

The Crucible City MUX Lexicon

Compiled by Hyperion, with input from Doctor Manhattan, Mad Madoc, Forge, Spartan, Quintessence, Myrmidon, The Secret, The Unknown Soldier, and Gail Windsor!



**References to 'PTB' refer to "Powers That Be", a resource located at CCMux
(crucible.mushpark.com 4626)*

***Contents of this Glossary are for OOC Knowledge of things your character
might, colloquially, know ICly - but not in all cases. Treat them as such.*

99 Righteous Ghazis: organization of Islamic Powers who opposed crusaders in the 11th and 12th centuries. Their name stems from the 99 names for Allah found in the Koran. They were led by al-Kabir the Most Great (see PTB).

Agartha: lost civilization dating from approximately 20,000 BC. Agarthan society was based in the Himalayas and has an unknown relationship to that of Ultima Thule. Agarthans are often depicted with snake-like characteristics. (see PTB)

Alcatraz: one of three federal prisons specializing in Power containment. Alcatraz is located off the coast of San Francisco and suffered a major breakout in early 2004. (see Escape from Alcatraz!)

American Legion: the latest federally-organized Power organization. The American Legion was formed in mid-2003 and is based in Washington, DC. It is led by American Justice, who answers directly to the Secretary for Powered Affairs.

Artemisia: a mysterious society believed to exist on Earth's moon. The inhabitants of Artemisia are believed to be a variant race of humankind. Artemisia's existence is known to world governments and certain members of the scientific community, but most people consider its existence to be unproven.

Atlantis: An aquatic society noted for their staunch stance of not integrating or interacting with 'surface dwellers', it was only in recent years that more public knowledge of the oceanic civilization surfaced with the appearance of Oceana; who was searching for her Uncle Oceanus, a victim of the Event. Oceana served as the Atlantis emissary and Ambassador to the surface world, until being called back during the recent Dimensional War.

Berenite: A morphic material created by Bobby Berens, Quintessence of the Dawn Patrol. Berenite comes in four grades, ALPHA, BETA, GAMMA, and DELTA. It is the most common and widely used synthetic material in most 'superhero' uniforms. A crystalline molecular chain mail that is able to meld itself to the genetic attributes of a Powered individual, thus enabling them to employ, for instance, a flame creation power without burning their clothing. Higher grades provide better protection.

Clave: *The Clave is a global criminal organization dating back to the glory of Rome, and originally based out of Italy. They operate in behind the scene cells, rarely being seen by the public . Clave operatives tend to use Roman themes for their titles and technology. In the Earth-N War the Italian branches of The Clave suffered heavy losses, forcing the temporary shifting of the central Headquarters to their present holdings in Crucible City; though where specifically is not known. The current head of The Clave is a man known by few, but those that are aware call him Masquerade. Recently, the defunct superteam, The Shanghai Knights, believed they had captured 'Masquerade', but the alleged Criminal Mastermind turned out to be a clone imposter.*

Count Urizen: *one of the world's most dangerous Powers, Count Urizen is a scientific genius who uses an armored battlesuit of his own design along with potent weapons derived from Ultima Thule. The Count rose an island from the North Sea and ruled this "Thule" as his own nation until he was defeated by an alliance of Powered heroes before the Event. Thought to be dead for a few years, he is now known to have survived.*

Crucible City: *the city of Chicago, renamed in the wake of the Event by a movement spearheaded by the Sanctified Church of Ascendant Metaphysics. Crucible City has become the center of global Powered activity since the Event.*

Crucible Crusaders: *a short-lived Power organization based in Crucible. The original Crusaders were based in Chicago before the Event; the Crucible Crusaders were an attempt to revive this group. They were led by Q.E.D. but were never accepted by the city government. The Crusaders disbanded in 2002.*

Department of Power Affairs: *branch of the federal government created in 1952 and responsible for organizing Powers in times of crisis as well as managing Power legislation, health concerns, and other matters. The Secretary of Power Affairs is a member of the President's cabinet; the current Secretary is Lincoln Yamamoto.*

Doctor Theosophy: *a famous Power-hoax of the 19th century. Allen Selkirk forged his own Powers with the help of accomplices and made a fortune using his abilities on behalf of gullible clients. He eventually confessed. (see PTB)*

Doctor William Adler: *Doctor Alder is one of the most brilliant and accomplished genetic engineers in the world, a genius of the highest order. Though he walks with*

a cane there, Adler has been swirled in controversy over his beliefs of putting science ahead of common human rights. Originally working for the US Government, he has since gone rogue and is currently in the employ of The Clave. He has been known to freelance, however, and has continued the work started in his Exogenesis Project. A man thoroughly derelict of human morals, since his fall from grace he has only become more dangerous to the world at large.

