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This document is based in part on the Caribbean League chapter of *Shadows of Latin America* by Jason Levine.

## CARIBBEAN LEAGUE

### >>>> BEGIN FACTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC BOX

**Caribbean League:** Care-ib-be-an Leeg

**Population:** 43,920,000

**Prominent Languages:** Spanish, English, French, Dutch, various Creoles

**List of Islands:** Andros, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bonaire, Borinquen, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Culebra, Curaçao, Dominican Republic Territories, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama Island, Great Abaco, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, New Province, Saba, South Florida, St. Barts, St. Croix, St. Eustatius, St. John, St. Kitts, and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tortola, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, Vieques, Virgin Gorda

**Government Type:** Confederation of Sovereign States

**Bordering Countries:** Amazonia, Aztlan, Bermuda (United Kingdom), Confederated American States, French Guiana (France)

**Geography:** Mostly small and mountainous islands, with a few larger islands that support farming and larger tropical forests.

**Notable Features:** Hispaniola Trench, Puerto Rico Trench, Yucatan Channel

### >>>> END FACTS AND DEMOGRAPHICS BOX

## A BRIEF HISTORY

The island nations of the Caribbean responded poorly to the Awakening. When VITAS first reached the Carib in 2010, local government healthcare systems were quickly overwhelmed just trying to contain the disease, much less treat it. The epidemic killed millions, and the surrounding nations were unable or unwilling to assist; even American and European possessions received only limited support. Political dissidents and outspoken religious leaders found people scared, angry, and hungry enough to listen to them, and riots and coups rocked the Caribbean.

With government influence waning, foreign corporations began buying large tracts of land and entire islands in an “Island Grab.” The corporations provided a welcome influx of foreign capital and found a ready pool of cheap labor, but political pundits were wary that the corps would privatize the entire region. In Cuba, Guadalupe Martinez of the *Partido De la Fundación De Cuba* began floating a cooperative regional alliance. Response was lukewarm until ORO Corporation executed a hostile takeover of Natural Vat Technologies in 2021—and with it most of Borinquen’s arable farmland.

The Carib League was formed on October 31, 2021, primarily as a trade confederation. Together the islands could negotiate trade agreements en masse, exert greater regional influence, and gain global recognition. Other islands were invited or asked to join, with the last significant addition being the Sovereign State of South Florida, which seceded from the nascent Confederated American States in 2034.

## MAJOR CITIES

**Havana, Cuba** is the unofficial capital of the Carib League, and the League Legislature meets there every six months for a two-week stint of legislation. The Neo-Communist government of Cuba has consistently re-elected members of the Martinez dynasty since Lady Guadalupe’s revolution, and the Martinezes have spared no effort or nuyen in making Havana the closest thing to a Caribbean paradise. Tourism nuyen is the primary income source for Havana and Cuba in general. Extensive secondary industries on the outskirts of the city produce rum, alcohol-based biodiesel, dehydrated protein bricks, and cigars from the extensive sugar, tobacco, and mycoprotein farms on the interior.

**Kingston, Jamaica** is the center of traditional (pre-Awakening) religion and culture in the Carib League. The Kingston economy is dominated by criminal gangs and the small businesses that pay them protection, focusing on low-quality BTLs, live music, navsofts, linguasofts, and trideo and simsense productions, many pornographic. By comparison, the interior of the island is extremely poor and dedicated mainly to agriculture, which depends heavily on the weather. The streets of Kingston are filled with young Jamaicans willing to risk the endemic gang violence by seeking their fortunes as musicians, studio engineers, and programmers to get away from the poverty of the rest of the island.

The **Miami Metroplex, South Florida**, called “The Gateway to the Caribbean” is by far the most affluent urban area in the Carib League, and a vital trade link allowing the smaller Carib islands to offload their goods into the international market. Still a fundamentally North American city at heart, the Miami Metroplex invites considerable foreign investment, including Saeder-Krupp, NeoNET, Black Patch Cruise Lines, and Bloodstone Media. Miami is infamous in the CAS and UCAS for legalizing all drugs and BTLs, as well as prostitution, and is still a favored college spring break location among the more daring.

