

# PERU

By Aguarí

> If you feel adventurous, Peru is the place to go. Make the right moves and meet the right people, and you might just make enough to retire. The country is a delicate balance between the Japanese megas and the government on one side and the rebellious groups trying to oust them on the other. Currently both sides are in need of talent to tilt the scales. Your host will be Aguarí, the Iquitos datahaven sysop, who's been gracious enough to compile this download. So read on and don't come crying to me saying Uncle Chaos didn't warn you.

> Captain Chaos

So you're interested in doing business in the Andean Paradise, omae? Think twice. Gone is the Japanacorp economic boom. Corp infighting is starting to produce copious heaps of collateral damage. The country is on the verge of balkanization. Bioware smuggling is rampant. Add a healthy dose of terrorism to the already lethal mix of Ghost Cartels and weird Awakened stuff, and you have a drek of a good time! On second thought, I think you just hit the spot. Hurry up, make as much nuyen as you can and don't forget to leave a big fat tip. It's appreciated.

## PERU AT A GLANCE

**Population:** 34,560,000

Human: 62%

Elf : 8%

Dwarf: 10%

Ork: 12%

Troll: 7%

Other: 1%

**Per Capita Income:** 18,500¥

**Estimated SINless:** 38%

**Below Poverty Level:** 37%

**Corporate Affiliation:** 52%

**Education:**

Less than Twelve Years: 27%

High School Equivalency: 52%

College Degrees: 17%

Advanced degrees: 4%

**Major Languages Spoken:**

Spanish: 91%

Quichua: 24%

Aymara: 11%

Japanese: 9%

English 2%

**Major Religions:**

Roman Catholic: 75%

Protestant: 20%

Native: 5%

**Currency:** Nuyen

**Medicarro Coverage:** 75%

Guaranteed Response Time: 15 minutes

## CRITICAL TIMES & THE LAST FIFTY YEARS

Peru's recent history boils down to two profoundly significant dates. Granted they don't exist in a vacuum but they're the critical moments that shaped everything else. Other countries were shaken by the chaos of the Awakened world but Peru has mostly taken even these world-shaking events in stride and gone about its business.

Peru's economic loyalties shifted smoothly from the disintegrating United States of America to the Japanese Imperial State in the early decades of the century. Since Fujimori's government in the last decade of the previous century, the Japanacorps have made Peru their home away from home. Thus, when our former partner started to experience difficulties, we remained quite stable through the collapse of the USA, the VITAS crisis and the Crash.

> That's one side of the story. Very picturesque too. Realty was a little darker. Along with the "stability" that kept the privileged few content, there was also brutal repression. Though things were rosy in the cities, in the Andean countryside we had to fend for ourselves against the Cartels, Shining Path and what have you. Doesn't leave much energy to take over the government, though our time will come soon enough.

> AndinoAhora

### New Year's Day, 2035

Everything changes when an expeditionary force of Japanese Imperial Marines disembarks just weeks after the Brazilian coup, no doubt to preempt any spread of the Amazonian revolution and secure Japanese assets in their Peruvian beachhead. The government welcomed them with open arms on behalf of the Peruvian people. The Marines accepted the welcome and assured continued stability in Peru, as they comfortably settled in—an occupation force in everything but name enforcing peace, stability and the conditions for prosperity. Of course, stability was artificial since very little of it had to do with Peru or the Peruvians. It's only recently that things have become as "exciting" as our granddaddies knew them.

> The arrival of the Marines was coordinated with the government and carried out when everyone was off guard and worried about Amazonia. All those involved should be executed for treason.

> Aloha

> On their behalf you've got to grant that life in Peru had never been as prosperous and they didn't rub state corruption in your face like they do in Argentina or Ecuador.

> Naysayer Sensei

### **November 2061**

The Japanese expeditionary force was recalled by the new Emperor in late 2061, leaving the government and the Japanacorps high and dry and quickly losing their grip over the rest of the country. The Ring of Fire wrought disaster on several major cities, including the proud southern city of Arequipa which was buried in lava and volcanic ash. Peru didn't begin as much of a cohesive people and when the comet disrupted the communications, it was a perfect setting for the countries stability to die in the ashes.

## **POWER STRUGGLE**

The shakeup wrought by the Comet and its fallout have left the country in an up-for-grabs situation. The government in the capital city of Lima and its Japanese allies are desperately trying to secure their assets, regroup and retake control of the rest of the country. The Andes and the jungle bordering Amazonia hide several rebellious groups who are taking advantage of this chaos by securing as much territory as they can.

Through a few connections, I have the inside stories on this power tango between the capital and the Andeans. Meet my two chummers. PowerGrabber is a fixer in Lima; who operates mainly in the political and corporative shadow scene. Greengo is veteran merc, operating in the mountains.

> Greengo is from the UCAS if I recall correctly, hence his street name. Still, I'd listen to every word he says. He's survived longer than any merc I've heard of operating in the Shining Path operation areas.

> Charly D'Fault

### **PERU IS LIMA**

By PowerGrabber

The reawakening of the Ring of Fire incinerated more than a few cities and forced the Marines return to Nipponland, leaving the government was left with an emaciated Army to protect and patrol the country. The Peruvian military, unable to handle the situation, retreated to vital areas, extending its protection only to larger cities and the mining and agricultural interests of the megacorps in the Andean foothills. Jungle installations fell to the protection of private corporate armies or prominent families. This is where the reformist and outright hostile groups coordinated their organizations.

