Short History of the Territorial Development of the Dwarves' Kingdoms in the Second and Third Ages of Middle-earth

Hubert Sawa
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Additional Keywords
Adunidor; Aglarond; Angrenril; Belegost; Blue Mountains; Forbelegost; Forgroth; Forodor; Gabilgathol; Grey Mountains; Hardum; Iron Hills; Khazad-dûm; Lithgoroth; Misty Mountains; Nogrod; Thorin Oakenshield; Sauron; Tumunzahar
Short History of the Territorial Development of the Dwarves’ Kingdoms in the Second and Third Ages of Middle-earth

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The beginnings of the city-states of the Dwarves belong to the very distant past. As we know, the Seven Fathers of the Dwarves were the first intelligent beings created by the Gods. However, the Gods realised that the world was still too wild, and sent the Fathers to a well-hidden place, somewhere in Middle-earth. When the right moment came, the Fathers awakened and, together with them, their people. After several years of wandering across the whole of Middle-earth, one of them, named Durin, reached the Misty Mountains. In that place, under the mountain of Caradhras, he founded Khazad-dûm.

Khazad-dûm
From approximately 100 First Age to 1981 Third Age, from 2989 Third Age to 2994 Third Age and from 124 Fourth Age. (Maps I and II)

Khazad-dûm was the first and the most famous Kingdom of the Dwarves. At the beginning it comprised only the eastern slope of Caradhras. By the end of the First Age the Dwarves extended the mines under the Misty Mountains, seized the Dimrill Valley, built a watch-tower on the Redhorn Gate and drove a gate through the Mountains towards the west. After the down-fall of cities in the Blue Mountains, at the beginning of the Second Age an affluence of new strength occurred. About 40 Second Age the Sirannon Valley was taken. Next the Dwarves made their way to the south. By the year 90, they occupied most of the important valleys and mountain passes in the southern part of the Misty Mountains, and in the year 100 Second Age, they founded the city of Hardum, which was situated about 100 miles away from the Hollin Gate. When in 750 the Elves came from Eregion, the contemporary ruler of Khazad-dûm gave up the Sirannon Valley to them. In return the Dwarves started their expansion to the east. Around the year 800 they reached the Anduin River and by 1300 they had already occupied the territory from Lórien to the Gladden Fields. At that time the Khazad-fammos Haven was founded. This was the First Golden Age of Khazad-dûm. The Kingdom was placed on the chain of the Misty Mountains between Celebdil and Caradhras, on the eastern slopes of the Mountains, up to the southern springs of the Gladden River and to the banks of the Anduin River. In the south, between Khazad-dûm and Hardum, there stretched a belt of valleys and passes, controlled by the Dwarves. The kingdom of Khazad-dûm comprised 12,000 square miles in all. In the years 1695-1700 Sauron ravaged the land of the Dwarves, and their country was limited only to Khazad-dûm and the Dimrill Valley. But in the year of 1701 the old territories were recovered, except for the southern valleys in the Mountains, yet the Dwarves finally gave up the reconstruction of Hardum destroyed in 1699. That was when the Second Golden Age of Khazad-dûm began. The kingdom occupied the territory between Lórien and Gladden, Anduin and the eastern slopes of the Misty Mountains – altogether an area of 11,000 square miles. This state of affairs continued until the year 1981 Third Age, when the Balrog was awakened. He destroyed Khazad-dûm and drove away the Dwarves. Their state was restored when in 2989 Third Age Balin arrived there from Erebor. By the year 2891 he again occupied the majority of the area of the previous kingdom and even rebuilt Khazad-fammos. Now the kingdom took in a belt of land along Lórien up to Anduin and the east slopes of the Mountains, up to the springs of the Gladden River, that is about 8,000 square miles. However, Balin, later on, lost control over most of the area and at his death (2994) he only ruled Khazad-dûm. After the fall of Sauron, Durin VII restored the kingdom in 124 Fourth Age,
again occupying the distant areas of the state’s former prosperity. Hardum was restored, too.