**Port-au-Prince, Haiti** is the power center of the Voice of Ogoun, an international organization dedicated to the promotion of Awakened syncretistic and African-derived religions that developed in the Carib during slave times. The Head Houngan, Papa Cross, holds more influence in the Carib League than any president or pirate. Port-au-Prince has become a leader in magical scholarship in the League, and many governments pay in goods or services for the favors of the Voice of Ogoun. Interpol has also suggested that Port-au-Prince might be the headquarters of the notorious Zobop, a native Carib criminal syndicate with connections to gangs and illegal magical operations worldwide.

**San Juan, Borinquen** (formerly the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico) is dominated by *La Presidentia* Maria Francisca, who is quietly supported by Aztechnology, particularly its subsidiary Natural Vat Technologies, Inc. Through Natural Vat, Francisca can provide a free dole of food to the residents of the poverty-stricken island, ensuring their loyalty. Most of the other corporations on the island have abandoned it in the face of repeated pirate raids. Government-owned and operated factories and distilleries produce clothes, rum, and other basic goods and employ the bulk of Borinquen’s workforce and allow the numerous pirate crews that frequent the island to refuel and fence their loot.

## SPECIAL LOCATIONS

**Navassa Island** has a sizable merrow community, with approximately two hundred individuals permanently occupying the island and thirteen migratory groups that travel around the Carib, returning to the island periodically. The permanent community survives by fishing and shellfish-farming. Violent incidents with local pirates limit their interactions and trading with metahumans, but the community includes at least three magicians who sometimes attempt to communicate with any Awakened crew members of peaceable vessels. Individual adolescent Navassa merrow have been seen throughout the Carib, often attempting to retrieve some specific reagent or material and return to Navassa. Parabiologists believe this is some sort of coming-of-age rite.

The **Cayman Trough** is the deepest part of the Caribbean Sea and the single most dangerous area in the Carib. The Aztlan, CAS, UCAS, and Carib League all utilize parts of the trough for deep-water submarine exercises, and they themselves have to compete with sea serpents and the occasional megalodon that inhabit the trench. Smugglers and pirates often run silent on or just under the surface. Accidents in the area are common, and parts of the trench are littered with wrecks, which have attracted divers and treasure-hunters that add to the danger and congestion.

Many eyewitness accounts speak of **Phantom Islands** in the Carib, or more correctly periodic alchera that manifest erratically and are considered navigational hazards. Only one island has permanently manifested: Bermeja, off the coast of the Yucatan peninsula, which has given rise to a territorial dispute between Aztlan and the Carib League.

> These guys are too nice to say it, but the Carib League is a den of pirates, thieves, escapees from Aztlan, rejects from Amazonia, and the CAS least wanted. Anybody with a boat and a gun thinks they can steal anything, including people, and sell them in Miami. The sad thing is, they’re right more often than not.

> Sounder

> It’s the poorest set of nations in the hemisphere, each of which is a unique little butterfly of cultural flotsam, pain, degradation, colonial ambition, and political aspiration. If it wasn’t for the rum, I’d leave the place to rot, but I do love the rum.

> Kane

> Pirates don’t always have to mess with legit shippin’ through the Panama and Nicaragua Canals; there’s plenty of smugglers they can prey on too. The main mafia families in Miami and Havana, the Gambiones and Batistas respectively, are clearing houses for the black market goods of the world. You wouldn’t be able to sniff that bit of elf-powder up your nose in New York or Paris if the Gambiones didn’t keep the shipments out of New Orleans safe.

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> It’s not the Gambiones I’m worried about, it’s the Zobop. Organized religion is bad enough, but when you get organized crime in on the deal, that’s when nasty things happen. Especially when some houngan keeps a couple corps cadavres on hand.

> Sticks

> Of course, there are some fully legitimate business interests in the Carib as well. Many of the smaller islands are privately owned by exceedingly wealthy individuals who have special needs shadowrunners can cater to, and the shadowy banking centers of the Carib are some of the few places on earth where laundering nuyen is relatively painless and hassle-free...provided you trust them to be here next week.

> Mr. Bonds

> I once did a favor for a sukuyan—y’know, one of those Carib vampires?—and she paid me in Jamaican blue mountain roast. I do like a good cuppa.

> Pistons

> Just stay away from the deepweed, girlfriend. Don’t need you flipping out and seeing shedim or anything.

> Kay St. Irregular