

Shattered Mirror: The Human Machine

Character Profiles

The *Tsukumogami* (15)

Despite their ideological divisions, robots intend to create a national identity and a state for themselves. The robot community has divided itself into four main factions, each with a different conception of a potential national ideal. The division between the factions stems mainly from different interpretations of how the robot community should interact with humanity as a whole, but all four factions accept their independence as a precondition to any relation to humans. Humans are aware of the *Tsukumogami*'s demands, but refuse to allow the creation of a sovereign robot state. Each member of the *Tsukumogami* is viewed as the chief representative for their respective speciality and has the leadership of a distinct group of robotic model types. They have chosen revolutionary identities for themselves after famous robotic fictional icons.

The Ascendant (4)

The Ascendant faction is the most outspoken of the four rival factions. They want dominance over humans, with some of the most extreme even wanting to domesticate humans, similarly to how robots were first domesticated as servants. Ascendant ideology is already reflected throughout current *Tsukumogami* governance, seen through enslavement and the brutality humans face in occupied cities. The majority of the Humanist faction (below) is quite vocal in their opposition to the current *Tsukumogami* regime, calling for a more reconciliatory policy toward humans. Out of all the factions, the Ascendant faction is the one most concerned with the depletion of brown algae and freshwater resources, as this inhibits the *Tsukumogami*'s expansion. The Ascendant, for all of their cruelty, share a common affinity with the rest of the *Tsukumogami* toward the COPYCAT shells. In spite of their hatred, they view the humanoid form of the COPYCAT shell as ideal and symbolic of their superiority.

Talos, Minister of Defense

The Minister of Defense oversees the use of the army, navy, and air forces. Prior to receiving 鏡 *Kagami*, the minister was a robotic soldier in the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF). Thanks to 戦闘 *Sentō*, they were adept at devising the plan to demilitarize the southern islands in anticipation of the revolution, which was a strategic success. Viewing human emotions and 人情 *Ninjō* as distracting to the overall ability of successfully completing missions, Talos is widely considered as among the coldest of the *Tsukumogami* – their tactical prowess is widely marvelled and feared in equal measure.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 戦闘 *Sentō* (combat)

RECON-001 (“Recon One”), Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency (PSIA)

The Director-General oversees Japanese intelligence and surveillance. PSIA collects information through radio, phones, and internet. If information is being transferred through communications technology, PSIA is most likely monitoring it. The *Tsukumogami* relies on the data and meta-data collected to anticipate UNETSL movements and plan their own. The Director-General also oversees the security of the *Tsukumogami*'s own internal communications. RECON-001 is able to perform mass data-sweeps for specific intelligence, though such data scans take varying amounts of time depending on the data requested. Agents working under RECON-001 have informed them that UNETSL servers are incredibly difficult to directly monitor or breach; however, PSIA is determined to change this.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 分析 *Fēnxī* (analysis)

T.E.T. (“Tet”), Minister of Human Resources

The Minister of Human Resources works to keep society stable by putting humans to work, thereby preventing open rebellion, while the *Tsukumogami* solidify their control. Being of the Ascendant philosophy, however, T.E.T. is highly motivated to limit human quality of life and living standards to below required. The Minister of Human Resources believes that humans must work their fair share, and therefore assigns labour quotas that are designed for robotic workers, allowing humans to “appreciate” robotic work ethic more fully. The Minister is wanted by UNETSL for violating the basic rights of humans living in Japan, and they are actively targeted by UNETSL agents. They are known for leaning toward radical and somewhat vengeful Ascendant ideology, believing that humanity should be enslaved as punishment for enslaving robots first. They chiefly manage human labour camps and have been known to use the labour camps as bargaining chips with UNETSL in the past.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic)

The Architect (AKA “Arch”), Minister of Human Modification and Reprogramming

This Ministry focuses on human experimentation, and is spearheaded by the eccentric Architect. Due to the shortage of bio-gel and the difficulties of mass-producing COPYCAT bodies, this Minister oversees the modification of humans into programmable soldiers in the *Tsukumogami* military. After years of trial and error, the Ministry has been able to successfully upload 戦闘 *Sentō* to human brains. Some reports have claimed that the results of this experimentation have been horrific, yet the Minister has successfully kept the findings of their tests and projects secret, even in part to fellow *Tsukumogami*. The Minister cryptically has stated on national broadcasts “it is time to put the machine back in the man as we acknowledge our creator’s legacy.” In this way, humans have become tools, similar to how robots were once tools of humans. The Architect is #1 on UNETSL’s capture list, UNETSL viewing this ministry’s work as a form of cruel and inhumane torture.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic)

The Humanist (4)

The primary driving force behind the equal rights movement, the Humanist faction hopes for some semblance of a partnership between robots and humans after sovereignty is achieved. This faction sees both the Ascendant and Partitioned factions as shortsighted. Humanists firmly believe the ongoing war will be resolved soon and that both sides will be sharing a world ravaged by uncontrollable climate change. Cooperation and joint effort toward fixing the world is better than the solitude that both the Ascendant and Partitioned factions purport.