The Japanese megas began to reconsider the terms of their alliance with the weakened Peruvian body politic. The rumormill says the megacorps are talking to powerful local families about new alliances and the families are scheming to prove their nuyen worth.

### **The Japanacorps**

Peru has become one of the Japanacorps foremost overseas investments. The biggest Japanese names, Mitushmama, Shiawase and Renraku have all invested heavily in Peruvian mineral mining, desert arcologies, off-shore mining and aquacologies, fish farms and agro-industrial complexes. In so doing, they've secured vital resources for Japan.

Make no mistake the Japanacorps command the respect of many Peruvians for the prosperity their presence has brought. Peru is one of the few friendly nations in an otherwise hostile continent, and despite the pullout the two countries interests remain intertwined. Thus it's not surprising that when internal strife and foreign threats make the Japanacorps uneasy they respond by taking a more active role in the running of the country.

Renraku and Mitsuhama formed a council to decide common defensive policy, the council in turn is putting a stranglehold on the Peruvian government. The only result so far is the government's public anti-Emperor stance. Yasuhito's rise polarized the corporations even in Peru. Shiawase was not allowed to participate in the council, which reduced their maneuvering capabilities. Shiawase is desperate to cut a deal with whoever will offer a solution to the Peruvian problem with minimal losses. If it finds a taker, it hopes to get even with the other Japanacorps.

> Among the Andes Ahora, I was surprised to hear that some local Japanese social clubs sometimes offer funding. Investigating further, I have found that the nuyen trail leads to Shiawase.

> Decker del Sur

- > A Sonoda-san hired my team to raid several Mitsuhamas-Benguet gold mines in Cajamarca guarded by Peruvian regulars. My take on why? Shiawase, besides disrupting Mitsuhamas operations, wanted to discredit the government and ease the election of Andrés Carrasco, the Andes Ahora candidate for mayor in Cajamarca.
- > Deathwish

Yamatetsu was a late comer into the Peru foray. It found a saturated agricultural and mining market, so it concentrated on biotechnological research in the Peruvian jungle. By 2059, the Yamatetsu Board was no longer respectable enough to stay in its Peruvian Country Club, so the other three Japanacorps lobbied for a ban on all Yamatetsu operations. The government was shocked by this request since it meant paying hefty compensation to Yamatetsu. Seeing no other way around this, the Japanacorps decided to bankroll the operation, and in 2060 Yamatetsu officially closed shop in Peru.

It was also agreed that former Yamatetsu assets had to be sold to locals, not to the other Japanacorps. This move was spun by the government as an “unprecedented boost to our national economy”. However, Yamatetsu made sure that its former jungle biotechnology assets were bought by fronts. So as soon as the threadbare government was unable to enforce its ban, namely when it retreated from the jungle, Yamatetsu flouted the ban and returned stronger than ever. Now their focus is only on biotechnology without the dead weight of their other assets.

- > Paradoxically, Yamatetsus publicized jungle “exile” is probably the principal reason why the Japanese are still doing business in Peru and have not been kicked back to their side of the Pacific by an Amazonian army.
- > Golden Sphinx

- > The unenforced ban is another reason Shiawase, Renraku and Mitsuhamas have to do without their current Peruvian pals and find new ones.
- > Sombrero

#### **Peruvian Trade Families**

The Japanacorps are brilliantly reinventing their powerbase, finding new allies with influence and ruling power. Perhaps their shrewdest long term move was partnering with the major local business families. The most prominent alliances included the Aparacio family allied with Shiawase, the Larcos with Mitsuhamas and the Del Campos with Renraku.

The Japan megas arranged for their respective families to keep things running smoothly for them. However, the honeymoon between these illustrious trade families and their Japanese masters has recently soured. The megas are keeping their options open for new families to hook up with and their current partners in crime are resorting to more ruthless measures to prove that they are still worthy allies and can keep the multiplying rebel factions under control.

- > We’re seeing bloody infighting between the families to prove which is the strongest and most reliable. Did you hear about the beach house assassination of the Chairman of the Board of the Banco de Comercio Peru Nippon, Pedro Esteban Del Campo? No rebel group had access to him there. Anyone know which family arranged it?
- > 16 volt

- > The Japanese live in a nice little bubble of their very own here. They haven’t adapted to our erratic and amiable way of doing business. They cannot do without Peruvian liaisons.
- > Pejerrey

#### **Prop Government**

Last and definitely least of these power players is the central government, which conceals itself in Lima. Peruvians love their leaders even though they are just a collection of likable figureheads that make the whims of the real powers palatable. The Japanacorps do not meddle in the administration of the country. Peru is not their colony. They are not Spaniards. The trade families are too rich and aloof to command any support or love from the masses. They also have shown no interest in running the country. Not from a Lima government office anyway.

As a result, there are no real political parties in Peru. Political campaigns are a refined blend of mind control techniques, opportunism and *caudillismo* – leader worship – brewed by well paid companies like Midas PR or Investigaciones Sociales.

- > As useless and powerless as the government is, the people here are still very impressed if you have some connection to a politico.
- > Pejerrey

Lima is a place shrouded in layers of intrigue and subtle hierarchies. If you’re good enough to enjoy a precarious hold on a slice of the power, and you don’t die when it’s time to jump to another slice, you’ll find enough nuyen to make it worth your talent.

## **LIMA IS NOT PERU**

By Greengo

What the Japanacorps and their minions in Lima hadn't counted on was how much their absence opened a window of opportunity for several groups that used to be effectively suppressed by the government. They're all in a frenzy to become the next power players.

