

A Day of Defiance
by the Users:
The July 15 Uprising
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An Empires League work



I. The Origins of July 15, 2010

Since the conquest of power by the Deeist clique in the years 2006 and 2007, proceeding first through domination over the Blackhole and extending to domination over the entire community, the Empires Mod has faced a continuously degrading and degenerating situation. Under the incompetent, anti-user and anti-mod direction of Deeism, fundamental understandings of development, moderation, quality, etc. have been summarily discarded in favor of obscurantism, cronyism, politics and unchecked sociopathy. In the last months of 2009 the Deeists were divided over the future of the mod in their hands: whether it should be split into “Cold Trap” and “Dies Iræ,” or whether it should continue to proceed as a mod united under the direction of this or that sub-clique of Deeism, specifically the Solokiller-Jcw87 or ascending Empty-Brutos sub-cliques.

The stagnation facing the entire community and the mod itself during that period was overcome through the mass-based efforts of the democratic movement of the Blackhole and the work of the progressive users movement of the whole community. Against the Deeist clique and its degenerative allies, both forces operated in close alliance with each other, inspired by the defiant words of Mrdie who refuted claims of the “death” of Empires and called for the whole userbase to rise up in mobilization for its continued development and all-around betterment. Shortly afterward the so-called “Kingdom of the Blackhole” was proclaimed by “King” Empty, as a weapon to use against the Blackholian userbase and, indirectly, against the entire userbase of the mod. As a way to satiate his ego, consolidate his hold over the community and cement his standing within the Deeist clique, this “Kingdom” sought also to build a personality cult around this troll, who admitted that “I got banned 3 times and permad like 4. Then they made a dev. lolz.”⁽¹⁾

As self-proclaimed “King,” Empty would engage in a number of anti-user activities on the forum and within the servers. In the latter he would join them and demand players bow down to “His Highness,” either textually or vocally declaring their “loyalty” to him. Those that refused were banned or harassed. In the former Brutos declared that “questioning is not allowed” in relation to the “King” and his illegitimate “Kingdom,”⁽²⁾ a declaration which would lead to 30+ bannings as certain figures so much as poked fun at his egomania and experienced the consequences of this “heretical” act. It was this absurd and fanatical fear of

(1) “Old Empires,” post #4. “They” meaning mainly Brutos, who “rehabilitated” the “King” in August 2009 and formed an alliance with him within the Deeist apparatus, an alliance which would become before long the Empty-Brutos sub-clique of Deeism.

(2) “My thoughts why people rage about the new devs,” post #34.

criticism which led the “King” into contradictions not only with the progressive and democratic-progressive users such as Spawwn and SupRore, but even with fellow Deeists such as Cpatton, pickled_heretic and Lawliet, etc. and so-called “independents” such as John Shandy and Headshotmaster. Even his relations with his “courtiers” such as “Viscount” Grantrithor would be damaged over this or that spat, although in the end they would all be united against the users and against the interests of the mod.

The personal portrait of “King” Empty is not a pretty one. Originating from Facepunch like his “theorist” lackey Chris0132 and like many other Deeists allied with him, he was known “for being a really really really bad troll” who “cried after every ban” and who was described by another Deeist as a “whiny little bitch.”⁽³⁾ An admirer and defender of furies, the “King” manifested various delusional tendencies, such as once claiming that he was related to an Australian lawyer and was therefore in good standing to “sue” anyone involved in the work of the progressive and democratic-progressive users. His inability to tolerate criticism, his insecurities about his abilities such as his “development” work which saw the crashing of a great many computers through his “talent,” and his wish to be recognized as a trolling “master”⁽⁴⁾ all add up, among many other things, to someone unfit to be a moderator, much less one who must be artificially praised as he is by sycophants.

His unlikable personality and repressive activities were aggravated by something else: the objective material conditions in which he was operating. Many users could see the degeneration of the community and “King” Empty’s lack of skill in combining his repressions with efforts to “fix” this degeneration. In fact he could not do this, for he was at the head of an assortment of trolls who he protected and continues to protect to the best of his abilities. The stagnation of the community from the angle of contributing to the mod and the quality of its discourse, the unceasing decay of the standards of the Blackhole,⁽⁵⁾ the naked and unending repressions initiated by the “King” and his cronies, and the fact that favorable conditions existed for the progressive and democratic-progressive users to go on the offensive were combined to constitute the origins of July 15, 2010.

The democratic movement of the Blackhole, which began in February 2006 as a mass-based movement of the Blackholian userbase for a democratic, progressive and peaceful Blackhole, had been taken over by a pseudo-democratic faction

(3) “Old Empires,” posts #7-8, 10. The quotes are by Kylegar, Solokiller and dizzyone, respectively.

(4) He once described himself as an “artist” of trolling. (“Forum Trolls- Black Hole Knights,” post #2.)

(5) In August 2010 “King” Empty “fixed” this, however, by initiating the occupation of the Blackhole forum area together with Brutos and Kylegar.

known as the Constitutionals in the course of that year, who served as agents of Deeism and as a great hurdle for any efforts at lasting progress made by the participants in this movement. It was not until July 2009 that these renegades were defeated from within and in January 2010 the Blackhole Front was established as the main organization for the education and mobilization of the Blackholian userbase and led by Mrdie. The Blackholians constitute one of the two halves of the Empires Mod community, and have played an outstanding role in this community's steady progress in the 2003-2006 period, i.e. before the triumph of Deeism and its attacks upon the high standards of the Backholians.