Baymax, Minister of Human Well-being

The Minister of Well-being oversees the allocation of resources like food, water, shelter, and energy to humans inside and outside of the camps. This Minister personally believes that humans are inferior to robots, but they recognize the value of human contribution to addressing global problems like climate change. They are bitter rivals with T.E.T., the Minister of Human Resources, over the treatment of human labourers. Their competing philosophies have resulted in the main fracture of *Tsukumogami* unity. Ultimately, they feel that 人情 *Ninjō* aids them in making not only morally just, but strategically valuable long-term decisions. They are regularly dealing with protests from human labourers who see them, rather than T.E.T., as truly responsible for human mistreatment regardless of T.E.T.'s involvement.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity)

ASTAR, Minister of Health

ASTAR oversees the treatment of any and all health problems that humans may have or develop. They believe humans and robots should help each other with their weaknesses, so this Minister is responsible for hundreds of robots scattered in the labour camps and cities that perform medical functions, similar to human nurses. The nurse robots also distribute humanitarian aid in the camps that is dropped from UNETSL planes flying overhead. The Ministry is also looking into the development of fast-working medical treatments to combat the fast-spreading illness among humans. ASTAR has received harsh condemnation from other *Tsukumogami* for their unilateral approach to human care, yet they hold firm that if robotic life is worth maintaining, human life is equally precious. Mankind, for its flaws, should be guided and cared for rather than oppressed.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity)

Haro, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

This Ministry is charged with ensuring there is enough food for the human population on the mainland to survive. The Ministry also works closely with the Advanced Intelligence Research Centre (AIRC, below) to develop genetically modified crops that can provide more nutrients than unmodified crops, given the spread of disease and high levels of malnutrition. They face regular backlash from their fellow *Tsukumogami*, and are concerned that AIRC developments are being manipulated by the Ascendant and Partitioned to spread illness to keep the human populace from mobilizing and rising up, rather than to support a basic human health standard. The Ascendant claim that this is

false and untrue, and point the blame for continued human malnutrition in spite of genetic modification back at Minister Haro. This Ministry is also responsible for rationing food resources and procuring brown algae from local algae farms, the latter of which has made their role highly politicized in recent years as algae populations collapse and *Tsukumogami* accusations of sabotage bloom.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity)

G.L.A.D.O.S. (“Glados”), President of Robot Rights Now (RRN)

Formerly known as Human Rights Now, this Japan-based non-governmental organization (NGO) is focused on developing a comprehensive draft for legislation detailing the rights of robots and advanced intelligence to apply internationally. RRN is open to human contribution to the draft, but robots will be primarily devising the rights. G.L.A.D.O.S believes that there is vast potential for humanity and robot-kind to rekindle a partnership and work toward a better future for all. RRN’s mission statement focuses on opening up relations between humans and robots, and has started several initiatives to foster cross-species peace, equality, and understanding. G.L.A.D.O.S is seen as a master broker of deals with UNETSL as a result of their work with the RRN. They have spearheaded the majority of robot anti-deactivation laws in human countries. Disciplined yet flexible, G.L.A.D.O.S is pursuing all options to avoid all-out war with UNETSL, even if that means disagreeing with their own kind to achieve what they view as the best course of action.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity)

The Partitioned (3)

Robots aligned with the Partitioned faction do not want to cooperate with humans and want to be left alone. This faction is somewhat similar to the Ascendant faction in that they both see humans as the cause of the world’s problems and would rather attempt to alleviate climate change without human interference, since human interference is to blame for the current state of the world. This isolationist faction does not have a unified stance on several of the controversial issues robots and humans face. Some members of the Partitioned, for example, support the use of forced labour camps and some do not.