### **Shining Path**

Active for more than eighty years the Shining Path (SP) is a neo-communist paramilitary terror group whose agenda is to establish a Maoist regime in Peru. It effectively adopted the guerilla warfare strategies proposed by Mao Zedong of China and has successfully adapted them to include cyber and magical warfare and modified them to difficult geography of the Peruvian terrain.

When SP leader, Abimael Guzman aka Chairman Gonzalo, was captured in 1992 its activities died down to almost nothing. By the turn of the century the SP almost disappeared. In 2011 they used the Awakening as an excuse to resurface, blaming the government for all the chaos. Guzman died that same year under very strange circumstances.

> The government claims that Guzman died from a stroke while serving his life sentence, yet they haven't disclosed his whereabouts. Security reasons they claim.

> Monolobe

> Chairman Gonzalo's spirit guides us! Viva la Revolución!

> Toro Rojo

The SP stages its operations in the province of Ayacucho, its birthplace. They use peasant support for their actions, which they secure either by conversion or terrorizing them. It's common for the SP to storm villages and small towns and hold revolutionary tribunals against the authorities who represent the central government. These are usually found guilty (I have yet to hear about one who was found innocent) and are publicly executed in front of the local population. The SPs make their message very clear: either you're with them or against them. The peasants have little choice. They aren't willing to rebel themselves and the government isn't something they can depend on.

One amazing fact about the SP is that they have independently supported and supplied themselves. For runners, this means that if they offer you a job, don't expect much cash. On the other hand, you may can pickup a lot about operating in the Andean hinterland, which can be quite the valuable experience. The SP funds itself by extorting money from the local Ghost Cartels operating in SP controlled areas and running a few smuggling scams. The cartels find it cheaper to pay them than raising private armies to fight against them. The SP supplies itself by high-jacking and stealing armaments from the national and private military.

Before 2061, the military and Marines kept the SP contained. When the bulk of the Marines were recalled to Japan, the SP began to spread like a wildfire, and today it controls parts of Apurimac, Cuzco, Junin, Pasco and Huanuco. savagery of the SP is almost mythical. Its gruesome attacks and reputation make most armies retreat, allowing it to hold territory larger than its militia should be able to control. The only thing that has kept it from seizing the Andes foothills is the resistance mobilized by Andes Ahora. Although it has capitalized on its strengths, I predict its rapid chaotic spread will one day become its Achilles heel.

> My unit was patrolling near Liracy, Huancavelica when we received a distress call from another unit. Our mage was sent to perform an astral reconnaissance and five seconds later he blacked out. When we finally found the other unit, we didn't know whose body parts were whose. Our mage was relieved of duty for psychological reasons. Later I heard from another mage about an unbearably high background count in the area.

> Neon Puma

### **Tupac Amaru's Fist**

The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement was born from a splinter arm of the SP in disagreement with the core movements tactics. Although the TARM had always been smaller than the SP, they are notorious because they managed to capture the Japanese ambassador's residence in 1996 during an official ceremony. Although the TARM didn't earn anything from this, even losing their leadership in the rescue operation, they managed to get their 15 minutes of terrorist fame.

After losing their command, the remaining forces split into several groups with various agendas. Although each continued to use the name TARM, most of them stopped fighting for a cause and developed into loud-mouthed thugs, mercenary groups, and killing squads, all for hire. Their biggest clients have been the Cartels.

This all changed when the Japanese invaded Peru in 2035, galvanizing the old guard of the TARM with nationalism. They reorganized and resurfaced with the name of Tupac Amaru's Fist, to avoid association with the old name tainted by the mercenaries. They have been very secretive and never show their faces when addressing the public. Their leader is a woman who identifies herself only as Victoria.

> I was hired to smuggle arms from Amazonia for the TAF. We were given exact coordinates in a god-forsaken place along the Amazon to await for our contact. Before we had time to react we were boarded by a squad lead by a female ork who introduced herself as "Victoria". Later on, when watching a TAF pirate cast where of a trial of some captive corp suit for crimes against Peru and the ecosystem, I realized that the judge was a "Victoria", who although masked, didn't have the build of an ork.

> Huaquero

> I've had my share of dealing with the TAF and each time, the person in charge was a woman named Victoria. I think that the TAF is organized by a tribe of Amazon warrior women and Victoria is sort of a symbol.

> Chancatanques

> The National Directorate Against Terrorism (DINCOTE in Spanish) is the department responsible for combating terrorism. They claim there is a real Victoria, though they have no face nor name to attach to her.

> Neon Puma

The TAF's main agenda seems to be anti-capitalist and anti-corp, targeting the Japanacorps and their lackeys. Their modus operandi usually consists in kidnapping high-flying businessmen and execs for ransom. They also target companies whose activities exploit and pollute the rainforest and though they operate throughout Peru, they stage many of their actions from the jungle wilderness. Intelligence suggests they may actually be run by Amazonia's DISA, which would explain their ecofriendly agenda.

> Personal security providers are finding Lima very profitable thanks to the likes of TAF. There's a shortage of elite bodyguards; so if you are out of a job and not afraid of being killed by angry savages, consider relocating. I've heard that they throw in a nice life insurance package with most jobs, and they give you bonuses if you die "heroically" (you ate the bullet not the suit). Your loved ones will be taken care of.

> SteelPancho

> The Japanese are not playing the game of kidnap and rescue anymore since Shiawase's Shiro Akashi, a top level biological weapons engineer, was returned infected by a bacteriological weapon. Before they realized what happened, 14 employees including Akashi were dead. They had to seal off the bioresearch facility where he worked. Besides the casualties, lots of biological experiments were ruined and the company took a lot of heat because it looked like they had been negligent with their facilities.