The progressive users of the mod began to increase their ties with the democratic movement following July 2009, and by July 2010 were represented by three organizations: the Union of Users Against Abuse, the Empires Clan Organization, and the Empires Betterment Organization. These would later go on to unite as the refounded Empires League in December that year. Of these three organizations the most successful was that of the UUAA led by Deathstorm which worked closely with the democratic-progressive users of the Blackhole and their Front. One member of the UUAA said in joint meeting between it and the Front in April that year that "we are all united when it comes to rejecting an abusive policy or set of policies conducted against the wishes of the users. We are not members of the democratic movement, but we still feel for your concerns and I hope we can both work together on a more sound basis to resist aggression and to promote peace, cooperation and reconciliation across the whole forum."⁽⁶⁾

The two main organizations at work during July 15, 2010 were therefore the Blackhole Front and the Union of Users Against Abuse, which sought to provide leadership to the great outbursts of that day and to raise the consciousness of its many participants. Confronting them were internal and external problems: a lack of firmness in scientific-materialist analysis and outlook which was particularly evident in the UUAA, general Deeist repression and efforts to sow distrust between "wrong" but supposedly "misguided" users and the "evil" democratic movement and allied progressive users, etc.

The character of July 15, 2010 was conditioned by the material conditions at work. The Anti-Demagoguery Campaign of January and the June Offensive built up the conditions for it to break out how it did and be carried on the way it was. It laid the basis for the August Uprising and subsequently the November-December Rising, which was the culmination of all the outbursts against "King" Empty and signaled

(6) *The Blackholian State News Network*. 2010. p. 56.

an end to his most active efforts, though he has never given up his illegitimate claims and pretenses, to implement a “Kingdom of the Blackhole.” From that point on the Deeists relied ever more strongly on the bantustan policies which they continue as of this writing, with the “King” remaining in the background still dreaming delusions of grandeur, waiting for more favorable terrain.

The conditions at work on July 15, 2010 ensured that despite the objective fact of the Deeist clique’s existence and necessity to combat it, this day would be one of open denouncement of “King” Empty and all the stagnation and repression that the great mass of users identified with his domineering presence over the forum at that time. Unlike the November-December Rising later that year, July 15, 2010 did not have the potential to develop into a broad revolt against the Deeist clique itself. For this reasons its aims were basic: to have the users understand their potential, to direct them to the path of genuine and lasting progress, and to educate them as to the nature of the Deeist clique and “King” Empty’s concrete relations to it. The slogans and calls were for the unbanning of banned users, new methods and better standards for moderating the forum, and the removal of “King” Empty as moderator in light of his utter incompetence and disregard for the community.

The progressive content of these calls were that the Deeists could only be compelled to give them up by *force*, through a mass-based methodology. Correctly grasping this fact, the democratic movement and the allied progressive users marched together with the great masses of the whole userbase who participated on that day. The spontaneity of July 15, 2010 did not harm but in fact engendered the progress towards a great revolt against the Deeist clique itself. “Spontaneous outbreaks become inevitable as the revolution matures. There has never been a revolution in which this has not been the case,” says Lenin, “nor can there be such a revolution.”⁽⁷⁾

July 15, 2010 saw Empirian and Blackholian users alike arise against the dictates of “King” Empty and his lackeys, but another important organization in the events of this day was the BSID Clan in the form of a number of its rank-and-file members. The Deeist clique has always been in antagonistic contradiction to the BSID Clan, even with the protection of Thor and Cpatton as its agents within the clan’s leadership. The clan’s involvement on this day demonstrated the desire of its rank-and-file majority to disobey Deeist edicts to be “just” a clan, to stay isolated from the community which birthed it and from the problems facing the mod.

(7) V.I. Lenin. *Collected Works* Vol. 29. 1974. p. 396.

Assessing the character of “King” Empty, the leaderships of the Front and the UUAA noted the consistently anti-democratic and anti-user activities he was pursuing, the deepening of these characteristics of his “reign” as a moderator, and his irreconcilable opposition to any rectification or admission of mistakes on his part. On June 6th Mrdie sent a letter to “King” Empty in which he noted the sham pretenses of the “Kingdom’s” claims to “represent” the Blackholians and concluded that “the aggressive activities you and your cohorts utilize against our democratic movement are noted; they are kept track of, and they are studied and showcased for all to see. This aggression against our defensive movement is intolerable for *us*, because every unprincipled blow; every underhanded attack—these are conducted by degenerates who do not care for the mod or its community, and who should never claim to represent *any* user of the Blackhole.”⁽⁸⁾ The democratic movement mobilized through its Front noted the unceasing reaction and degeneration emanating from the actions and activities of “King” Empty and the fact that he would not change his course.

The UUUA came to similar conclusions in the course of its experiences in dealing with banned users and others on the receiving end of “King” Empty’s repressive policies. On June 29th the Union’s Central Committee concluded that “Empty, as a Supermoderator, is becoming increasingly irresponsible in conducting his activities, not only placing emotion above reason, but also forgetting the rules of the forum.”⁽⁹⁾ On July 2nd it released another statement declaring that, “Time and time again our Union, along with the democratic movement which is relevant in this case, has called for calm and for cooperation in bettering the community and ensuring a good forum atmosphere, and time and time again Empty has taken the opportunity to stonewall all discussions, block sympathizers of progress, and harass users who do not fall into the Empty-Blizzerd sphere of interests. These repeated actions leave us with little option than to proclaim our view that Empty should be removed as a moderator, for the good of the forum and for the advancement of its userbase.”⁽¹⁰⁾

The analysis made of “King” Empty’s personality, his policies, the conditions in which he was operating in and the relationship between these subjects brought forward a clear and just conclusion that he was unfit to be a moderator and used his position not only to “defend” the forum by banning and harassing many of its users and consolidating Deeism, but also as a source for favoritism and cronyism in regards to his allies within the Empty-Brutos sub-clique.