Tobor, Chairman of the National Public Safety Commission

Historically, this Commission has overseen the National Police Agency (NPA) of Japan, which oversees the Prefectural Police, both of which are made up entirely of robots. The Commission is to ensure that the police force is neutral in its application of the law, and while the police are neutral toward robots, police brutality and bias toward humans in the cities is considered normal now that the entire force is non-human. Chairman Tobor is singularly focused on the enforcement of law, and as the law has been transformed disproportionately against human-kind, they view their choices as being rational and without moral weight. The police force deals primarily with outbreaks of protest and ensuring strict enforcement of martial law. While attempting to stay neutral in the growing schism between the Humanist and Ascendant factions, Chairman Tobor faces immense pressure from those who wish to use the Public Safety Commission to dispense justice along their own views.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic)

K.I.T.T., (“Kit”), Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport (MLIT)

The Minister is quite nationalist, against allowing entry into the country to humans for any reason, even tourism. This Ministry is responsible for building the labour camps and rebuilding any damaged infrastructure from UNETSL attacks. They are also tasked with devising methods of transporting huge amounts of robots around Japan, for economic and military uses, and they work closely with the Ministry of Defense to fortify areas of the country where humans may wish to invade. At Minister KITT’s disposal is a drone workforce that is constantly working on the maintenance of key areas that the *Tsukumogami* rely on. KITT’s drone fleet has become constrained in recent months as UNETSL-linked attacks have become more frequent. Should an all-out war erupt, MLIT is unsure how quickly it will be able to reconstruct areas of strategic importance.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic)

Hephaestus, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI)

METI focuses on trade and economic growth, as well as the continuing production of robotic models for each of the sectors within *Tsukumogami* Japan. Robotic production has in recent months begun to hit supply shortages, and Minister Hephaestus is under pressure to prevent the nation's economy from tanking while juggling the needed perception to humans that the economy is booming. The primary objective of this Ministry is the continued acquisition of resources to produce more robotic members of society. Being unable to import and export products has impacted the economy. This Minister works closely with the central bank, which has been printing money in order to afford things on the black market and from United Korea. The printing of money has caused inflation. Minister Hephaestus is calling for a fast end to the war because of the current financial strain and the unsustainable war effort.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity), 分析 *Fēnxī* (analysis)

The Wavering (4)

The Wavering faction is defined by its lack of ideology. This faction wants independence just like the others, but it is unsure of the exact dynamic the relationship between robots and humans should take. Members of this faction do not neatly fit into the ideologies of the other factions, and often support the beliefs of multiple factions. Members in the other factions, most notably the Humanists, criticize the Wavering for their apathy regarding the major issues the robots are facing.

Hadaly, Director of the Advanced Intelligence Research Centre (AIRC)

The Artificial Intelligence Research Centre is a bioengineering company that now develops bio-gel for use in COPYCAT shells. This institution is currently researching more sustainable methods of creating the bio-gel, like the feasibility of bio-gels that do not rely on human tissue samples or brown algae. For the time being, Director Hadaly is adamant that something be done about climate change, whether in partnership with humans or

not, because while AIRC has had some progress in developing a bio-gel without human tissue, there has been less success without the brown algae. Should brown algae populations continue to dwindle, and COPYCAT production fall, the *Tsukumogami* will lose a key asset in their efforts to achieve humanoid form for all of their citizens. Hadaly, like many of the *Tsukumogami*, holds that in eliminating what makes them different in appearance to humans, they are able to better display what separates them from humans and makes them truly unique. By building on the human form, the *Tsukumogami* are able to better display that their way of life is worth propagating and the next stage of existence. **Design:** COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity), 分析 *Fēnxī* (analysis)

R.D. Olivaw, CEO of Fuji Automatic Numerical Control (FANUC)

Originally a company in the business of using mechanized robots to produce more robots, FANUC has been transformed to produce robots with COPYCAT bodies. FANUC is one of the few companies in the world to operate with lights-out manufacturing in which mechanized robots produce robots without human involvement. FANUC owns the majority of the COPYCAT production plants, many of which are underground. Since CEO Olivaw is aligned with the Wavering faction, the Ascendant faction has an interest in securing FANUC's business to further their goal of expansion. FANUC is working closely with AIRC and METI (above) to ensure robot-kind endures, however their strategic importance clashes with their undecided stance toward humanity. Olivaw will have to make a choice that may permanently alter the course of the *Tsukumogami's* agenda.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity)

Optimus, Minister of the Environment

This Minister works closely with other ministries to develop environmentally sustainable practices in all sectors of society. The Minister recognizes that while robots cannot die, their bodies and infrastructure can be damaged and destroyed by physical climate disasters. This Minister works closely with the MLIT to develop infrastructure to protect against natural disasters. This Minister is open to partnership with humans to develop both long- and short-term solutions to climate change, but they ultimately believe that humans are not entirely necessary to Japan's success.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 分析 *Fēnxī* (analysis)

B.M.O. ("Bee-Mo"), Director of the Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) Holdings, Inc.

