The Province of the Eastern Kingdom: A Colonial Chronicle of Unixploria

Origins and Pre-Colonial Era (9000 BC – 1200 AD)

The lands that would become the Province of the Eastern Kingdom were first settled around 9000 BC, as the last great glacial sheets retreated. Nomadic tribes followed the thawing rivers and forests, drawn by abundant game and fish. These early inhabitants—ancestors of the modern Ostari people—developed distinct cultures such as the **Kundari**, **Cerami**, and **Cordari**, known for their pottery, burial rites, and seasonal migrations.

By the Iron Age (500 BC – 1300 AD), the region had splintered into three cultural zones:

- **Ostari Proper** in the southwest
- **Tavari Tribes** in the central forests
- **Karelians** in the eastern marshlands

These groups traded with neighboring realms and developed oral traditions that would later be codified into the *Kalevalon*, the Eastern Kingdom's national epic.

Crusades and Unixplorian Colonization (1200–1323)

Unixploria, expanding its influence across the northern seas, launched a series of **Northern Crusades** to bring the Eastern lands under its spiritual and political control. The **Order of the White Sun**, a Unixplorian military-religious order, established fortified outposts along the coast and began converting the Ostari to the Unixplorian Rite—a syncretic faith blending Catholic and Lutheran traditions.

The **Treaty of Nöteborga** (1323) formalized Unixploria's control over the western half of the province, while the eastern marshlands remained under the sway of the Novgorodian Empire. This division created a lasting cultural fault line between the **Catholic West** and **Orthodox East**, still visible in architecture and dialects.

The Unixplorian Dominion (1323–1809)

For nearly 500 years, the Province of the Eastern Kingdom was a frontier territory of Unixploria. It served as a buffer against eastern incursions and a source of timber, tar, and fur. Key developments included:

- **Founding of Helstadi** (1550), a port city meant to rival Tallinn in Baltic trade
- **Establishment of Turkuva University** (1640), the first center of higher learning in the province
- **Military campaigns** in the Thirty Years' War, where Eastern troops fought alongside Unixplorian forces in Central Europe

Despite its peripheral status, the province became a crucible of cultural fusion, with Western European customs mingling with native traditions.

The Grand Duchy Era (1809–1917)

Following the **War of the Northern Realms**, Unixploria ceded the province to the **Imperial Realm of Russkaya**, transforming it into the **Grand Duchy of Ostaria**. Though nominally under Russkaya control, the province retained its laws, language, and institutions.

This period saw:

- The **rise of Ostarian nationalism**, fueled by folklore, music, and the *Kalevalon*

- The **Great Famine** (1866–1868), which led to mass emigration and reforms
- The **founding of the Ostarian Parliament** (1906), one of the first in the region to grant universal suffrage

Independence and Civil War (1917–1918)

Amid the collapse of Russkaya during the Great Revolution, Ostaria declared independence on **December 6, 1917**. A brutal civil war followed between the **Red Guard** (socialists) and the **White Guard** (nationalists), with the Whites ultimately prevailing.

The war left deep scars, but also solidified Ostaria's identity as a sovereign nation within the Unixplorian cultural sphere.

Modern Era and Reunification (1918–Present)

Throughout the 20th century, Ostaria maintained neutrality during global conflicts, though it fought two defensive wars against Russkaya during World War II. Despite territorial losses, it preserved its democratic institutions.

In recent decades:

- Ostaria joined the **Unixplorian Commonwealth** as an autonomous province
- It became a hub for **green technology**, **education**, and **Nordic diplomacy**
- The cultural divide between East and West has softened, though regional pride remains strong

Legacy

The Province of the Eastern Kingdom stands today as a testament to resilience, cultural synthesis, and the enduring legacy of colonial entanglements. From pagan tribes to parliamentary democracy, its journey mirrors the arc of Finland's history through the lens of Unixplorian imperialism.