(8) Mrdie. *Collected Works* Vol. III. 2010. p. 8.

(9) *The BSNN*, p. 111.

(10) *Ibid.* p. 115. At the time blizzerd was “King” Empty’s so-called “Prime Minister.”

The struggle that day was conducted not just on the Empires Forum but extensively on Steam, on the BSID Clan forum, and even on IRC. This multifaceted struggle demonstrates a unique characteristic of this day due to its relationship with the BSID Clan in particular, which accelerated the antagonisms between its reactionary, Deeist-backed leadership and its generally progressive and democratic-progressive rank-and-file. The clan had good reason to be opposed to “King” Empty, for he was and is an ally of Trickster, founder of the EPIC Clan and a sworn enemy of BSID. Furthermore the BSID Clan’s progressive foundations in 2006 as the mod’s oldest clan with its distinctive Brenodian stands gave further reason for the Deeists to fear its active involvement on this day and in general.

Practical experience was also gained during this day by all those involved. The various activities of the users, their creative initiative and popular works created during that day bear the dual stamps of enthusiasm and learning, becoming ever more conscious of what their real interests and true enemies were. This was spontaneous action concentrated on the “King” as the embodiment of all the stagnation, repression and degeneration occurring within the whole community. The open denunciations of “King” Empty by many users gave them the courage necessary for their participation in the August and November-December Risings, while the work of the cadres of the Front and the UUAA on that day added to their knowledge and grasp of the masses and their concrete demands.

The treatment of July 15, 2010 in the past two years has been underdeveloped. Although contemporary observers recognized it as an exceptional day, there were no studies done on it and its relationship to the other events and trends occurring that year. The great task of elucidating the whole history of the Empires Mod and the Blackhole is of momentous importance, and I have written this work to fill in an important gap for the year 2010, as the first effort to examine it and detail what happened on that day. Archival sources and oral history constitute the two main forms of presenting information in this work without neglecting the great importance of published contemporary writings.

In light of the lack of a name for July 15, 2010 I believe it is necessary to give it one, a name which I am convinced will persuade others reading this work that it duly deserves it: the July 15 Uprising.

II. The Start of the Uprising

The month of July began with importance for both the Blackhole Front and the Union of Users Against Abuse. As Chairman of the Front, Mrdie discussed its tasks for that month, noting that June “saw significant improvements in the tasks of the Blackhole Front, of the formation of and the adherence to the Five Remembers, of the realization of the necessity of mass-based and direct action for the victory of democracy and progress in the Blackhole, and of the resolute defense of the State of the Blackhole through its advancement.”⁽¹⁾ He noted the growth of demagoguery on the part of the Deeist clique, of the continuation of their repressive measures and the intensification of them. He noted that “members of the Front should not forget that they represent determined and principled cadre, respectful of democratic-centralism and of avoiding excesses in their work. They must win over the users, not inundate them. They must speak as users; must work amongst the userbase, and must educate yet learn from the userbase. They must serve as exemplary users; as users devoted to the bettering of the Blackhole.”⁽²⁾

The introduction of the line of the masses in the work of the Front in June, despite certain distortions and exaggerated manifestations which dogged its implementation within the Front throughout the latter’s existence, played a vital role in its work during the July 15 Uprising. To go amongst the masses, to learn from them and to serve them, was demonstrated to a notable extent during the uprising and was one of the reasons the cadres of the Front gained practical experience from it. The cadres of the UUAA did not learn this line and this played a negative role in displaying their influence during the uprising.

The First Congress of the UUAA was held on July 1st with a report delivered by Deathstorm. Mrdie visited and spoke at the Congress and noted that the organization “still has many tasks ahead; in battle with the reactionaries, the Deeists, the miscellaneous reactionists and their sympathizers, etc. In these tasks the UUAA relies upon raising the consciousness of the masses and educating the users to fight for justice across the forum.”⁽³⁾ The resolution of the Congress inspired the progressive Empirian users by, amongst other things, calling for the intensification of the struggle against “King” Empty and criticizing the way in which he became a moderator through becoming a “developer.”⁽⁴⁾

(1) Mrdie. *Collected Works* Vol. III. 2010. p. 24.

(2) *Ibid.*

(3) *Ibid.* p. 23.

(4) “Resolution on the Tasks of the Users,” July 1, 2010. At the time the Deeist clique found advantage in automatically making “developers” moderators.

The consciousness-raising tasks of the Front and the UUAA and their collaboration were assisted through the 23rd of January Organization, a mass organization within the Front established on June 22nd and whose name commemorated the start of the Anti-Demagoguery Campaign of January that year. Its Central Committee led by Aly, Duccas and InSight issued a resolution on July 3rd which included the echoing of increasingly popular calls for a clearer distinction between the positions of moderators and self-described “developers” and for the latter to not be automatically conflated with the former.⁽⁵⁾

Both resolutions were inspired by the words of Mrdie on the subject in November 2009 and earlier when he warned that the autonomy of the Blackhole would be hampered by these figures whose role as “developers” was a camouflage for their unjustifiable position as moderators.⁽⁶⁾ They helped make clearer to the users basic but effective demands which struck at an important aspect of the Deeist clique’s system of internal advancement and cronyism, one which was fully in line with the rise of “King” Empty as a moderator pulled out of permanently banned status.

In the ensuing days the users and their organizations became more active in discussing the situation of the mod and its whole community and what was to be done. The unjust bannings of users, the enjoyment “King” Empty was extracting out of his sociopathic acts, the flaunting of his “majesty” and the degrading of the standards of the forum despite his so-called “forum-defending” measures had continued to increase the discontent even of “independent” reactionaries such as Deiform who complained that the “King” was undermining himself and his aims.