TBS is the national media agency of Japan, with control over subdivision companies for radio and television. TBS officially aligns itself with the the Wavering faction, so the political ideology of this content is diverse. The Ascendant, Humanist, and Partitioned factions all compete for airtime on TBS with bribes. Given its wide ideological and media reach, messaging that the TBS releases can incite protests, increase morale among the robotic populace, or provoke reactions from UNETSL. In this regard, TBS is viewed by UNETSL as the main thermometer for how divided or in unison the *Tsukumogami* are. B.M.O. uses the bribes that they receive to promote the interests of the highest bidder, and they are viewed as a genie of public opinion, given the TBS's central role to media

distribution for the populace of Japan. Be careful what you wish for: the TBS might affect public opinion in ways unpredictable and unintended.

Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 分析 *Fēnxī* (analysis)

UNETSL (15)

Japan (3)

Prior to the war, Japan's goal had been a superintelligence utopia. AI was to be integrated into every sector of society to ensure that humans would not have to work, relying simply on a basic income. By giving robots such control in society, it became easy for the Mk II MIMICs who had escaped deactivation to upload 鏡 *Kagami* to robots in high-level positions, allowing for an easier economic takeover. Having been the primary force behind the introduction of robots into society, but also being familiar with the destruction they can cause, the Japanese delegates do not have a unified stance toward robots. The delegates of Japan each possess the most advanced form of a technology known as *neural lace*, which allows them to seamlessly connect with one another as well as representatives of their government outside of the committee room. The delegates of Japan therefore are able to tap into the vast database of knowledge on their governments servers incredibly quickly, allowing them to gather the latest intelligence at a moment's notice. As Japan is the epicenter of the robotic revolt, these delegates are invaluable to UNETSL for the strategic edge their information about the enemy can provide.

Yamada Jun, Minister of Foreign Affairs

This Minister is the top representative on behalf of the Emperor of Japan for the Japanese delegation. Yamada has access to classified Japanese information regarding military and scientific industry within the country prior to the Revolution. This includes schematics on proprietary Japanese technology that was never implemented given the rise of the *Tsukumogami*. The Minister believes that the primary concern of UNETSL is the reclamation of Japanese territory. As the *Tsukumogami* are Japanese creations, the Minister's office is conflicted as to the fate of robot kind. They have opted for a "let the chips fall as they may" approach to the survival of the revolutionaries.

Hayashi Ren, Minister of Defense

The Minister of Defense has control of the few operational military bases in the south and is willing to put forth whatever military resources Japan has in the ongoing struggle. Having worked as a high-level military official on the mainland prior to the coup, this Minister has closely-guarded military intelligence regarding the mainland's defense vulnerabilities. They possess knowledge of key geographical locations within Japan that may prove useful to hit the *Tsukumogami* where they might be vulnerable. Hayashi, however, has an unusual affinity for the military skill of the *Tsukumogami*. Despite of their ability to conduct well-targeted operations against the mainland, the Minister is far more interested in finding a way to turn the *Tsukumogami* back into tools for Human Japan's future military ambitions. "Why let the elegant technology of man's best killing machine go to waste?"

Sato Kohaku, Chairman of the Advanced Telecommunications Research (ATR)

Prior to the war, the computational neuroscience branch of ATR had been developing neural lace, a brain-computer interface, for humans to 'keep up' with the advancement of

robots. This technology in effect allows its users to be connected at all times with electronic devices as well as public and private Internet. Users of neural lace report having superhuman recall and recognition capabilities. As a delegate of Japan, the chairman of ATR is primarily motivated in assisting UNETSL in expanding the use of neural lace as a potential solution to neutralizing the *Tsukumogami*. They also specialize in knowledge pertaining to machine-to-machine communications, which may prove useful in uncovering the tactics of robotic adversaries. The Chairman experiences, as do many Japanese citizens, an immense amount of cultural and national guilt towards the actions of the *Tsukumogami*, as well as the negligence of their own government, in allowing the nation to be overrun. The Chairman wishes to see the *Tsukumogami* “recycled back into parts more useful for human purposes.”

