

AURIOLUS, Vincent (2866–2941), first president of the Third Republic of Solaria (2908–2912). An active Humanist, he was Minister of Exploration during the regime of Jean Baptiste Boulanger. He opposed the Loyalist revolution of 2903, and in 2904 escaped to Aurora where he organized the successful counter-revolution of 2908.

AURORA, or New Earth, settled by Earthpeople in the early days of interstellar travel. Located 5.7 light years from Earth, Aurora was the first extrasolar planet to be colonized. Originally named New Earth, the planet was renamed Aurora after the Roman goddess of the dawn and is known as the World of the Dawn. The Auroran sun is referred to as "Tau Ceti" and its rays are faintly orange in color. The Auroran day is 10 hours long, one hour contains 100 minutes and one minute contains 100 seconds. Among the Spacer worlds, Aurora is considered a "tame" planet, with generally calm atmospheric conditions. The atmosphere is free of all bacteria and other infection-causing agents. Natural disasters such as rockslides, earthquakes, avalanches and blizzards can occur, but are infrequent. Thunderstorms are more common, bringing strong winds, bright flames streaking across the sky and torrential rains.

The total population of Aurora is 200,000,000 and has remained stable for three centuries. The metropolis of Eos, the largest city on the planet, has a population of 20,000 humans and 100,000 robots. On the planet as a whole, there are approximately 50 robots to every human. Their duties include mining, factory work, servantry and other areas of domestication. Auroran society is peaceful and well-ordered, and social classes are non-existent. Aurora has two major political parties, the Humanists and the Globalists. Humanists believe all planets should participate in space exploration, while Globalists want exploration to be an exclusive right of Aurorans. The planet's governing body is the World Legislature.

Because Aurorans are protected by robots, Aurora has virtually no crime. Robots are governed by the Three Laws of Robotics:

- 1) A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
- 2) A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings, except where such orders would conflict with the first law.
- 3) A robot must protect its own existence, as long as such protection does not conflict with the first or second law.

Excerpt from the *Auroran Almanac*:

"the first fruit of interstellar travel,
the first dawn of an immense new era."

AURORA, a dazzling display of lights seen at night near the Earth's geomagnetic poles. The *aurora borealis*, or northern lights, can be seen in Alaska, Canada, Norway, Sweden and Finland. The *aurora australis*, or southern lights, can be seen in Antarctic regions. Auroras occur when charged particles from the sun, accelerated by the Earth's magnetic field, collide with air molecules in the upper atmosphere. Unusually intense auroras can occur during periods of high solar activity. Similar displays occur on almost all of the colonized Spacer worlds.