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# PLANETARY GEOGRAPHIC



A  
GREAT

# Divide

*After years of infighting, a world is split in two*





# THE UN-CIVIL WAR

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**O**N A REMOTE PLANET, on a tertiary orbit from a lonely star, the cry of a new baby is heard. A new member of the human species. Although the future of children is thought to be free and limitless, human children face a different future. Every single child born on this planet will be forced war. It is a civil war, happening on a planetary scale. They did not start this fight, nor will they end it. Although the war is not fought with rifle or sword, tensions are high and lines have been drawn. Every day on every part of the globe, two rival factions of the human species clash on a social and cultural level. Splitting their society they claw at each others throats in a war of blame, hate, anger and abuse.

**A**NY MEMBER of the human race will instinctively tell you that the population can be split cleanly into two factions. Often this is all that the humans can agree on. The placement into these factions happens to each humans upon birth, and will stay with them for their entire lives, defining their place in the world, what clothes to wear, what friends to make, how to act speak, walk, and talk, what opportunities are given to them, how they should feel, perceive, and abuse their body. It even decides whom they can and can't fall in love with. No human is exempt from this division. There is zero middle ground, or escaping the faction that you have been forced into. This divide splits entire nations, cultures, even families in two. What makes this situation even stranger still is that placement of the individuals into one of the two sides is not made by family choice, political ideology, social upbringing, or even religious tradition. Instead, something so incredibly important and life defining is

## ►Set the Stage

*Although this shopping center looks idyllic, the tension is thick as a silent war rages within it. In the distance pink neon shines, calling soldiers to arms*

left to be decided, starkly and unquestionably, by minor physical differences of the child at birth.

The Earthlings insisted that the differences between the two factions were heavily marked on the bodies of these infants, and were integral and inseparable from each individual. We at the Planetary Geographic heard this so frequently and insistently we, at first believed the members of the two factions to be symbiotic species. However, as we explored deeper, beyond the bias of the native people, we were surprised to find that the differences were quite minor indeed. During gestation a human foetus will develop sexual organs. These organs can develop in two slightly different arrangements. If the organs develop on the outside of the body, the child becomes part of the "Foras" people, as we have Classified them. If the sexual organs develop inside the body, then the child becomes a member of the "Intus". Aside from this aforementioned distinction there are a few differences in build, hormonal makeup and processes the body undertakes after puberty, but in general the bodies of the humans operate on very similar parameters. Although the two sides can, at times, appear different, this pales in comparison to the variance perceived by the humans, and the amount of diversity within other species that exist on the planet.

ONCE WE HAD begun to understand this bizarre separation into sides our primary questions regarded how these factions developed, why they became so integral to how the society operates, and why the humans were so embroiled in this war. To learn this we had to dig back into the history of the humans, a task that was made increasingly difficult as the record keeping of the humans is heavily flawed by biases from the very conflict that we were trying to research. We at the Planetary Geographic have recently been able to decipher, that as humans evolved, they reproduction changed to require two people, one from from each faction, to successfully procreate. From an evolutionary standpoint this provided a higher rate of adaptation, increased fitness, a greater resistance to disease, as well as multiple providers for the newborn human. However the Intus, by nature of this evolutionary agreement, must put in much more physical resources into the creation of the child. Due to their physiology the Intus cary the new child inside their body in the earliest



**Colour and Hue** are a major way that the two factions define themselves. The figure to the left depicts the same toy marketed to (top) Foras and (bottom) Intus youth. associating with colours that are attributed to the opposite faction is a major faux pas amongst the humans, akin to wearing the wrong uniform.

Here we have broken down the spectrum down into the way the humans see it, with Intus colours laying in between the blue lines, and Foras colours outside of the red lines.

## ►Taking Arms

Stephen, like any young Foras, is taught to display overly aggressive behaviour and to loathe intus youth. Here he bears his arms.





**FACIAL PIGMENTS** are just one of the many ways that both the Intus and the Foras people deform their bodies into unnatural ways for social and political reasons. Here we see a young Intus member holding a palette of the pigments that she uses to augment her face every single day.



