

The Indomitable Citadel

Rules of the Game

Introduction

It's now or never: as the Grand Master of an Order of Knighthood you can seize the opportunity to protect the citizens from Viking attacks and other possible dangers and to contribute to the edification of The Indomitable Citadel.

The year is 1069. Europe is laid waste by Viking invasions and interminable wars. Moreover, the bubonic plague, also called Black Death, decimates populations. Times are so hard they incite five strong leaders to become the Grand Masters of Orders of Knighthood they create. The evolution of the European continent is greatly influenced by these Orders – their Crusades to far-away countries bring well-being and prosperity to conquered territories, and the protection provided by their valiant Knights results in intensified trading and a thriving economy. This concept is at the basis of The Indomitable Citadel. In this fascinating strategic game you'll be able to contribute towards having a small colony develop into a major mediaeval stronghold. You should occupy strategically well-situated territories and acquire buildings with high profit-earning capacities to reinforce your sphere of influence in the town. Will you be the first to build a Basilica or an Opera House? But beware! Other Grand masters play perfidious and unscrupulous games.

Make it crystal clear you are the born leader who protects the citizens, repels enemy attacks, the main contributor to the growth of the Citadel and become... King of the Indomitable Citadel!

Choose the right strategy and win!

Invest in strategically well-positioned territories and profitable buildings to insure a growing income. Be sure you diversify your interests. You accumulate points by putting buildings on your plots. Prestigious ones such as a Stock Exchange or a Town Hall for example yield 5 points. However, building a Pig Sty or a Flour Mill (1 point each) may well turn out to be strategically and economically positive investments. Moreover, acquiring one or more Great Powers may give you exactly the points needed to ensure your leadership. The most influential player (in points) of the Citadel is the winner.

Winning scores according to the number of players are:

- 5 players 20 points
- 4 players 25 points
- 3 players 30 points
- 2 players 40 points

Victory is there as soon as one of the players reaches the score (or more).

If, when the last territory has been occupied, there is still no winner, then this round of the play goes on. The player who, at the end of the round, has the highest score is declared winner. In case points are the same for several players, the number of occupied territories

is decisive and if there is still a tie-break, bricks are counted. Everything you'll need is mentioned in these Rules of the Game, but if you wish for more information or still have questions, remember our website: www.thegamemaster.nl

Equipment

The following equipment is needed:

- 1 round playing board
- 60 Building Cards
- 15 Event Cards
- 30 Influence Cards
- 4 Great Power Cards (strategic version)
- 2 Trade Cards : "Pawnshop" and "Free Market" (strategic version)
- 1 The Game Master Information Card
- 5 Coloured Grand Masters
- 125 Coloured Knights (25 x 5 colours - wooden sticks)
- 60 small bricks (mini disks)
- 20 big bricks (mini disks)

Some information about the equipment

The playing board

It is divided into 48 plots surrounding the centre. Buildings can only be placed in these territories. On each plot 1 to 8 dots indicate the bricks to be paid for acquiring the plot.

In the lower right hand side corner we find its profit-earning premium: + 1, +2 or +3. Scores are marked on the surrounding wall.

Bricks

In The Indomitable Citadel the brown wooden brick is the barter. You can use it to buy plots, place buildings on the board, buy and sell Building Cards etc. 1 big brick equals 5 small ones.

Cards and symbols

Each Card carries a distinctive symbol on its back:

- Building and Event Cards show a little wall. On the front side, the Building Card shows a building, the Event Card a printed text.
- A sword backs up the Influence Cards
- Grand Master Cards distinguish themselves by a shield
- Trade Cards carry gold ingots

Building Cards

Each Building Card shows from 1 to 5 bricks indicating the price of the building. Building Cards come in 4 categories:

- Citizenry (20 pc): these can be built on any location
- Crafts (18 pc) : workshops cannot be built in the inner circle, as industry is not carried out in the city itself
- Municipal Buildings (16 pc): cannot be built near the water, flooding being too risky for these costly buildings
- Trade (14 pc): a road is a prerequisite for the location of trade buildings to ensure the free movement of products

All Building Cards moreover show mini-icons referring to specific meanings:

- in the upper left hand corner you can see where buildings can be placed or are forbidden. On the Citizenry buildings there is no icon as they can be built everywhere
- in the upper right hand corner appears A, B, or C, referring to the historical epoch. These indications only apply to the strategic version.