Doktor Angstrom: *A biologist and chemist of extraordinary skill, Amelia Angstrom was supposedly killed by lethal injection after WWII for her crimes against humanity. In truth, she was actually working from the shadows for decades moving from country to country, and leaving in her wake a swath of test subjects used in her wild experiments as she seeks to perfect her Angstrom Formula. A less advanced version of said formula was made available to the minorities of Crucible City for testing, a plan that was foiled by the actions of The Hanged Man and Nightbane working in concert. Angstrom also worked briefly with the Neo-Nazi organization Reich Now until it was disbanded after having lost their leader Hans Gruber and his bodyguards Ubermensch (in prison), and Aegis (missing).*

Earth-N: *an alternate or "parallel" Earth on which Nazi Germany won World War II. Earth-N discovered our world years ago and, after a long period of preparation, the Iron Reich invaded in the winter of 2003. Our Earth staged a counter-attack once a method for traveling to Earth-N was discovered, and the Reich withdrew by mid-December.*

Eve-P: *possible originator of powers on Earth. DNA research has suggested that all human Powers are descended from a single woman who lived about 200,000 years ago. The existence of Eve-P has not been proven. (see PTB)*

Event: *mysterious occurrence which resulted in the disappearance of more than half the Powers on Earth. Most heroes and some Power-criminals were summoned by a mental command to Chicago, whereupon they entered a glowing energy field. When the light went out, the Powers were gone. The Event remains unexplained. (see PTB)*

Event Horizon: *the area of land where the Event took place, on the south side of Crucible City/Chicago. The Event Horizon is home to a federal research facility and a memorial.*

Exogenesis Project: *A secret project that was aimed at discovering how to create Powers artificially, and tailor them to specific needs, the original project was scrapped a few months after The Event when it was found that the head of the project, Doctor William Alder, was going far beyond his mandate and experimenting on college student volunteers. The volunteers thought they were part of a study to help defeat epilepsy, and though several did mutate, the process was so unstable that none are known to have survived the process. Just before the plug was pulled on the project, Doctor Alder vanished with several key research materials, and most of the records of the experiments.*

Extraterrestrial ("ET") Hypothesis: *a theory of the origin of Powers which suggests primitive mankind was the subject of genetic manipulation by aliens. (see PTB)*

Extraterrestrial Naturalization Service "ENS": *The Extraterrestrial Naturalization Service is a secretive government agency dealing with the authorization and clearance of entering alien entities -- more or less an immigration service for new arrivals to the planet. It deals in legal paperwork as well as cultural assimilation. It was founded in the forties around the infamous Roswell alien crash. One of the major traffic nexuses has been in Crucible City for decades. There is also a smaller division in the ENS dealing with supernatural entities and dimensional travelers. It is not a publicly known branch of the government.*

Five Families: *the five major organized crime syndicates in Crucible City, usually considered to be the Golden Don's mafia, the Mathematician's criminal organization, the Yakuza and Tongs of Chinatown, the Black Brigade, and the formerly European-based Clave.*

Flying Squad: *the Crucible City Power Crimes Unit. The Flying Squad was formed in the wake of Event when the lack of Powered heroes created a law enforcement crisis. The Squad is composed mostly of ordinary officers with some Powered members.*

Francis "Lightfoot" Lee: *signatory of the Declaration of Independence, representative from Virginia, and Power. Lee had the power of flight, ostensibly as a result of a blessing by the medicine man of a local Indian tribe. Lee served as a congressman after the war and retired. General Robert E. Lee was from the same family. (see PTB)*

Gallant Rampart: *A discus-shaped shield carried for the last sixty years by the hero known as The Unknown Soldier, the Gallant Rampart (dubbed thusly after the anthem of the country's Eagle-crest it bears) is famous not only for its iconic status with the Unknown Soldier (a Power identity actively serving for the better part of the 20th century), but for its scientific properties as well. A scientific accident, no known method has been able to fracture the metallic lattice of the shield -- and the Gallant Rampart stands as a testament not only for heroes across the globe but for human scientific achievement.*