> Romero Andino

> This wasn't a terrorist action. This was certainly a shadowrun made to look like the TAF's work. I wonder if they nabbed the ransom money in addition to their regular pay.

> Birdie

### **Andes Ahora**

Andes Ahora is a political party that mixes Socialism and Andean Nationalism. It was founded in 2055 by Julio Calisaya, Francisco Aparicio and Benito Acahuara. They seek to change the Peruvian government and bring due recognition and respect to the plight of the Andean people.

Aparicio and Calisaya founded a small political party with little public exposure called Unidos por los Andes back in the Forties. When Acahuara joined them in 2055, he brought with him black bag funds from the Bolivian Velazco government to kickstart a Bolivian-style revolution in Peru. Calisaya assumed the role of the public face of the new party. Meanwhile Aparicio faded into the role of silent partner. He was not of Andean descent and, even worse, his surname evoked the oligarchies they were fighting against. Reputedly he was more the philosopher of the group, setting the ideals that they were fighting for.

> PowerGrabber

Since the beginning, there's been a clash of policies between Calisaya and Acahuara. The first is a pacifist, while the latter is a fan of armed revolution. Calisaya is a charismatic smooth talker and is regarded as the leader, whereas Acahuara is the administrator who always gets things done. During the first six years since Andes Ahora's founding, Calisaya has set the inspirational tone for the political party. They campaigned extensively and ran for the Presidency in 2061. The government launched a defamatory campaign that made it impossible for him to be elected.

> Calisaya is too idealistic. He doesn't realize that there is no way he can take down the Japanese controlled government peacefully. They've got all the media controlled.

> Characato

> Not all... There's Televisa, which is run by the Azzies. Of course, so far all it's done is continuously buzz in the ear of the government and the corps.  
> MediaMogul

> Ignoring Calisaya's idealism, Acahuara organized a paramilitary group called the Sinchis. It pissed off Calisaya, but the Sinchis have already proven their worth by fending off multiple Shining Path attacks.

> Neon Puma

Aparicio was murdered by the Shining Path during a public rally in 2061 and Acahuara seized the opportunity. He exploited the fears of a possible Shining Path revolution and gained many adepts. He deployed the Sinchis to protect government abandoned cities and villages in the Andes from the SP. Andes Ahora has sustained its actions by securing these unprotected regions and thereby controlling their natural Orichalcum deposits during 2061-62. It still has some savings left from the rush, but the comet is long gone, and they are depleting fast. Not to mention the Bolivian government has its own problems now and is unable to provide covert aid.

> I escorted some Televisa suits on a trip to Junín, where they met with Calisaya himself. I "accidentally" happened to overhear a conversation involving the Battle Channel. I wonder if Andes Ahora is willing to sell the rights for a televised skirmishes in exchange for a little bit of help from the Azzies?

> Illapa

## BIOPIRACY

Peru has always been infamous in the past for smuggling and piracy. Looking leniently on enterprising citizens getting hold of wares that were too expensive or too rare. Just as drug production could be fingered as the great savior of Peru's economy in the past, illegal biotech is no different today. All of this didn't happen overnight, however. It was a slow process that the Japanacorps spawned themselves.

For years, megas tried to entice the Brazilian government to allow them access to their jungle treasure chest for genetic and pharmacological research. They were ready to accept any of the draconian conditions (pun intended) just for the exclusivity. When the Awakened revolution swept Brazil, the corps watched their hopes vanish in smoke... almost. The answer lay just next door. The Japanese invaded Peru exploring and exploiting the natural resources and its own Awakened rainforest. A maze of flora and fauna to be studied, catalogued and profited from was right in their backyard.

The first corp to pounce on the bio market was Yakashima's Biogene in 2037. Soon thereafter the rest of the pack followed, but Biogene's headstart allowed them to lead the race in biotechnological research. A decade later an explosive exposé all but shattered Biogene when it exposed what was going behind the doors of the pristine Andean research labs accusing Biogene of performing experiments on unwilling and unwitting subjects, mainly metahumans.

Biogene's biggest research lab in the Madre de Dios' jungle was immediately attacked by the TAF. The ensuing wave of scandals forced the company to shutdown many facilities and lay off scientists and technicians who were quickly picked up by its competition.

> Fernando Salinas is the reporter who blew the whistle on Biogene. He rode the wake of his fame and continues to focus on investigating biotech and genetechnical scandals. Coincidentally he works for Televisa. Wonder why he's never targeted UniOmni?

> MediaMogul

Shiawase stepped into the biotech arena before Biogene's carcass had been scavenged. They schemed to secure an exclusive top slot in the field. Using the panic of involuntary experiment patients, Shiawase successfully lobbied for new government regulations on bio experiments under the Copenhagen Accords. The law passed requiring anyone wanting to produce and research biotech products to first license with the Peruvian Ministry of Health and Ministry of Defense. The cumbersome requirements and tedious bureaucracy required resulted in a negligible number of licenses granted every year. This forced many small companies and startups to close shop. When the bill passed, Shiawase was the first megacorp certified. This bought enough time for them to corner the market. They hired most of the laid off techs and bought the assets of other bankrupt companies.

When Yamatetsu proved uninterested in the leftovers and the other Japanacorps were exploring other alternatives, the Ghost Cartels moved in to consume the leftovers. They bought the remaining companies for change and hired the remaining techs. The Cartels' businesses relocated to the northern jungle fringe, around the city of Iquitos. Their activity developed, far away from the stifling central government, concealed by geography and vegetation. When the government and corps realized what was going on, it was too late. Illegal biotech was spreading all over the country.