**Tumunzahar**  
(Nogrod)  
*From approximately 150 First Age until 1598 First Age. (map II)*  
This was the second kingdom established by the Dwarves. It was founded on the northern edge of the southern range of the Blue Mountains. In 171, after founding Belegost the Dwarves passed the Mountains and took Askar Valley up to the Dolmed Mountains. Then they met the Elves, who had made it clear that they did not wish the Dwarves’ presence on this side of the Mountains. Accordingly, settlements of the Dwarves started to expand along the eastern slopes, Belegost to the north, and Nogrod to the south. In about 100 years, the Dwarves took, without any difficulties, a belt of land about 200 miles long and 30 miles wide on the eastern slopes of the Blue Mountains. So by 250 First Age the borders were established. It is worth mentioning that the pass in the Mountains and the area on the western side were ruled together by the kings of Nogrod and Belegost. This situation lasted till 1598 First Age, when Elves, running away from Beleriand, ruined Nogrod and devastated its land.

**Gabilgathol**  
(Belegost)  
*From 170 First Age until 1599 First Age. (map II)*  
This was the third kingdom founded by the Dwarves. It was located on the southern end of the northern range of the Blue Mountains. In 171 together with Nogrod, it occupied the pass and the neighbouring lands around the Dolmed Mountain. Next the Dwarves made their way to the north. By 221 they explored and took the area which reached to the southern springs of the Lhûn River.

In 240 they passed the river springs and by 260 they already controlled the area around the northern springs of the Lhûn. All put together, the Dwarves occupied an area about 300 miles long and 30 miles wide. For many years the kingdom developed peacefully, for most of the wars were waged on the western side of the Mountains. This changed about the year 600, when the Orcs started to appear on the eastern side of them. In 630 Belegost lost the lands between the springs of Lhûn and did not regain the area till its last days. In the years 1597-1599 the lands of Belegost were ruined by the Elves running away from Beleriand, but the city itself was not conquered and in 1598 received the refugees from Nogrod. After the sea swallowed Beleriand and broke in two the ranges of Ered Luin, the Dwarves from Belegost founded Harbelegost and Forbelegost.

**Forodor**  
*From 200 First Age until 1800 Second Age. (maps II, III and IV)*  
Forodor was the fourth kingdom of the Dwarves. It was founded at the springs of Anduin in the mountains, called at that time the Iron Mountains. Not being threatened by anyone, it flourished very quickly. By 250 the area from Gundabad Mountains to the springs of the Greylin River had been explored and settled. During the next 50 years the Dwarves took the Misty Mountains up to the springs of the Langwell River. In the year 400 the area lying between these two rivers was taken. The Dwarves made their way to the east, conquering the Iron Mountains up to the springs of the Forest River and in 450 they reached Greenwood the Great. They did not enter the Wood itself, but moving further south they took by the year 600 a whole belt of land between Greenwood the Great and the Iron Mountains. At the same time, they passed the point where the Misty and the Iron Mountains met. So in the year 600 First Age, Forodor was the most powerful kingdom of the Dwarves. It spread from the northern ends of the Misty Mountains, along the ridges of the Iron Mountains, about 400 miles to the east. To the south, it reached the Langwell River and Greenwood the Great. This was a territory of approximately 15,750 square miles. The Kingdom remained within these borders until the end of the First Age. In the Second Age, the ranges of the Iron Mountains, to the west of the Misty Mountains and far on towards the east collapsed, and in the central part some strong earthquakes were felt. What remained of the Iron Mountains now became known as the Ered Mithrin Mountains. These disasters considerably weakened the kingdom. The next blow came when about 30 Second Age, numerous tribes of Orcs approached from the north-west, and dragons invaded the land, fleeing the ruined Beleriand. As the result of wars in 40 Second Age, the Dwarves lost the region of the Gundabad Mountains, and in the years 60-70 the whole territory up to the springs of the Forest River. At the same time in the east, dragons forced the Dwarves out of the Grey Mountains, up to the Forest River. The Dwarves lost more than 6,750 square miles of land here. So about 100 Second Age the Forodor Kingdom shrank to the belt of land between the Anduin, the Forest River and Greenwood the Great. The wars with Orcs lasted until the end of the year 1000 Second Age, when Sauron, on his way through these lands to Mordor, concluded a peace-agreement with the ruler of Forodor. Under the agreement, the Dwarves started to deliver weapons to the Orcs from the Misty Mountains and they regained their territories east of the Forest River. But the Elves, who in the meantime settled in Greenwood the Great, almost immediately attacked Forodor and in 1200 captured the area between the Forest and the Mountains. The kingdom again shrank to a belt of the southern slopes of the Grey Mountains and the triangle between Anduin and Greylin. In 1600 Second Age the Dwarves regained the land between Greylin and the Forest, but in 1702, after Sauron was evicted from Eriador, the Elves crossed the Greylin and in 1800 conquered and destroyed Forodor. This was the end of the kingdom, although scattered settlements survived until the end of the Third Age.

