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# Welcome to 2056

**CHAPTER 1** 

## A CRASH COURSE IN CONSUMER CULTURE

Reveal yourself to me. Nudity is insufficient; Bare it to the bone. — "At the Core" by Last National Leaders from the 2055 album Gold Standard

#### Welcome to 2056!

Welcome to 2056, consumer! Innerwalkers most familiar with the dark ages of the 1990s (or before) will find this juncture a shining utopia of state-mandated equality where the only limit on your achievements is your work ethic. General Olivet, the Buro's highest-ranking military officer, was the child of vat workers. You, too, can make the climb she did!

To help you understand this brave new world, this helpful pamphlet provides basic data on the facts of life, '56 style. Enjoy!

#### Food

Weather patterns are much different in 2056 than they were in your home juncture, due to the savage damage inflicted on the ecosphere during the 20th century. Gradually, the depredations of the 20th century built up until there was a major shift of oceanic air currents. Because of this shift, areas that had formerly been fertile and temperate were raked with cyclones to an unprecedented degree. These catastrophic disturbances (colloquially known as "the Reckoning") crushed the world's most fruitful areas and created world-wide starvation.

In less enlightened eras, hundreds of millions would have died, victims of horrible famine. Fortunately, the people could look to the Buro to save them. The Bureau of Tactical Management (commonly known by the acronym "BTM") quickly established facilities for food production on a factory model. The delicious, nutritious nourishment they

This pamphlet highlights several facts about the Buro that startle most innerwalkers. First, that there's a pamphlet on 2056 aimed at Innerwalkers! The Buro bureaucracy has a pamphlet for every concievable purpose, and many purposes that aren't. Everybody needs a job. Second, rather than mindlessly exterminating Innerwalkers from other factions, the Architects often try to turn their enemies. Native agents in other junctures are *useful*. Ironically, most secret warriors *wish* they had been killed when they're subjected to the sanitized tour of the efficient, clean, peaceful aspects of Bonengel's world.

— Dr. John Haynes

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