**CIAN UNITY** is strengthened by both factions through the use of segregated events. Here we see an event called "Game night" although the opposite Faction is often heavily discussed, they are not allowed to participate, so the discussions are often heavily biased and based on erroneous information.

stages of the child's life, putting an increased strain on the Intus person. As the first civilisations began to bud on the planet, the Foras used this difference to their advantage and took a position of control, claiming to be the dominant and superior people. Incredibly, through heavy social and often religious pressures, the Intus subscribed this message and rested in this second-class person-hood for millennia. As the civilisations developed into what we could consider a proto-modern and automated level, the child rearing demands on the Intus were greatly alleviated by scientific and medical advances. The Intus began, and rightfully so, campaigning for equal personhood and a unity of the race. The Foras, having grown accustomed to their privilege tried to suppress the Intus' cries for equality, as they had before. This suppression caused a bitter resent in the Intus people and over decades the struggle began to slowly change from a fight for equality into social combat, with both sides striking at each other. As it stands at the time of this publication the Intus and Foras people are generally seen as equal, but they each attempt to subvert the other, or blame them for any social strife. Because the species needs a member from either side to reproduce, neither faction can declare it's own complete independence of the other, so the struggle continues as a giant game of cultural

shaming, separation, accusations, and guilt. Because of this "cold" cultural war, a constant combative tension now creeps into every aspect of daily life. The object of the war is not to kill off the other faction or obtain equality, but to demean the other faction, and make them feel worthless, to make them submit as the lesser. The factions accuse each other for all the misfortunes that they have come across in the world, or they shame a specific member for not adhering to the established codes. We have even seen faction members being shamed for what the media tells them that they "inherently" are. This is catalysed by the self-righteousness and aggression found in both sides make for a grisly conflict.

**I**NITIATION starts early, often from the very second a child emerges from the parent. Parents use colours like flags to mark their children, in either blue or pink. This is to ensure that every other person knows precisely and without a doubt which faction the new person has been pressed into. Human children are very difficult to differentiate otherwise, and the possibility of confusion disgusts the elders. From that point forward, the children will be heavily immersed in propaganda to ensure that they are socialised properly, and separate them from their rival faction. For instance, each faction

► **Prepare for Battle**

*A scouting party of Intus combattants show off their battle regalia before an expedition.*



## ►Close Combat

*Two opposing combattants engage in a “date”, A ritual that humans engage in to propagate, that has become increasingly hostile since the onset of the war.*

has specific toys that the children play with. Playing with the opposite factions toys, or associating closely with the opposition, or even adopting the traits that are seen as belonging to the opposite faction is heavily frowned upon. If this happens, the elders will often seek to “fix” their children and pressure them to adhere to “proper” behaviours, like other successfully socialised children. All this propaganda and socialisation is aimed to embed the seed of the conflict in the children. It is aimed to make them believe that the two factions are completely separate and inherently adversarial

We spoke to an eleven year old young human named Stephen who had been adopted into the Foras faction, and asked asked the child about the Intus. “They are just icky [repulsive]” Stephen said “Everybody knows that they [Intus] are annoying and aren’t good at sports like we are. I guess the they are ok sometimes, but I would never hang out with them. We shouldn’t ever play together. We like different things and if they try to play our games they will just ruin them. My father [parent from the Foras faction] says that they [Intus] ruin everything, and that when I grow up I should just find some hot babe [an intertribal insult] who will cook for me and still know when to shut up.” We also spoke to Rachel, a sibling of Stephen. Rachel, however, had been pressed into the Intus faction. “He [designator for member of the foras] is dumb and annoying. But you can’t blame them for being like that, they are just guys [opposite of babes]. Guys are dumb, rude, and ill-behaved. They [Foras] are smelly and pathetic, while We [Intus] are smarter, better behaved more mature and generally just better people. All they should do is just be hot and rich. What else are they good for? They can just play in the mud while we [Intus] make all the important decisions”.

