

The Axe of Rule Established

Historical Event · Before the Empire of Venn

Date: ~-2600 BV (date disputed)

Summary

The Axe of Rule enters the historical record as the mechanism by which kingship over the eastern and barbarian peoples of Dracomere is determined. Its creator and precise origin are unknown.

The earliest reliable references to the Axe of Rule appear in elven archives believed to predate the Empire of Venn, catalogued as an artifact of unknown provenance already in active use among the eastern peoples. No tradition of metalwork claims its creation. No god's portfolio encompasses it. Under the Axe's logic, the ruler of the eastern peoples was whoever held it, having taken it in ritual combat from the previous holder. Both parties entered willingly. The combat ended by yield or incapacitation. Killing a yielded opponent was understood as a mark against the new ruler's fitness rather than evidence of it.

The system produced stable governance for an unknown number of centuries. Eastern kings under Axe-rule were, by definition, the individuals most able to hold a contested position against all challengers. The Settled Lands, which relied on hereditary succession, regarded this mechanism with a mixture of curiosity and condescension that the historical record suggests was not entirely warranted.