### **Mad Science and Modern Poaching**

Chop shops are good. Good at their specialty. Some can even grow cultured bioware. The problem is they do not have the resources to do research be it biotech, genetech or pharmaceuticals . The shops leave that to the Japanacops and their endless resources and steal it once it's developed. So they lose the cutting edge of new products, but they don't have to spend money coming up with any.

In 2060 Shiawase Biotech announced their plans to open the Tambopata research facility in Puerto Maldonado in Madre de Dios, a huge installation by anyone's standards complemented by mobile research labs which will allow Shiawase to investigate the different natural reserves in the area. Part of the facility is already underway and functional and it tops even the underwater facility Yakashima built off-shore and was wrecked during the Ring of Fire cataclysm.

> Details about Shiawase's successes are sketchy. The security around this place is paranoid and activity is 24/7. There is top nuyen being offered to get some hard data from the research and breakthroughs. Several friends of mine have disappeared trying to accomplish this.

> Matasanos

> No wonder! Besides their regular shadowrunner uninvited guests, they have to deal constantly with Tupac's attacks and the Awakened jungle. I've heard they have a big contingent of Awakened security. Just in case.

> Neon Puma

> Forget the wildside. Scan their compound, they've got paracritters patrolling that you've never even heard of!

> Ultimate Castro

> Not just any paracritters: warforms.

> The Smiling Bandit

One other notorious research corp delving into the Peruvian resources is Universal Omnitech. Despite the government's ban on anything related to Aztechnology, it has taken advantage of the lack of enforcement to open up a shop. As usual rumor says it's operating an underground research facility somewhere in the jungle and are performing unspeakable experiments.

Of course, besides the corps there are plenty of independent crews and operators working the biosmuggling angle, raiding the rainforest and poaching from Amazonia. Other bio and genetech outfits like Green Globe International, Proteus and Zeta-ImpChem's Genom which the Japanacorp pressure keeps from getting appropriate licenses infiltrate their own representatives among these indies to get a piece of the big green pie. Dangerous work but plenty of cash to be made.

> There's even a lucrative sideline in smuggling big game hunters in land while doing some poaching. Half of them don't come back but that's not a problem if they pay you up front, *so ka?*

> Iquitos Bastard

### **Hack & Slash: Practical Applications**

Biopoaching and smuggling are only half the picture. The other half is the medical applications of the tech developed. Legit corps, not so legit corps and illegal chop shops all battle for the same market. And believe it or not, the small ones are winning. Small shops specialize, they become very good at one thing, to the point of challenging even some of the household names in the field. What this means for the consumer, is that you can get your wetware at much lower prices. The catch is there are no guarantees of what you're getting.

> Although their prices put Oslo and Chiba to shame, not all chopshops are on the up and up. You never know if you are going to wake up the next morning with something you didn't want, something missing, or if you have been supplied with a machine that doesn't blip when it should.

> Bom Amigo

> Be very careful whose hands you let inside your body. Check with your local contacts before going under the knife.

> Matasanos

The chopshops keep both their profile and their costs low. They bring portable equipment to a customer provided location and recovery equipment is rented to the patient after the op. The profitable market which is drawing less reputable types from all over South America and beyond has prompted the corps to get in on the game. Within the past year, two high profile betaclinics have opened shop. The Iquitos crew has uncovered their attempt to obscure their ties to Shiawase and Yakashima, who use these fronts to take advantage of the absence of law by selling without permits.

Let's not forget Yamatetsu has established a branch in Iquitos even after being black balled from the country. What it is actually doing is buying the bioware produced by hundreds of small shops and reverse engineering and rebranding it as their own for the international market.

> Renraku's pet project is called "Clínica de Biotecnología Avanzada". And CBA business is booming. Moderately legal, passable quality control. Clients are flying in from other countries to get things plugged in. CBA asks very few questions, and the variety of products on offer is staggering. If you have the dough, they will get you designer and cultured bioware. Problem is the line to get the first appointment where they ask you to cough and show your tongue is getting pretty long.

> SteelPancho

> What people do is relocate to Peru to work for a while. During this time they get their appointments, and a few months down the line they leave the country with a tweaked and plugged new body ready to do work somewhere else.

> Greengo

> CBA asks very few questions because they will get their later. All the 'ware they install is tagged. Even if you're just switching datajack or upgrading your reflex enhancers they have ways to tag you and sniff out all your information later.

> Decker del Sur

## PLACES IN PERU

Most anywhere you go in Peru will challenge your ability to stay alive. I will give some information on a few choice areas that may enjoy the attention of foreign runners in the coming months.

### LIMA

By PowerGrabber

Lima, the most important city in the Spanish South American empire, suffered from years of obscurity until it became the pampered capital of that other *empire* here in South America. Even though the Japanese have lavished attention and care, investing heavily in urban renewal and other projects, the city has eluded attempts to tame its chaotic nature to Japanese sensibilities. Even though you can cross the sprawl just under twenty minutes on the bleeding edge *Lima Chikatetsu* (subway) and walk along San Isidro will make you think in Akihabara or Chiba, large districts remain untouched by the Japanese. This is especially true of the shanty towns in the outskirts of the city where poverty is endemic.

> To our credit, it should be mentioned that the Japanese aversion to the *kawaruhito* has not influenced us. Even where the Japanese influence is strongest, if you are a meta, do not expect the cold shoulder from the natives. Unless, of course, you walk into one of their corporate buildings.

