membership may involve voting on directors and/or issues. More typically, subscribers have about the same participation in the daily operation of their LAG as they have in their utilities, which is to say: not much, beyond engagement on proposed changes.

The function that distinguishes a LAG from any other service business is that the key product is physical enforcement of agreements and provision of tribunals which direct that enforcement. If you could avoid disputes, or resolve all your disputes without ever relying on compulsion, or could reliably 'take matters into your own hands' and use self-help to resolve disputes without creating more disputes in the process, then

LAGs would not be necessary. In fact, many outLAGs feel this way, and do expect to handle their own resolutions, with predictably unpredictable results.

The first use of compulsion (arrest, eviction, seizure, etc.), and the use of physical or violent sanctions (confinement, exile, execution) are serious matters. When two disputing parties discard impartial third-party mediation, and resort to these actions, another name for it is war — where the results depend entirely on who has superior force or tactics, having little to do with any prior agreement or the merits of the issues.

Civilization is understood here to mean: any culture in which people live primarily by agreement. When civilized people encounter a situation that might require force to resolve, and it is their intent to resolve it on the merits, they rely on a neutral third party to determine the resolution, and be the executor of any force. This is the primary function of LAGs.

LAGs create and offer agreements as products, enter into those agreements with subscribers, negotiate reciprocal agreements with other LAGs, provide forums (tribunals) for resolving agreement violations, engage or staff police organizations and operate or engage sanction facilities to enforce the determinations.

They may offer other products and services (such as reviewing and drafting contracts), but be cautious about services beyond the core. In general, you want to minimize the risk of any disputes arising between yourself and your LAG. Terms for such a possibility are worth review. One approach is that a third-party LAG is engaged to settle any appeals.

Nothing prevents a LAG from offering any product or service, but a dispute between you and your LAG is complex, because they are no longer a neutral third party. In the case of your having violated the charter, where no one else is plaintiff (i.e, a crime), their action is a function for which you clearly engaged them. However, it foolish to buy a car from your LAG, since any dispute makes them both defendant and judge. Your author's advice is to avoid LAGs in other businesses, or owned by other types of businesses. Conversely, offering your services to a LAG could also result in their being both plaintiff and judge. Proceed cautiously.

Nothing further prevents a LAG from being effectively multiple LAGs, offering different styles of agreement for different customers. LAG mergers have created such entities. They offer the benefit of exceptionally strong and predictable

inter-LAG agreements between their divisions, but this may raise a risk: what agreement prevails if you have a dispute with the LAG itself? Check terms.

So what resolves any LAG vs. LAG dispute? One might ask what resolves nation vs. nation disputes on Earth: certainly not the UN, nor the League of Nations before it.

Inter-LAG Agreements

These are formal agreements between two (or more) different LAGs (or agreement sub-brand lines of the same parent LAG) that reconcile issues where the terms might differ between the LAGs of the contending parties. These are roughly comparable to treaties on Earth.

On any given issue, “least onerous terms” or “we agree to disagree” are possible positions.

LAG Funding

In a word, fees⁶¹— for comparison, a LAG is not much more expensive to run than an insurance company, but the operations must be paid for somehow: creating and evolving the agreement base, record-keeping, operating tribunals, member services, funding police and the prison.

As with insurance, ideally everyone pays in proportion to the LAG expense risk they represent. Approaches vary, and are a consideration in your LAG decision process. A typical fee structure might be:

1. a basic per-person amount
2. adjustments to № 1 based on age
3. further adjustments based on demonstrated risk (occupation, prior dispute history if not actual tribunal record⁶²)

Yes, everyone similarly situated may pay similarly, regardless of means or net worth. What really matters is how much trouble they might cause or attract. Subsidies are available for unfortunates and indigents, from various charities, if not an actual LAG pro-bono program. LAG choice may not be as wide via that route.

61. General funding is not via fines, nor taxes other than in gLAGs.

62. A very high-risk person might be declined membership unless they post an interest-bearing bond, which might then be amortized to cover on-going fees, escrow balance refundable on resignation.

LAG Jumpers?

Immigrants often ask: so what prevents agreement violators from changing LAGs to avoid recourse? Often, the gambit simply fails, as an inter-LAG agreement preserves the recourse. This is little different than when changing insurance carriers on Earth. The new policy usually has terms for preexisting matters.

LAG flight is also similar to fugitives skipping the country on Earth — inter-LAG agreements usually cover extradition for mutual agreement terms. It is not uncommon for police officers and agents to be trained on and sworn by multiple LAGs. Robbing a LAG(a) bank and walking across the street to a LAG(b) coffeehouse is apt to do nothing to inhibit apprehension if the first officer on scene is a LAG(a-b-c) delegate.

Lagricators

This infrequently encountered coined term is a contraction for LAG prevaricators. What prevents misrepresentation of LAG membership? If a situation becomes a formal dispute, and when there is evidence that a party falsely claimed to be a member of a specific LAG, the prevaricator may actually be held to their affirmation(s): the stricter of terms of their actual LAG, and of the claimed LAG insofar as applicable — after all, that is what they claimed to agree to.

Liability

When it is not clear who is liable, there might already have been bigger problems lurking.

Obligations arise from prior agreement, and are not conjured out of thin air here by jurists and juries.

Licensing

Various entities may insist on independent evidence of competence.

This might be three different topics: government-style mandatory professional/occupational licensing, activity certification, and IP licensing. Broadly lacking governments here, only the latter two types commonly arise. LAGs are not generally in the business of issuing licenses (but see CTR).

You are at liberty to insist on whatever certifications you think appropriate for any project you undertake. If any third parties are involved, such as insurance carriers, lenders or investors, they may likewise seek assurances.

Property owners are at liberty to request certifications for use of their property. This is most commonly encountered with roads, where driver proficiency certification and insurance or bond is routinely required. Typical roads accept certifications from multiple issuers, and may well sell per-trip coverage. What prevents driving without certification? As on Earth, not much, but liability in adverse events escalates. Certification is also common for rental of dangerous or expensive devices.

Intellectual property is subject to implicit licensing arising from the ① claim itself, within the context of applicable LAG and inter-LAG agreements. Works normally state any restrictions claimed and provenance thereof. Any wider use, or otherwise restricted re-use, via explicit licensing, is just a contract.

Logic

Use logic to find error, before error finds you.

Logic has been described as: the art of conceptualization conformance. It is an art, and not a science, because science itself is built on logic. It is about concepts because it is a method of applying and relating words and symbols to reality. Logic has associated principles and methods, but at root, it is defined by reality. Correct concepts conform to actual reality. Correct models produce predictions leading to reliable outcomes.

If contradiction arises, error is attempting to attract your attention. If apparent paradox arises, either the question contains a contradiction, or some interesting new learning awaits unfolding.

Are you willing to be mistaken?

If your instant reaction to that is “no”, the question was misunderstood. Expect to hear this question here if you have just said something, or are about to do something, that may be inconsistent with reality. The question also arises when someone parrots dogma that is overdue for re-examination.

Opponents of logic are pandemic on Earth, usually because reality declines to conform to their agendas, darn it. Inconsistent or adverse outcomes are common for magical thinkers and other illogicals, so logic must be the problem, and of course actual outcomes must therefore be anyone else’s fault. Escaping that insanity may be part of why you are on your present journey.

Topics M

Magical Thinking

If I have already fallen for it, it must be true, so do not confuse me with facts and logic suggesting anything else⁶³.

This, also known as wishful thinking, is another of the more pernicious Latencies. It is one expression of subjectivism. When people act on notions (or emotions) unsupported by reality, logic or human history, they frequently do not get the outcomes intended, and since disregard for outcomes is usually associated with irresponsibility, the adverse outcomes must therefore be someone else's fault.

This commonly presents itself on Earth as confusing metaphor⁶⁴ for actual facts, such as applying some pejorative label to something or someone, then presuming that it must be true once applied (presuming the label itself is actually understood by the expositor).

Things are what they are, reality works the way it works, and reality is the same for everyone, regardless of their perception of it, or their reaction to it. Thoughts, attitudes and unfounded expectations per se do not control it at all⁶⁵. Symbolic posturing is very popular on Earth, but it turns out that external reality itself pays no attention to the messaging.

Mail

... topic included due to Spooner influence ...

Movement of all shipments; post cards, letters, parcels, cartons and other random objects is handled here just as parcels are in most places back on Earth, via independent door-to-door carrier networks (and helibot for last-kilometer in some locales). There is in particular no monopoly on letter mail (see any Lysander Spooner biography on that).

There were three major firms at publication time, with a larger number of local and regional firms. All have some sort of inter-line agreements, so that none need to provide total

63. Having an Earth PhD in *falling for it* just makes it harder to recover from.

64. Those who equate metaphorical 'violence' with actual violence clearly cannot distinguish the two, and are unsurprisingly capable of actual violence, perhaps over a metaphor.

65. If you have mind control over probability at the quantum level, don't let rationality stand in your way.

coverage of all destinations (although one has that ambition). There are places that are not yet covered, requiring custom courier for those. There is no 'right' to delivery. You need to factor deliveries (and other services and utilities) into your selection of a residence locale.

Fees are based on costs: timeliness, size, weight, distance, number of hand-offs, difficulty of last-kilometer delivery, insurance and other factors. Normally the complexity is hidden via various flat-rate options, automated network quote/indicia generation, or point-of-acceptance technology.

There are the usual discounts for presorted shipments, deferred-priority delivery and other customer-initiated efficiencies. However, one class of shipment typically does not overtly subsidize another.

Do not be surprised at the standardized polygonal packages available for larger shipments. Most articles smaller than about 1.1m in diameter can be shipped at high speed where a pneumotube network is available.

Marriage

If the concept did not exist, would you invent it, and why?

Marriage is a human invention, and perhaps not one originally invented by the persons who wanted to be mated. Ancestrally it was about control of procreation generally, and control of young females specifically, who were treated as property, and in many places on Earth, still are, if not literally, then metaphorically (the father gives away the bride).

Later, more enlightened attitudes incorporated a view of marriage as a contract (vows), but still one whose terms might be rigidly defined by the government (both by license/statute terms and 'common law') or church (possibly not open to any modification by pre-nuptial agreement).

Having a contract actually makes sense, in that it can provide a framework protecting the interests of third parties brought into the relationship without their consent: children, whether born, adopted or fostered.

Here, specific cohabitational contracts may be optional, or may be implicit in your religion or in LAG terms covering children. If you want a defined relationship, well, just define it.

Divorce

If a relationship has a contract, then it would be expected to contain terms for how the contract might dissolve short of death. If any LAG(s) involved recognize and define marriage, there would be default terms for this eventuality. If any dependents are involved, additional terms are likely to come into play.

Polygamy

... for those insufficiently challenged by a 2-person relationship ...

If any LAGs involved recognize marriage, their definitions may include a head count. Exceeding that might be merely unrecognized for purposes of default/model agreement, might be recognized as an ordinary contract (if one is executed), or the LAG(s) might actually try to prohibit it (with about the same effectiveness as on Earth in these matters).

Meaning of Life

What is the value of four aces outside a poker game?

What is the meaning of life? Although this appears to be a profound question, it is merely a hierarchically inconsistent one; “meaning” usually denoting implications in some wider context. “Meaning” is a human concept, and only applies to conceptual beings who have choice, reason and memory. For entities without these, things simply are. It is only *within* life that meaning arises. Nonetheless, the issue illuminates attitudes here.

Many here take life to have whatever meaning they choose to give it. Living is a process of creating results, and experiencing that process. We may not so much seek or accept our purpose or calling, as choose it, and the choices here are much wider than on Earth.

For most, the purpose is creating a culture in which they want to live. Some follow their credo or axiom(s), free of meddling by those with different agendas. For others, the goal is the expansion of human knowledge and potential. A few choose to literally explore with DeepFleet. For some, their purpose is collecting extreme experiences, or accumulating material wealth. Many, however, are just content to live here, creating day-to-day results.

When sufficiently satisfying, there is little motivation to demand an explanation. On reflection, most here feel that the journey to each day brings them to yet another unexplored domain, the actual or artificial dawn illuminating unknown and surprising treasures that await.

Medication

For the optional ailments, just unwind the causes instead.

Few real diseases, means that few medications are needed here. Dedicated pharmacies are rare outside the larger settlements. Mail-order is available nearly everywhere.

Not all Earth potions have been duplicated here, and some that used to exist (or were imported) are no longer available, being seen as unnecessary or ineffective, if not self-defeating.

What does exist, are by and large, non-prescription (OTC: over-the-counter), as no artificial controls exist on distribution, outside specific brand or practice policies, and occasional regulatory forays by gLAGs. Some producers of particularly risky products may impose their own controls on distribution.

In any case, if you plan to self-medicate, get reliable information, if not engage an actual eMed service or physician's clinic. The risks are little different than alcohol — exercise caution, or unfettered use might kill you.

Immigrants do arrive with understandable concerns about overuse of OTC antibiotics, potentially leading to breeding resistant bacteria. This is indeed a real problem on Earth, but for reasons more important than resistant bacteria. Here, medications of all kinds are treated as last-resort, with particular reluctance to employ antibiotics, due to their destructive effects, perhaps primarily collateral damage to your microbiome.

Memory

*You are an entity possessing memory.
What if the universe itself does not?*

While natural forces and human actions can create lasting artifacts, memory per se appears to be a capability reserved to living beings and the technologies they craft. It's a latency for a number of reasons:

- It's a prerequisite for ordinary functioning, and taken for granted. Every thought and choice often creates a lasting memory. It is the first in the line of potential praxeological consequences. The irresponsible tend to be oblivious to it.
- It's a prerequisite for human discourse, and may be incorrectly presumed in communications where it isn't really present at one end. It may be projected onto entities that don't possess it per se, such as organizations.
- It's imperfect, and is not just a record of the raw percepts. It often includes memory of the interpretation, and reactions.
- It includes things that are fictional, and can include other events that didn't happen (e.g. speculations, dreams).
- Reviewing the mental record of an event can enable it to be re-lived emotionally. This can drive desire to either forget or to hold onto the past.
- Similar new events can trigger a learned response, and one that might not be optimal for the present situation.
- Memory overlaps with the time latency, sustaining any illusion that the past is still going on somehow.

How human memory works is a core element of being human. It is in large part what makes you, you. But as with the other latencies, it serves you to have awareness its attributes.

Microbiome (your)

How is your zoo?

Expect to hear this as a greeting — and there are as yet no traditional zoos here. So what zoo is this? It refers to the microbes you are carrying: bacteria, eukaryotic parasites, fungi (e.g. yeasts), protozoans, archea, viruses (including bacteriophages) and a large swath of unknown unknowns.

By gene count or cell count, about half of you is non-human genetics. The exact ratio is disputed, but it is not zero, and it is not optional. You have multiple microbiomes⁶⁶, on or in all exposed surfaces, orifices and organs. The largest and most critical of these is the intestinal.

Disruption of status is a huge, growing and woefully under-appreciated problem on Earth. It is potentially more severe here, due to a stark absence of any natural reservoirs for replenishing any of these lifeforms — if populations decline, personal extinctions occur (or you arrive with an extinction).

People here are making an urgent deliberate effort to puzzle it all out, and research is a top priority for continuing Earth missions. There is major investment in re-creation of Earth-like biosystems, and culturing of an increasing assortment of legacy Domains. Native biological research here was an early adopter of gene sequencing technology, but the top priority for use of it quickly shifted to studying human microbiomes.

On Earth the majority of retail probiotics are feeble, and you may have quite reasonably ignored them. Of those with value, you may have been a customer, and are wondering: now what? What you find in the on-board galley is part of what. Get yourself up to date on the latest information. Get profiled on arrival. Also, if you had not, develop a taste for live-culture fermented foods. Re-colonization is not yet a solved problem.