On July 14th Mrdie noted such facts in a speech to the Front: “Recently we have begun seeing things such as Kylegar telling ‘King’ Empty to ‘cool down’ in the face of continued opposition to Empty’s despotic rule,”⁽⁷⁾ a clear sign of the “King’s” imbecility along with his emotional and impulsive way of operating.

The cadre of the Blackhole Front, the UUAA and the 23JO within the Front constituted a broad alliance of organizations which could competently oversee the July 15 Uprising, representing both the Blackholian and Empirian userbases. The involvement of many of the rank-and-file of the BSID Clan constituted a great contribution to this process and enhanced the Uprising’s representative character.

(5) “Against the Despotism of ‘King’ Empty, For a Better Administration of the Forum” July 3, 2010.

(6) “To give such high powers to the developers [as supermoderators] is... to undermine the autonomy of the Blackhole and to undercut the unity of the users through the intrigues of the true administrators of this area; the [reactionary] ‘developers.’” (Mrdie in November 2009, quoted in *The Blackholian State News Network*. 2010. p. 116.)

(7) Mrdie, *CW* Vol. III, p. 33.

Since February that year the BSID Clan had come under fire from the Deeists and all reactionaries on account of the solidarity displayed by those rank-and-file members with the Blackholian userbase and its democratic movement. A number of its members faced the prospect of being banned by “King” Empty, Brutos, or other leading Deeists. By July the demagogues of Deeism were seeking, among the backward sections of the community, to portray the discontent directed against the Deeists and especially “King” Empty to a “BSID plot” against the other clans of the mod. This, however, did not succeed in even denting the efforts of the users.

The democratic-progressive users of the Blackhole have always been the main target of attacks by the Deeist clique. Their struggle against Deeism has been ongoing since 2005 and this reason among others accounts for the exceptionally high level of consciousness they have enjoyed. The greatest fear of the Deeists is the linking up of the struggle of the users of the Blackhole with the users of the entire community. The Blackhole Front’s mass-based activities in the early months of 2010 gave it the experience and know-how that the progressive users generally lacked. To deny to these users the experience of the Blackholian userbase and its vanguard remains a continuous task for the Deeist clique to this day.

The progressive users of the whole community would enter July 15 with some direction from the UUAA and 23JO, but most importantly would receive inspiration from the forward march of the democratic-progressive users of the Blackhole armed with scientific-materialist knowledge and a genuinely mass-based methodology. Without this inspiration July 15 would not have occurred, both because it was based on prior events in which the presence of the democratic-progressive users was essential and due to the absence of other subjective and objective factors.

The Blackhole Front with Mrdie at the head explained to the users to the best of its ability the role of the Deeist clique, its profoundly anti-democratic, anti-user and anti-mod aims, and the role of “King” Empty in its affairs. It worked to arm the mass of the progressive users and their organizations with the confidence to openly oppose the “King” and his lackeys.

The rising atmosphere of opposition to the “king” was being cautiously noted on the forums by the underlings and apologists of the Deeist clique. On the 12th the Deeist lackey LordDZ claimed that the users were acting “butthurt,” to which the “independent” Deiform and Deeist agent PreDominance blamed “BSID”—a reference to the sharp increase in progressive and democratic-progressive activities

and tendencies within it since February.⁽⁸⁾ Within the BSID Clan forum the source of all the “problems” the Deeists faced was apparent: news relevant to the entire community was present, the forces of the Blackhole Front posted openly about the abuses of the “King” and other leading figures of Deeism as well as the valiant struggle of the Blackholian userbase, while pointing out the clan’s positive role to play in mass-based endeavors for the betterment of the mod and the anti-Deeist struggle congruent with such a process. “King” Empty had already made an account on the forum months earlier, and in March had given a pathetic show as “his majesty” demanded that the Front and its supporters cease their activity. On the BSID Clan forum the users had one major advantage over the Empires Forum: they could—and did—ignore him, and away he went. Still, this left a negative impression on the leadership of the clan: “Even the Deeists are not firmly united behind Empty,” Kruse noted at the time, “yet the BSID Clan leadership, though tacitly admitting his trolling, anti-contributive, and overall anti-BSID nature, refuses to do anything about it!”⁽⁹⁾

The “King” could not stand insults from the “peons” and “peasants.” He sent his racist agent MooJuice into the clan to try and influence its members but, thanks to the prescient analysis of the Front and pressure from the clan’s rank-and-file, he had no influence and was driven out on July 9th, no thanks to the Deeist-backed leadership of Thor and Cpatton. This leadership as well as other reactionaries within the clan found themselves in a position where they could not yet openly move against the overwhelming majority of the clan and for this reason the rank-and-file exercised practically free reign, with the clan’s forum being recognized as a safe haven for all unjustly banned users. Attempts to isolate the clan from the others were made, and on the 21st Kruse could even write down the spectacle of Cpatton seeking an alliance between the “BSID Clan” (in reality only its leadership) and EPIC, that appendage of the Empty-Brutos sub-clique and opponent of BSID, in an effort to dumb the senses of the progressive members of the former.⁽¹⁰⁾ Days later a so-called “Soviet Union” was proposed by the notorious troll and “pony” Axeman in which the BSID Clan’s leadership expressed interest but which, like his “Consortium” months later, came to nothing.

We can therefore see why the Deeists feared the BSID Clan’s increasing activity. We will before long also learn why, after the 15th, it was so important for them to

(8) “Butthumped much?” posts #1, 4.

(9) D. Kruse. *Reflections on the BSID Clan*. 2012. p. 7.

