

## SPY GAMES CHTA VIST



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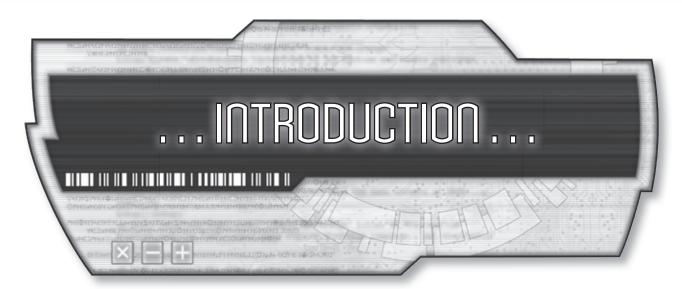
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Before there were shadowrunners, there were spies. They did a lot of the same stuff we do—they snuck into corporations to find crucial paydata (though they generally didn't call it that), they got people out of places they didn't want to be in, and sometimes they put a bullet in the brain of someone that someone else really wanted dead.

The world has changed a lot, but spies are still out there, doing their thing, and a lot of us are doing those things too, or things that are pretty similar. Wherever there is information that one group wants and another has, wherever there are political groups looking to gain advantage on each other without having to open fire, and wherever there are people who will tell you what you want to know if you just know how to talk—or squeeze—it out of them, there will be want for us.

That's why there is so much work in Denver right. The Treaty City, with its divided political nature, has

always contained a thriving espionage industry. The dragon at the top might not like the spy game much, but he can't stop it, even as powerful as he is. And there are times, of course, that he even plays along, which helps keep things interesting.

Several factors are making the spy situation in Denver hotter than ever. The Az-Am War is not exactly next door, but since it affects Aztlan, the CAS, and other nations, its effects are being felt on the Denver streets. More important than that, though, is the ongoing renegotiation of the Treaty of Denver. The various parties involved can give you a whole bunch of reasons and excuses why they're pushing the renegotiation now, but it all boils down to one thing: opportunity. They've spent years knowing that whatever power they had, they held at the mercy of Ghostwalker, and they had to be grateful he gave anything to them at all. But something

has changed recently, even though most people would be hard-pressed to say what it is. There is a perception that Ghostwalker is weaker than he used to be, that something has distracted him or sucked up his energy. No one can say what it is that has affected him, or even if the perception of his weakers is real, but it's there, and the sector governments or moving on it. They think they can wrestle a little cook power out of the dragon, so they're going for it as quickly and aggressively as they can.

This means there's espionage work for those clever and solved enough to take it. To give you a boost, a fine collection of your fellow JackPointers have compiled information on what you need to know. First, we have some information on Denver itself—how to get around it, where to go, and who to look out for in corporate circles, politics, and crime (since espionage is, broadly speaking, where these circles overlap). Then, because Denver is not the only espionage hotspot in the world, there are briefings on some other cities, including the corporate battleground of Kansai, the European viper's nest of Brussels, and the border city of Austin.

Following that I've had some of our experts put together briefings on the finer points of intelligence gathering, counterintelligence, and the growing field of extraplanar intelligence. Then, to top it all off, there's a rundown of some of the latest gear that can help a spy do their work, because what spy doesn't like their toys?

With the help of this information, you'll have most of what you need to know to get to Denver and plunge into the action there. The guts and the guns, though, you'll have to acquire for yourself.

–FastJack