Consult current product reports for choosing probiotics, and begin using them. Ignoring this on Earth usually enabled numerous annoying ailments that consensus sick care would expensively posture at managing, but could not cure. Here, it is a matter of life and death, at least until there are adequate total simulations of the ancestral human environment. If you overhear the term “re-colonization”, don’t assume it has anything to do with human cultural migration.

66. When you encounter the term microbiome, presume human. Concentrations of native Option microscopic life are usually termed exobiome for disambiguation.

Minorities

The population of Option is 100% minorities.

The ultimate minority is the independent individual, and the empowered individual has always been the terminal enemy of tribalism. When not distracted by the nearly perpetual tribe vs. tribe conflicts, the imperious gaze of the collective eventually pivots to the individual, with an aim of: assimilate, subjugate or extinguish. Thwarting tribalism is the most important step in preventing persecution of minorities.

On Earth, minority usually refers to some group identity of a non-majority demographic, who are at risk from adverse government treatment, often voted for or tacitly supported by a majority or plurality. Government and elections are both optional here, so the amount of adversity that majorities can inflict is dramatically diminished.

There is keen interest in all genotypes here, however, due to traits that may confer advantage or represent elevated risk factors.

Money and Currency

It pays to grasp the basics of money.

Money

LAGs operate on money, but do not meddle in the supply or forms, and have no power to inflate the money supply.

Money is the non-specific concept for whatever a significant number of people accept in exchange for goods and services. Money is an intermediate. Direct exchange of goods and services is barter (which also happens).

Outside of the periodic gLAG misadventure, there is no official money, nor any concept of legal tender here. People exchange using whatever is agreeable. Most forms are fungible at point of exchange, at prevailing market rates.

█ in the form of recognized coins (specie) is nearly universally accepted. The vast majority of retail establishments, LAGs, tradespeople and residential merchants also accept certified non-metal currency, SVC and other electronic payments. If there is any question, both parties need only agree on payment form before concluding a transaction.

Debt instruments, as on Earth (e.g. bonds⁶⁷) can also be negotiable. One could argue that anything other than specie (e.g. bills), being just promises to pay, are actually debt instruments, and that coins, having intrinsic worth, are actually just barter.

Currency

Currency is the general term for specific forms of exchange media.

Coins

Metal coins are predominantly █, with various other metals less frequently encountered, all denominated in grams and composition. █ presently has a mass/value ratio that yields a pocketful of coins with a purchasing power that is neither too high to be a serious loss risk, nor too low to require a large and sturdy pocket. Coins in general are in decline as people gain confidence in electronic stored value cards (SVCs) and other convenient media for small denomination transactions.

As a coinage medium, █ also has the other attributes desired of coin metal: durable, divisible, usually non-toxic, oxidation-resistant, and it has industrial/ornamental value. The degree of effort to prospect, mine and refine it is relatively constant, which ensures a predictable supply trend, although major new finds, process enhancements, and infrequent major mine outages do cause fluctuations in prices tied to it. It is also easy to validate, and with testers at most major bank branches.

Other metals have been less popular as coins because they lack one or more of the above attributes. █, for example, is too common here, so a pocketful of spending money would weigh too much. █ certificates are in use in some locales, and █ clauses are occasionally used in contracts, and similarly for other rare elements.

Unless you are extended an exchange offer by the FC, any paper Earth currency you may have with you, and most Earth coins⁶⁸, are apt to have only limited numismatic value — but check collectibles markets before selling it for recycling. Yes, your Earth paper bills and base-metal coins are intrinsically worthless, and always have been. It is just sharply obvious here,

67. For those familiar with Lysander Spooner's works, mortgages do trade here, but are not considered currency.

68. All Earth nations have debased their coinage to cheap metals or polymers of no particular intrinsic worth.

and people here are a bit more precise about calling these once promissory objects what they are: tokens. Think about it, and ask yourself why they were ‘worth’ anything back on Earth.

Most Earth currencies started out as precious metal slugs (specie), often privately minted. Control of the money, however, is control of the economy and populace, which motivated politicians to invent excuses for government control of the money. The corruption started with debasement. The later introduction of paper certificates, initially all redeemable for specie, provided an opportunity to print more paper than there was metal to redeem it.

This proved an irresistible way to silently tax the populace by inflating the money supply, a temptation that no Earth government has ever been able to resist. At the close of the 20th century, all Earth currencies were intrinsically worthless fiat instruments, used in commerce only because legal tender laws require it, with alternative currencies prohibited or taxed.

As one observes, for example, the price of gold rise from an original USD\$19.39 per Troy oz. in 1789 to over USD\$1939.00 per Troy oz. (100×) in the 2010s, the question is not “Why did gold become so expensive?”, but rather “what did the government do to the dollar?”, ... and was it a mistake to call it a dollar to begin with? ... or was that conceptual disconnect deliberate?

Earth money is a giant con game, as any cash in your pockets now testifies. Several things prevent currency debasement and money supply inflation here:

- No single entity controls currency. Anyone who can mint credible coins, and any depository institution gaining a critical mass of users, can issue coins, notes and electronic credit.
- Nothing compels people to use or hold any particular currency. If the value of were to become suspect (or), people would simply migrate to another medium of exchange, which for deposits is easily done via the net.
- There is no slippery term like “dollar”, whose relationship to “ounces” or “grams” can be tinkered with. A gram is a gram, and cannot be proclaimed to be a tenth of a gram next week.
- No one accepts uncertifiable documental bills (depository certificates, i.e. untagged textile money) anymore, and the bank rating services closely watch for evidence of inflation (issuance of depository receipts with inadequate reserves⁶⁹), and of course any hints of frankly fraudulent instruments.

Monopoly

*Only **you** can prevent abusive monopoly.*

It is a curious contradiction that on Earth, those most opposed to commercial monopolies tend to be enthusiastic advocates of enforcing anti-trust, yet trust that policing to monopoly government.

If whilst musing the contents of this guide, you are beginning to think that the concept of monopoly government was not one of humanity's brightest ideas, parts of that same reservation might also apply to any other hard-to-avoid sole-source arrangements of goods and services.

LAG terms generally do not address matters known as “anti-trust” on Earth, including pricing schemes and other market ploys. Lack of patents here, however, does eliminate any real chance of that particular (and intended-by-design) form of IP-based monopoly, and its potential for innovation suppression.

Most people here are motivated to enhance the culture, and some benign sole-source situations do exist⁷⁰. But as on Earth, some providers may chose to contrive a deficiency of choices, and then raise prices sharply without raising current or future value delivered. This usually has the effect of motivating new providers to enter the market, if not triggering boycotts, creation of novel alternative solutions, or simply doing without. Provider behavior and trends are a CultureWatch topic, and people factor apparent provider demeanor into spending choices.

What prevents wealth aggregators from insisting on terms unfavorable to you? That would be you. Engage elsewhere.

69. Banks that are not mere vault services can, with due diligence, extend loans in excess of deposits (and always have, and yes, risks lurk there). If this is news, learn more about the history and theory of banks.

70. The FC's monopoly on transport exists largely by acquiescence. It is presumed that the technologies would be straightforward to re-invent if necessary.

Mood Altering Substances

Just living in a culture that respects your freedom to optimize human life is amazingly mood altering.

Earth ‘drug wars’ and other prohibition experiments are spectacular failures. They often do nothing to curtail consumption to any great degree, do encourage civil contempt for law, and have both promoted and handsomely rewarded the black markets that fill the demand. Law enforcement itself is often corrupted. The result is a net cultural loss.

Restrictions here are those agreed. They might only cover providing mood altering substances to those unable to grasp the consequences: children, disabled, deliberate victimization, etc.

The focus here is:

- Encourage liberation. Empower people. Happy people do not need to medicate life.
- Addiction happens: treatment is available, via health insurance, employers, and charities, but it is not bottomless.

Narcotics

If you want to destroy yourself with chemicals, you can do so here. It can be inexpensive, may or may not be a LAG agreement violation (to produce or consume), and no crime is necessary (at first). However, as with excessive alcohol, life consequences can be debilitating, and often lead to other agreement breaking. Resources exist in the larger settlements, but no one is obliged to provide a perpetual safety net.

Morality

What does it add in an agreement-based context?

A moral code is a formal (often written) set of behavioral principles with three dominant characteristics:

- They are unchosen.
- They are non-negotiable.
- They are presented as representing the “good”.

Moral principles (more commonly moral “laws”) are obligatory upon all individuals raised in or converted to whatever belief system hosts the list. Were there any acknowledged choice involved, then the principles might be more accurately described as “ethical”, and not “moral”.

There are countless moral systems, mostly theocratic, a few secular. Lacking a common standard of measurement, members of different factions are often embroiled in endless debates, if not schisms, over whether a given thing is ‘right’ or ‘wrong’.

You no doubt have also encountered people who held a given act to be ‘wrong’, but did it anyway. On Earth, what church any given person attends or what movement they have joined, sometimes seems to have little correlation to their actual behavior. For many corrupt individuals, morality actually encourages their misbehavior, for as long as they confess, apologize and appear sorry for a moment, they can be forgiven, and go on to violate the code again and again.

So, where not explained by morality, what makes general behavior at Option so agreeable? The answer is of course encoded in the question: agreements, if not mere praxeology. See the tag line at **Praxeology 101**.

Option dwellers are predominantly a principled people, but choose their principles. Most here recognize that there is only one fundamental “law” or “rule” of human behavior:

□ Rule 1. You do what you do; consequences ensue.

There are no other unchosen obligations. See also Duty, Laws.

Moral laws risk becoming zealotry - that is, the observance of the principles becomes more important than the actual consequences, even if the results end up being the opposite of what the principles were ostensibly intended to produce. It is likely that more than few human tribes on Earth went extinct because they allowed their codes to prevent actions (or prevent inactions) necessary for survival. Huge numbers on Earth today live in ill health, poverty, disease or misery because their behavioral codes needlessly imprison them.

People here chose principles based on the likely long term constellations of consequences. They live by their principles, but as time reveals the actual consequences, principles are added, dropped, or adjusted as necessary.

Outside the theocratic LAGs and gLAGs, expect fewer encounters with formal references to morality and its associated vocabulary, such as: bad, blame, evil, good, immoral, moral, ought, should, right, wrong. These words are always vague, ambiguous, often loaded, if not completely content-free (due to circular definitions or being otherwise floating abstractions).

People here particularly avoid “right” and “wrong”, preferring “correct” and “incorrect” or “mistaken”. Consider it — would you rather be “mistaken” or “wrong”? Humans usually

resent being “wrong” (whatever that means to them). They have less difficulty with being merely mistaken, and indeed, the common attitude here is that ...

... *there are no mistakes, only lessons.*

Expect to encounter a focus on agreements and consequences, with as much specificity as required. A parent with a “don’t do that” warning to a child is less likely to follow up with: “that’s a bad thing”, or “because I said so” and instead provide a reason ranging from general to specific, such as “that could hurt you,” “that won’t serve you,” or “we don’t have agreement for that”.

Mortality

What results do you want to create between now and then?

This Latency is commonly overlooked, yet has a primary role in human motivations. Humans would generally like to have more control over lifespan than they do. Refusal to acknowledge and accept this ephemeral reality can express itself in various ways, such as:

- pretending to have some control over mortality by interfering with the mortality of others,
- pretending to have some control over one’s life by controlling the lives of others,
- simulating cosmic control of reality by creating enduring objects: imposing edifices, large enterprises and organizations, perhaps mostly ostentation,
- seeking to have things named after you,
- frantic efforts to fill the time with distractions, and/or
- avoidance of the topic, perhaps in denial aided by mood-altering substances.

Be willing to acknowledge this fact of finite life, come to terms with it. It awaits, whether you accept it or not. Don’t allow it to distort life activities and goals, or put you out of agreement with the people in your life.

Music

*By any chance, is there a tune running in your head just now?
Is your favorite instrumental work telling a story
in some language not yet translated to words?*

Music appears to be a Latency. Exactly why this is, and the full extent of cultural cautions that might be gleaned from the observation, are yet to be fully elucidated. Answers may lie in prehistory, and were not written down, perhaps because non-coincidentally, there was no writing.

Being able to leverage accumulated wisdom provided family, clan and tribal advantage, but prior to writing, it had to be stored in living memory, passed on by accurate recitation. Easy-to-remember chants and poems arise as possibilities, and setting them to music might well have made them more effective mnemonics. Where the information was advantageous, being able to learn a multitude of songs would have amplified any survival advantage (and perhaps status in the tribe).

On Earth, music today seems to be mainly about enriching the IP broker class, whose lawyers also lobby to extend copyright terms to perpetuity, so as to extract maximum tribute from your ancestral interest in music.

Topics N

News

*Reporting is selective. It has to be. Thus, criteria disclosure matters,
plus critical consideration of whether the posture is credible.*

Successful living requires awareness of events with personal and cultural implications. News includes events from the immediate past to the near future. Those in the distant past are history, and the same source and reporter vetting applies there. Although technology today allows you to directly observe far too many current events in real-time, you can only follow a fraction of it that way, often with no context, and you get nothing else done.

As a species, we need information gatherers and curators who can focus on the key developments of value to their audiences, if not the culture at large, including facts both welcome and unwelcome. The collectors (reporters, historians) only find things where they choose to look, must condense the

raw data by some criteria, and ideally avoid injecting their personal biases (which on Earth used to be restricted to clearly set-off editorial pages or program segments).

Selectivity is inherent in the process. The job is also actual work, that must be paid for somehow⁷¹. So when picking your news outlets here, deliberately consider:

- Is there a disclosure of topic focus, standards, and agenda?
- Are the reports in fact consistent with the mission statement? (What is going *unreported*?)
- What funds the curating and delivery? If advertising, does the outlet ever report critically on the product class or brands?
- Are cites to sources and further data provided?
- Does periodic cross-checking raise doubts?
- Is the publisher open to, and credibly responsive to feedback?

Newspapers (as daily print media) never did exist here, due to the paper problem. Broadcasting of news used to be more prominent, and has been giving way to network streaming, on-demand netsites and customized gatherbots.

CultureWatch

Troubling trends are tallied and tracked.

As there is no Ministry of Information to mold your thinking, it is up to you to keep informed about not just current events, but trends. Formerly magazines or broadcasts, there are now a number of netsites, commonly with various *Watch* names, devoted to tracking event trends, emerging science, case results, and the evolution of Charters and Model Agreements at the various LAGs.

About the only advocacy that most publications have in common is a desire for the population here to avoid making the same mistakes that led to the sorry state of Earth today.

What passes for news on Earth is increasingly just propaganda, and is very far from unbiased cautious curating of just what you needed to know to be an informed citizen. Basic “when, where, what, who, how” are often incorrect if not entirely absent there.

71. The Earth meme still applies: when a valuable service appears to be free, what may be for sale is your attention span, if not actual information about you. See also Privacy.

In the decades since “why” was added to the list, priorities for the so-called journalist on Earth have become:

- Advance the (often undeclared) political agenda of the publisher (even when not the government itself).
- Shill for the advertisers, sponsors and patrons.
- If no cherry-picked facts fit the narrative, make some up, and ignore all data that does not advance the agenda.
- Keep trying to impress the journalism school professors.
- Flaunt basic journalistic incompetence at every opportunity.

Normatives

If there is no ‘ought’, do not ‘should’ on yourself.

Other than in the sense of “choice X may be expected to result in outcome Y”, beware of people peddling oughts. Earth is drowning in ought-wallowing, and politics there is largely a battle over who gets to decree and enforce which oughts. Here: § Rule 1 is not a normative. It just is.

§ LAG terms are not normatives. They are what you agreed to.

§ Ethics are not normatives. They are also what you agreed to.

§ Point agreements are similarly not normatives.