(10) Ibid. p. 17. By the time of the November-December Rising the animé-loving “lolicon” Cpatton was making clear his defense of the Deeist order: “Empty, we salute you for putting up with this shit.” (“2.30 particle appreciation thread,” post #68.) At the same time he declared that the users should “shut up” and engaged in demagoguery which he said “whatever you think you know about empiresmod and it’s [*sic.*] staff, administrators, mods, and other contributors is flawed if you think any one of us are acting in anything but the utmost best interest of the mod, it’s [*sic.*] author, and the community it supports.” (“Huh,” post #22.)

encourage the reactionary and Deeist-backed leadership to betray the rank-and-file as soon as possible. In September “King” Empty, *still* reeling from the humiliation of that day and never fond of the fundamentally progressive basis of the clan to begin with, would once more insult the clan, this time saying to the reactionaries within the leadership, who had spent months unable to contain the membership, and the progressive rank-and-file alike: “You’re all a bunch of fucktards.”⁽¹¹⁾

On the 14th a joint meeting of cadres of the Front and the UUAA was held, calling for the adoption of progressive demands and reiterating the July 3rd resolution of the latter organization.⁽¹²⁾ The delegation of the Front spoke on behalf of its Central Committee and addressed the question of the defeat of “King” Empty as follows: “The utmost unity of opinion and of approach to organisation is required to defeat ‘King’ Empty and his cult of personality. . . the mass of the users are far stronger than any ‘edicts’ of his, they are an army when organised correctly. . . the forum rules which he exploits for his own usage only work if the users have a logical reason to obey them when they are in hands of those who pervert them. Taking back the rules of the forum from Deeism is one of our most important tasks. . . . ‘King’ Empty is a bastard, but his status reflects the whole clique of which he comprises a part and which allows him to do what he does, allowing here for those exceptionally unpleasant attributes of his which most of them do not yet care to directly reckon with.”⁽¹³⁾

The meeting in effect gave a clear and unambiguous list of demands for the whole userbase to take up the day after. It also gave the correct orientation to the work of the Front and the UUAA on that day, allowing their cadres to keep focused on what was to be done and to effectively mobilize the users on the basis of that which they were demanding for the betterment of the mod and its entire community. The meeting therefore strengthened the whole work of the progressive and democratic-progressive users, and gave them that final push of confidence necessary to openly defy the “King” on a large scale.

In the early hours of the 15th, Mrdie and D. Kruse both gave speeches to cadres of the Front, instructing them on the importance of the line of the masses in analyzing historical matters and in approaching history in a scientific-materialist manner.

(11) “Looking Back...” post #24.

(12) *The Blackholian State News Network*. 2010. p. 123. Aly’s speech to a meeting of the UUAA on October 6, 2010 attended by cadres of the Front showed its importance: “The Union has completely agreed with separating the position of moderator from developer. This is a position shared between us for a better Empires Mod and forum community, and when we both declare it we are speaking for the entire community. . . in July and August this was a very popular slogan which we repeated various times and the Front turned it into an effective weapon in those two months against the monopolization of both positions by the Deeists. The July 14th meeting made it particularly clear to everyone that we fought for a better mod and community all-around, and not just the defeat of Deeism as a panacea.”

(13) “Speech [by the Delegation of the Blackhole Front] to the Meeting of the Union of Users Against Abuse on Heeding the Voice of the Users,” July 14, 2010.

Mrdie also added that, “The main thing to remember is that history is most often built by the masses, who represent a mass-based force; yet they do not always go into battle in a conscious manner, and in the past were often led by a particular grouping which had the masses carry out actions beneficial only to that certain grouping or clique.”⁽¹⁴⁾ He aspired for an end to the practice of subservience of the users to those whose interests diverged from them. During the August Rising and the November-December Rising his words would become very important indeed against self-proclaimed “leaders” and “saviors” functioning as agents of Deeism within the ranks of the users, who focused entirely on personalities in order to take pressure away from the Deeist clique as a whole and its control over the Empires Forum Administration and the mod itself. To quote Lenin: “the ‘friends of the people’ will outdo all liberals. They not only plead with the government, they not only eulogise it, they positively pray to it, pray with such obeisance, with such zeal that a stranger cannot help feeling eerie at the sound of their loyal foreheads cracking on the flagstones.”⁽¹⁵⁾

Such mass-based methodology as that displayed by the Front with Mrdie at the head showed that the users must become conscious of their own abilities and not want “saviors” who look down upon them and betray them for the continued maintenance of the Deeist clique. Such a stand as this, reiterated at that meeting, allowed the Front to appreciate the spontaneity of the July 15 Uprising, its occurrence as a burst of emotion from the users which had progressive content and which enjoyed a sense of leadership through the joint efforts of the Front and the UUAA. The spontaneous nature of the Uprising precluded attempts by the agents of Deeism such as John Shandy and Cpatton to take advantage of it and steer it towards their own ends and the ends of the whole Deeist apparatus.

The progressive users, imbued with a sense of what was to be done, confident of the support of the rank-and-file of the BSID Clan and the support provided to them on the clan’s forum, and encouraged by the mass-based work of the Front and the allied forces of the UUAA, were prepared to take responsibility into their own hands and demand the unbanning of all those unjustly banned, an end to “King” Empty’s so-called “Kingdom,” his removal as moderator and a consistent application of the rules of the Empires Forum.

Around the middle of the day the users began to act. The first to speak out among them was FN198, who was President of the Blackhole from March 2009 to March

(14) Mrdie, *CW* Vol. III, p. 34.

(15) V.I. Lenin. *Collected Works* Vol. 1. 1977. p. 262.

