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From the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries, New York was the official port of entry for millions of immigrants. Newcomers arriving between 1855 and 1890 landed at Castle Garden in Lower Manhattan, near what is now Battery Park. As the numbers swelled, the federal government was forced to find a larger facility, and Ellis Island in New York Bay seemed the logical choice. This little scrap of land southwest of the tip of Lower Manhattan was first used as a dumpsite for ships’ ballast and later as a fort. Named after its owner Samuel Ellis, the 27.5-acre island was transformed into a processing station.

Waves of immigrants swept onto the shores of Ellis Island from every country imaginable. German, Irish, Scandinavian, and central European families clutched sacks filled with personal items. Frightened Italians, Poles, Czechs, and Russians, anxious and weary from their arduous passage, waited for entrance into the United States.

The red brick buildings were cramped and drafty, containing scowling immigration inspectors standing between a fresh start and heartbreaking deportation. Many of those permitted to stay began new lives not far from where they disembarked. It was these immigrants, mostly skilled laborers and those willing to work cheaply, who built the city’s bridges, tunnels, roads, and elevated transportation systems – infrastructure that helped New York City make the leap from city to metropolis.

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Increasing interdependence of the five boroughs roused city leaders to discuss merging. Brooklyn was the final holdout, but eventually it consolidated with Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island to form Greater New York on Jan. 1, 1898.

This proverbial melting pot fostered a strong sense of ethnic pride within neighborhoods, and each newcomers’ craftsmanship lent a striking beauty to the city’s streetscape. Embellishments on many of New York’s older buildings stand as a testament to painstaking Old World artistry.

Why the Big Apple?

Morning Telegraph reporter John J. Fitzgerald first made common use of the term during the 1920s in reference to the city’s racetracks. He apparently first heard it used by African-American stable hands in New Orleans in 1921. The term was popularized among African-American jazz musicians in the 1930s, who regarded New York, and particularly Harlem, as the capital city of jazz. Forty-one years later, its modern use would derive largely from a publicity campaign developed in 1971 by the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau.
Craning one’s neck amongst the skyscrapers of Manhattan, it’s easy to forget that islands make up most of New York City’s land mass. Manhattan and Staten Island stand alone; Queens and Brooklyn comprise the western end of Long Island. Only the Bronx is connected to the continental mainland. The water gap between Brooklyn and Staten Island – the “narrow” through which the first Europeans entered the area – serves as the entrance to New York Harbor, which is also accessible to ships from the north via Long Island Sound. Manhattan is bordered on the west by the Hudson River and on the east by the East River, both technically estuaries subject to tidal fluctuations.

New York’s five boroughs are detailed in this section. Each includes historical and contemporary information (in regards to 1943, that is) followed by information regarding the borough president, the breadth of corruption (where applicable), and the extent of the Syndicate’s corrupting influence. At the end of each borough section, location write-ups are provided for GMs who can use them to flesh out a campaign by serving as a PC “base of operations” or as the catalyst for adventures in The Big Apple.

The Bronx

The Bronx is the only mainland borough of New York City. Composed of 24 percent parklands, it is home to Pelham Bay Park, the largest park in New York City, and The Bronx Zoo, one of the largest zoos in the world. It is traversed by a thoroughfare designed after the Champs Elysées of Paris, which climbs from almost sea level up to the highest elevation in the city of New York. The Bronx is one of only two boroughs that shares its name with the county it resides in (the other is Queens).

The last decade of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century were the formative years for many great landmarks that draw hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Bronx every year: The Bronx Zoo, New York University, and, of course, Yankee Stadium.

Between 1900 and 1930, the number of Bronx residents increased from 201,000 to 1,265,000, noting the borough as one the city’s fastest growing regions. Along with this population growth, grocery stores, restaurants, vegetable and fruit markets, tailors, and hardware stores have become common characteristics of neighborhood shopping districts. Inhabitants throughout the borough also shop in department stores and boutiques at 149th Street and 3rd Avenue, an area known as The Hub, which also features movie palaces and vaudeville theaters.

The onset of the Depression ended the period of tremendous growth for the Bronx that had begun at the end of the 19th century, although privately financed apartment buildings continued new construction, mostly in the art deco style. This was especially true of the area of the Grand Concourse, which became a symbol of social and economic success and had many apartment buildings of five or six stories with wide entrance courtyards bordered with grass and shrubs. About 49 percent of the inhabitants of The Bronx in 1930 were Jews, most of whom worked in Manhattan. By 1934 the housing in the bor-
Under the old regime of New York’s former Mayor Michael O’Brill, corruption festered in the city’s halls of government. When Arthur Alexander Lopresti was elected in 1936, things began to change, albeit slowly. Under Lopresti’s administration the city received a facelift, with massive slum-clearance projects and ambitious building programs for schools, bridges, playgrounds, and parks. He also improved the efficiency of the municipal government, fighting corruption at all levels, and obtained a new city charter in 1938.