§ Morality may argue for normatives.

If you are seeking a new set of guidelines, see **An Emergent Code** on page 30.

Nuclear Power

... might be what is conveying you at this moment.

Two sited plants exist, built on optimism during the early days. The second is already decommissioned, and its accident molded current attitudes⁷². Both are at presently remote locations, downwind from populated areas. People here are open to the promise of nuclear power, but they are highly informed about its risks and benefits. Proposals may yet appear. At least waste disposal is not an issue - the FC already runs an off-█ hazmat disposal business.

On Earth, civil nuclear power plants are mostly government owned and operated, and need only satisfy the liability requirements of politicians and bureaucrats, who often rubber-stamp the projects, wishfully assuming that no catastrophes will

72. Where those attitudes were not already informed by Earth experiences.

occur on their watch, and confident that they will have no personal or institutional liability if something does. Where private-sector nukes exist there, it is because the government authorizes and/or indemnifies them. In the United States, for example, a law limits the liability of nuclear plant owners.

Here, where there is no significant government presence, neither scenario applies. Anyone building a plant has to raise the capital to do it (without taxes), persuade parties to participate in the construction, find someone to insure it, and not scare off the customers and employees. What has evolved is that the near-impossibility of assessing the risk and makes insurance generally uneconomical. Consequently few are willing to invest in, or work on the construction or subsequent operation of a high-risk uninsurable enterprise.

Nutrition

Most Earth humans descend from formerly roaming genotypes, and are now afflicted by settler and industrial diets to which they are not adapted.

Unless you are familiar with various enlightened ancestral diets that emerged on Earth in the early 21st century, the foods on board, and at your destination, are apt to be somewhat unfamiliar.

Due to transit duration and storage considerations, most foods on board are processed/packaged, and not representative of destination choices. At Option, they are mostly fresh/whole.

... [A longer summary of diet detail was removed from the Ninth {Option} Edition due to the frequent revisions in a variety of perspectives, and recommendation details. See external references.] ...

Early in the history here, serious health and developmental problems led to a frank reconsideration of what modern humans (the settlers) think is food — and not just the macro-nutrients — the micro-nutrients and microbiology as well.

This is colloquially phrased as the macros, micros and nanos. Yes, three separate issues, none optional.

1. Macros

In a nutshell, most (but not all) people here implement a framework of high specific fats⁷³, ad libitum complete protein, and very low net carbohydrate (although almost any Earth diet can be done here with some effort, but then, expect Earth results).

2. Micros

Entirely cut off from mineral-rich ancestral water, (Sol) sunlight, wild game and seafood, the material micro-nutrient deficiencies on Earth are magnified here, and require deliberate supplementation.

3. Nanos

Main topic: Microbiome – you arrived with them, need them, may already have personal extinctions, **could lose more**, and they have specific nutritional and stewardship requirements.

Supplements

Your under-appreciated deficiencies just got much more complicated.

Settled populations on Earth are subject to a number of deficiencies arising from settlements per se, the agricultural age, rapid migration, the industrial age, national nutrition nanny nonsense, and politicized food fads.

New HDIs (Human Dietary Intake) standards have been developed here, and many diverge from Earth RDI/DV values due both to local challenges and material Earth errors.

Processed convenience foods here, to some extent, may attempt to provide key micronutrients at nominal levels, may not be optimal, and could interfere with your personal strategy.

73. The fats focus is a list, with 'musts', and a 'minimize' on it. If you been under the spell of low-fat mania on Earth, you have a lot to reconsider.

Despite sticking to a high-quality whole-foods diet, these are the top things that require deliberate attention:

- Vitamin D₃

Most populations on Earth are deficient in this as well, but here, everyone is at extreme risk, due to the complete inability to stimulate dermal D₃ production in native light, and the difficulty of fully simulating Sol insolation within structures (other than tanning beds, which are not a broadly practical solution, and are also uncommon here, due to low vanity).

- Minerals and Iodine

This is principally about magnesium and sodium, but all minerals, down to trace, such selenium, require HDI attention, as does iodine for the time being⁷⁴. Most humans on Earth have been cut off from ancestral water sources for a long time, and have replaced it with municipal water, resulting in hydration with unappreciated deficiencies in key micros, and presenting novel treatment residues. Here, all water must be filtered, if not distilled, and is basically just H₂O, unless fortified.

Expect all of this advice to evolve. Option has had only a few decades to identify and correct millennia of nutritional error on Earth, plus deal with the unique local challenges.

Topics O

Offended

Choose not to be, but share your reaction if you are, and as a communicator, choose also to eschew artless insinuation.

See Emotions for a fuller discussion. Immigrants sometimes arrive with a lingering expectation of having to stifle themselves to avoid giving offense, or alternatively, being protected from stimuli that might feed some sense of offense. Neither is the case, as no one can actually control, nor often predict, someone else's emotional state and responses.

But responsible people do pay attention to their results, and tend to not act or speak recklessly, on the observation that feedback can say a lot about how any given message was actually understood (vs. intended).

74. Marine aquaculture is not yet to the point where it can provide sufficient iodine or Omega 3 in diet. Since bio-compatible crop soil is entirely composted, trace mineral fortification is being refined.

Conversely, if you feel offended, either choose not to be, or, if you think it deliberate or negligent, ask for clarification. If what seems offensive is a fact, ask the fact itself to apologize.

OutLAG

What would you agree to?

Can you get anyone else to agree?

Can you manage to write it down and administer it?

Every immigrant arrives as an OutLAG, and that includes you. Although the term might have vague connotations of “outlander”, “outlaw”, “outsider” and “out-lier”, outLAGs are just individuals, and it is not possible to draw confident generalizations about them.

Nonetheless, you need to know:

- what issues you face should you choose to remain outLAG;
- considerations in your own dealings with outLAGs.

No particular stigma is associated with being an outLAG, and outLAGs commonly make (and keep) agreements of all kinds, excepting that of being a member of a formal LAG.

Some outLAGs are genuine hermits, minimizing social contact of any kind. Some selectively enter one-time or limited agreements, and may agree to be temporarily subject to the LAG charters of those with whom they deal. Some are LAG hoppers, joining only for temporary periods and purposes.

Some outLAGs are effectively ‘one-person-LAGs’, and have their own proposed formal agreement system. They just cannot get anyone else to join it, and have no inter-LAG agreements, so dispute resolution can be challenging.

Most LAGs have terms on the topic of relations and conflicts with outLAGs. If you contract with an outLAG, the contract needs to be more than usually specific. Include literal text of any of your LAG’s default or model agreements, and do not incorporate them by reference. It is obviously crucial to include language specifying prior agreement on the arbitration venue or tribunal that would be used to resolve any dispute.

When an outLAG is involved in a dispute with a LAG member or is accused of harming a LAG member (with no agreement in place, i.e., a crime), the LAG normally may offer free counsel to the outLAG. LAGs generally give the outLAG the

benefit of any doubt on any agreement terms, essentially granting them as much deference as they would a party represented by another LAG.

If you yourself are an outLAG, you face a variety of challenges:

- In your dealings with others, you are faced with differing and highly detailed agreement language in almost every case.
- Your recourse to non-contractual harm (crime) is distinctly limited. If the perpetrator is unidentified, you need to expend time and resources to conduct your own investigation.
- If you are harmed by another outLAG, you are left to self-help that may appear to observers to be itself a crime.
- If you are harmed by a LAG member, self-help is even riskier. The safest approach is to file a complaint with the LAG. But they, after all, represent the member, not you, despite the cordial interactions.

If you, as an outLAG are ever accused of a violation, it might serve you to join a LAG temporarily. With an action in progress, they are apt to demand a bond, and charge you fees equal to actual costs (plus normal profit), but most LAGs accept transient membership in these circumstances. Any LAG or inter-LAG agreement would not necessarily be retroactively applied, however, as it was not in effect at the dispute event.

Where both parties to a dispute are outLAGs, using a LAG as a binding arbitration service is possible, but again purely fee-based. If you decide to settle outLAG-vs.-outLAG matters on your own, just leave everyone else out of it.

Topics P-Q

Parent

No real surprises perhaps, but see Parentalism.

You might have arrived as an active parent, with one or more tikes in tow. You can become a parent by old-fashioned (or new-fashioned) biology (deliberate or unintended), adoption, surrogate parentage, fostering, marriage, or cohabitational contract terms.

LAG terms typically cover (and can vary as regards) what defines a parent, their authority and obligations, and when and how those roles change due to age of majority. This, at least by implication, also defines what a family is.

Surrogate Parentage

See Adoption for additional context. The main difference between Earth practices and what you can expect here are that most LAGs do not attempt to prohibit it, and tribunals do not retroactively re-write contract or LAG terms. Mother's remorse is always a concern in these matters, so make sure terms cover all likely scenarios.

Parentalism

If you engage metaphorical parents to provide your needs, and cannot fire them, expect non-metaphorical child abuse ... of you.

Rewind: every reader of this work — did **not** die young due to parental dereliction. If you think that obvious fact to be a bit vacuous, that actually is the lurking problem. Adult psychology lacks balancing perspective from those who *did not* survive their parenting.

Parentalism is one of the major Latencies that shape human society on Earth. The term is a bit less used here (vs. “tribal”), but everyone here is aware of the influence of parentalism. It and tribalism are recognized as the root of the notion of government. Merely knowing something of this gives you power over it, rather than the other way around.

As a human child, you were born almost entirely helpless, and only gradually achieved independence over a period exceeding a decade. Humans are a conceptual (concept-forming) species, and before becoming verbal in the second year or so, you made observations and formed key notions. These ideas were by definition pre-verbal, and thus went both unexpressed and unmemorized as language, which both concealed them and gave them their latent power.

The first of these notions was that there are beings who are more powerful than you, primarily parents, but including any older siblings, and other adults. These beings could apparently solve any problem and save you from anything. This is learned from quelling hunger, providing comfort, rescue from threatening situations, care of injuries and during illness. For the vast majority of (surviving) adults, the infantile experience of parents was of omnipotent beings. Parents are not omnipotent, of course, but in the inverse cases, the unfortunate infant or child often does not survive to become a dissenting opinion.

With perfect parents, providing only love and support, at some point a child realizes that happiness, and perhaps their very survival, relied on these beings — food, protection and care (or at least lack of harm). This can be a frightening situation, one the child's mind is not prepared to deal with (and which might show up in nightmares, commonly involving abandonment). Children may handle it in one or both of two ways:

1. They refuse to think about it, thus empowering the idea further, and making them less aware of it. This is why adults may recall none of this.
2. They resolve to please the adults, so as to maintain their willingness to provide for needs. If conceptualized pre-verbally, there is likewise only vague, but powerful emotional memory of it. This attitude feeds not just Parentalism, but is also a contender for the seed of Social Cosmology.

Because I said so.

As children become verbal, the parents communicate further messages. Obedience is usually required, and because of the survival and approval concepts, children may not reflect on “why, ultimately, must I obey?” This is not to say that children are always obedient, but is why they learn this notion of obedience for the sake of obedience — because they are unwilling to explore the roots of why.

The demands of the parents often do serve the long-term interests of the child, but any self-interested obedience concept would be in the child's future. Keep in mind that for a two-year-old, a mere two years is quite literally ‘forever’.

I'm going to tell my ...

When a child is old enough to have disputes, or notice that something or someone else is attempting to harm them, they quickly learn to rely on the parents as the ultimate and final recourse in resolving problems.

This and the preceding paragraph lay out the basis of the concept of ‘authority’ - they who must be obeyed because ... (just because), but who can always be appealed to and can solve any problem.

As a child becomes an adolescent, they gain awareness of the fallibility of parents, and the limits to parental capabilities. However, the underlying wordless concepts of obedience and authority are still there.

A percentage of the population never become fully autonomous, and spend their adult lives seeking the comfort of the parental paradigm. They look for authority figures to tell them what to do in return for a promise to take care of them.

For almost all adults, excluding perhaps only the archetypal ‘rugged individualists’, the latent concepts are still there, and resonate with exposure to the appropriate stimuli. Opportunists exist who are skilled at manipulating this latency. When combined with tribalism, the results of this exploitation are often horrific. See Tribo-Parentalism.

Parentalism is a powerful and potentially dangerous psychological force. Or rather, it was. Now that you know about it, it has only such power as you choose to give it. You do not need to resist it. Just do not feed it when one of its many manifestations comes around to enlist you, and do not be afraid to name it when you see it.

Patents

... another thing to not worry about ...

Patents (physical, chemical, biological, process, software and design⁷⁵) do not exist at Option, due to a profound inability to get a functional consensus on terms, including but not limited to: what constitutes material innovation, duration, priority, abuse (e.g. filing for suppression) and a massive local problem with prior art⁷⁶.

Plus, there is general sense that patents on Earth do not promote progress in the practical arts, but rather retard them, enrich the litigators (and only infrequently the innovators), whilst at the same time doing little to restrain infringement by deeper pockets and rogue nations.

The lack of patent ‘protection’ here does come at some cost. NDAs and trade secrets are a bit more common than on Earth. “Innovate faster than the competition” is a popular management mantra. Reverse-engineering might be a career option, rather than an incidental job function.

75. Designs are usually eligible for copyright or trademark protection.

76. A full library of Earth patents is still not available here. Museums are not strictly a matter of recreation and cultural stewardship.

Paternity

Responsible living makes this nearly a non-issue.

Expect LAG terms to cover this. And such terms will have been drafted in consideration of the interests of all parties, irrespective of gender. For anyone arriving from Earth, with any sort of parental obligations there, nothing further can be done about that until Earth relations open.

Patriotism

It is principles that inspire allegiance here — not geography, borders, tribes, institutions, personalities, history or flags.

There no pledge, chant or salute to go with that, and no one has made a mildly interesting case for having one. Preservation of personal sovereignty, however, requires some stewardship. Teaching unembellished human history⁷⁷ in schools appears sufficient so far, reinforced by ample reminders in the form of periodic news reports from Earth.

LAGs do usually have logo icons, which might appear on banners or signs for promotional purposes, but they generally avoid flags. The icons may appear in other places, such as physical and virtual store fronts (along with the icons for payment forms accepted). Icons abound in trademarks, as on Earth. Any other displays of LAG icons may be indicators of lurking tribo-parentalism.

If tempted to display ideological symbols, particularly any of Earth origin, make sure that the message received is the message intended to be sent.

Patterns

Humans tend to detect them, even when not really there, and we have always done it that way.

Ancestrally, seasonal climate, crop cycles, tides, prey behavior and other cyclic variations in the natural world were a matter of life and death. Correlation is critical when it reveals causation. Developing awareness for related patterns was important.

77. With a focus on the facts; all the facts, with cites, and not just whatever supports the agenda of the institution, staff members or textbook publishers.

If an observed correlation was mere coincidence, however, it could have led to a false concept, particularly when human involvement in the process was indirect. It might have been easy for rituals to arise because they once seemed to produce a desired result, or at least the shaman claimed they did.

A tendency to detect a pattern, without confirmation of causation, is a Latency. It has resulted in a pandemic of destructively inept analogies on Earth.

People

You are one, and might as well become one.

Immigrants often remark that people here seem different in some way not immediately obvious. Some of that was summarized in Cultural Expectations. Before expanding on that, let us examine the context and consider the state of mind of the typical immigrant.

Those arriving here often left Earth due to frustration, cynicism, resignation, depression, spiritual fatigue, if not outright fear or hopelessness. Being in poor health is all too common. Increasingly on Earth, honesty and openness are considered naive, if not actually dangerous. Ambition and enthusiasm are viewed with hostility and suspicion.

Happiness on Earth consists of stolen moments that are certain to be brief. Friendliness may be masking deceit or manipulation. Conversation there is often a litany of ailment and cultural complaints. There is little need to go on — you were there. Added to this, of course, is an understandable measure of immigrant apprehension about the new context.