**Lithgoroth**  
*From 400 First Age until 3441 Second Age. (map II)*  
In 375 First Age civil war broke out in the kingdom of
For Belegost. They went south and established the kingdom of Lithgoroth on the northern slopes of the Ash Mountains. The only fact known about this kingdom is that it was situated near the western end of the range. Since 1000 Second Age these Dwarves had been allies with Sauron and in 3441 Second Age, after his defeat, they abandoned Lithgoroth and went east. Nobody has ever tried to search for that city.

**Harbelegost**

*From 1 Second Age until 1692 Second Age.*  
(map V)

After the fall of Belegost and when the Blue Mountains split apart, the Dwarves divided into three groups. One of them set off to the east, another to the north, and the third went south. This last group settled on the eastern slopes of the southern range of the Mountains, about 110 miles from the mouth of the river Lhûn. There was an old mine once belonging to Tumunzahav here. The Dwarves took it in the first year of the Second Age and established the kingdom of Harbelegost. This land lay within the borders of Tumunzahav before. Striving to restore the kingdom to its former splendour, the Dwarves quickly took over the area between the main range of the mountains and their eastern spur. However, in 8 Second Age the development of the kingdom was checked by the Elves. They established some settlements around the mouth of the river Lhûn and claimed their right to the whole of the Blue Mountains and surrounding lands. Skirmishes with the Elves lasted for two years, until in 10 Second Age the first group of Dwarves returned from Khazad-dûm and Eriador. They fought a battle with the Elves on the area between the Blue Mountains and Tower Hills. As a result the Elves were forced to conclude a peace treaty and were obliged to give the Dwarves' kingdoms access to Brandywine and Lhûn. According to this treaty in 12 Second Age the Dwarves from Harbelegost owned the land between the eastern spur of the mountains and the Brandywine. The kingdom was developing so well that in 40 some surplus population was sent to Khazad-dûm, and in 50 a new city of Erlad was established at the southern end of the mountain range. The kingdom's prosperity lasted until 1693 Second Age, when the Elves began the war with Sauron. Out of stern necessity the Dwarves took the Elves' side and in 1695 marched against Sauron. As a result Sauron's armies captured and destroyed Erlad in 1697. The Dwarves lost their southern lands, but Sauron did not stop at that and in 1699 his armies captured and destroyed Harbelegost as well. The kingdom fell.

**Forbelegost**

*From 1 Second Age.*  
(map VI)

The second group of Belegost Dwarves went north. 75 miles from the mouth of the Lhûn they found a mine formerly belonging to Gabilgathol. They established a settlement there called Forbelegost. The Dwarves were nearer to the Elves than Harbelegost, so they could not even dream of regaining the former lands of Belegost. However, when they concluded an agreement with the Elves, they took over the lands between the Blue Mountains and the junction of the rivers Lhûn and Evendim up to the southern springs of Lhûn. During the war of Sauron and the Elves Forbelegost, in 1698, lost the Lhûn valley, but succeeded in keeping the hills and the springs of Lhûn. After Sauron had been driven out in 1702 only a part of the valley was regained by the Dwarves, the rest of it being taken over by the Elves. From that time they started to exert pressure on the kingdom, which resulted in the Dwarves moving the Forbelegost settlement near the south springs of the Lhûn and, closely following, losing control over the southern part of the Blue Mountains. In 3430, when The Last Alliance was forged, the Elves returned the taken lands to the Dwarves and Forbelegost again expanded to its borders from the year 10 T.A. However, about 1000 Third Age the Elves again began to exert pressure on Forbelegost. As a result in 1558 Third Age the Dwarves lost the hills and kept only the Mountains. In 2120 the Dwarves lost all the lands and were left with only the city of Forbelegost. This state continued until the end of the Third Age, when the Elves got weaker and in 98 Fourth Age Forbelegost yet again regained its former territories.