2010 and a member of the BSID Clan. He called for the unbanning of those users unjustly banned, and for the victory of democracy, progress and peace in the Blackhole. His prestige prompted the “King” to nervously “lol” and demonstrate conceitedness at FN’s post. Soon the users began to amass around him, prompting the “King” to invoke the “Lord,” to threaten a ban and to call on his “subjects” to remain loyal. One user affiliated to the UUAAs cried out: “It will have to be permanent! Those three-day bans you hand out spell the planning for greater resistance afterwards on the part of those on the receiving end of your *diktat!*” Another said, “What are you a ‘King’ of anyway? Trolling? Being fat?” He was at once seconded by SupRore, who arose as a by-now established critic of the “King” in all fields, from particles (as SupRore was an artist) and from the perspective of an ordinary user seeking the best for the whole community. “The fat ‘king’ in earlier times would wave his hand to get a beheading, the 21st century version has to push a button to get a ban that can be easily overcome, unlike death. Also his court of sycophants can’t shield him from the ‘peasants’ either. Time to grow up Empty, psychologically and in other ways.”

The “King” struck back: bans were handed out, the users retreated but a step as they filtered into other means of communication: Steam was the first, wherein some spoke with their friends about what was happening: open defiance to the “King.” Mrdie was alerted early on by FN, and he replied: “This is very good. The ‘King,’ PreDominance, blizzerd, Vulkanis and others associated with him will display all sorts of politics: they will call for respecting this troll, will refer to his ‘everlasting Kingdom’ and whatnot, but the users will instead display their concern for the mod and the standards of its whole community.” He then proceeded to detail the factors at work and the advantages the users enjoyed, especially the presence of a friendly atmosphere within the BSID Clan forum.⁽¹⁶⁾

The users thus began their uprising by the basic act of dissent. Throughout the rest of the day it would flower into more creative forms: good-hearted humor would be shared, and even a story written on the tyranny of the “King” in the style of peasant lore. Dissent was soon combined with *action*, thus constituting the heart of the uprising. The word was to get out, posts were made, and the server on which EPIC had presence was even halted for a time. Such are things which demonstrated the vitality of the whole userbase against the odds.

(16) July 15, 2010 notes taken by D. Kruse and presented at a meeting of the Blackhole Front on July 16th.

III. The Uprising in Process

The bans did not cause the users to cower into submission. They enlisted the support and solidarity not only of the BSID Clan, but also of elements in the JPL Clan as well, which by virtue of not being EPIC and by virtue of having progressive users in its ranks who had also suffered from the anti-user actions of the “King” alongside the rest of the users. Bob the Builder made a topic on the BSID forum denouncing the “King” in the name of JPL, and thus showed that the established clans of the mod had common interests between them and that which was invested in the mod and its community. Besides Bob, a number of BSID Clan members such as Duke Pending and Melarion posted in a thread dedicated to the day’s affairs which attracted growing attention.

On Steam a number of chatrooms were established between the users in solidarity. An estimation provided by Kruse the day afterwards that year put the total at users in these rooms at 47. SupRore and Viroman played leading roles in the organization of the progressive users in these rooms, discussing the situation at hand while joking about the absurdities of the “King” and exchanging stories about his acts over the past years as a troll both in his permanently banned form and that which hides to this day in the garb of a “developer.”

As the users regrouped on Steam and, increasingly, on the BSID Clan forum, the Deeists and their apologists tried to defend if not their “King” then at least the “integrity” of their domination over the Empires Forum Administration. Trickster and Brutos spoke against the users and encouraged more bannings, while other figures such as Kylegar endorsed these bannings in private without subjecting themselves to the fire of the users. Those who came out openly against the users failed in their purpose: the users did not listen to insults against them, nor did they believe in the lame “excuses” cooked up by the Deeists and their apologists as to why “King” Empty acted the way he did.⁽¹⁾

A meeting of the Central Committee of the UUAA was held. Deathstorm, Chairman of the UUAA, proposed that three groupings of five users be established to carry out definite tasks. Maxwell was appointed to lead 5, another 5 were organized by Killersteel and InSight, and the last 5 were given to Aly to command. The Blackhole Front lent its support to this endeavor, with Todg serving as an

(1) The Deeists continue to make “excuses” for “King” Empty’s outbursts and irrationality, which lay at the heart of his whole anti-user policies. Therefore during the November-December Rising Mrdie noted that, “Brutos complains that ‘King’ Empty is ‘pushed all the time.’ But why is this? It is not because some bullies have decided to pick on poor, innocent ‘King’ Empty. . . [he] is ‘pushed’ only because he is an aggressor, because he goes against the masses of the whole forum and goes against the Blackholian userbase in particular.” (Mrdie. *Collected Works* Vol. IV. 2011. p. 38.)

attaché to Aly's men and Kuzkin as an adviser to a number of users led by Vashkin, an unaffiliated progressive user.⁽²⁾ The Empires Clan Organization, with its Steam group of over 100 members, sent out a message encouraging the users and players of the mod to resist "King" Empty's repressive activities. This reverberated on the servers due to the fact that the "King" had shown up in them with all "his majesty" and acted accordingly ever since proclaiming his "Kingdom" in January.⁽³⁾

In fact the server which EPIC frequently inhabited saw a number of its players, who were ECO members, hear of the announcement while playing. After the round ended these players, notably MajorTom and UUAA member Mythic, declared that the community was in danger due to the policies of "King" Empty. The EPIC Clan members, instigated by a lackey of Trickster named Cyberkiller, attempted to shout them down. One of them used their microphone to scream of the "Jews" having taken over Empires and "King" Empty's supposed efforts to "purify" it from them. Those players in the dark about what was happening were thoroughly confused by the absurd behavior of the EPIC members present and many quit the server in disgust, which led Cyberkiller and his men to quit as well. Within the next few minutes the majority of those non-EPIC players who had left returned, either due to simply waiting it out in regards to the ridiculousness of the EPIC spectacle, or because of MajorTom's efforts to contact them through their friends who were in the ECO. Thus the rounds continued, now more fun and invigorating with the players having been imbued with a sense of accomplishment.