The people here are different. Expect your own tension to begin to evaporate as you deal with them. Perhaps the most apt word to describe them is benevolent. If disagreements arise, the focus is on solutions and resolutions. Anger only serves to delay or prevent preferred outcomes, and is rarely seen.

Dwellers are open and quite forthright about how they feel, how they experience you, how they size up a situation and what actions they are prepared to take. They normally extend you the benefit of any doubt.

People here are plain about what they want. A major issue for people on Earth is that they are unwilling to be honest with themselves, and calmly clear with others, about what they want.

They are often raised this way. The result can be seeking what they desire by manipulation, and only openly expressing their desires to others when the frustration rises to the level of anger.

People here do not complain very often, as they focus on outcomes, and the steps needed to achieve them. A complaint here is almost always accompanied by a proposal for a solution. Expect to encounter situations not to your liking from time to time. If you just complain, and only complain, expect to be asked “so what needs to be done about it?”

Morphology

It is not likely to escape your notice that the majority of people here are slender. This is not due to food shortages, disease, counting calories, low-fat diet, over-exercise, weight-loss potions or surgical interventions. It is just the natural state of humans, eating *ad libitum* on their ancestral diets⁷⁸, plus paying attention to optimizing microbiome.

Pets

Some birds, fish, goats, pigs and sheep are about it, so far.

All Earth life forms here were imported from Earth, or are from imported breeding stock. Creating self-sustaining breeding populations has so far focused on the species needed to create local biosystems essential for sustaining human life.

Pets strictly for companionship and diversion have not been a priority, but are expected to be addressed going forward. When available, it may remain impossible to ever take them outdoors.

As with farm animals, bio-safety hazards to prospective pets are a significant challenge. Any encounter with native species is promptly fatal to Earth animals. And due to bio-incompatibility, native species are unsuitable for use as pets other than in well controlled terrariums.

78. It is actually an enlightened ancestral mimic diet, which is all that can be mustered here to date.

Philosophy

Ideas have consequences.

Philosophy is a profession here, with the top minds being employed by LAGs to craft and refine charters that work, are concise, conceptual, hierarchical, unambiguous, comprehensible, and do not lead to contradictions in implementation.

The emergent themes in this book may represent some sort of nascent unified philosophy. It does not have a name, and those who are cataloging it remain reluctant to give it one, lest it become a rigid set of advocacies, a frozen snapshot in time, i.e. a new zealotry. If it converges, it may then get a name.

To the extent that these principles do ultimately become a stable and widely honored set of advocacies, it is likely to have a central theme of achievable excellence, and not unreachable perfection — a problem that plagues many moral systems.

Philosophy is not a parlor game or mere academic exercise. Every culture on Earth is based on some set of human ideas. The merit of the philosophies there can be seen in the results there.

Police

An agreement may be mere aspiration if it is unenforceable.

How does a police officer differ from an ordinary dweller here? This is precisely defined in LAG terms, but in general, only the police are to institute⁷⁹ use of force, seize people or property, or formally cite anyone for observed or reported agreement violations. If self-help were encouraged in dispute resolution, no LAG would be needed.

A LAG may have its own force, or contract with another LAG or LAGs. The role of police is a primary topic in inter-LAG agreements.

As on Earth, being an officer is a tough job. It can require grievous split-second decisions — that must then withstand years of open-ended serene second-guessing by contemplative adversarial analysts, often in possession of crucial information not available in the moment.

Circadian disruption always looms for the officer. There is general stress, and having to spend too much of the day dealing with the most disagreeable members of the culture.

79. In contrast with the responsive use of force in self defense.

Consequently, the job generally pays well (which also helps prevent corruption). Some LAGs also encourage more general participation via auxiliaries and reserves.

At least here, police are not additionally faced with enforcing laws with which they personally do not agree, a situation that leads to callousness if not corruption on Earth. The focus here on agreement is a double benefit in that regard.

On Earth, there is often great social separation between the people and the police, as what is being enforced is not necessarily agreed to by the populace either. In the more unpleasant Earth thugocracies, of course, role of the police is, by design, primarily intimidation of the population.

Politics

*To re-appraise Clausewitz
politics is war by other means.*

Unless you choose to join an organization that has elections (association, club, union, etc, and the Government LAGs) or purchase an interest in an entity that does (stock, partnership), you will not encounter organized politics, with candidates or initiative advocates vying for your favor.

Outside the gLAGs, Option has no professional politicians, no political parties, and no one misses them. You need not concern yourself with the endless posturing about which candidate is your ideal metaphorical parent, corrupt incumbents buying votes with public funds, accepting bribes or succumbing to blackmail for legislative favors.

Of course, whenever some advantage is to be gained by one person influencing the actions of another, there is always informal politics. You control the extent to which you wish to be exposed to such situations. In the larger enterprises, expect less office politics than on Earth, because organizations here are more exposed to empowered employees and market/client forces, which have limited tolerance for inefficient drama. Stifled politicized businesses have no government contracts to fall back on, and size will not protect them for long, for ease-of-entry is the rule in almost all markets. Nothing is too big to fail.

The current 'worker's market' situation (which may persist indefinitely) means that almost no one need personally tolerate office politics. If the enterprise fails to reward its associates and employees based on results, and minimize nonsense, leave for saner pastures.

Vague Earth political terms such as “right”, “left”, “liberal” and “conservative” are nearly useless here, and using them may suggest that you have fallen for various false dichotomies. No politics, plus awareness of tribo-parentalism, also implies a complete lack of ‘identity politics’.

Political Correctness

PC is politically incorrect here.

There being no politics to speak of, there is no ought-wallowing over how to be correct about it. However, as pointed out under Emotions and Offended, what does exist is that words may have consequences (otherwise why use them). Make sure that the result matches the intent.

And it is widely understood here that the real goal of PC on Earth is censorship; silencing you. What is labeled ‘hate speech’ on Earth might be seen here as merely confessional. Another absent censorious fiction is micro-aggression. Accusing someone of a micro-aggression, after all, *is* a micro-aggression.

Pollution

Noxious trespass is a thing here.

Classical pollution is chemical trespass, plain and simple. It is not the only form, of course. Most LAGs have language at least referencing the agreed limits (in parts-per-metric) of various substances and levels of other effects (e.g. noise, radiation, waste heat) at your property boundary, including predicted levels of slow-migrating (underground) substances and effects.

If no inter-LAG agreement applies at a property line, the wise operator observes the lower of those on either side. You can usually exceed the default limit, if you can negotiate a pollution easement with the affected adjoining owners (something virtually unheard of on Earth).

Certainly, a determined polluter can operate as outLAG, but being outLAG also means that no LAG backs them when the irate villagers march on the castle gate with pitchforks and torches. (Actually, the usual scenario is that the aggrieved owners send their LAG’s representatives to the gate.)

The boundary limits, per hazmat and irritant, are the subject of on-going research and negotiation. It is presumed that over time, almost all limits will be lowered (tightened), particularly in cases where effects are noted, causation is demonstrated, or the correlations are compelling.

On Earth, regions with serious pollution problems tend to be:

- nations which have no private property, where the government pollutes at will;
- nations with little respect for private property, leaving the aggrieved owners with no recourse against the polluter;
- nations where the damaged property is government owned, and there is no private owner who has an economic interest to advance, and
- nations where chemical trespass suits are deflected by the courts, in the interest of ‘public policy’.

That describes basically most places on Earth. And the problem there, including what private parties do, is, once again, actually not so much

what people are doing,

but that

so many of them are doing it⁸⁰,

and for a major affected property (the oceans), almost *nobody* there has a direct property interest.

Here, all of the [redacted], from the [redacted] out, is owned by someone, including the [redacted], lakes, rivers, air and [redacted] (to [redacted] and beyond to [redacted]).

You can, within the constraints of your agreements, pollute your own property to whatever extent you desire (if confined), but if you impair anyone else’s property or persons, expect action on their part.

Population

The key is to leave the self-limiters in place.

Although there are no artificial limits on child-bearing here (such as in certain prison nations on Earth), almost no one at Option foresees overpopulation here becoming a problem, as various factors make it self-regulating.

80. So the larger problem there may actually be population.

Factors that tend to self-regulate population include:

- **Affluence**
On Earth, affluent parents tend to actively control family size. The generally higher standard of living here has the same effect. Also, there is no need to have huge families to ensure enough survivors to support the parents in old age, common in destitute Earth regions.
- **Fees**
In most LAGs, there is no fee deduction or credit for children. On the contrary, children may well add to the LAG fee, and any health, life or liability coverage needed is a direct incremental expense to the parents.
- **Education**
Outside the gLAGs, there are no ‘public’ (government) schools. Parents are directly responsible for the child’s education. On Earth, there is little or no educational disincentive.
- **Health and general welfare**
Again, gLAGs excepted, there is no child subsidy in the form of health care or food.
- **Sexual Responsibility**
Unintended pregnancies occur far less frequently here than on Earth.

Although the relative costs of education, health care and food for a child are slightly lower here than on Earth, the simple fact that they are visible expenses causes families to be more deliberate about having a child.

The cost of living (per person) is at the moment rapidly declining on Option. However, should the population density rise sufficiently, the competition for space and resources would eventually make cost of living bottom-out and rise, providing a further disincentive for child-bearing.

The future of human life on Earth faces five known threats within human control:

1. collisions with destructive extraterrestrial objects,
2. becoming no longer worth living on,
3. overpopulation,
4. deliberate self-destruction (e.g. planetary nuclear war), and
5. inadvertent self-destruction (e.g. environmental run-away).

There may be others yet unknown, such as irradiation by an incipient nearby supernova, but these are still being assessed.

№ 1 is tractable, if prioritized on Earth (DeepFleet has been covering it in the meantime). № 2 merely requires a complete reconsideration of optimal human culture. № 4 had waned, but seems to be ascendant once more. № 5 may in fact not be an immediate threat, but would not be an issue if № 3 (population) were not exploding.

Overpopulation⁸¹ is a problem on Earth primarily because there are government incentives to have children, and government interference with natural pressures to not have children. There are some active religious incentives to bear children on Earth, but these would not be significant factors without government intervention.

Pornography

More satisfaction in real life leads to less desire for surrogates, and the broad cultural intent here is for people to be satisfied.

Whatever instructional or inspirational material you think necessary is apt to be available. There are intractable problems in attempting to turn images (perhaps just transient data values) into contraband. People who would agree to terms prohibiting production or possession of anything are apt to behave the same with or without formal terms.

Where images are evidence of having obtained them in violation of some agreement (e.g privacy violation), or are evidence actually depicting an agreement violation or crime, then that is what they are, and subject to terms not necessarily specific to the content. See also Child Abuse.

The people of Earth are for the most part sexually frustrated, due to cultural interference factors, and often turn to porn⁸². Frequently deficient relationship education often leads to falling (or being pushed) into unsatisfying relationships. Even those at liberty to partner wisely on Earth are subject to increasing endocrine/libido disruption from multiple nutritional, environmental and lifestyle provocations. One of the factors upstream of the libido disruption, for example, is unwanted

81. Defined as the inflection point where it becomes more difficult any newborn to achieve successful adulthood than it did for their parents due just to population. If it is not getting easier, then it is getting harder.

82. You are almost expected to be a consumer of porn on Earth, so that it can be detected and used against you later.

surplus adiposity (thanks to defective diet dogma), which frequently makes people physically unattractive⁸³ to each other. Earth has also largely failed to come to terms with the gender imbalance issue.

Possessions

In general, you can possess almost anything that you are willing to admit that you might possess.

Most LAGs lack terms in which you agree to restrict your possession of anything, excepting objects and substances that can *only* be used to violate other terms of the charter. Such things would include, for example, armed weapons of mass destruction and deadly organisms (absent an enterprise with an agreed use for them, and agreed storage and controls).

No agreement could specify sanctions as severe as the consequences of releasing such threats, so terms are largely formalistic, but might caution any latent OutLAG threat.

Simple possession of popular targets of government control on Earth are largely or completely unaddressed here, such as (and some of these have their own topics):

- precious metals
- virtually all personal weapons
- non-evidentiary information or data of any kind
- encryption technology
- narcotics, pharmaceuticals and chemicals generally
- see also Pornography.

As with Earth governments, anyone with the resources and determination can create a regional or ████ threat, irrespective of agreements. You could reasonably expect, as on Earth, that such a party would pretend to be a signatory to an agreement proscribing precisely what they intend to do, as a cover.

It is not possible to prohibit insanity. It is possible to encourage and support sanity. Keep an eye on ThreatWatch sources.

83. The ‘fat acceptance’ (FA) movement, perhaps useful on Earth for taming the plainly destructive ‘fat shaming’, does not really counter ancestral psychological responses to morphology. Being counter-productive, FA entirely fails to reduce non-negotiable health risk factors. Being slender is generally surprisingly straightforward when desired.

Precedent

Precedents tend to be only temporarily unprecedented here.

A precedent is a recorded prior result (a case) on an issue, often an issue where the circumstances were unanticipated by any agreements, or the language of the agreement hierarchy was uncertain (or at least one party asserted that it was). Precedents often have the effect of law on Earth, but infrequently become de facto charter extensions here.

Key cases typically result in a revision to the charter or model agreement language, and within one update cycle. If the case concerned a situation that is unlikely to arise again, it may just become a footnote (or on-line link) for those interested seeing how agreement text is applied in uncommon scenarios.

On Earth, courts

- have on the one hand, found themselves having to make determinations resulting from the failure of legislators to do their jobs (i.e. execute the responsibility of setting law, particularly on emergent, controversial or complex topics),
- and courts have separately, increasingly, taken it upon themselves, in this neo-parental role, to ignore the written law, and render judgments that by default become binding precedents, if not effectively new law (judicial tyranny).

The outcomes are often completely unintended by both parties to the action, if not by the negligent legislative bodies. This does not happen here outside of the gLAGs.

If there was no agreement, or no agreement on the issue at hand, the tribunals do not invent what 'ought' to have been, out of thin air. They may well return no decision, or dismiss the case. The usual recourse is arbitration, binding only on the parties for that action, that also not becoming precedent.

Prices

If you have to ask ... you did not perform due diligence.

Prices are often denominated at least in metric mass of , typically grams, although alternative forms of payment are common (see Money). From an Earth perspective, prices range from high (clothing, some foods, synfuels) to low (routine health care, accommodations), but only after you become accustomed to typical income.

Although free exchange prevails here, and you might expect everything to be negotiable (and it is), haggling is common only on high-value transactions, or where there is no established market which could provide a price history. In auctions, of course, the price is only known at close. When a seller asks a price much above widely-reported norms these days, there needs to be a credible explanation.

Inflation

Simple price increases (relative to the effort required to accumulate that price amount) can have multiple causes, usually a result of supply and/or demand. The term inflation is understood here to mean an increase across multiple products, or a devaluation of the reference pricing unit. When a unit of exchange gets devalued, people often flee it.

On Earth, inflation usually means that the money supply has been literally inflated (which is made possible by the fiat currency being a mere floating abstraction). Here, outside of any gLAG that prints their own money, this kind of inflation is by definition impossible. Runaway inflation of the Earth kind has never happened here. If a gLAG were to attempt it, a critical mass of members would just walk away from that currency, or away from gLAG itself.

Deflation

This is generally understood here to mean that some product or service has decreased in price relative to the effort required to earn that price amount. Dramatic price drops are common here when products begin to be produced locally, where they previously had to be imported from Earth, when production here shifts from cottage industry to organized manufacturing, or when more attractive alternative products arise.

Both inflation and deflation need to be considered in long term contracts, and in selection of how any bank or other depository accounts are denominated.

Privacy

If you do not keep a low profile, expect to have a high profile, and have limited ability to put that genie back in the bottle.