**A**S THE CHILDREN GROW older, their interactions with the other faction will increase. Despite what the children were taught as children, They will have to work along side each other, and simply not associating will no longer suffice. They must still work together to keep the species alive and society running. Despite this Humans still cling to their simple factional programming through their lives. Operating in this tensely divided society is incredibly difficult on the humans. There are many behaviours that are expected from both peoples. These expectations have become an incredibly complex,



layered network spanning the beliefs of many generations, many social battles and many social stigmas. These expectations can be quite contradictory. For instance, it is well known that Intus people should have a great career, pushing themselves at all costs to break the boundaries of business that were once placed upon them. However, it is also believed that an Intus person should not have a career at expense of raising a child and being a good caretaker of the young. Foras people must be dominant and aggressive, however they should also be gentle and sensitive. Intus should look beautiful and attract the attention of Foras, but not too much or they will be seen as “slutty”, a derogatory term used by Foras to shame Intus people who enjoy themselves sexually. Foras should be cultured and suave but not overly so, for that would make them a “pansy” a term used for Foras that exhibit Intus traits, and are therefore seen as less in the eyes of both factions. These rules only become increasingly bizarre when two people from opposite factions meet to potentially create a family. It is common knowledge that the Foras should pay for the first meal, but it is also common knowledge that by doing so they are seemingly trying

to impose their “superiority” and that can make them a bad person. Intus people should also remember not intimately engage physically or emotionally with their counterpart too soon or you will be seen, once again, as a slut. They should also not withhold from intimacy too long, or they will be seen as a “prude”, a derogatory term for anyone who is not a “slut”. Breaking these codes too often can earn one a negative standing in the society, and shaming from the very faction that took them in. Besides codes on dating, there are also those how to present oneself. Foras are told to be a reputable member of their faction must be physically large, with lots of heavy muscle and hair on all parts of the body. They attempt gain muscle far beyond that which is appropriate or even naturally possible, for the the human ideal of the perfect body has become purely fictionalised, and no longer based in reality. The Intus use clothing that fit

tight to the body and often reveal to exaggerate and show off the elements of their body that the Foras appear to be sexually aroused by. This arousal is caused by evolutionary factors, but also because of the extreme conditioning presented by the media. This media pushes both factions to focus obsessively on these body parts, more than the person that they are attached

“All people should be uniquely themselves, however they desire to be, without imposed expectations, limitations or set of bizarre ideals.”

-AARON a factional rebel

to. The large chests and bottoms with minuscule waist that the media demands may seem vulgar and dangerous to readers of this magazine, we are assured that the humans find them, somehow, titillating. Pigment is also applied to the face in an attempt to “improve” beyond natural the aesthetics of the face and skin. Most curious of all, is red paint that is applied to the lips of Intus members, potentially simulating the colour of blood, instilling fear in the Foras who they encounter.

**THE DIET** of the Intus and the foras can also vary greatly. Intus members put a heavy emphasis on eating bulk amounts of foods with carbohydrates in them, believing this to be an essential Foras quality, while Intus often starve themselves, once more in a belief that this is a natural thing to do, and that it will help them achieve a better form. Here, Jason and Rachel share a meal



**T**HERE ARE, like in any conflict, those that have decided to abandon the front and try to distance themselves from the conflict. Some of them still identify with the faction that they were pressed into, but denounce the actions of their faction or the war being fought. Some have decided to open themselves up and act and love in accordance to their own personal code, instead of what their faction would dictate. And some even have abstained from choosing a side all together, describing themselves only as people. “We believe that creating a polarising schism that the human is a terrible thing to do” said Aaron, a rebel who was born Foras but denounces the actions of his people, “all people should be uniquely themselves, however they desire to be, without imposed expectations, limitations or set of bizarre Ideals. We will never, and would never want to be fully be rid of gender, but it’s time to give up this endless conflict and oppressive imposed binary. Let people be what they want to be regardless of how they are born” Unfortunately, like in any conflict, this unique minority of people are shunned by both sides. They have often been stigmatised as unnatural, and queer. Accused of having mental delusions or that they destroy the fabric of society. This group of people, are sadly a minority, but as the conflict heats up, have been growing in numbers. Humanity may not be as hopeless as it may seem, there is a chance that they may, in time, overcome their own petty feuds and unite in understanding to reach new heights for their own civilisation. ◀

► **Rebellion for all**

*A group of anti-factional rebels pose for our cameras.*