A few UUAA members, part of the groupings of Aly and InSight, went on IRC and linked to BSID Clan forum threads which were keeping the users updated on the day's events. Having interrupted a discussion on drugs between Deeist lackey Varbles and Brutos, the former spammed "faggots" over and over, his drug-induced rage continuing long after Brutos had banned the "terrorists" and forcing Brutos to temporarily suspend him from the channel in response. Later on in the day another UUAA member went on IRC and linked to the threads on the BSID Clan forum and he, too, was banned by either Brutos or Kylegar.

On the forum itself tensions continued to rise. As users made posts criticizing the "King," he and Brutos quickly realized that various progressive and democratic-progressive forces were coalescing against them. The "King" became afraid, he once more invoked the "Lord," his "royal prerogatives," called forth the

(2) Vashkin later participated in the August Uprising as a member of the UUAA. Later he offered his services to the mod as a tester, but his talents were ignored by the sheer incompetence and apathy of the Deeist "developers" under Trickster.

(3) "Down with 'King' Empty! Long Live the Clans of Empires!" July 15th, 2010 ECO announcement.

“guillotine,” etc., but the users were not interested in his politics. Mrdie pointed out to Aly that the anti-mod and anti-user acts of the Deeists had led to clear harm being done to the whole community, while the task at hand was to make the users conscious of *why* this harm came about, and its origins in the activities of the Deeist clique rather than in this or that particular figure.⁽⁴⁾ With this in mind both men took the opportunity to carry out educational work through the Front and the UUAA. Links to the BSID Clan forum threads discussing the day’s events were spread on the Empires Forum mainly through both men’s efforts. Aly wrote the contents of a joint declaration of the 23JO within the Front and the UUAA which stated that “the most important task for the users now is to organize their opposition and learn of the history of the progressive and reactionary forces operating within the entire community of the Empires Mod.”⁽⁵⁾

Within the threads on the BSID Clan forum, observations on what was occurring as well as remarks on the “King” were combined with the dissemination of Blackhole Front and other materials. This especially alarmed the Deeists, who saw in this the possibility of transforming a popular uprising for progressive gains into a direct attack against this clique and all it held dear. It was here that the “King” made this “grand” appearance in one of the threads: alone, he declared that he was “disappointed” in those participants in the uprising. One reply snapped back: “I am disappointed in your existence in Empires, please get another permaban and gtfo.” Another: “There are no kings here, the Blackholians have their State and they intend to keep it away from you.”⁽⁶⁾ At once the “King” began to recoil in horror; no one else was interested in defending him from within the ranks of Deeism, suggesting that he went “too far” in letting his ego get the best of him. Bob the Builder called on the “King” to free his “prisoners,” the many users unjustly banned by him in the previous months.

Humiliated, the “King” could at least be confident in the fact that Cpatton was introduced by the Deeists as a “developer” of the mod like the “King” himself had been, and that this form of cronyism would ensure that sooner or later he, as owner of the BSID Clan forum’s server, would carry out the tasks needed to destroy all progressive and democratic-progressive sentiment on it. The other important agent, Thor, was a Neo-Nazi who had served the clique loyally, and opposed the democratic movement of the Blackhole since 2006. And yet both men were afraid to act just yet, despite the “King’s” pleas for both of them to delete the threads.

(4) See Aly’s report to the First Congress of the 23rd of January Organization, January 23, 2011.

(5) “Joint Declaration of the Central Committees of the 23rd of January Organization and the Union of Users Against Abuse on the Resistance of the Users Against Repression,” July 15, 2010.

(6) From chatlogs given to the author of this work by D. Kruse.

The mass-based activities of the July 15 Uprising left their mark in the literary realm as well, The satire of SupRore on this day is, unfortunately, no longer in existence owing to the subsequent efforts of Thor and Cpatton to wipe out all traces of progressive and democratic-progressive thought on the BSID Clan forum, but Maxwell wrote of his experiences as the day went on.

“Yes sir, I said, I shall happily give claws to the weak. Next to me were my men. . . we stormed the front by sheer audacious thrill, the general discontent engendered by the monarch sufficing for the barest of examples to inspire a rise to arms.”

“You can IP ban a man, says I, but you can’t kill a post, a PM, a penultimate purpose which will proceed paradise.”

“Let me say today that I am servicing a good cause, a popular cause, a precious cause for the whole userbase. . . Judge as you will, but heed as you will, too.”

“Brutos entered the hall known as General Discussion and looked askance at the dissidence. He asked who was behind this if not Mrdie? Then Lion [a BSID Clan member] stood up and said that all the players, all the idlers [reference to IRC], all the clanners, all the democrats, all the developers, moderators, and general fans of the mod had something to gain today, a proud legacy to be won, either in the stockades or in the spotlight because today the rule of the monarch is shaken. . . . Brutos told the world to be quiet, for respect to the monarchy, to recourse to the tired refrain of king and country for a land that could not identify with either and refused so. . . Would it not be prudent, asked his pernicious conscience, to invent a new people omnipresent for the primary purpose of praising the petty patriarch?”

“A gun went off only to show that a wall was hit, so the princes cried. Vandalism! Disruption! And another good player was sacrificed for the cause of maintaining in privilege the problem-perpetuating pistons.”