There may be no governments of note here, demanding your ID at every turn, but there is also thus no omnipotent meta-nanny pretending to protect your privacy interests. But open is open, and if your information escapes, it is unlikely to be recaptured. Using your real identity is frequently not demanded, particularly in network chatter.

What does exist are LAG terms regarding libel (providing false written information about others), blackmail, and that contracts can routinely include terms for information privacy (perhaps including terms for collateral damage if sensitive information is released by a party). All are enforceable. If a credit reporting agency publishes false information about you, for example, you could have recourse as libel.

The culture has so far been respectful, but if problems arise, it is fully expected that LAG terms would emerge to deal with them. The culture is also somewhat taciturn. Questions impertinent to the matter at hand may provoke a response of: *“The answer is not given.”*

Profit

*For anything to just survive, it must break even.
To thrive or grow, it must exceed break even.*

If an activity is not generating a surplus, it may be bleeding to death. Even a “non-profit” venture, intending to persist, must take in more than it gives away, or it withers. Profit is not a disparaging concept here. It is common for enterprises to have an early (if not leading) mission statement of:

- generate enough surplus to support all mission objectives.

Market forces normally amount to constraints on enterprise income relative to costs. Lacking statutory, regulatory and patent monopolies, how things are priced here can be an invitation to alternatives. People may also choose to pay more, just to keep competition alive.

Property

Who commands what is under your feet? Heck, who now owns your last meal, or indeed, you?

This is about the concept of property⁸⁴, a topic on which you simply must understand your own position, and implications for that position. Where Tribo-Parentalism might be the biggest problem in disagreeable legacy cultures, how to approach property might be the top challenge for agreeable successors.

If you have some brilliant insight, that everyone can agree on, be sure to share it. None were born with instructions on this, but all were all born as 3-dimensional entities who need to.

Property is not really an optional concept. You are a physical being. You have basic survival requirements for a place to stand, air to breath, food, water, shelter and enough freedom of action for there to be continuity and some point to it all.

The sad history of human conflict is largely due to the failure to come to generally agreeable terms with this reality. Where humans exist, so does either continuous conflict, oppression, or property — starting with their own bodies.

Where there is a pretension that property does not exist, it exists anyway, and is functionally owned by whoever enforces the illusion of no ownership, or the illusion of communal ownership. In such environments, that entity owns you, too.

Property, for purposes of this concept, has five elements:

1. Definition

Exactly what is the topic? The entity could be fixed, portable, ephemeral, abstract or just some token of ownership, measured in meters, mass, hours, or revenue authority.

2. Provenance

How did the entity come to be property, and what is the chain of custody back to that point? Who owns it now?

3. Acquisition

If ownership cannot be conveyed, stop. You cannot own it.

4. Control/Use/Modify/Consume

If you have no enjoyment of the property, you do not own it; someone else does (the entity telling you no).

5. Disposal/Destruction

If you cannot convey ownership further, or rid yourself of it, stop. You do not own it. It owns you.

84. See also Real Estate.

Thanks to taxes on Earth, ‘ownership’ there is often just a continuous struggle to keep what you have, and your enjoyment of it is periodically further eroded by creeping restrictions imposed without your consent.

How property is defined here is subject to prior agreement. Limitations on use, if any, are subject to further agreements. Simple due diligence reveals what you are getting at the outset. Expect the terms and degrees of freedom to *not* subsequently change by surprise.

Although real estate and personal property here have familiar formal structures, air space, near-Option █████, and electromagnetic spectrum introduce complexities beyond the scope of this guide.

Public (real) property is usually a contradiction in terms.

Many spaces here are open to access by all, but all are owned by someone, whether an individual, or a consortium of people. Great swaths of the █████ are still owned by the FC.

There likewise is not really any public property on Earth. Every spot on the planet, where not already claimed by some government or gaggle of governments, would attract their interference if you claimed it.

Prostitution

We will always have the metaphor.

The key thing is to foster a culture where renting out one’s body is not the only resort for making ends meet, so to speak. Encouraging everyone to have satisfying peer relationships also modulates any market forces.

Sexual favor bartering has always existed, of course, and is likely to continue. The gender imbalance issue is apt to sustain that, if no other factors do. LAG terms may or may not address any aspect of this. As with many taboo-like subjects, those seeking stern terms are apt to behave the same with or without them.

As an aside, the catalog of sexually-transmitted diseases is only slightly smaller here vs. Earth. As the infections tend to be chronic, transit does not amount to quarantine for these. The same preventions and treatments are available, with same collateral effects for treatment (of which antibiotic-induced dysbiosis may be a bit more effectively managed here).

Punishment

Just leaving people to their own consequences can amount to capital punishment here.

The focus here is on agreed remedies and restitution, but chances are you would not have looked for the topic under those words (this guide makes accommodations for some Earth presumptions). Where a LAG has terms for blackmail, for example, the priorities would be recovery of any extorted funds, compensation for damage resulting from violation of privacy agreement⁸⁵, recovery of instant case costs, and perhaps a contribution to a victims fund.

Punishment does not usually arise in private party (“civil”) disputes. For it to arise, the original agreement had to fail, the agreed remedies had to fail, leading to a tribunal case, with the losing party defying the ruling, leading to whatever LAG and/or inter-LAG sanctions apply for that scenario.

Restitution is still the focus at that point, but to encourage agreement-keeping, the further along this process drags, the more likely that agreed terms include extra penalties intended as deterrent (assignment of procedural expenses alone may automatically act as such). Penalties may include fines, and it is worth noting that these are used for restitution, direct LAG expenses⁸⁶ for the case, and where restitution is not possible, general victim compensation funds.

For actual crime, this is again agreement violation at its core (with the usual considerations for outLAG actors). The word crime here implies either no identifiable victims (yet), victims incapable of mounting a claim, or one of the rare things that is just violation of agreed LAG terms. Sanctions in such cases can reach beyond simple remediation. They may include restraining orders, fines, confinement. Your choice of LAG influences whether capital punishment is on the list.

At latest edition, most LAGs had tribunal venue holding cells, and jails for short terms, but there is only one actual prison, housing prisoners for multiple LAGs (with internal policy variations as needed).

85. The very act is evidence that the blackmailer knew the information was confidential.

86. Fines are typically not used for general LAG funding, both because they are not reliably collectible, and to avoid any incentive for a LAG to inflate fines and offenses, leading to fines as a revenue-raising tactic.

For someone to end up there, rehabilitation may not a realistic expectation, but the facility nonetheless attempts to engage its population on an agreement basis, rather than just rules — cultivating agreements, to address what is usually the main issue for the inmates; the failure to keep agreements.

Topics R

Race

*For it to not matter, it needs to not matter,
but knowing why it ever did, can be helpful.*

Racism is merely the genetic subset of Tribalism. Option has about the same genetic diversity as Earth. And although resistance to various Earth diseases is not an issue, people are keeping an eye on whether any specific gene lines have any extra advantage in the face of not-fully-cataloged survival and reproduction challenges here. But neither of those points may be what brought you to this topic.

Human psychological sensitivity to morphological expressions of underlying genetics (i.e. what most presume is racism) is rooted in tribalism: ‘us’ vs. ‘them’. And the extent to which any given individual may be more susceptible to racism is further amplified by the error of a self image based on nurtured, chosen, imagined, indoctrinated or latent group identity.

In pondering human history, where morphology provided insufficient clues, humans invented artificial forms of tribal differentiation: garb, language, gestures, customs, hair styles, tattoos, and perhaps more extreme body modifications. It is one of the Latencies, and once again, being aware of it gives you power over it, instead of the other way around.

What people mostly care about at Option is whether other people make and keep agreements. Whether or not real, minor statistical gene line differences predict nothing about specific individuals, and are in any case irrelevant between agreement keepers. Symbolic tribal behaviors and garb here are largely reserved for fans at team sporting events.

Nothing may prevent anyone from arbitrarily discriminating against anyone based on real or imagined differences, or for no reason at all. LAG terms, however, often include a formal definition of ‘public’ for matters involving the offering of goods and services. See also Equality.

Does the population of actual racists back on Earth also now include those who fret endlessly about it, and accuse everyone else of it, and perhaps even demand special entitlements for assigned group identity?

The vast majority of people here are conscious of the various latencies lurking on this, and pay no practical attention to race, however defined. Help keep it that way.

Real Estate

True, they are not making any more of it, but the question of “do you own it, or does it own you” could arise.

See Property for a wider conceptual discussion. The real property provenance situation here is at least straightforward. All bounded coordinates at the surface of Option derive from the original claim and surveys of the First Consortium. No disputes arise from claims by prior cultures, or, so far, from the spoils of war. But disputes can and do arise for other reasons.

With the exception of previously unissued plots, just as on Earth, be sure to check at least one registry for clear title, Consider title insurance if doubt arises.

And again, as on Earth, expect encumbrances, in particular easements resulting from prior owner agreements, perhaps nascent conditions applied by the FC itself on the original plot, such as transport and utility corridor easements.

Physical extents matter. The FC defined the plots not just by surface coordinates, but to include subsurface to a depth of ████, and an elevation of 100m above the highest point (that elevation added to anything erected), and open sky. Activity extents matter. The FC conveys plots under [then current] terms of their LAG. This implicitly imposes a basic set of limitations on use, intended to protect the interests of neighboring plots and the region at large. Any limitations are open to re-negotiation, or obtaining easements from neighbors, or just acquiring buffer plots.

In general, welcome to the zoning-free zone. Restrictions are never placed retroactively on your real property (without your agreement). They are instead all enumerated upon acquisition (plus any of your LAG terms that might apply).

Recreation

To a large extent, just living here is a recreation.

Most of the larger residomes have parkland. Gyms are common, and there are a growing number of arcades and simulators. These are all barrier-protected, if not fully controlled environments. Outdoor activities remain difficult. Even at temperate sites that can be cleared of overtly dangerous native life forms, celestial circadian issues really cannot be mitigated.

Swimming is a particular challenge. No native bodies of water are safe to swim in, due to macro- and micro-biological issues. Purpose-built pools exist, but require detailed consideration of how the water is treated. It was discovered that standard Earth pool chemicals are seriously disruptive to dermal, orifice, and (when swallowed) intestinal microbiomes. Insist on UV sterilization with filtration, pH and mineral balance. The emerging approach is to recreate Earth biology ponds in-dome (which offers multiple benefits).

Ship-building has not yet reached the point where extended duration recreational cruise ships are an option, and many artificial factors that differentiate Earth cruises from land-based resorts, simply do not arise here. It is also thought that before such an industry could be stood up, someone is going to offer off-████ excursions, if not a ████-based resort.

Recycling

Building biosphere bubbles is not a simple thing.

The long term survival of a human population here requires building, optimizing, and sustaining bubbles of Earth biosystems that are as complete and stable as possible. Anything that can be used to contribute to biomass is sought after. Biosystem stewards operate collection routes, and pay for pickups of most materials. Home composting is also popular.

Non-compostable fiber wastes (paper, clothing, textiles generally), being already bio-safe, are highly recycled, as are glass, metals and polymers. Hazmats, of course, have to be kept out of the cycles. Products normally include recovery directions.

Regulation

*Who is the regulator? Basically, that would be you.
Anything that is not self-correcting probably will not.*

If you want to be in control of your world, you need to exercise control. If you put someone else in charge, they will eventually take charge of you too. The ambition of regulation might seem appealing, but few here are willing to pay for the overhead (nor want the actual agency results, or lack thereof, as seen on Earth).

The focus here is on agreement-keeping, preservation of free and efficient speech, plus credible reporting to enable effective participation in building the culture desired. Pay attention to what is going on. Contribute what you observe. Preserve choice. Vote with your resources.

Strategies the LAGs employ to fend off being nudged into the regulation business include taking definitions details from the culture, instead of attempting to define all the details, for example, reliance on:

- The ILD (Inter-LAG Dictionary); an open, now on-line multi-lingual dictionary of all terms that matter in contracts and any other matters that find their way to tribunal. It is not the only dictionary here, of course, but is the most widely relied on.
- Incorporation-by-reference to industry standards that are otherwise open for inspection and affirmation by parties.

Religion

*Everyone contemplates (or ignores) Question Zero
on their own terms.*

Expect the same alternatives as on Earth, with two differences:

1. Does the sect's scripture command, encourage, or merely endorse the threat of, or initiation of violence to spread the word, enslave new followers, or assault apostates? If so, that deity is recognized here as either impotent or imaginary⁸⁷.
2. There may or may not be any special treatment of religious entities under LAG terms. No taxes (most places here) means no church exemptions or charitable tax deductions.

LAGs can and presently do exist specifically incorporating a theological core. These are the ...

87. This insight is not limited to religion. Anyone pushing any ideology that relies on coercive expansion can expect to beguile few or none here.

Theocratic LAGs

Mixing of religion and politics is completely up to you.

There are a few of these in operation. They are also called TLAGs or Religious LAGs. They may or may not require that you be or become a member of the religion in order to join. They may or may not purport to expel (excommunicate) you if you change religion, or shun you if you practice the religion without also being a member of the TLAG.

Before subscribing to one (and frankly, as with any LAG), be sure to check the inter-LAG agreements, cases, the fee structure, and for hints that they are actually a Government LAG that has ‘neglected’ to identify as such.

Reproduction

Just what have you inherited?

If you are content with your current views on this latency, you might want to skip this topic. If its observations are incorrect, they may be merely entertaining. If, on the other hand, they contain some validity, you may not be able to dismiss them. However, also if true, pondering all this may give you some power over it, instead of the other way around.

In the wider animal kingdom, male and female offspring of solitary, non-parenting species mature knowing exactly what their often highly dissimilar roles are. The “non-parenting” point being that those behaviors are clearly passed biologically in such species, and not by learning. Although humans dispute the notion of human instincts as such, there do appear to be inherited behavioral adaptations, inclinations and aptitudes (plus cultural latencies).

What has been inherited might have to do with reproduction primarily. For anything that is passed along biologically, the act initiating reproduction is the very first in line to influence it.

By the numbers: basic human physiology (mainly gestation and refractory periods) place an upper limit on how often humans can reproduce.

- Given an unlimited supply of suitable males, a human female can reproduce a maximum of ~1.3 times per year.
- Given an unlimited supply of suitable females, a human male could theoretically reproduce over 1000 times per year.

So if it often seems like men have three orders of magnitude more interest in the reproductive act than women, there might be some biological basis for that.

Body physiology, defined again by genes and gene expression, is also dramatically different, and unsurprising, given the requirement of gestation, birth and lactation.

Human females are often nearly disabled in late pregnancy, and generally require additional support. Human infants are born basically helpless⁸⁸, requiring (ideally) birth mother nursing support for perhaps up to 3 years ancestrally. The mother needs to be thriving during this time. As paternal support may or may not be present, social support has likely always been critical (and adds to the Social Cosmology latency).

For any mammal, a key success metric is not just conceiving offspring, or merely live birth, nor survival to weaning, but creating offspring that can repeat the entire process successfully. For many parenting species, this could be expected to mean that at least one adult supports each offspring to reproductive age — in humans, an effort lasting over a decade. You, by the way, are a product of an unbroken chain of successful reproductions. All of those ancestors may yet be whispering to you. So just what have you inherited?

For a male, as an abiding parent, extended involvement in a specific reproduction could be more successful for that offspring, but genealogical DNA evidence suggests that simply causing a multitude of conceptions resulted in some proportion of arguable successes, to the perpetual consternation of cultural commentators.

For a male, initiating a successful reproduction might be life-changing for 15 minutes or less. For a female, it is life changing for 15 years or more, and historically has been non-trivially life-threatening as well. Does ancestral awareness of these imbalances (plus cues below) still inform every encounter? The imbalances surely informed historical Earth cultural mores, which have done little to make the situation more agreeable.