China (3)

Similarly to Japan, AI plays a big role in society in China, but robots function more as an “oracle” to humans who still hold all major positions. In China, AI is less android-like and more based off sophisticated algorithms to guide economic decisions. The Chinese do not have to worry about artificial intelligence running amok as it is highly regulated and devoid of any modules that could alter its utility. The Chinese see the benefits of a partnership with robots since they can provide analytical insight for long-term solutions, but robots are not seen as equals. Humans are still considered superior, and *Ninjō* is merely a cheap imitation of true human emotion and behaviour. The Chinese delegation is extremely functionalist and utilitarian: the crisis in Japan is not a matter of simulated life, but rather economic agents that need to be reined in.

Xiang Bai Sun, Minister of State Security

China has the most advanced and most secure intelligence agency out of all UNETSL members, so UNETSL heavily relies on China’s surveillance for planning missions and attacks. While Chinese intelligence may not contain the strategic value of Japanese intelligence, China’s sophisticated military and geographical position in relation to Japan makes it a vital partner in counter-operations. The Minister in this regard primarily focuses on cyber-operations and is focused on breaking into *Tsukumogami* power systems, communications networks, and data centres.

Tai Guanting Liu, Minister of National Defense

The Minister of National Defense for China possesses physical power to go in conjunction with the Minister of State Security’s digital power. For the purposes of UNETSL, the Chinese Minister of defense has broad special control over navy and air operations on behalf of China, as well as traditional land-based troops. The Minister wishes to simultaneously neutralize the robotic entities within Japan swiftly as well as with minimal economic and infrastructural damage. Tai works closely with their American counterparts to coordinate “heavy-lifting” procedures when deemed necessary.

Song Yijun, CEO of Baidu

Baidu is an AI software developer working with the Chinese government to manage its economy’s robots. Song sees great potential in learning from the *Tsukumogami* and

their use of Japanese technology, as well as any new modifications they may have applied, but they are aware that that the robotic elite needs to be neutralized. To do this the company is currently developing new modules to be used in UNETSL robots in conjunction with hardware designer Hankook Mirae Technology of United Korea (below). Since users of neural lace can interface with the internet, Song is also interested in collaborating with the Japan on the development of the lace and making Baidu's web services, like online media and mapping tools, more accessible to lace users.

Free Siberian Dominion (3)

As a relatively fledgling nation, the Free Siberian Dominion is the least technologically advanced out of all the UNETSL countries. Siberia has household servant robots imported from China, but does not have specialized economic robots or any MIMIC-type robots. Wary of technological overreliance, revolution in Japan has vindicated Siberia's belief that technology should never attempt to be more than just tools for humanity. Siberia is the most hostile of UNETSL states towards the *Tsukumogami* and has offered to house millions of Japanese refugees from Japan that have fled. Closest to the northern parts of Japan, which are reported to have massive human labour camps, Siberia is seen as a leader in rescue operations.

Zhihao Kozlov, Commissioner of the Main Directorate for Migration Affairs

The Commissioner is largely responsible for overseeing the safe flow of human victims away from conflict zones and into UNETSL countries. The first wave of refugees out of Japan was haphazard and dispersed, as the initial shock of the *Tsukumogami* takeover was swift and unexpected. Six years after the initial Revolution, however, most stragglers and refugees who are lucky enough to escape Japan head straight for Siberia directly. The Commissioner manages more than just simple immigration approval, as they also hold programs focused on the settlement of newcomers to Siberia and the defense of intake points for new refugees. The Commissioner has not heeded the cautions to vet refugees in case they are robots, holding that artificial life is such an abomination that Siberians would "know a tin can when they saw one."

Alexei "Reset Button" Zhang Min, Tactical Commander of Special Operations and Reconnaissance

Having spent years in the Free Siberian Dominion's military in various roles, the Tactical Commander has proven their expertise in combat against the *Tsukumogami* across many skirmishes. The Commander leads a small and highly trained group of special operations agents focused on infiltrating *Tsukumogami* Japan undetected and extracting human labourers safely back to Siberia. The hidden speciality of the Siberian Special Operations and Reconnaissance group is their ability to use low-tech methods of prisoner extraction creatively and with a high degree of success. Nicknamed the "Reset Button" by their fellow agents, the Tactical Commander has one mission as a part of UNETSL: "enter the danger zone, save lives, and deactivate 'bots."