**Erebor**

*From 1999 Third Age until 2190 Third Age; from 2590 Third Age until 2770 Third Age; from 2941 Third Age.*  
(map VII)

In 1999 Third Age a group of Dwarves from Forbelegost and Khazad-dûm came to the Lonely Mountain and established the kingdom of Erebor there. The kingdom was developing slowly and in 2100 included only the Mountain and the surrounding fields. It was then that an expedition was sent to the Grey Mountains to explore them and take over some deserted mines formerly belonging to Forodor. The discovery of rich mineral lodes made the Dwarves leave Erebor in 2190. They moved to the Grey Mountains and established the kingdom of Forroth there. After the invasion of dragons the Dwarves returned to the Lonely Mountain and in 2590 the kingdom was restored. This time the development was faster. In 2600 Dale was built. The King under the Mountain gave the valley of the River Running to the city. The Dwarves took over a belt of land to the east, in 2683 establishing the border between Erebor and Angrenril in the middle of the road between the Lonely Mountain and the Iron Hills. This rapid development was brutally checked in 2770 Third Age when the dragon attacked the Lonely Mountain and laid waste to Erebor. Again the kingdom was totally wiped out. However, in 2941 Dwarves returned to the Mountain and after the dragon's death Thorin II Oakenshield crowned himself king. His kingdom contained only the inside of the Mountain and existed no longer than twenty days. After Thorin's death in the Battle of Five Armies Dáin from the Iron Hills took the throne of Erebor and established the kingdom of Angrenril and Erebor. In 2944 the city and kingdom of Dale was rebuilt and the Dwarves again took control over the lands between the Lonely Mountain and the
Iron Hills. In 2949 an expedition was sent to the Grey Mountains. The expedition took over the waste lands of Forgroth and announced the establishment of the Grey Mountains Province, subject to Erebor from 2950. For the next thirty years the lands between the Province and the Lonely Mountain were slowly settled until the borders touched and merged in 2980 Third Age. The Withered Heath was incorporated within the Province then. The new borders remained intact until 3019, when at the beginning of March the armies of Sauron’s allies crossed the river Carnen. They defeated the army of Dwarves from the Iron Hills and devastated the lands between the River Running and the Carnen. In a three-day battle they also defeated the armies of the king of Dale and the Dwarves from Erebor. Dale was captured and the Lonely Mountain was besieged. The enemy armies occupied the land between the Lonely Mountain and the Iron Hills and cut off the Mountain from the Province. However, on 27 March, Men and Dwarves counterattacked and on 30 March the Easterlings were pushed back over the river. The kingdom of Angrenril and Erebor regained its former territories, and the land along the border with Dale was incorporated into Erebor.

**Forgroth**

*From 2211 Third Age until 2589 Third Age; from 2950 Third Age.*

(map VIII)

Around the year 2000 Third Age the Dwarves escaping from Khazad-dûm came to the Grey Mountains. They were scattered until 2100, when messengers from Erebor came and in the name of the king began to explore and take over deserted mines once belonging to Forodor. Due to the discovery of rich mineral lodes the Dwarves from under the Lonely Mountain moved to the Grey Mountains in 2190, and in 2211 King Thorin I himself came there and established the kingdom of Forgroth. At the beginning it comprised the vicinity of the springs of the Forest River and the territories between the Grey Mountains and Mirkwood along the river. The kingdom expanded to the east and in 2500 ruled over the southern slopes of the Mountains up to their eastern tip. In 2570 the Dwarves began to penetrate the Withered Heath and the north-eastern range of the Mountains, and it is then that trouble with the dragons began. In 2589 Forgroth was destroyed by them and the kingdom ceased to exist. In 2950 Third Age the area was established as the Grey Mountains Province by the ruler of Angrenril and Erebor.