For a male, causing a conception generally requires volitional participation. If a male lacks the motivation, they typically do not reproduce. If the lack of inclination was itself inherited, the trait might be expected to die out, unless it is a common biological variant (for various conjectured reasons).

88. See parentalism.

Non-reproducers do not have much input into generational factors, but they have some⁸⁹. Memes can be passed by anyone.

Due to reproductive math, despite motivation, ancestral male competition for mates likely reduced opportunities. Advantageous aptitudes, not all admirable, may have crept into the repertoire, and further variations among the reproducers needs some contemplation. Some predatory inclinations, if acted upon, can lead to serious disagreements.

Gender Cue Latencies; Piling On

So what might males continue to respond to, whether or not aware of it? The feral male was likely attuned to cues indicating that some arbitrary other human was: female, of reproductive age, healthy and mature enough to nurture a child, not presently pregnant, ideally not already a mother, and 'available' for the key act. That seriously incomplete list is still a huge constellation of cues, and if the case, much of it may still be subliminal today.

For a female, reproduction has, alas, not always been sought, but when it was, the feral female likely responded to a completely different set of cues, perhaps including seeking:

1. genetics: a healthy male, with promising ancestry (perhaps a robust rogue from another tribe),
2. protector/provider: able to support the female during the pregnancy, and some cues of willingness to do so, and/or
3. nurturer: cues of ability and willingness to participate in rearing.

Note: № 1, № 2 and № 3 are not necessarily all the same male.

This is a substantial contrast between the sexes, and likely a relatively fragile set of tendencies if passed biologically, suggesting that significant variations (and outright damage) are not that uncommon.

Delivered and emergent dogma on all this may or may not be correct. Do what you can to understand where you are, how you got there, what any options are, and what you need for a satisfying life.

89. Non-reproducers have made key contributions to tribal advantage over history. To the extent that such preferences are common statistical variations in that population, it enhances perpetuation of the trait, whatever the root cause.

Responsibility

*This expands on the discussion at
Praxeology 101: Responsible people ...*

Responsibility is merely the willingness to experience your upcoming consequences and acknowledge your role in them. You can be responsible for as much as you care to tackle where you can make a difference, and you have more power to make a difference than you have been lead to believe. Every choice you make, or fail to make, has consequences, which in turn lead to a spreading constellation of other consequences. Being principled simplifies this.

You choose to be responsible or irresponsible. Being irresponsible means failing to consider consequences, and/or ignoring what you set in motion, and/or denying your role. The irresponsible are thus reckless or dishonest, or both. They are often also dishonest with themselves. Responsibility is an important character component on Option, and people have little time for the irresponsible.

Being responsible does not mean formal accountability or liability for every outcome in which you had, or might have had a hand. Your formal liability is limited by your agreements.

Being responsible also does not mean that you get involved every time you come across a situation you could take a role in. As it happens, people here often choose to be benefactors, both due to empathy and not wanting to carry with them the knowledge that they could have helped, and did not. However, when they choose get involved, or not, they do so consciously. Do not forget to live your life while helping others with theirs.

Retirement

*If you are counting on an open-ended vacation,
it does need to be planned for and funded.*

Most here do not actually want to just stop working and putter around after some arbitrary date. If you are already doing your dream activity, or find a new one, why quit? It is more common, even if age rules out certain activities, to stay productively active. Opportunities abound, despite any incremental infirmities that might shift options. The original author of this guide had retired twice before writing it.

There are no mandatory pensions here, funded by compelled contributions from you (and everyone else). The one gLAG that tried, found themselves with unplanned and underfunded numbers of elderly new members who could do math. Employers seeking long-term employees may have retirement plans, but as with similar schemes on Earth, be clear on who holds the funds, how denominated, and how invested.

Private plans, such as annuities, reverse mortgages, and viatical settlements are all available. Without government compulsion in the picture, simple savings and investment usually suffices.

Forced retirement due to premature disability is principally a matter of the disability, not retirement, for which insurance is available, perhaps provided by an employer. Age-associated dementia, incidentally, is uncommon here. Metabolic and microbiological health appear to be the main factors.

Rights

*A noble concept that fell victim to
scheming over who gets to define them,
their inconvenience to oppressors, with
unsurprising adjective attacks on the word itself.*

This word and its derivatives are used far less frequently at Option than on Earth, and almost never in the context of ‘human rights’, ‘individual rights’ or ‘natural rights’. In the sense of factually right and wrong, the terms correct and incorrect are preferred. See also Morality. The term ‘rights’ lingers in some agreements and contracts to enumerate specific agreed privileges and options.

The concept of individual rights is just that, a human concept, and as you have seen on Earth, is being rapidly eroded by both dilution and multiplication. Individual rights are being attacked on the one hand by naive or nefarious ‘collective rights’ advocates, and debased on the other by advocates of rights for non-human entities, such as animals and trees. The plaintive “you have no right to” (which can be seen as a desperate appeal to an absent parental authority) is laughed at by tribalists, criminals, dictators and despots all over the Earth.

As with the word “justice”, the need to preface the word “rights” with “individual” indicates the abuse the concept suffers on Earth.

However, the current attacks on the concept there are not the fundamental problem. The problem may be the case for natural rights. Individualist philosophers have attempted for centuries to show that by logical analysis of human nature and behavior, that an immutable list of basic rules of human relations can be derived. This is probably not the case, and might not matter even if convincing, due to agreement.

As pointed out in the Freedom topic, if you were living a solitary life, you would have no need for the concept of rights. When one or more other humans enters the picture, see also Primacy of Agreement.

On a cultural level, if it were possible to logically elucidate an irrefutable bill of rights, it would still require the agreement of everyone affected, both then existing and later arrivals. The Constitution of the United States, for example, started life as an agreement, but presumed, once agreed, to apply to everyone else within the borders decreed (including dissidents and the disenfranchised at the time), and to new arrivals thereafter, without further agreement.

The concept of rights is presently failing to secure the liberty of those on Earth. It is actually being warped to destroy that liberty, by obscuring the simple fact that you are free, and that your only obligations to other humans are those you agree to.

Roads

The wildlife imposes more restrictions than the owners do.

There being no public property to speak of, there are unsurprisingly no public roads. Of course, on Earth, public roads are owned by the government, and so are not actually public (open to unconstrained use). They also amount to a construction and maintenance monopoly at risk of exploitation by politicians and contractors willing to game the system.

So the roads here are private. Whoever owns them, contiguous real property must be acquired for the purpose, construction funded, and on-going maintenance funded. Inter-settlement roads are a bit more expensive to build than on Earth, due to needing barriers (else few would survive a breakdown).

Where an enterprise built, and is the major user of a road, they often simply permit free use of it, particularly within protected settlements. Tolls may be in effect otherwise,

nowadays usually remote-sensed. Foot traffic, where actually safe to undertake, may also be tolled if wayside barriers had to be erected to make safe foot passage possible.

The FC selected potential major transportation corridors when surveying Option. As-yet undeveloped easements for them still attach to many plots. Tunnel-ways are looking increasingly attractive for multiple reasons.

As discussed elsewhere, there is in general no eminent domain. Assembling access to a contiguous stretch of real property for a road may not be a trivial matter, as the project cannot just go ask/bribe the government to expropriate it. If you desire that a service conduit or corridor be built *to* your property, expect terms to include an easement *through* it.

There are no equivalents of the U.S. Interstate highways or European autobahns, except for some short toll roads between nearby major sites. There is no long-distance trucking. The reasons for this include the competition from rail, auto-rail, pneumotube, and the ever present threat that █████ technology could be released at any time, creating a disruptive new long-distance competitor.

Trespass

Freedom, without freedom of movement, is hardly worthy of the name. Consequently, there has been a bias from the outset toward favoring free transit of property by default, and this is reflected in root plot easements. Under most LAG charters, harmless transit is not trespassing unless the area has pedestrian barriers or is at least signed. Transit resulting in damage is primarily an issue of that damage.

Topics S

Safety

The universe is a dangerous place, and your safety is far from assured.

It is, on balance, favorable to human life, or none would be here.

Your present conveyance might strike an uncharted object, converting it, and you, into a brief locus of high energy radiation. Not to alarm you, but there is inconclusive evidence that this fate befell one lost mission.

At Option, in the human infrastructure, your personal safety, and your liability for the safety of others, are what you agreed. The native environment, on the other hand, is frankly

dangerous. If you are a risk-seeker, you will be very happy here, because there are fewer impediments to engaging in dangerous activities. If you are risk-averse, you need to pay some attention, as any wistful Earth-based assumptions of a metaphorical government parent watching over you, do not apply.

You choose the level of risk to which you wish to be exposed. There are no dictatorial safety agencies here. The closest equivalents are safety research labs funded by insurance providers. They only issue recommendations and optional product certifications, although their findings do have a way of turning up in insurance contracts, mortgages, and eventually LAG charters and model agreements. The joke here is that, as on Earth, it is the insurance issuers that really run everything (except that here, they are easier to negotiate with or ignore).

Using the United States as the reference, there are some key differences from Earth-based assumptions regarding safety:

- Building codes and standards exist here, but are negotiable, and not as mandatory as on Earth. They are to a large extent enforced by seismology, weather and wildlife. Charter and model agreements may or may not cover it. Lenders, insurers and prospective tenants, if any, have opinions that matter.
- Highway travel is generally safer than on Earth, for several reasons. There is simply less traffic. The roads are all privately owned, and enough owners are intolerant of repeat agreement violators, that consistently dangerous drivers are kept off. Sleep-induced accidents are rare because people pay attention to circadian hazards, and long-distance drivers use auto-rail.
- Job safety and employer liability varies dramatically. At a single work site, assignments may represent a wide variance in conditions. There are often different levels of compensation for the same job, depending in part on the negotiated risk exposure, perhaps as explicit risk premium. Check your charter, model agreements and employment agreement.
- Personally, you are extremely safe on the streets and in shared spaces here. Crime is vanishingly low.

- Products tend to be more effective and economical, but potentially more dangerous here. Manufacturer liability is strictly limited by agreement (the warranty terms, sales contract and any inter-LAG agreement). Products do not need to be dumbed-down or idiot-proofed beyond what the market (and any insurance carrier) demands. Lower-priced products tend to omit safety features, and may lack lab certifications⁹⁰.
- Hired transport is statistically similar to Earth. Providers answer to their customers and insurance carriers, not government regulators (who on Earth are often more interested in tough posturing after disasters, than preventing them). However, default liability here may be lower. Ticketing terms provide strict (perhaps inadequate) loss compensation, which is not seen as a problem, because you really want any comprehensive compensation to be third-party. The rates tend to reflect the actual hazard level.

Seismology

... another no-extra-cost benefit of domes ...

Option is seismically active. It is about like Japan for frequency and magnitude, with similar risk for tsunami at coasts and on islands. As a dweller, you need to have some appreciation of regional risk factors, and some awareness of what protection (or risk) is provided by any structure you enter.

Although domes have an inherently robust resilience to motion, any domiciles or other structures within may or may not. If you build, all this is factored into design decisions. If you buy, the all-hazard insurance premium rate tells the tale.

90. Insurance may cover, or exclude, injuries sustained by use of certain classes of uncertified products, unless you pay an extra premium (much like life insurance premiums on Earth varied by occupational risk class).

Self Defense

Attack grants consent for defense.

There is no *right* of self defense here. What is recognized instead is the formal or implied consent of the attacker, often expressed in directly applicable LAG terms. It is both easier to defend yourself at Option, and less likely that you will need to do so (wildlife excepted). Nonetheless, all LAGs have terms covering the topic, and you do need to read and understand them.

If you plan to carry a weapon, or just have one available, you effectively need to be trained in its use, on your agreed limits on use, and any stewardship responsibility. LAGs are not tolerant of members who use arms carelessly or in ignorant violation of the charter. Only one LAG (a pacifist theocratic LAG) has so far attempted to completely prohibit self defense in its charter.

Everyone else recognizes a simple truth about the principle. If confronted with an attack, or a physical violation of an agreement, you are dealing with someone who fits one or both of the following descriptions:

- If they have an agreement with you, directly, via LAG or Inter-LAG Agreement, then any defense of yourself or your property is specifically enabled by the agreement.
- If they do not have an agreement, or are OutLAG, then by their actions they are stating that they consider the use of force to be an agreeable way for people to routinely deal with one another.

In either case, your use of force in self-defense is, by definition, agreeable to them, however disagreeable it might be to you. In any event, expect a full investigation in the wake of it.

Self Esteem

*Acknowledge where you are now.
Move forward from here.*

You are born with it, can have it stolen, can degrade it yourself, but can always re-claim it, and sometimes need to re-earn it. Chances are, if you had the nerve to board a rescue conveyance, this is not a major problem, but it affects far too many on Earth.

If you know someone who needs it, it cannot be bestowed or forced on them. Ample resources are available illuminating the path back. If necessary, start by unwinding Social Cosmology. The only person you really need to impress is yourself, typically by not trying to, and instead focusing on generating results.

Self Interest

The present work is a product of self interest in creating a context for everyone else to realize their self interest.

Do not let the helpfulness, generosity, empathy and supportive demeanor of people here fool you. Do not confuse it for the affected altruism that is widely preached and superficially practiced on Earth. People here are deliberately, consciously, but not obnoxiously selfish, and they assume you are too.

If selflessness had been your advocacy, then that was your self interest. Without self interest, the self (in all senses) does not survive long. A culture with pretensions of universal selflessness tends to be exploited (and perpetuated) by those realizing it is a delusion or a scam.

Be honest about your self interest, and that includes being honest with yourself about your self interest.

Settlers

*You likely were one. Everyone here is one.
Embrace the implications.*

The word “settler” appears in various places in this guide, and you might be wondering why. It is not a derogatory expression. It is merely an acknowledgment of our modern human milieu.

Prior to agriculture, and prior to ruminant herding before that, the humans who pre-dated modern culture are thought to have been mainly⁹¹ nomadic hunter-gatherers (H-Gs), who did not live in permanent settlements. A small number of H-G cultures still exist on Earth, and they are highly worth study (as is all distant past anthropology that still speaks).

The H-Gs are presumed to have been (and still are) fully adapted to their environments and lifestyles. Of particular interest is that they do not suffer the Diseases of Civilization (that is, up until the settler ‘food’ arrives). The H-G lifestyle, however, does not support development of technologies not trivially portable from camp to camp. It may not give rise to writing. They have important lessons for us, usually unrecorded.

Settlement living, by contrast, resulted what transports you now, how you are reading this work, and the very writing system it employs. These benefits came at some hidden costs, still being

91. There were also littoral groups, that had settlements, and they raise additional interesting ancestral questions, particularly as regards Omega 3 fatty acids.

tallied: zoonotic diseases from the animal husbandry, metabolic distortions from a diet dominated by agricultural products high in carbohydrates and low in key fats, specific adverse proteins, specific adverse lectins, adverse fatty acid forms, plus generally higher rates of transmissible ailments due to residential density and sanitation challenges.

Restoring an authentic H-G lifestyle is rarely an option back on Earth, and definitely not an option at Option, the name of the place notwithstanding. Restoring its benefits might be within reach; exactly how, remains somewhat unsettled.

Site One

*There are no sacred grounds here to fight over,
so far. With luck, it may remain that way.*

This is the site of the first landing, chosen remotely, principally due to easily exploited hydro, but found to be as suitable as anywhere here for establishing a settlement. There is a simple marker at the spot, only, and the First Consortium has retained ownership of the immediate area, to prevent it from becoming either a shrine or an amusement park. There is an FC campus nearby with a facility for welcoming immigrants, the usual destination for inbound immigrants.