Golden Age: *period of Powered activity lasting from 1938 until 1950. The Golden Age began with the transformation of Professor Prometheus Grant (Power Man) and was marked by highly visible Powers working on both sides of the War. The Golden Age ended with the activities of the HUAAC and the laws banning all Powers except Power Man, the Secret, The Unknown Soldier, and Justice Girl. Many powers still operated illegally, condoned by the Federal Government. (see PTB)*

Gravity Lance: *While the name implies a purely offensive system, the Gravity Lance (developed by a consortium of government and corporate scientists in Japan) is actually an integrated propulsion, defensive and offensive system that uses artificially generated gravity. Primarily implemented on the KX-105 hovertanks of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces' Special Response Units, it was also used in the prototype war machine Kiryu, who is currently active as a Power in Crucible City.*

Hateful Eight: *organization of Power criminals organized by Prince Primeval. The membership of the Hateful Eight fluctuated over time, including virtually every major Power criminal at one time or another. Primeval disbanded the group a few years before his final arrest and capture; it was replaced by the Tyrannical Ten.*

HELIOS: *US space station recently placed in Earth orbit. HELIOS is intended as a defense against invasion from space, but also attacks from other dimensions such as Earth-N. HELIOS is home to pilots who patrol the solar system in small spacecraft, as well as marines who train in zero-g warfare and boarding techniques.*

The Hollywood All-Stars: *One of the world's foremost and most famous teams of superpowered individuals, the Hollywood All-Stars scandal was one of the biggest stories of its time. Six powered villains (White Dwarf, Nova, Neutron, Binary, Red*

Giant, and Pulsar) masquerading as heroes, who were exposed for frauds after an article by a San Francisco Chronicle Investigative Reporter linked team leader, Nova, to Middle Eastern Mercenary activities. Eventually captured and incarcerated at the super-prison, Alcatraz, the All-Stars were instrumental in the recent mass breakout from the facility.

HUACC: *the House Un-American Activities Commission, managed by Senator Joe McCarthy. Before he was forced to retire from public life, McCarthy used the HUACC to bring criminal charges against most American Powers, ranging from spying to homosexual conduct to moral corruption of the nation's youth. Some Powers testified before the commission, others retired to avoid the spotlight, and still others operated 'illegally' without official government approval. (see PTB)*

"Il Potere": *"the Power", a book written in 1521 by Italian political scientist Machiavelli and a sequel to his book "the Prince." Machiavelli detailed the means by which Powers could be used as instruments of the state. Many were inspired by his book, but ultimately he failed to unite Italy's city states into a single nation, as he had hoped. Machiavelli may have gotten his idea from rumored extraterrestrials, which are theorized to of had contact with the Sforza family. (see PTB)*

Inbreeding: *a common method of preserving Power bloodlines and control of Power-run societies. Atlantis, ancient Egypt, and the royal courts of Europe have all resorted to inbreeding to varying extents in their effort to "breed true" certain Power families. Power inbreeding has all the dangers of inbreeding among ordinary humans. (see PTB)*

J-Gun: *A weapon built but never fired by the N-Earth invaders during the N-Earth War. Recently a surviving cell of trapped Nazi invaders managed to key the weapon, and fire it in a ransom demonstration with the goal of blackmailing the authorities into releasing interdimensional supercriminal, N-Ubermensch, before he was executed. The test shot, aimed at Mount Rushmore was blocked by the hero Paragon with nothing more than his body, an act that nearly claimed his life. The J-Gun itself was attacked by the massed Starfleet America, lead by the first Terrestrial made Battle Cruiser the Pride of Tellus, as well as a band of space-worthy heroes. The gun itself was destroyed, but the base on Io was captured, and is currently in the hands of the US Military.*

Lemuria: *A spin-off aquatic society from Atlantis, Lemuria is known to exist beneath the Pacific Ocean and has substantially more contact with the surface world than its sister civilization, Atlantis. Allowing special citizens with exceptional talents, deemed, 'Watchers', these Lemurian's are tasked with integrating with surface society and reporting their experiences back to Lemuria. In the recent Nazi Dimensional War, Lemuria was instrumental in maintaining the Pacific front.*