> Zoociologist

> Bulldrek. Our "bleeding edge" Chikatetsu has separate wagons for the Japanese and other "respectable citizens", and we allow this to happen.

> Red Dawn

Lima's business districts are found in the heart of the city: the modern San Isidro, Miraflores and the traditional Cercado de Lima. Along the waterfront in the southern part of the city, the Japanese suits, the most important families and the fattest politicians have established their homes along 90 km of some of Peru's prime beachfront real estate. Lodged between the rich and the shanty towns on the outskirts of the sprawl are the homes and businesses of humble *limeños*.

> There is nothing humble about the *limeños*. They have always been disdainful of the rest of the country even though they can't do without us. Where do you think their food and cheap labor come from? From the Andes and its people.

> AndinoAhora

The recall of the expeditionary force and the resurfacing of rebellious movements cast a gloomy pall over the once carefree city. Lima will have a serious facelift if any of these groups manage to take power.

> Pablo Romero is an infamous crimelord and the real power in the eastern outskirts. He's been recently forming armed groups called "Comités de Defensa Vecinal". These Neighborhood Defense Committees are comprised of people living in the shanty towns. We're all wondering who he's working for. He's certainly making it difficult to figure out if he's planning to defend the city from outside forces, or take the city for them.

> Red Dawn



> Lest we forget Lima has the biggest Yak presence on the continent with a big contingent of Nagai-gumi operating on the fringes of Japanese corporate holdings and mixing it up big time with the *limeno* native syndicates. Lima serves as a beachhead for many different operations and the many entry point for Japanese BTLs and skill slaves.

> Undersider

## IQUITOS

Iquitos is a fluvial port on the shores of the Amazon River bordering Amazonia, Aztlan, Ecuador and Caracas, and surrounded by some of the thickest rainforest in South America. Iquitos' features have made it perfect for trading, smuggling, drug trafficking, and recently, biotechnology smuggling and development.

> The Ghost Cartels are pretty big in the area. Not only hasn't drug trafficking slowed down but it's actually to blame for the biotech boom. Where'd you think the Cartels have been bioengineering their next-gen Awakened drugs?

> Mosca Loca

There has been little use for the government in Iquitos. The people still resent the government for ceding portions of the rainforest to Colombia and Ecuador; the locals even threatened secession then. The landing of the Japanese Marines was seen as a direct threat so once again, Iquitos threatened to secede. The Marines responded with swift brutality. This enabled the central government (and their Japanacorp puppeteers), to maintain a rigid control over the wild forest areas. When the Ring of Fire devastated the region again, forcing the Japanese retreat, and leaving the government forces to flee back to the cities, power returned to Iquitos. A parallel local government was quickly established working to support Iquitos' claim to become a de facto free city. Plans to be officially independent within five years are being developed and depend on securing corporate and international support.

Iquitos requires all corps to maintain a symbiosis by heavily investing in the city infrastructure. The corp is granted lax regulations and profit from the big bio-boom. The mutually beneficial arrangements have profited both sides. The first corp welcomed to Iquitos under the new status quo was Yamatetsu.

> In the Peruvian jungle the incidence of metatype non-human births is 4.85 times higher than the world average. Dwarfs and orks are the most common. Awakened births are estimated to be 3 times higher than average. Currently studies are being conducted to verify if the superior mana levels in the Amazonian jungle is related to these birth trends.

> The Smiling Bandit

> I assume you have noticed the beautiful Japanese villa built in the outskirts of the city. Well, it's authentic, brought from Japan piece by piece. Guess who's the owner and regular guest? Hideo Yoshida himself, playing Mikado surrounded by a court of bootlickers.

> El Tunche

> Yamatetsu is the principal investor in the Iquitos Grid Company. They vamped up the grid so they could have Matrix services up to their usual standards. In addition, the RTG is independent from the Peruvian RTG, incidentally breaking Renraku's monopoly over the local networks.

> Limbo

> The Matrix underground in Iquitos is flourishing. The Iquitos datahaven attracts all those who don't wish to waste energy dodging Japanese attacks. Did I mention there have been a lot of Otaku tribes popping up lately? They seem to be zealously aligned with the indigenous culture of the Amazon tribes.

> Decker del Sur

Iquitos is run by Mayor Alejandro del Águila. In general, the population supports him because the city seems to be prospering under his direction. Besides, he can always be replaced. Iquitos is always changing. It houses a very volatile crowd.

> The mayor is a regular contractor of black ops, mostly intelligence gathering. I guess he's covering his bases from backstabbers.

> El Tunche

> Belisario Rodríguez, the local Ghost Cartel baron, is gunning for del Águila's position. He is certainly interested in running the place, but so far he has uncovered zilch.

> Mosca Loca

There is no official security force in the city, so the law of the jungle reigns supreme. Each must take care of their own. Foreigners may find an armed mob after them, but Iquitos is far from being a bloody chaos. When problems arise, it's the community as a whole that passes judgment. Locals tend to be civil, and issues are dealt with swiftly.

> Bodyguards and merc forces are highly sought after to fill the vacuum. You can go to Platoon City, an outpost 10 clicks from Iquitos, to find out about jobs. It's a non-partisan trade base, where available forces go for some R&R and supplies.  
> Greengo

Buzz is Amazonia has approached the city's leaders. It is allegedly offering full protection if Iquitos becomes part of Amazonia. The citizens are not convinced they need to become another city under a ruling body. Unless its offer is really juicy or something happens to force Iquitos to need the protection, it will most likely be declined.