Slavery

*Anyone with an agenda of what other people 'ought'
to be doing is not as anti-slavery as they pretend.*

Involuntary servitude is not welcome here, and happily never has been. No LAGs endorse or enforce it. When instances are discovered, intervention usually ensues. You can, of course, personally over-commit yourself to an extent bordering on slavery. So avoid that, and entanglements with those who enable it. They tend to be prominent in CultureWatch reports.

Slavery is still rampant on Earth — overtly in some thugocratic, theocratic and totalitarian prison societies — and implicitly where there is compulsory national service, and compelled “community service” for hard-to-avoid infractions. Those pretending to protest now-historical slavery on Earth are usually doing nothing about the cultures that still have the active overt forms, and are often advocating social policies that lead to prison societies.

Social Cosmology⁹²

*What other people think of you (if anything)
is their responsibility, not yours.*

A major psychological challenge, that too many immigrants arrive with, is allowing their self-assessment (self esteem) to be based on what they think other people think of them. Put another way, the victim of this lacks a world view controlled by external simple reality and personal character or history, but has one dictated by ephemeral, often mis-perceived social cues (exacerbated by pandemic social networks on Earth, and comparable services here).

If you packed any of this in your baggage, at least become aware of it, if not discard it. It does not serve you. In general...
you can't eat likes.

What does this mean? It means be aware of how people react to you, but consciously aware of it. Do not let it subconsciously mold you. Yes, it is yet another latency — a human aptitude with likely roots in tribalism and parentalism heritage. Humans natively excel at {mis}detecting social cues.

Socialosis, as it is sometimes called here, is a real risk in certain professions, such as sales, but it is particularly acute in entertainment, where how the audience reacts to the performer actually *does* put food on the table.

The psych risks are dramatically aggravated if the form of the entertainment is acting (not merely acting out a fiction, but pretending to be other people⁹³ while so doing). Is the audience then responding to the performer, the character, or the story?

92. As distinct from actual cosmology and Praxeology.

93. On Earth, this is taken to self-delusional extremes, where some performers attempt to trade on their celebrity for political or other promotional purposes, evidently expecting the audience to mistake them for the (usually fictionalized) characters they fictionally portray.

Subjectivism

... relative to what?

In addition to the usual problems with normatives, they are often applied in some instant situation isolated from a full hierarchical context and/or not resting on a foundation connected to reality. Arising inconsistencies may be explained-away by magical thinking as “reality is different for everyone”.

Reality itself is the same for everyone. Experiences and emotional responses frequently are different for everyone. Subjectivism provides no root reference on which a decisional hierarchy can be built. It leads to pragmatism, needless disputes, and undesired long-term outcomes.

Suicide

Life is too important to take that seriously.

Suicide is no solution. It is the abandonment of finding one. The incidence of suicide is far less common here than on Earth. But it does rarely arise, mainly among immigrants who never really take command of their own lives.

Suicide is a topic you might need to consider in LAG selection. Some attempt to restrict or prohibit it, but those terms are essentially unenforceable.

Assisted suicide is a bit more likely to appear in LAG terms. The main conundrum is that upon any investigation, the deceased is no longer available to confirm that the event was voluntary.

The reasons for the lower incidence of suicide here do not include any novel medications, but are thought to include:

- life here is supportive of self interest and dramatically less stressful,
- lower rate of Diseases of Civilization leads to less chronic physiologic anguish,
- enlightened ancestral nutrition dramatically reduces neurological deficiencies and antagonists
- medications with frank suicide risks are uncommon, plus
- interpersonal therapies are available, and are praxeologically focused.

Topics T

Taxes

'Tis impossible to be sure of any thing but Death ~~and Taxes~~,
 — Christopher Bullock, 1716

Outside the gLAGs, there are no taxes at Option. In the gLAGs, the populations are presently so small, that fee policies (they usually lack the candor to call them taxes) and rates are actively controlled from the grass roots.

With the absence of nation-scale taxation at confiscatory rates, comes the welcome absence of the economic and cultural aberrations caused by taxation:

- Decisions here are never made with tax consequences in mind. Investments are made solely on the expected results. There are no tax shelters contrived to generate paper losses.
- People here mind their business as needed, not forced to be full-time unpaid tax accountants. If there are no partners, share-holders or creditors to account to, there may be no bookkeeping at all.
- There are no parasitic revenue collection services, with mountains of incomprehensible forms, instructions and rules, and hordes of tax-funded employees; zealous examiners, paper-pushers and armed extortionists (collection agents).
- There are no politicians with larders of looted 'public' funds to spread around as bribes, agenda projects, kick-backs or in return for votes.
- There are no politically active constituencies dependent on entitlements from tax revenues, including legions of government employees and public contractors.
- There are no customs barriers, duties or artificial ports-of-entry impeding the flow of people and goods.
- Goods are never destroyed to avoid tax recapture because they were depreciated (for tax purposes) below their market value. Goods are donated here, that are destroyed on Earth to avoid having to calculate and remit the tax re-capture.

People here view taxes as more grievous than criminal theft. At least a simple thief does not claim that you 'owe' the booty, that you perform a detailed accounting of it at your own expense, that you surrender it on a regular schedule, or that you help the thief pretend this is all for your benefit.

Taxes make a lie of any assertion that there is any private property on Earth. Had you failed to pay your property (or other) taxes, you would shortly discover who really owned what (including you).

Time (as a Latency)⁹⁴

*Presume that time does not exist
as a traversable dimension.*

The time has always been now. The future arrives, inexorably, but cannot be returned from. The lost past is not still going on somewhen. The preserved past still exists in artifact form (it just doesn't seem so, because the people who attended it are often absent now).

Time is a latency because humans have memory (of the past) and speculative ability (about the future). While the past can be learned from, and inform future consequences of current choices, too much contemplation is often spent on trying to re-live/re-do the past, or pre-live/control the future. The popularity of time-travel and science fiction is an indicator.

Too much time is also spent fretting about the immutable past, often seeking to punish the present for it. Instead, project your ideal future, and empower living that way.

Time is a very useful human concept, but is just that. It is the measure and experience of relative motion, presently referenced to SI time based on $\Delta\nu_{Cs}$ of ¹³³caesium.

While Option culture has mastery of many aspects of physical reality, time control is not one, nor expected to be. Be here now.

Transport

It is not all like the conveyance you are in right now.

The transportation mix here is different from Earth, resulting both from natural history (mainly a dearth of fossil fuels), and deliberate non-proliferation of ████ technologies. Long distance surface transport is seen as possibly interim, and is focused on economy of construction and operation, as well as protection from wildlife.

Local transport is dominated by electric street and fixed guide-way vehicles, due to the cost of liquid synfuels. Hybrid and pure combustion vehicles exist, but they tend to be special

⁹⁴. See separately: time as a Circadian matter.

purpose and usually cannot beat the economics of electrics, where electric is practical. Many of these, rail included, may appear autonomous, but are more typically semi-autonomous with remote tele-operator monitoring and intervention.

Scheduled and on-demand local buses, cabs and limousines are widely available in populated areas. This results from the lack of barriers to entry and operation. Unlike Earth, operators here do not face subsidized public transit competition, route monopoly lock-outs, expensive capped licensing, and guild-protecting regulation. On the other hand, operators do pay use fees that represent corridor capital recovery and the relative wear and tear they cause (unless they are the owner).

Short-range VTOL craft are becoming available, made possible by the advancing state of battery technology and only recently matured precise geo-location services. Due to the highly variable weather, relative lack of air traffic coordination infrastructure, and the frequent need to travel in the native night time, these conveyances require extensive auto-pilot assistance. They cannot be used everywhere, due to noise and down-wash.

Long distance surface human transport is variant speed, overhead-wire, electric rail. Earth standard gauge rail spacing was selected, to accelerate implementation. Long distance passenger trains are the expected rolling hotels. Most freight moves via rail here.

Most passenger trains offer auto-rail. This is a drive-on drive-off service with the option of recharging your vehicle en route. The wider loading gauge here allows you to remain in your vehicle, or move about the train, where you might, for example, also hold a ticket for a sleeper suite.

Some inter-settlement routes are served by cargo pneumatic tubes, particularly over terrain unsuited to roads and rail. The standard shuttle sizes for these accommodate loads up to 1.1×7m. This size was selected to support transport of basic building materials (esp. rebar and pre-hung doors), and to allow maintenance and emergency worker tube access.

On routes longer than about 12 hours by rail, limited scheduled flights are available. The FC runs only enough flights to address the demand for key rapid travel and where surface transport is impractical or excessively dangerous. There is little other scheduled aerial travel.

Inter-transport is mostly via ship and . The FC runs enough trips to address most high-priority demand, but the prices still cover various FC initiatives. Some cargo ships are

fitted with modest passenger spaces, and do provide lower cost travel, but is economical enough that passenger traffic is almost entirely aloft. There is insufficient market for passenger ocean liners, in part because any incident requiring use of lifeboats introduces substantial marine life hazards. There are some modest excursion ships, but their emphasis is on out-and-return creature watching.

Tribalism

Do the words “us” and “them” have some emotional resonance?

This is another case of: just what have you inherited? Knowing about this gives you some power over it, instead of the other way around. This one of the top two Latencies. All humans alive today descend from formerly or still tribal⁹⁵ humans. Nations are often essentially super-tribes.

Things are this way, because ancestrally, it prevailed. Tribes, clans, bands and other cultural groupings presumably marginalized solitary individuals and smaller organized groups of humans. Over time, the tribe as a whole took on aspects of being itself an organism (although not to the extent seen in colonial insects). As neighboring tribes came into conflict, some tribal forms proved more dominant than others.

Unsurprisingly, the emergent top priority for the tribe, as a pseudo-organism, was the survival and growth of the tribe. This is not necessarily the same thing as the survival and growth of any particular member, and can easily be in conflict with the individual. Members notice this of course, and it is another root of Social Cosmology.

As a metaphorical organism, the tribe itself needs a voice, if not a brain, to direct the members in support of tribal goals. This would be the ‘leader’ (or a small leadership group). Being an individual, of course, the leader’s motivation can easily shift from the thriving of the tribe to the thriving (and perpetuation) of the leadership, including promoting whatever philosophy or mythology seemed to underpin the hierarchy.

Tribes need ways to distinguish members (us) from non-members (them), and in conflicts, to reliably tell friend from foe. Where genetic morphological differences do not exist, tribal garb, body modifications (e.g. tattoos), signs (e.g. flags),

95. Any modest number of humans sharing a specific cultural identity, and ancestrally living, traveling and acting as a group. This does not necessarily imply common genetics.

language, gestures and customs often arise. Where genetic morphological differences exist, they may suffice, and this is the real root of racism — it is just tribalism.

Today, groups of humans still routinely, spontaneously, form tribes (ranging from cliques and clubs to cults, gangs and political parties). They often also spontaneously seek a leader, and adopt modes of unique group identification. They can easily attract those with low self esteem, seeking some group identity.

Tribalism is what our species inherited. It is who we have been, but is not obligatory, and the baggage is entirely optional. To apply the modern aphorism, if we do what we have always done, we get what we have always got — which in the case of tribalism is chronic tribal conflict and relentless oppression of and exploitation of the individual (you).

The tribal latency, added to Parentalism, begets ...

Tribo-Parentalism

This might be the single biggest problem in human society on Earth.

Earth historians often puzzle at how it was possible for a modern, technological, literate, cultured, intellectual society like Germany to succumb to Nazism⁹⁶. It might be a simple case of skillful manipulation of tribalism and parentalism by a tribal leader (“führer”). Anyone who thinks that some root problem was permanently resolved by the military defeat of one “master race” in one “fatherland”, does not yet appreciate enough to help prevent recurrences under other guises.

Tribo-parentalism amounts to cultural choices based on unwitting deference to some combination of tribalism and parentalism. You can expect happier outcomes if you make your choices on other grounds, but in any event, be fully aware of why you make your choices.

Tribunals

... the fate of failed agreements ...

If everyone always acted agreeably, no referee would be needed. But because disputes tend to not be self-resolving, and individuals can be irresponsible, if not predatory, an impartial third-party is essential. Contracts routinely specify the forum for

96. Nazi, by the way, is a contraction of Nationalsozialismus: National socialism, noted only because it is surprising how many Earth people appear to be ignorant of this.

resolutions. Terms vary for these venues, but “court” is less common here, due to desire to reset process expectations (and all of it is subject to your prior or implied agreements).

On Earth you typically had little choice about much of this, submitting to whatever existed in the immediate jurisdiction. Here, it is your call, so consider the matter.

As (ideally) on Earth, the purpose of a tribunal is not to act as parent, but to get on the record what all the parties theoretically already know, and then to tell the parties what the parties probably already knew, and therefore were obliged to do — plus provide a mechanism for ensuring it.

Tribunals resent being gamed by parties trying to re-write agreements. They also resent being put in the position of deciding what a missing, verbal, incomplete or careless agreement ‘ought’ to have been, nor to be arbiters due to events unanticipated by the parties (use actual arbitration for that).

Trials

Tribunal procedures are usually an evolution of American practice, primarily because it provided a predictable process flow with which many were familiar. The few gLAG and TLAGs courts still operate much like Earth courts, but elsewhere some significant differentiations⁹⁷ have emerged over the years.

The most obvious difference is the shift from normative to praxeological. Tribunals here do not deal in guilt, fault, and only infrequently punishment. They treat each case as four separate matters: issue, facts, liabilities and remedy. Basic defense CTR representation is usually included in LAG membership, and third-party coverage of various sorts is available.

The issue phase deals with establishing what agreement(s) existed (inter-LAG, charter, default, model, contract, verbal, implied, etc.), whether the appropriate parties are enjoined, whether the tribunal has jurisdiction, and whether parties want to delegate additional discretionary authority to the tribunal.

When a case actually goes to trial, the fact finding phase deals with the evidence and testimony establishing what transpired, and party roles.

The liability phase deals with deciding who was at cause and/or who was in violation of what, and to what degree by party. No considerations of intent, motive, malice, negligence, extenuating circumstances enter at this phase.

97. Cost allocations vary by LAG, and may be ‘loser pays’.

Once a determination of cause/fact has been made, the remedy/sanction phase determines the injunctive relief (actions demanded of a party), awards/fines, or sanctions (eviction, confinement, exile, even execution). Considerations excluded during the liability phase do enter here. It is entirely possible to be found “responsible” for a Charter violation, yet excused of all sanction, due to extenuating circumstances. The difference between murder, negligent manslaughter and accident often hinges on intent and/or due diligence.

Jury trial may or may not be available, based on LAG terms and the nature of the case. If you want jury trial to be an option, expect to also agree to be a juror upon call. Jury selection may or may not be “peers”, and if peers, may actually include peers (whereas in Earth trials, people in the same profession as any party to the case are often excluded.) Jury nullification may or may not be an option.

Resolutions tend to be much faster than on Earth. You determine the underlying swiftness of the processes in the selection of your LAG. But the major factor here is that there is dramatically less crime and fewer disputes for the tribunals to deal with, and the availability of tribunal calendar time is purely a function of demand. If cases pick up, the LAG adds capacity.

Where there is an injured party, the emphasis here is on restitution or compensation, rather than punishment. Fines may be added to damage awards, with any excess being used to fund defaulted awards in other cases.

There is a much shorter appeals ladder, due to:

- a desire to minimize manipulation of the system via stays, delays and endless appeals;
- fewer grounds on which to appeal (tribunals do not make up agreements unless both parties request it); and,
- the simple lack of a deeply layered hierarchy of ever more powerful pseudo-parents for parties to appeal to.

Prosecution

This implies a suspected crime, or where an injured party is unable to represent themselves, or the action concerns a plain LAG term violation, perhaps with no victim [yet]. It also means that one or more LAGs bring the case.

They may also join an inter-party case where a crime element appears to be present, and this, by the way, tends to eliminate the criminal-civil double jeopardy that can arise on Earth (but again, LAG terms vary).