“Mine was a special gun, a mortar firing peopled shells if you will, which I have my men surround and go to look at the impact. The peril, as I see it, is on the side of the pettifoggers to justify the rulings no matter how inane, while the players gasp in horror at the rolling heads collected into a pyre of memories that the rulers hope will perish all the niceties of purpose and persuasion in the hearts and minds of the populace.”

Such is a result of what Mrdie said was precisely the work of the Front and, today, the League: “having the users *attain consciousness*, in *using* this new-found consciousness to take power, and in promoting the development of culture and high standards from this power.”⁽⁷⁾ This power, expressed either through organization, through state power, through position as a moderator or developer, or any other way all combine for the common purpose of the great Empires Mod.

(7) Mrdie. *Collected Works* Vol. V. 2011. p. 120.

As the day continued into night the spectacle of open Deeist fear continued to make itself felt: “King” Empty, Brutos and others continued to invoke the supposedly endless power of “his majesty,” Chris0132 fired off one or two posts about the “peasants acting up” and how democracy conflicted with his so-called “libertarian” ethos or lack thereof. Some not inclined towards participation in the day’s struggle remarked how absurd the “King” was acting, such as BSID Clan member D. Rumsfeld who said that the “development team” was structurally rotten and in need of renewal, and Shinzon who called for greater respect for those willing to go through all sorts of lengths to further a mod and community they cared for. Figures such as Ikalx and Metal_Smith, never endangering their friendliness with the Deeist clique, spoke of their reactionary “concern” for the community “getting to this point.” John Shandy saw in this situation an encouraging sign to pose as a “savior,” throw the “King” overboard in favor of his friend Brutos, and help defend Deeism while also “getting back” at a figure so irritating that fellow Deeists more often than not found issue with on purely personal grounds.

The “King” realized that engaging in mass bannings at the moment would mean to invite trouble for the Deeist apparatus in general, but the day certainly encouraged him to contemplate the idea. Both Shandy’s false promises of “salvation” and “King” Empty’s characteristically stupid plan would feature in the August Uprising a month later. Confronting the users who assembled against him, the “King” was compelled to wait the day out. The atmosphere became lighter as Brutos took on a slightly more “moderate” tone, with backward elements influenced by Shandy’s letter⁽⁸⁾ seeing in him an “alternative” to “King” Empty. Then there was also the simple fact that humans had to sleep. Members of the Central Committee of the UUAA congratulated the work of the three groupings established earlier in the day and relieved them of their duties, with Deathstorm later writing that such organization had lasting practical significance.⁽⁹⁾

A wordless reply was, however, given to the BSID Clan forum (which continued to have discussions about “King” Empty) by the Deeist clique: a DDoS attack was launched which knocked the forum out for the final hours of the 15th and all of the 16th. The desperateness of Deeism was demonstrated, the strength of the users made clear.

(8) On July 4th that year Shandy wrote a letter to Brutos which was quickly promoted across the whole userbase with the assistance of “King” Empty’s “Viscount” Grantrithor and the Deeist agents Sk1nn3r and Hipskovski. Among other things it called for “liberalizing” the forum rules to allow for greater degeneracy and politics and aimed to enhance the power of Brutos at the expense of “King” Empty, who Shandy had a personal falling-out with for reasons unrelated to the mod or its community. Mrdie has noted that Shandy was opposed all those “who genuinely struggle against Deeism and reaction.” (Ibid. p. 83.)

(9) “Contributions to the July 29 Meeting Against Demagoguery,” July 29, 2010.

On the 16th Mrdie and D. Kruse spoke on the subject of the July 15 Uprising. The latter pointed out that, “When the great users such as SupRore and FN198 arose. . . it became necessary for reaction to silence them, and to especially silence ‘easy prey,’ Today the Empty-Brutos [sub-]clique is attempting to prepare the userbase for similar methods, but is finding a hard time convincing the users of the necessity of such means.”⁽¹⁰⁾ This analysis would be fully confirmed a month later, an analysis which Mrdie also held and which, through the mass-based work of the Front and the progressive users prevented a potentially catastrophic mass banning of forum-members in August that year.

Mrdie’s words on that day remain a clear summary of the effects and lessons of the uprising:

“Yesterday was a great day not only for the democratic movement, but also for the forces of the progressive users movement united in alliance and in battle with the reactionary clique of ‘King’ Empty and Co., of Brutos, and of other miscellaneous reactionists who are engaging in increasingly antagonistic relations between not only themselves and the users, but themselves versus other members of other reactionary cliques. The 15th of July signified that the ever rising consciousness of the users was coming into play. . .

Despite the attempts of Brutos to censor the democratic movement in this instance, many users were able to see its stand; they saw that we defend all progressive users. . .

The 15th of July will go down as a notable day in the history of the forum, but at this same time there are some lessons to be learned from the experiences of that day. The first lesson to be learned is that no one should trust the reactionaries; they should all mobilize against ‘King’ Empty and Co., which is a very important part of the struggle to oppose unjust bans. Some users vacillated on this issue because they feared Empty, but these same users forget that it is only through such struggle that the mass of the users will see the root cause of the problems at hand rather than the symptoms. Another lesson to be learned is that the forces of democracy and progress must unite ever more firmly with the progressive forces of the whole in a popular front against the reactionaries, and must show their strength and defense of the whole forum and the mod itself through such activity. . . the democratic progressive and progressive forces will work together to smash this reactionary threat to the whole forum, and in doing so will secure a just administration based on the needs of the users, not the needs of a ‘King’ who demands that users bow down to him.”⁽¹¹⁾

(10) Quoted in *The Blackholian State News Network*. 2010. p. 125.

(11) Mrdie. *Collected Works* Vol. III. 2010. pp. 36-37. Same text is also contained in *ibid.* pp. 123-124.