> We are already being culturally colonized by Amazonia. It's too easy to move across the border since the Marines left. Amazonians are doing business in Iquitos, and half of the population speaks both Spanish and Portuguese. Additionally, Amazonia is an Awakened state, which makes it very appealing to the increasing metahuman population. Annexation will come in time.  
> Zoociologist

> Recently a couple of Aztlan fixers popped up in the scene to offer a few jobs. For safety's sake I won't go into details, but it makes sense. Iquitos may be the next toy Aztlan and Amazonia are going to fight over.  
> El Tunche

## **CUSCO & MACCHU PICCHU**

By Greengo

If Lima is the giant metroplex where deals are made and broken and Iquitos is the new frontier where a guy with biotech fever and a gun can make like the next Damian Knight, Cusco is glamorous old world charm with a mystical twist.

Cusco has been one of Peru's biggest tourist traps for almost a century. Most of the services offered in Cusco are tourist centered: five stars hotels, gourmet restaurants, tres chic Alpaca clothing lines, ten story dance clubs, you name it. This also means that the glory of the Incan capital has been transformed into a circus for the amusement of visitors.

> The most notorious example of corruption is Macchu Picchu. Usually, if you astrally perceive an Incan ruin, you're able to see subtle auras emanating from the stones. But Macchu Picchu is dead cold. The site is awash with tourists just looking for a way to spend their nuyen and gobble the drek that the guides feed them. Their vacuity has corrupted the place.  
> Northern Shaman

> Next to Macchu Picchu lies Wayna Picchu Mountain where a ruin called Killawasi, or the Halls of the Moon, is located. This place was open for visitors in the past, but the steep trail was unsafe and so fewer tourists visited. Today it has been closed off since it seems that it still retains some of its magical properties. Nobody knows who is studying it, but my money is on the Japanese.  
> Dr. Jones

> Wagemages in particular and foreign mages in general are not sensitive to the teachings that the Apus whisper in your ears. Nor are they respectful enough to thank them with offerings. They only come here to get what they want and leave, just like the Spaniards did. They will never going win the favor of the gods with such an attitude.  
> Brujo

> Macchu Picchu has been despoiled by what looks to have been a Toxic group recently. I'm staring to think that it isn't dead after all, but tainted.  
> Dark Blood

Nevertheless, Cusco is certainly an intriguing city. There's always need for shadow talent among the thriving corp populous visiting the city, as corps use it as neutral ground to meet and scheme and sign deals. The visiting simstars and Latin celebrities are always on the look for a good bodyguard with competent street knowledge and they pay handsomely for information, like where to nail the best BADs to allow them to astrally project for a moment and feed on the peculiar vibes of the ancient city. Finally, there is the Office of Strategic Human Resources, where you can go and sign up for a job as a merc. This usually consists of patrolling the city's surroundings and tourist archeological sites to keep them free from any terrorist threat.

> Hey, if you or someone under your responsibility is interested in trying meta-drugs, be careful where you go to feel your projection. Strange things can happen, especially in an ancient city like Cusco. You can encounter old and angry spirits.

Projecting in a place full of despair will surely be a bad trip. People talk about places in the city where the land vengefully engulfs astral forms and prevents them from returning to their bodies.

> AciDreamer

> There is a legend about an underground network of passages that span below the city interconnecting major sites, like the Qoricancha (Temple of the Sun) and the fortress of Sacsayhuaman. There are a few alleged entry sites, but there is no confirmation if this is true or not. People who have ventured deep into these caverns are said to have never been seen again.

> Villac Umu

> It is said that the intricate network can lead to the Golden Orchard, which is a replica of a garden made all in gold of the Inka. This place holds treasures and relics salvaged from the Spaniards pillaging. At the time of the Inka return, all of this will be revealed.

> Inca Sun God

## NAZCA

If Cusco is the preferred destination for tourists, then Nazca is the preferred destination for magic types, nutjobs and not a few runners these days. This is due to the coverage it has received in previous shadow posts. Of course it's hard to know what to expect as currently security has been tightened. Also, some friction has arisen between Peruvian officials and the Japanese "guarding" the archeological site since they declared zero access to the area.

> My sources informed me this is because a clan of Andean shamans infiltrated the site and performed some ritual magic. Supposedly the ritual changed the Aspecting of the site. This has ticked off someone higher up in the chain that seems to be interested in controlling the area.

> Greengo

> I've seen some pretty weird stuff in astral space around Nazca from Eastern dragons to strange spirits. Its amazing but dead scary.

> Wiz Kid

> The Nazca lines are known to be an astral shallow, so whatever you saw doesn't mean that it was physically there. And yes, I've also seen a dragon, and it is eastern.

> Brujo

> Also beware of the magical Paracas. They are a mixture of sand and manastorm. They can be very nasty.

> TankBruiser

There is thaumaturgical evidence that the Nazca site is an important node where several manalines of the Ring of Fire meet. This lends us to think that it is a powersite where we can tap energy from the network. This would explain the interest of the Amazonians and the Japanese in this place. Recently, MCT's Thaumaturgical R&D department has opened up an outpost in the town of Ica, the closest city. I doubt that they will be opening the lines to the public anytime soon, if at all.

> I doubt that too. And I also doubt that the government will do anything to upset their Japanese masters. This means that it is up to us to do something. We have to do something to regain our heritage before the Japanese corrupt it!

> AndinoAhora

> One wonders maybe it's too little, too late?

> Orange Queen

> Never too late to reset the balance. Never.