Still, despite all of the Mayor’s improvements to the city’s infrastructure and government, New York remains a politically charged city, a hotbed of activity and controversy. The information presented in this chapter outlines the city’s main political body, the City Council, as well as its law enforcement arm, the New York Police and affiliated departments and units.

City Council

The New York City Council (not to be confused with the Syndicate’s City Commission) is the legislative branch of the city’s government and chief law-making body. It is currently comprised of 50 members who are elected from 51 council districts found throughout the city’s boroughs. Members of the City Council have an equal part in governing New York City.

After a number of changes through the years, the present City Council of 1943 was born just five years earlier under a new charter that established the council as the sole legislative body, while the Board of Estimate was named the chief administrative body. Certain functions of the Council, however, still remain subject to the approval of the Board.

The secondary function of the City Council is to monitor the operation and performance of city agencies. In addition, it has sole responsibility for analyzing and approving the city’s budget, spending priorities, and decision-making powers over major land use issues.

Members of the City Council are elected to serve two-year terms (the Mayor serves four and there is no limit as to the number of times he can serve in office). A Council President presides over the City Council but can only vote on legislative issues in the case of a tie. Like the Mayor, the Council President serves a four-year term. Lastly, a Council Speaker is elected. The Council Speaker is elected by the Council members and is primarily responsible for obtaining a consensus on major issues. The current Council President is Charles Rivera and the Speaker is Joseph Albert.
The motto of the NYPD is "Faithful Unto Death" and first appeared on the Flag of Honor that was presented to the NYPD by citizens of New York City in 1872. It was given to the NYPD for its role in preserving peace during Civil War draft riots in 1863 and again in 1871 when the Orange Riot occurred, a conflict fueled by religious and political differences among the city's Catholics and Protestants.

In 1901, a single Police Commissioner was appointed, replacing a four-Commissioner board who supervised department operations. Police Commissioner Allan Richard is the current Commissioner of New York City.

Listed below are outlines of the various entities that comprise the New York City Police Department. They include the Patrol Service Bureau, the Detective Bureau, the Organized Crime Bureau, and the Housing and Transit Authorities.

**Patrol Service Bureau**

This bureau is comprised of seven Patrol Boroughs that patrol and enforce the law in New York City’s 68 precincts. An Assistant Chief, who reports directly to Walter Ellis, the current Chief of Police in 1943, commands each Patrol Borough.

**Detective Bureau**

With nearly 1,500 investigators working in precinct detective squads or specialized units, New York City’s detectives in 1943 must rely on traditional investigative savvy – leg work, meticulous collection of physical evidence, and interrogation skills.

**History**

Two decades after the NYPD was officially established, more than 20 uniformed police officers were designated detectives and assigned to a separate unit within the larger metropolitan police force. They were divided into squads, each squad charged with the investigation of specific crimes.

Detectives used to regularly scour large crowds for known pickpockets, whom they were instructed to arrest on sight. Members of the public were encouraged to tour the notorious “Rogues Gallery,” a photographic smorgasbord of the era’s criminals and forerunner to today’s mug shots.

In 1882, the state Legislature formally created the Detective Bureau and appointed Thomas Byrnes, the first Chief of Detectives. An Irish immigrant who rose through the ranks and masterfully lobbied lawmakers to create the Bureau, Byrnes was celebrated as a savvy police commander. He was extremely
The Premise

Margaret Starr once lived the good life as wife of world-renowned newspaper publisher Harrison Starr. Living at the top of New York's socialite food chain, she had everything most upper-class women could ever want: fame, fortune, and a loving husband. All of that changed, however, with the death of Harrison. He left millions for the rest of his family, but his son, Michael (a.k.a. Mickey), began to spiral into degradation.

Quickly acquiring a gambling addiction, Mickey squandered the family fortune through countless poker games and horse races. In an effort to save what was left of his family, but his son, Michael (a.k.a. Mickey), began to spiral into degradation.

Where Shadows Fall is a full-length scenario for 1-4 player characters of beginning level. It is a classic film noir tale of greed, murder, and corruption, as the PCs are pitted against a dangerous femme fatale, a crooked cop, a dispirited matron, and her immoral son. As always, GMs are advised to read the entire scenario before play.

Getting the PCs involved

Where Shadows Fall was designed with a number of different character archetypes in mind. The most obvious choice is for one or more private investigators, while other players can fill the role of "support personnel," such as Girl Fridays, PI associates, or hired muscle.

Putting archetypes aside, GMs can also consider the characters' backgrounds: are they motivated by money? Though Pamela doesn't have access to millions, she apparently has some cash - and there's more to come, once she inherits her father's estate. Do the characters need a favor? Perhaps Pamela promises to...