Playing Board

On the Playing Board you can find 48 different areas on which you can build. It is not allowed to build in the centre of the Board.

Area Premium

On each area, you can find the Area Premium, which is important when the cards are being drawn: this Premium indicates the extra income of a plot when it carries a building in the colour drawn by players.

Example: purple is drawn. Revenue from a (purple) Chapel: 2 + 2 (premium) = 4 bricks

The inner circle, roads and rivers

For every category of buildings there are specific instructions where to build them:

- Buildings in the Category Crafts are not permitted in the inner circle;
- No Municipal Buildings allowed to be built on a river;
- Trade buildings must be built along a road.

Cost of buying area's

On the Playing Board you can find areas with these different qualifications, but also you can find an number of dots on each area, which counts for the number of bricks you should pay into the Bank to buy it.

The Indomitable Citadel (Basic Game)

A quick start for beginners

First carefully read these two pages, and then start preparations. As soon as the starting plots have been chosen, the round starts and the first player uncovers a card from the stock (see summary Proceedings of the game).

Purpose of the game

To acquire points by placing buildings. The number of bricks on the Building Card represents the price in points of the building. The first player to reach the necessary number of points wins. In 'Choose the right strategy and win!' you'll find a table of the scores.

Preparations

In the basic game all the equipment is used except the "Free Market" and the 4 Great Power cards. Each player chooses his colour and receives his Grand Master and 25 Knights. Building and Influence cards are shuffled, the "Pawnshop" is placed face up near the board. The Grand Masters' starting point is the drawbridge just opposite box nr 1 in the score board on the wall. Each player gets 3 Building cards and 5 bricks. The remaining Building and Event cards are shuffled. Face down – the little wall is visible -, they constitute the stockpile placed in the centre of the game board.

Choosing the first plots

Designate the starting player, perhaps by tossing. Each round of

the game is played clockwise except for the initial choice of lands: here it is the last player who starts, and the sequence goes against the clock.

In turn, the players choose one territory on which they place one of their Knights to symbolize ownership. The game proceeds in this way until the moment each player owns 2 or 3 territories which together do not exceed 10 dots and which are not bordering on each other.

A tactical tip

When choosing your territories keep in mind the possible limitations for certain categories of buildings.

See the explanations entitled "placing of buildings" or look at the upper left hand corner mini-icons on the Building Cards.

Quick start for experienced players

Read the Summary to remember the essentials. Give each player 5 bricks and 3 Building cards. Choose 3 territories each with a maximum value of 10 dots; the starting player draws the first card.

Summary

1. Income and events

The first player picks up the top card of the pile and shows it around. Players who possess a building in the colour shown receive income for one building at choice. The income (in bricks) equals the number of stones on the Building card plus the premium, if any. If a Municipal building is drawn, players possessing more than 5 bricks pay taxes by turning in the bricks in excess of 5, prior to receipt of income.

Event card instructions apply to all the players.

Cards are drawn from the stockpile until another Building card turns up.

2. Trading and building

The player who has drawn the card keeps it and can proceed, in whatever order, to

- Trading Building cards : the buying and selling of Building cards
- Buying Land: acquiring plots (max. 2 in each turn) bordering on one's own property, and placing one's Knights
- Raising Buildings: on one's own property and no more than 2 in each turn
- Buying additional Influence cards: by paying 5 bricks apiece

3. Scores and Influence cards

A player's turn is over as soon as his (building)points have been added to the city wall score. If the score reaches a red box, one Influence card can be drawn. This means the end of this player's turn and the player on his left starts with phase 1 "Income and events" by drawing the top card in the pile.

Detailed information on the phases of the game

Phase 1

Income and events

Each player owning at least one building in the drawn colour chooses one building and receives the number of its bricks plus the plot premium (+1, +2 or +3) if any. It is not possible in one turn to collect income for more than one building. If a Municipal building card is drawn, taxes are collected: prior to income, players may keep only 5 bricks, the rest being turned over to the bank.

Event card instructions apply to all players. Cards are drawn from the stockpile until another Building card turns up.