> Deepest Green

## GAME INFO: PERU

Peru is another nation on the verge of collapse due to internal strife among the various power groups. If the precarious balance is upset, without any doubt a war will break out. This will open opportunities, even for parties that have tried to stay one step away from Peru, like Aztlan. Whatever the outcome, it is sure to leave a deep scar on the face of South America.

### GETTING IN/OUT

The retreat of the armed forces to protect the cities and Japanese interests has left much of the international border unprotected while at the same time creating virtual borders of government enclaves within the country. International border crossing is quite easy, and this has spawned some major smuggling routes that cross the continent from north to south. Though entering the country might be easy, crossing it is not: insurgents groups and the Shining Path rebels and other raiders are ready to milk hard-working smugglers who run in the area.

The security along the virtual borders is much tighter in order to prevent rebel or terrorist infiltration, though it's nothing that a bribe or a well-doctored SIN will not overcome. The main official entry points (besides a few border checkpoints) are the Jorge Chavez International Airport and the Callao Maritime Terminal. Shadowrunners' preferred entry points are through the Amazonian or Bolivian borders, followed by a cross over the virtual borders by land to reach the cities.

### RUNNING IN PERU

The power vacuum left by the retreat of the Japanese Marines has left various restless power groups both eager to fill it and in need of shadowrunners to tilt the scales.

#### Japanacorps

The Japanacorps, though not completely trustful of their current allies in Peru (the government and the powerful local trade families), are suspicious of the intentions of other rising groups such as the Andes Ahora and are adamant in supporting anyone who opposes the Shining Path or TAF terrorists.

The greatest immediate concern of the Japanacorps is the protection of their assets from internal and external foes. This involves mainly the hiring of runners and mercenaries for the protection of their key personnel and facilities. The volatile political situation has led to greater involvement of the Japanacorps in local politics, in order to ensure that no hostile party seizes power. The Japanacorps are conducting numerous intelligence operations in order to uncover the real motives of local politicians to influence them into supporting their interests; this involves spying, blackmailing and decking.

Besides keeping an eye on the political scene, the Japanacorps still compete with each other, and this involves the usual staple of shadowrunning activity against corporate targets. The rules and recommendations in *Corporate Download* are applicable when running for the Japanacorps.

#### Trade Families

The instability of the country has also broken the tacit understanding between the trade families regarding their respective interests and spheres of influence, as well as their internal hierarchies. The trade families are initiating runs against each other much more viciously than in previous years in order to undermine their rivals' standing with the Japanacorps. The newer opportunities have opened new ways of operating; an example of this is the Aparicio family, some of whose members have become involved with the Andes Ahora reformists.

#### Shining Path, TAF and Andes Ahora

Shadowrunners can contact these groups either by working for them or by obtaining their help or support if they can show that their current engagement furthers the organizations' respective goals.

Running for these groups usually involves operating in the countryside or the rainforest, raiding corporate and government facilities, as well as intelligence gathering. Working for or with these groups can be helpful in obtaining specialized Survival and Local knowledge skills.

However, working for these groups, especially the terrorist groups, can become dangerous because of the fanaticism of these organizations and the dim view that the government and the Japanacorps hold for those that work with them.

#### Aztlan and Amazonia

Aztlan and Amazonia have begun to consider an expansion into the Peruvian rainforest by courting the people of Iquitos into joining their respective countries. Not wishing to provoke an international incident with the Peruvian government nor draw the attention of the Japanacorps, they further their interests through covert operations or through proxies. These activities involve various courses of action, from terrain reconnaissance to counterintelligence. Most notable of the latter is the gathering of information for AmericaTrid, the Aztechnology media outlet in Peru.

### Biotech and Biopiracy

The frequency with which the scene changes encourages small and independent outfits to perform the illicit activities that spur the area. Bigger entities like the Ghost Cartels, different corps or Tamanous have noticed the economic potential of this area and seek to reap the benefits of the locals' work. Shadowrunners should find this environment very stimulating to perform activities on their own initiative, like smuggling pirate bioware to the first world and selling it at several times its value, or taking the latest stolen prototype to this safe haven to start commercializing it.

The lack of regulations has allowed for the development of a booming business in biotech bootlegging, cheap bioware and cyberware. This make wares and professional assistance in their installation readily available for shadowrunners, though, because of that, the quality of the products and services received are dubious.

Characters looking for a clinic through the appropriate channels receive a -2 modifier to Medical Search Tests (see p. 143, *Man & Machine*). These clinics have a Base Rating 2 points lower than those given in the Medical Ratings Table, and gamemasters should also subtract 2 points when determining the skill of the attending biotechnician. Any wares installed in this pirate haven are 30 percent cheaper than normal, including hospitalization costs. At the gamemaster's discretion, the installed wares can come with stress points or nastier surprises. New equipment can be affected also, given the unknown origin of the products.

### CHECKPOINT VERIFICATION TABLE

Country	Verification System Rating
Peru (International Ports)	6
Peru	3

### UNAUTHORIZED BORDER CROSSING TABLE

Country	Sensor	Flux	ECCM	ECD	NPC/Pro. Rating
Peru	6	8	4	3	Equal/2
Amazonian border	2	6	—	—	Equal/4
Bolivian border	3	6	—	—	Equal/3
Chilean border	5	8	3	2	Equal/2
Ecuadorean border	6	8	5	4	Equal
Pacific Ocean border	6	8	5	4	Equal

### LATIN AMERICAN MATRIX RTGS

Country	Security	Access	Control	Index	Files	Slave
Peru (SA/PE)	Orange-4	8	7	7	7	7
Lima	Orange-5	12	10	8	9	8