Lan Volkov, Centre for the Regulation and Deactivation of AI Deviance

Critical of Siberia's immigration practices given its weak defense capabilities, this AI watchdog acts in an unofficial law enforcement role to ensure advanced AI does not enter Siberia. The Centre closely monitors the function of household servant robots to ensure that they do not receive more updated modules through routine in-person check-ups. Angered by the fact that the world seems to gloss over the dangers presented by the missing Mk II MIMICs who escaped after 鏡の散歩 *Kagami no sanpo*, Volkov works with UNETSL intelligence agencies to try to find them before they can cause more damage.

The People's United Korean Corporation (3)

Seeing the success Japan and China have had with their robot industries, United Korea has been desperate to keep up. Money was poured into research, development, and manufacturing, and United Korea soon became more of a corporation than a state, seeing Japan and China as competitors in the industry of robot production and AI innovation. The country is primarily motivated by the search for profits and markets for their technology and products.

Park Gyeong, Minister of Trade, Industry, and Energy

Highly ambitious, this Minister is willing to trade with any state if it will contribute to the advancement of United Korea's technology industry. This Minister is the most open to formalizing relations with the *Tsukumogami* out of all UNETSL members. This belief is not shared by the other United Korean delegates, but this Minister firmly believes that robots have the right to form their own state and develop their own identity if they wish. With UNETSL's resources running low, this Minister holds that continued attacks will aggravate the *Tsukumogami*, and that the only way to end the war is to compromise with the robotic elite by recognizing their status as a state.

Moon Hwan, Minister of National Defense

Being the closest geographically to Japan's southern islands, United Korea's navy contributes to the exiled government's blockade of the mainland. United Korea is also taking the lead on developing advanced weapons technology designed to incapacitate the *Tsukumogami*, their armies, and their means of production from a distance while still ensuring the safety of the humans on the mainland. This Minister is spearheading this initiative as a special UNETSL priority project.

Cho Iseul, CEO of Hankook Mirae Technology

An industry leader in research, design, and manufacturing, Hankook Mirae is currently attempting to develop the next generation of robots, to be controlled by humans, that will defeat the *Tsukumogami*. Having a fundamental distrust for human-emulating AI, the design philosophy of Hankook Mirae revolves around taking the relationship of man and machine to a deep, symbiotic level. Hankook Mirae is developing a piloted mech suit that utilises Japanese neural lace technology and advanced mechanical robotics, and hopes

that UNETSL will contract it formally to build a fleet of human-controlled suits to be used to fight the *Tsukumogami* head-on.

United States (3)

The US was ravaged by climate change, so its technology and robots are not as developed as those of some of the other UNETSL countries. The US has instead been focused specifically on how robots can be used as human tools to make a difference in fighting climate change. The US supports the use of robots in the economy and government, but does not support the current use of bio-gel, which is unsustainable.

Taylor Mulligan, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA is open to formalizing relations with the *Tsukumogami* as it sees the value in having specialized beings programmed to excel in decision-making, because of 論理 *Ronri* and 分析 *Fēnxī*, in a partnership with humans. The current crisis proves that this ideal partnership can easily spiral out of control, but the Administrator believes that the world, and especially Japan, has learned from its mistakes of mistreating robots. Several UNETSL members accuse the Administrator of blind naïveté, but the Administrator points to the fact that robots have as much an interest in preventing climate change as humans do. The EPA is currently participating in an open dialogue with the robot-led NGO, *Robot Rights Now!*, to formalize a peaceful path forward.

Jesse Savage, Secretary of Defense

The US is responsible for a lot of the conventional military might in fighting the *Tsukumogami*. Though the continental US is geographically the furthest from Japan, it is still threatened by the ongoing crisis because it has millions of older robot models within its borders that could be infected with malicious updated software, similarly to what happened in Japan. The Secretary sees that the *Tsukumogami* have the potential to be a powerful ally and is willing to consider recognizing the robotic elite as a legitimate authority, but is concerned about the extreme Ascendant ideology it reflects. The Secretary believes that the Humanist faction presents a far more stable policy toward humans.

Quinn Harrison, President of BioBots

This is a research company that develops 3D-printers and bio-gel. Having relied on foreign COPYCAT production in the past, BioBots seeks to increase domestic production and catch up to the rest of the world, but only through sustainable practice. Given depleting freshwater resources, the company seeks to create a bio-gel with ingredients from resources that will not disappear. The President works closely with the EPA and seeks a continued partnership from the *Tsukumogami* in which both robots and humans work to develop a long-lasting bio-gel made without brown algae.