Cases

There is considerable interest in cases, and not due to courtroom drama or surprise revelations of the sort favored in screenplays. The culture here is a work-in-progress, and everyone wants to see if it is working as intended to create the agreed results.

As pointed out elsewhere, cases tend to not create caselaw-type precedent here for various reasons. Any result that is a surprise tends to result in near-term changes so that it will not be a surprise, to anyone, next time.

Arbitration

Tribunals are arbitration, really, other than in cases involving crime or egregiously disagreeable outLAGs.

A full formal tribunal is an expensive affair, potentially drawn out in time. Referee services short of that are available. The default language of any given contract may require use of arbitration as the first resort. If you object, negotiate that out.

Topics U

Unions

One fruit of mis-management, or put another way, if you cannot manage one boss, will you be any happier with two?

In general, nothing requires, prevents, favors or discourages people from creating and joining any sort of associations that they wish. LAG terms may or may not touch on employment per se. Employment terms are just another contract, and most people here see themselves as peers offering a service (their labor). If the terms are unacceptable, do not accept them, and if not honored, invoke the recourse.

Unions have from time to time arisen. They usually mark an enterprise to avoid, perhaps in a remote location where the operator might have presumed that people have no alternatives (never true). A successful strike by just a minority of employees could easily result in the collapse of the enterprise.

Part of the 'labor' problem back on Earth is lack of choice, but also parental attitudes, envisaging the employer as parent, or expecting some other surrogate parent (the government) to police the relationship. It also does not help that a few too many people there are more interested in *having* a job than *doing* a job, resulting in the employers actually needing to treat some employees like children.

Trade associations exist here, as do professional associations. They are not lobbies, there basically being no political power to influence. They often generate industry standards, and may offer certifications, but only infrequently call it licensing. The profession groups keep their members updated on compensation, working conditions as well as industry and management trends.

Units of Measure

Important: mass and weight are very much not the same thing.

SI (Système International) is the prevailing standard in use here. The laws of nature on which they are based so far appear consistent everywhere within explored range. LAG terms may reference SI as necessary, but nothing enforces its use, other than a strong desire to avoid the needless costs of UoM

conversion, confusion and catastrophe. If you are accustomed to the metric system, it is familiar. If not, expect to pick it up quickly. Posting conversions is a fast fading practice.

What is different, however, is that while the mass of things is the same as on Earth, their weight here is $\frac{1}{6}$ % $\frac{1}{6}$. You will also quickly get used to that. Outside of museums, the scales are all made for, or compensated for local gravity.

Topics V

Vaccination

There may be no shot for that yet.

Vaccination is not really a contentious topic here. There are local ailments, but none for which any vaccine has so far proven useful. There are tests for susceptibility, and some treatments, only. Because people react differently, there is obviously additional biology to exploit, and vaccines are not ruled out.

Vaccines for many Earth infections are for the most part⁹⁸ not needed, due to the coincidental quarantine period that transit represents. If you had an infection at departure from Earth, it was already too late for a vaccine. If you did not, chances are you will not catch it here.

Many chronic infections, such as TB, have not yet been reported here, so no vaccine is necessary for these. Others, such as hepatitis forms, have been detected, and the vaccines are available as risk status indicates. Apply normal due diligence to agent composition and theory of action.

Gazing into the crystal ball, however, no one born here has any immunity to common short-duration or chronic Earth infections, including many that could be promptly life-threatening, disabling, or disfiguring. When Earth relations open, this becomes a serious Option-wide consideration.

98. Vaccines are available to Option-native Earth mission crews.

Topics W

Wages

*Until you have a handle on the market,
avoid long-term employment contracts.*

Here, anyone with any value whatever to offer can find a job at some pay scale. Further, for the same type of work and hours, the job usually pays more (in terms of real purchasing power) than the same job on Earth. The form and periods of payment require your attention as well, as most prefer it to be something promptly negotiable, but where you have the option, deferred compensation forms can be enticing.

A wage on Option may be just a wage, with no other benefits, no withholding, and paid in cash. Before you take your first job (if you ever take one), you need to base your projected salary on a simple cash payment, then recalculate for the value of any ‘free’ or deduction-based benefits.

You need to think of yourself as what is known as an “independent contractor” on Earth. An employer here is not apt to be your family, and there is no government parent to oversee your allowance.

Wage Observations

There is no minimum wage in most LAG charters (nor any overtime provisions). On Earth, minimum wage laws exist largely because labor markets (and enterprises generally) are not free. People put up with unhappy jobs due to lack of choice.

The costs of doing business there, and hiring liabilities, result in funds that could otherwise be wages going to administration, forms, records, taxes/deductions, insurance and excessive risk abatement, not to mention an abundance of fringe benefits that are largely a historical artifact of earlier social engineering.

The effect of minimum wage laws is to render an expanding class of people legally unemployable, dependent on government hand-outs, and increasingly, to motivate businesses to have as few actual statutory or common-law employees as possible.

War

War on Earth has existed ever since the first neighboring tribe formed.

It is hard to start a war with little reason to have one, no standing army, and no compulsory way to form one. Please help keep it that way. War has been defined as “politics by other means”. Politics, in turn, can be thought of as the imposition of philosophical advocacies on a culture. Earth war usually further relies on slavery (conscription, aka draft) by one or more sides.

With no nations, no politics, total suspicion toward any advocacy group that might rely on force, a complete lack of any mechanism for compulsory servitude, and an armed, dispersed and independent populace, it is difficult to imagine violent, organized clashes of large groups of people — here, anyway.

War is a festering phenomenon on Earth, and should one or more Earth governments discover █████, Earth might attempt to export its tribo-parental notions, conflict advocacies, and outright aggressions.

One consequence of technology is that with each passing year, the amount of damage that a single nation, group or an individual can cause, increases dramatically. A zealot with a vehicle capable of transiting the solar system might well cause mass destruction on Earth with an asteroid diversion. Should that specific threat arise, the FC might (or might not) intervene, depending on the consequential risk to Option.

Should Earth itself become a threat to Option, the FC has already stated that they would intervene, but that they are not specifically armed (or arming) to do so. They have not published the exact protocol, nor is there any special funding effort for defending the █████ against Earth (contrasted with local asteroid defense, which is a visibly funded activity).

The FC does have an open invitation for proposals for dealing with the eventual discovery of █████ on Earth. Scenario modeling is a popular topic on discussion forums. The specific risk of an Earth government gaining a real property foothold may or may not be forestalled by reversion terms in all plot easements.

It is clear to everyone that █████, or simply █████ is more than adequately destructive, excessively so, actually. All possible steps short of this would be invoked first. Does this constitute a

war-making capability? Yes, but only in the same sense that almost any technology can be weaponized. The Earth publication of this guide might be seen as a de-escalation step.

Weapons

*The risks facing a disarmed populace
massively outweigh the purported benefits.*

Attempts to control outcomes by restricting liberty usually generate outcomes exactly opposite of those advertised. Almost any creative tool can also be a weapon.

On the whole, it is easier to destroy rather than create. Based on results, the human race is more interested in creating than destroying. Were this not the case, all would still be living in trees or caves, because destruction would out-pace creation.

Any given LAG may or may not have terms directly addressing personal weapons. They might be implicitly covered by terms on Hazardous Materials and Self Defense. Your personal liability insurance carrier, if any, could have more to say than your LAG. Completion of training and adequate storage often dramatically reduce premiums. Recorded agreement violations can make one a prohibited person for that LAG (and in others, subject to inter-LAG agreement).

A few LAGs have, over time, attempted to restrict or prohibit weapons ownership, but such members would likely choose to not own weapons with or without the terms. Prohibitions on weapons ownership, as with prohibitions on almost anything here, are fundamentally voluntary, due to widespread availability, plus implications for abuse of any effective control regime itself. The focus here on weapons, is on reducing need, education, responsibility and swift remedies upon violation.

The most popular device forms here are directed energy weapons (DEW), colloquially termed dewguns. These are relatively quiet, usually variable-effect, and can have generous capacity (critical in wild areas). Conventional firearms are disfavored for general carry due to unsuppressed noise, capacity, bulk, lack of variable effect, and a thin market for both weapons and ammunition (if a firearm is suppressed, that just makes it more bulky).

Target shooting is as popular here as on Earth, but hunting is virtually non-existent. There is no edible game, and anyone who ventures afield routinely confronts enough dangerous wildlife that there is little incentive to deliberately pursue them.

Open carry is common where the wildlife is a risk (or such carry is otherwise expected, such as due to venue purpose). Concealed carry is considered both polite and tactically prudent, so normally you will not notice.

Weapon-free Zones

Weapons are not welcome everywhere here. Weapon-free zones (WFZ) range from inherently hazardous situations to pure symbolism, can vary by weapon type and certifications, and are identified in several ways:

- **Credible WFZ** (for example, the conveyance you are on now) Signage or staff advises of secure checkpoint ahead, and explains any unusual reason(s) for the WFZ, and who has liability for your safety. Lockers are often provided. Passing such demarcations amounts to a point agreement where not already subordinate to other agreements.
- **Honor system WFZ** Signage explains reason(s) for the WFZ, and who has liability for your safety, but typically no checkpoint or lockers. LAG terms may or may not address, but you may assume that if ignored, your liability could be higher for any events.
- **Make-believe WFZ** Has a prohibition sign only, but may lack competent signage entirely, relying on presumed awareness of some context. LAG terms may or may not oblige compliance, particularly if any signage itself is non-compliant (as is often the case where realistic scenarios were not thought out by the proprietor).

Heavy Weapons

There are no reports of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons on the █████. Nor are there so far any crew-served, area-effect, remotely-operated or larger conventional weapons, other than a few hobby cannons. Commercial explosives, used in mining, excavation and demolition, do exist.

In order for major weapons to exist, someone needs to be motivated to possess them, find someone to manufacture them, and generate the capital to fund the effort. With no nations per se, and a dispersed and well-connected populace, it is difficult to do this in secret. Any attempt to do it openly would be widely reported, and keeping an eye out for such developments is a focus of threatwatch reporting.

Market pressure on the buyer and the prospective supplier would be immediate. Indeed, this is exactly what happened when an early gLAG decided to raise an armed force in excess of policing requirements. Most large industrial firms turned down their request for munitions, and the one that accepted an order quickly lost most of their other customers and a substantial number of employees.

Is this a foolproof solution? Of course not. A wealthy individual or large enterprise might start an arms race. Anyone with access to space could threaten the entire [redacted] with [redacted]. The most reliable protection against would-be despots is to maintain a culture in which there is no motivation to interact with others except by agreement, and in which being dictator would mean being in charge of something no longer worth being in charge of.

Weapons, Observations

Gun control may be a hot symbolic topic among Earth demagogues, but is a pretty much settled here. Nonetheless, it is another touchstone issue, and practices here are revealing of the dominant local attitudes.

Weapons will not be uninvented. A total prohibition would still require enforcement, and enforcement requires that the enforcers have a coercive edge over those being proscribed (and a monopoly on force itself breeds corruption promptly). The central conceit of gun control is that it controls guns. It does not. Weapons are just like any other contraband. If enough people want them, markets (open or black) spring up to supply them. Only the law-abiding and the victims are disarmed (and fostering cowering vassals might be the real agenda). All the usual consequences of failed prohibitions apply.

The see-no-evil approach of pretending that guns can eventually be made to go away has led, on Earth, to a fatal failure to educate children about what to do when they encounter a weapon, and an egregious failure to encourage adult owners to get safety training or know when they may and may not use a weapon. Weapons and other dangerous objects exist, and will continue to exist. Deal with it, and strive to drive the death and injury rate as close to zero as possible, recognizing that the simple, 'obvious' way to get to zero is much more likely to get to one million — and be unstoppable in the process.

The fact that the issue is called 'gun control' on Earth reveals that it is a symbolic war on a particular technology, rather than an effort to reduce crime, accidents and suicides — and notice

that control advocates never mention war, actual (non-metaphorical) war. If the real objective were, for example, to reduce innocent death by weapons, a quick look at the Earth historical record shows that focusing on private ownership is grossly misplaced.

By far the greatest abuse of firearms against innocents is at the hands of governments — and excluding combatants in declared war. In the 20th century alone, the ‘legitimate governments’ of Earth murdered 100 to 200 **million**⁹⁹ people in expansionist aggressions, cultural revolutions, holocausts, pogroms, persecutions, purges and ‘ethnic cleansings’. The victims were first legally disarmed by gun control. On Earth, weapons deaths in accidents, and at the hands of criminals and deranged individuals, although tragic and usually avoidable, amount to insignificant numbers compared to government malevolence.

The more naive control advocates may feel that they cannot do anything about the larger political matters, but in fact, if they achieve their ‘control’ goals, they make future mass murder more likely. Disarming the populace, often preceded by registration, is a crucial step in the emergence of a lethal regime, a cascade understood here.

Widespread ownership personal weapons, that cannot trivially be confiscated, is a considerable impediment to the emergence of an Earth-like totalitarian super-tribe, and the would-be tyrant knows this. It is for this reason that an overwhelming number here dismiss Earth-like ‘gun control’.

Topics X-Y-Z

... but I did not find ...

Follow any cites to on-board resources, or use on-board search before pestering the crew.

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99. If these numbers are a surprise, do investigate what else was not accurately conveyed to you back there.

No Further Content For This Page

Mission Profile

Missing in Action?

[The readme file explained that this section was omitted for several reasons. It would have been so heavily redacted as to be more frustrating than useful. It was not germane to the goals of the Earth Edition. Anyone actually needing to review the mission profile would obviously get a copy of the latest guide containing it. - Ed.]

Earth Edition Background

Technical Details

The source documents on each source medium have so far been as a single `CR LF`-terminated ASCII plain text files (`WT009R.OHL`, `WT010R.OHL` and `WT011R.OHL`), in an unknown self-describing markup language, containing meta-data defining only spot cross-reference hypertext targets. A second file (`README.ASC`) contained the publication request. Filename conventions were not explained.

Although the source copies contained no additional apparent meta-data, the physical media were destroyed after full text verification.

The initial releases of the main book text were typeset for Earth using Adobe® Framemaker®.

Cover art is a recreation of the media appearance.

§

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From Where You Are Now

Does your culture operate on agreement, or intimidation?

If a novel conveyance ever appears near you, and a crew member offers an opportunity to depart Earth, permanently (with some assurance of surviving the trip), this guide contains what you need to know to provide a timely yes or no answer. It does not attempt to resolve wider core cosmological issues, such as Question Zero.

If Yes

This Earth Edition (which arrived on the media in cover depictions) is a redacted presentation of the guide provided on board. As with any edition, it might be considered pre study material, and there *would* be quizzes later, as there are a lot of choices to ponder en route, and decisions to make on arrival (or defer, or perhaps even re-negotiate).

The on-board guide may be a later Edition and would have hypertext links to external resources not available on Earth. It would also have full text for all but two of the extensive instances of redaction ████████ in this Earth Edition.

If No (or the opportunity never arises)

This guide provides useful tips for optimizing your personal life on Earth, enhancing relations with others, and is an invitation to creating a more agreeable culture. It also explains quite a bit of why Earth is so disagreeable today, and how it got that way.

Caution — Potential Personal Philosophy Peril

Although some of the insights in this work may eventually be found to be immaterial, or even incorrect, many are not. To paraphrase an admonition found in one of the topics ...

If you are content with your current views, and the state of your world, by all means skip this guide. If its observations are incorrect, they may be merely entertaining. If they are correct, you may not be able to unlearn them. On the other hand, if true, pondering them (in particular the Latencies) may give you some power over them, instead of the other way around.

[This page content is specific to the Earth Editions.

The provided source documents included no content for covers - Ed.]

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