Phase 2

Trading Building cards (unlimited)

During one's turn, one can trade Building cards with the banker:

- Selling. Whenever you sell a Building card to the Pawnshop, you'll collect half (round off upwards) of its nominal value in bricks from the banker. The Building card is laid face up near the Pawnshop.
- Buying. Paying 5 bricks, you can acquire a card from the Pawnshop whatever its nominal value. One can also pay 5 bricks and draw a Building card from the pile. If the first card is an Event, its instructions are immediately carried out.

Buying Land plots (limit for each turn: 2)

- (Neutral) territories must be bought if expansion is wanted. The dots (1 to 8) indicate the price in bricks to be paid to the banker. The player puts his Knight on the acquired plot. You can only buy a territory bordering on one of your own plots.
- Playing an Influence or an Event card may oblige a player to remove his Knight from a territory. Perhaps a building is still standing on this vacated land. To acquire this neutral plot (with its building) you only have to pay for the land, the building is "free of charge". Of course in this case the territory must also border on one of your own plots.

Setting up Buildings (limit for each turn: 2)

- New construction. A building can be set up only on one's own plot and after payment of the building's price (1 to 5 bricks) into the bank. The mini-icon on the card will tell you where you can and cannot build.
- Reconstruction. If your expansion potential is limited you can demolish an existing building on your land – the cost is 5 bricks. Its Building card is discarded. You can then build a new building (thanks to a Building card you own) against payment of the brick price mentioned on the card.
- Turnpike. The board has three roads, all leading to the centre. No more than one tollhouse can be built on one road.

Phase 3

Scores

In the basic game the total number of bricks on placed Building cards always equal the scores on the wall. Loosing a building means loosing points but this never entitles you to an Influence card even if you have to step back to a red box*

Influence cards (maximum 2 cards in hand)

An Influence card is allotted when at the end of your turn your Grand Master stands on a red box. One can also buy Influence cards from the banker by paying 5 bricks, but don't forget: you can't accumulate more than 2 – if you draw or buy another one and have 3, you choose the one to be discarded. Influence cards can only be played during your own turn except if otherwise mentioned on the card. But you decide in which phase of the game to play it. You can even start off by playing an Influence card.

Variants in the basic game

For 2 players

If you are two to play The Indomitable Citadel, add to the excitement by applying one of the following variants:

- each player starts off with 5 plots totalling a maximum of 20 dots and receives 5 Building cards and 10 bricks.

- each player chooses two Orders of Knights bringing their number up to 4; play following the rules for 4 players.

Equal opportunity: completed last round

To give equal opportunity to all players, you can decide to complete the last round, ensuring the same number of turns for all. As soon as a player scores the necessary points, he wins the game.

The basic game – A sample

Mark (blue), Mary (purple) and Peter (yellow) play The Indomitable Citadel. A fair toss designates Mark as the start player. The players pick up their respective Grand Masters and Knights. The Grand Masters are put on box "0". Each player now receives 3 Building cards and 5 bricks. The remaining Building cards are shuffled with the Event cards and placed as a face-down pile in the centre of the board. The Influence cards are shuffled and constitute a face-down pile besides the board. The card "Pawnshop" is displayed.

Peter is the last player and is therefore the first to choose a territory. Mary chooses hers and now it's Mark's turn.

These are the cards Mark has been dealt and which he hides from the other players. Mark needs a plot with a road for the eventual building of his Turnpike. He therefore buys a territory with a road which costs 5 dots. The plot moreover yields a profit-making premium of +2. Now Peter and Mary each choose their second plot and it's Mark's turn again. He acquires one with 3 dots. His third buy, following Peter's and Mary's, is a 2 dots plot. He now owns a total of 10 dots (points). He could also have bought only 2 plots or used up less than 10 points.

Mark now draws a card from the stock and shows it around. It is a Town house (Citizenry). Nobody has as yet placed such a building so there is no income. Mark keeps the card. Paying 3 bricks he builds his Turnpike on the plot with the road. The remaining 2 stones pay for a Chapel. On the score wall, he advances his Grand Master by 5 boxes; the last one not being a red box he does not get an Influence card.

It's Mary's turn. She draws a Stable (Citizenry). Nobody has as yet put a building in this category on the board so there is no income. Mary builds a Mill (1 building stone) and the Stable (1 stone). Paying 1 stone she acquires a (cheap) adjacent plot. She's still got 2 bricks. Her Grand Master advances by 2 steps and attains box nr 2 which is a red box. She receives an Influence card. She's not allowed to play it immediately.