Light Brigade: *organization of American Powers who gathered at the end of 1941 to fight for the United States in World War II. The Light Brigade disbanded after the war was over. (see PTB)*

Moon Base Europe: *a recent research facility constructed by the European Union on the moon. Moon Base Europe is located in the ruins of the Iron Reich moon base destroyed in late 2003; its staff studies not only the German facility but also explores other lunar relics, such as that left behind by Artemisia.*

Mu: *This strange continent seemingly rose from the waves of the Pacific Ocean on June 5, 2004. A tidal wave of immense proportions was the result, and only by the actions of various Powers was ruin averted. This continent holds a great deal of strange artifacts of ancient origin, both Agarthan and Thulian. Some scholars theorize that the ancient war that was hinted at in various glyphs and symbols of both races took place on Mu, though as yet, little has yet been verified. A series of strange 'temporal quakes' have been striking the continent, bringing worry to the world's community at large.*

Mystery Men: *name for the adventurers, vigilantes, and scientists who were active from the 1920s up to the beginning of World War II. By most standards the Mystery Men would be termed Powers today, even though most of them had no superhuman abilities. (see PTB)*

Phenomenal Family: *The Phenomenal Family is the name Doctor Joseph Finnom (Doctor Phenomenon) used for his three-generation old family of powers, after an accident called the "Alpha Phenomena" transformed himself, his wife, his best friend, and his sister into Powers. Over two dozen active Powers across the globe can trace their roots back to Doctor Phenomenon's great grandfather, with common theories for the families exceptional rate of Power mutation (since the Alpha Phenomenon, 100% of Finnom's related to the initial four have been born with*

Powers) resulting from the Fynn Great Grandfather's finding of an unknown, extraterrestrial 'asteroid' from which experiments on were the cause for the Alpha Phenomena. The original members of the Phenomenal Family reached their height of popularity in the late eighties and early nineties, but were taken by the Event.

Platinum Age: *The Platinum Age is the common term for the age of Heroes starting from the day of The Event and carrying through to the present day.*

Pound: *the Gibbons Power Containment Compound, one of three federal prisons in the United States specializing in Power containment. The Pound has a world-renown medical research facility and a scientific center devoted to Power science. The Pound is located in the middle of Lake Michigan on a volcanic island raised by Lord Magma.*

Preternatural: *A 'Preternatural' is a slang term commonly used to describe a Powered individual who derives their abilities from actual powers, rather than highly developed talents.*

Prime: *a category of humanity descended from Prince Primeval. Primeval was over 100,000 years old at the time of his execution in 2003 and over the course of his life became the ancestor to roughly one-sixth of all humanity. Descendants of Primeval are slightly more likely to demonstrate powers than other humans and are always immune to the "Power Primeval", a superhuman level of influence over the rest of humanity. (see PTB)*

Prime Nation: *Prime Nation is a dictatorial oligarchy ruled by Primeval's descendants. The current leader is a man named Minister Primav who oversees the Council of Elected Leaders, though it's well-known (though unproven) that he's simply Primeval's puppet. The nation is fairly standard for an African nation, being about the size of Nigeria and rests in the center of the Sahara, having been terraformed by advanced supertechnology. It has a strong standing military that has been recently augmented by the technology of the Dimensional Nazi Invaders. The population is approximately ten million, and it has a very good mean wealth compared to much of the rest of Africa-- thanks to the Primeval support, donations, and the bringing in of industry.*

Protocols of Eden: a document forged in 1908 and purported to be the secret agenda by which all Powers around the world were conspiring to rule the Earth. According to the Protocols, the conflicts between Power heroes and criminals were a smokescreen intended to conceal the Powered takeover of governments, industry, media and finance. The Protocols fueled bigotry against Powers and are still influential today. (see PTB)

Red Death: a fourteenth century plague which targeted Powers. The Red Death was especially virulent and could be carried by non-Powers; some victims perished within half an hour of exposure. (see PTB)

Revelation Riders: an alliance of seven Powers in the American West. The Revelation Riders met for the last time in 1880. (see PTB)

Rosicrucians: a secret society which supports Power activity and Protestant movements while opposing the Catholic Church. The Society of the Rosy Cross was founded in Germany in the 17th century and was considered a dangerous conspiratorial group by the governments of Europe; in recent centuries it has turned to mysticism. (see PTB)

Ryker's Island: one of three federal prisons specializing in Power containment. Ryker's is located off the coast of New York and is infamous for its overcrowded conditions.

