

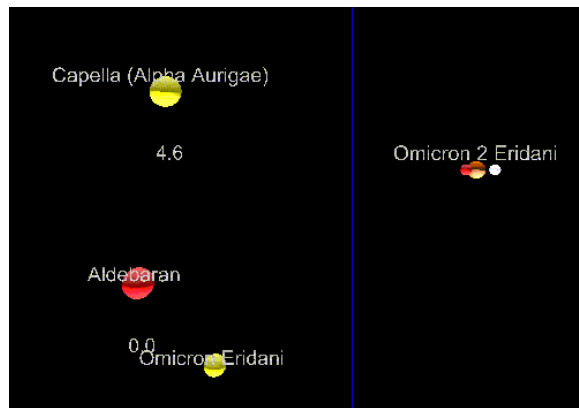
The Negative Impact of Federation Treaties: the Capellan Example

by
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Any plan to put into place mutually beneficial and reliable partnerships must take into account Capella's lack of influence over development policies in the last one hundred years and the paternalism that often distorted its ties with the Federation and its members. The narrow alliances forged between interstellar partners and local elites were short-sighted and wanting in basic ethical considerations. Too often, the planet's resources were not utilized in a manner that took into account the legitimate and long-term interests of the Capellan people.

Off-world economic relations for Capella (Alpha Aurigae) IV, began on stardate 3499.1, when a topaline mining agreement treaty was negotiated between the Federation and Akaar, *Tierr* of the ten Capellan tribes. The Klingon Empire, however, had a more established presence in the system and had already engaged in negotiations and gained influence among planetary leaders.



The pre-industrial society lacked the political skill to play the two powers off one another, as other planets have so effectively done. Since there did not seem to be a viable third alternative, the planet was divided as to where their loyalties should be placed. The treaty meant success for the Federation but it meant a developmental burden for a tribal society not accustomed to the administrative law and bureaucracy inherent to the Federation.

The fallout from the Federation/Klingon competition on Capella favored ideological alliances and made any genuine dialogue or concerted development efforts impossible. Capellan society was reduced to a sad example of retrogression and underdevelopment. Consequently, military coups proliferated and conflicts pitting communities against one another multiplied. Indeed, no less than six tribes have been engulfed in civil strife of varying intensity in the last one hundred years.



The question is: What lies in store for Capella's upcoming generation of leadership? Will Capella continue to be burdened by the mistakes and failures of the past and remain an impoverished and marginalized planet in an era of increased interstellar trade? There are no blueprints for a necessary transformation. However, there are approaches that will help begin the process:

Restructuring of Federation aid programs: Capella cannot continue to be “spoon-fed” through obsolescing loan plans. Programs will have long-lasting impact if, and only if, they are indigenous in origin and when all stakeholders in the society participate in their implementation. If the external assistance sought is not linked to the long-term development agenda of the planet, there is a strong likelihood that Capella will continue to rely on Federation assistance to mitigate all and every development challenge it encounters.

Independence from bureaucratic mandates: While Capella must vigorously develop long-lasting partnerships with its traditional friends and partners in the interstellar community, the key preoccupation is that Capellan agendas must be determined internally. Capella’s historical ties with the Federation should be used to benefit planetary development and not to perpetuate its under-development. A treaty relationship should not force the weaker party to accept future bureaucratic control over internal affairs.



The past one hundred years have been a period of frustrations; an era of suffering and lost opportunities for most parts of Alpha Aurigae IV. Fortunately, the current environment appears to be very conducive to, and supportive of the current trend of reformation on the planet. In fact, as of this writing, the House of Maab has called for cessation of all hostilities against tribes aligned with the current *Tierr*, Leonard James Akaar III, a remarkable event indeed.

Likewise, there are encouraging signs of a readiness on the part of Federation agencies to re-think and overhaul the old paternal system. Despite areas of divergence at the tribal level, as a new foundation for a mutually beneficial partnership is being built, these necessary and key first steps must be taken by all parties involved. Capella’s future will be determined by its ability to put its house in order and by substantive changes in the Federation’s system of treaty making and development assistance.