Her turn is over.

Peter draws the Event card "Excellent Harvest": 3 bricks for every Mill, so Mary gets 3 stones. He draws another card: Warehouse (Trade). Mark's Turnpike is in this category and he receives 5 stones (3 for the building itself + 2 profit-making plot premium). Peter decides to sell his Donjon (1) and receives half its value rounded off upwards, i.e. 1 building stone, from the bank. The Donjon card is placed near the Pawnshop and is for sale at 5 bricks. He invests his 6 bricks: he builds an Opera House (4) and Commons (2 bricks). Peter's Grand Master advances to box 6. He is heading the score but does not get an Influence card.

Mark draws a (purple) Municipal Building. Taxation! Bad luck for players with more than 5 bricks: the excess is turned over to the bank. With their 5 stones prior to taxation Mary and Mark are lucky this time.

Mark is paid 2 bricks for his Chapel (on a plot without profit premium) and Peter 5 (4 + 1) for his Opera House. After settling the accounts, Mark proceeds with his turn...

The Indomitable Citadel - Strategic Version

New challenges for Grand Masters

To make the game more exciting, the following elements are added:

- Historical growth: the growth of the Citadel over 3 historical epochs
- Isolation: isolate a territory and take it over
- Great Powers: acquire extra points and economical power
- Free Market: extension of the trade potential

The strategic version of the game takes about half an hour more than the basic version.

Historical growth (A, B and C)

In the upper right hand corner, all Building and Event cards carry a letter corresponding to phases in the game:

- A – early Middle Ages
- B – height of Middle Ages
- C – Renaissance

Building and Event cards are distributed as follows: separate A, B and C-cards, shuffle each pack. Put the C-cards at the bottom of the pile, the B-cards on top of them. Distribute the A Building cards and put the remaining cards on top of the stock pile.

Taking over through isolation

In the strategic version one of your properties may find itself surrounded by enemy Knights: this is isolation. You should turn over the lot (and its building if any) to the player who completed the siege.

An enemy Knight takes over from yours. Isolation can be realized only when one single lot is surrounded by other players' territories and the last neutral plot (= ownerless territory) is conquered.

Of course you may also isolate other players' territories.

Important

Isolation can only be achieved when a player conquers a territory in phase 2 of his turn. It can never be the immediate consequence of an Influence card nor occur in the initial positioning.

Great Powers

The first player achieving 3 or more buildings in the same category obtains Great Power. He puts the Great Power card of his master category face up on the table. Great Power yields points and extra income; according to colour from 1 to 4 points are involved.

Moreover, the bearer of Great Power receives higher income from buildings in its colour via an extra profit-making premium (on top of a possible territorial bonus).

Two ways in which a player can lose his Great Power:

- one of the other contestants plays an Influence card, or a territory with building is isolated and the required number of 3 in the same category does no longer apply;
- one of the other players has placed more buildings than you in the same category. The first player to have acquired Great Power keeps its card (with its points and income) in case of equal numbers.

These are the four Great Powers and their privileges.

Buying and selling in the Free Market

In the strategic version the Free Market is open for trading. Only players owning a commercial building can buy and sell Building cards in this market at their real value; the sale of a Town Hall (5 points) produces 5 full bricks. Buyers can also acquire Building cards cheaper than at the Pawnshop. So don't make it too easy for others to buy low cost Building cards.

Strategic tips

Diversify your interests and buy different categories of buildings. Beware of isolation and increase your influence in the Citadel by acquiring Great Power(s).

How to win in the strategic version

The number of possibilities is much larger in the strategic version and choices are sometimes hard to make.

Players should plan more steps in advance. The introduction of Great Powers adds a new dimension to the evolution of the game and the fight for these can just tip the scales in the battle for the crown. The points to be scored being higher, the likely winner is the true strategist who plays his cards with cunning.

In the strategic version one of the Grand Masters of the Indomitable Citadel has access to the throne with:

25 points – 5 players

30 points – 4 players

35 points – 3 players

50 points – 2 players.

Colophon

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Any problems while playing the game?

Mail a message to:

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Or read the information and answers to FAQ on

www.thegamemaster.nl

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