Saint Germaine: the so-called "Wonder Man," a Power of the 18th century. The Comte Saint Germaine was a mysterious individual who could transform elements by touch, was possessed of an extended lifespan, and hinted at other abilities, some of which may have been forged. (see PTB)

Sanctified Church of Ascendant Metaphysics: a Protestant movement which originated in the days after the Event and is based in Crucible City. The church promotes the belief that Powers are divine beings and the individuals who vanished in the Event were taken to Heaven as a reward for their work on Earth.

Saturn V: a family of pre-Event Powers based in Titan City. The King family gained their powers in a freak space accident, then began a long career of exploration, scientific research, and adventure. John, Mary, Elias and Cleo King all vanished in the event, as did Cleo's husband Duane Dempsey.

Second Sight: a bizarre string of ghostly sightings across Europe in the 1600s. People reported seeing famous individuals of the past, many of them Powers, appear before them with confused warnings. More second sightings occurred around the world in later centuries. (see PTB)

Shaini: a radical Islamic sect founded by Amin, a Power who was a candidate for leadership of Islam after the death of Mohammed. Amin retreated to the desert and spread his triple helix through his large family. The Shaini are unpopular among other Muslim groups; they are known for their strict, conservative interpretation of doctrine and the high frequency of Powers among their number. The Shaini built the mountain fastness of Alamut during the Crusades, when they were considered to be assassins. Today, they have affiliations with numerous terrorist groups. (see PTB)

Shambala: Sometimes called Shangri-La, the monks in this hidden Tibetan valley are represented in the outside world by a Mr. Ram, who seeks out heroes to train; the best known student of Shambala was the original Secret, a hero whose career spanned more than eighty years. It's believed that in the valley of Shambala, time passes differently... Children age normally, but cease to do so when they reach adulthood. Which may explain the Secret's long career, and why Mr. Ram always looks the same.

Silver Age: the era of Powered activity that began after the collapse of the HUAAC and lasted until the Event.

Southern Cross: an alliance of Powers who fought for the Confederacy in the American Civil War. They were opposed by the North's 1st Special Brigade. The Southern Cross was led by Ellis Harmon, Captain Confederacy, who outlived all the other members, served in Congress for thirty years, and eventually vanished in the Event. (see PTB)

Subterrans: a race of sentient beings who live beneath the surface of the Earth. Subterrans may be a mutant offshoot of humanity, like the people of Artemesia. They are adapted to life underground and are organized into a primitive, tribal, society.

Supremi: *an organization of Powers in Imperial Rome, answering to Caesar. The Supremi were a military unit who fought across the Empire; their activities are depicted on the Diometian Column and they were led by Centurion Roma. (see PTB)*

Taken: *the Powers who vanished in the Event; also used as a verb to refer to the disappearance itself. Example: Power Man, the Secret and Justice Girl were all Taken; they are among the Taken.*

Thulian Language: *The Thulian language is the language of Ultima Thule, one of the first great civilizations of Earth. There's very little known about this civilization, only scattered artifacts and a few broken temples scattered about the Earth. Oddly, the Thulian language has not been translated as yet: something about the language makes even those Powers with the ability to translate entirely unknown languages unable to decipher the language. As no correlation between the language and other languages existed, the language remains untranslated. However, thanks to a discovery by Roger Kane on the continent of Mu, it's suspected that the language will eventually be discovered, thanks to an orichalcum tome that provides a baseline of comparison.*

Triplicate DNA: *the triple helix genetic code unique to human Powers. Not all Powers have a triple helix, but all humans with the triple helix are Powers. In most cases, an individual with ordinary DNA suffers an emotional, radiological, or other accident which prompts mutation in their DNA, which begins to change into a triple helix. As the triple helix spreads through the subject's body, that individual's powers increase. (see PTB)*

Tyrannical Ten: *One of the largest and most dangerous organization of Powers assembled in the 20th century. The Tyrannical Ten were led by Count Urizen and included many members of the Hateful Eight. It was active through the 1990s.*