



From the moment First Knight Vax Spiro took over leadership in 2252, he has sought to expand and protect the Templar nation. His views of the best way to do this have often raised the ire of his fellow galactic leaders, as he has sought to bring more and more power to the Templars. Often he has espoused his beliefs that to protect its citizens, a state must be strong enough to give any enemies pause before even contemplating a strike. The biggest weakness in his eyes was the relatively small number of worlds that had sworn fealty to the Templars. Expanding their territory became Spiro's first order of business.

Unfortunately for him, his first efforts produced less than stellar results, and are widely regarded as the actions which started the first Galaxy War. Since that war ended in 2263, Spiro has been left with a bitter taste in his mouth. He knows very well that had the Rach and Terrans not joined the fray, the Templar nation would have been crushed. It was proof of what Vax had said from the beginning, that the Templar nation was not strong enough to survive on its own, and he began a new, aggressive program to strengthen the nation from the inside-out. In the decade following that embarrassing war, Spiro has become as good of a statesman as he is a warrior. For a time, the Templars returned to their roles as protectors, hoping to regain some of the benevolent image which the Galaxy War had tarnished. Using this image and his powers of statesmanship, he drew dozens of small independent worlds into the fold, offering protection beneath the shield of the Templars while asking little in return except a minuscule tithe to be used to support a local Templar military base. Using the Templars' economic power he has built a military that is now the envy of the galaxy. It was he who saw the incredible opportunity made available during the UCOR War and engineered the Templar acquisition of Hughes-Marietta and the legitimization of Viper.

The reason the Templars stepped in to stop the UCOR War was two-fold. First, it was an overt signal to all independent worlds that the Templars would indeed protect those who had sworn their allegiance to the Templar nation. Second, the acquisition of the Di and Vesta jump fans added a wealth of resources to the nation. The Templars were now an economic juggernaut, and the other nations of the galaxy began to take notice. One by one they moved against the Templars. First the Malvernians, then the Rach and finally the AEC. The Templars have turned back the tide, not only proving Vax's predictions that the galaxy would seek to destroy their nation, but has validated his methods.

Though there is still resistance within the Templars to Vax's expansionistic ideals, this latest series of developments make it hard to resist him. An overwhelming majority of the Knights are behind Vax's methods, as are the commoners. Some may think Spiro is a megalomaniac, an egocentric madman who has started not one, but two galactic wars. Say what you want, but he has made the Templars strong and his Knights and his nation are behind him.

Why we fight:

Terra:

The Terrans in their fear of all things not of Terran origin, have declared us a threat. This makes them an enemy of the Templar nation, and we will not allow them to imagine they can take what we have built. We will put some more space between us and them, and we will strike hard. Maybe this will make them think twice before imagining they can defeat us. They've brought this on themselves.

Ritterlich:

The Ritterlich have long looked down upon our Order, calling us no more than a rogue AEC colony at times. Though they love to fire their verbal barbs, they have not made any overt move against us. Still, how can there possibly be productive relations when one party refuses to acknowledge the other's equality. For now we will sit back and watch, but we will be wary, and we will be ready.

Adonese:

It is Adon's jealousy of the Templars' success which has lead them to oppose us at every turn. From their denunciation of our rights to govern ourselves, to their blatant attempt to seize some of our recently acquired Hughes-Marietta assets, it is obvious that they covet everything we have built for ourselves. They will find that treachery and an air of superiority alone will not be enough to defeat a Templar.

Rach:

The Rach are a constant threat, and a cunning one at that. Even when there is no open declaration of war, we always keep an eye on them. They can be as sneaky as they can be brutish and vicious. This combination makes them a dangerous enemy, one to be respected rather than feared. You can not simply stand toe-to-toe with the Rach, you must out-think them. Sometimes this means taking the fight to them, something only done by the very foolish or the very brave.

Malvernians:

The Malvernians pose a serious threat to not just our nation, but to the entire galaxy. Their theocratic dictatorship is so oppressive that it seeks to control not just how its citizens worship, but the very nature of their society. When a government becomes so meddlesome that it controls conception, birth and rearing of all of a nation's young, it has taken control of its people to a point where their very destiny is at the mercy of the will of the State. The Grand Inquisitor and his Onyx Brotherhood hold their thumb over their people like no other tyrants in history. Someone must stop this before more worlds are brought under the heel of their twisted Inquisition.