**Angrenril**

*From 2590 Third Age.*

(map VIII)

Some of the Dwarves fleeing from the Grey Mountains savaged by the dragons came to the Iron Hills and established the kingdom of Angrenril there. Within twenty years it grew until it comprised the whole of the Hills and then expanded to the west. Up to 2683, when the border with Erebor was established, the kingdom acquired a belt of land to the west of the Hills and the valley of the Carnen, some 150 miles long. In 2775, after the destruction of Erebor by the dragon, the western territories of Angrenril were depopulated. Their inhabitants moved to the bank of the Carnen, and so did those who had lived on its eastern bank and now fled before the Easterlings. Thus in 2780 the kingdom of Angrenril comprised the Iron Hills, the west bank of the Carnen up to the mouth of the River Running and some sixty miles along the eastern bank. The western lands returned to the kingdom in 2944, after the establishment of the kingdom of Angrenril and Erebor. In 2980 a belt of land between the south-east range of the Grey Mountains and the west end of the Iron Hills, along the border with Erebor, was incorporated into Angrenril. During the March War in 3019 the Easterlings occupied all the lands of Angrenril except for the Iron Hills. After the driving-off of the enemy, within about ten years, the Dwarves incorporated into Angrenril some lands on the western bank of the Carnen and the northern bank of the River Running, up to the border with Dale.

**Adundor**

*From 2775 Third Age.*

(map IX)

After the destruction of Erebor by the dragon in 2770 Third Age, a group of Dwarves went to the Blue Mountains. Some of them moved on to Forbelegost, but the rest went south and reached the eastern ranges of the Mountains some 140 miles to the south-east of Mithlond. They took advantage of the protection of the Elves’ kingdom and rebuilt the mine of Adundor, once belonging to Harbelegost. In 2775 the Dwarves’ leader crowned himself king of Adundor. The kingdom developed rather quickly and when in 2801, after the end of the Great War with the Orcs, many Dwarves came from the east, it comprised the whole eastern range of the Blue Mountains. Unfortunately, the unfavourable attitude of the Elves put an end to further territorial development of the kingdom for some 220 years. Only at the beginning of the Fourth Age did the Elves understand that the Dwarves needed the access to the Brandywine. Some treaties were signed, according to which Adundor acquired a belt of land 50 miles long and 60 miles wide along the border with Arnor. The Dwarves also ruled over a part of the southern range of the Mountains.

**Aglarond**

*From the 2nd year Fourth Age.*

(map X)

During the War of the Ring Gimli son of Gloin for some time fought at the side of King Théoden of Rohan. He helped the King during the defence of Helm’s Deep – the northernmost valley of the White Mountains. It was then that Gimli discovered at the end of the Deep, a chain of caves running deep into the mountains, under the massif of Thrihyrne. They reminded him of Khazad-dûm at the time of its glory. So when the War of the Ring ended, Gimli led a group of Dwarves from Erebor to Helm’s Deep. They established a settlement and a mine there, and in 2 Fourth Age Gimli son of Gloin crowned himself king of Aglarond. According to the treaty with the King of Rohan and the
Marshal of Westfold, Aglarond comprised the caves and Helm's Deep up to the walls of the Hornburg, thus being the smallest, but also the most beautiful, of all the Dwarves' kingdoms. As the massif of Thrihyme was not used by Rohan in any way, the Dwarves explored it and took it for their property in 17 F.A. In 20 Fourth Age a tunnel was pierced through the mountain to its southern side. Thanks to his skill as a diplomat and a negotiator King Gimli managed to buy from Rohan the western slopes of the White Mountains and the dale between Thrihyme and the springs of the River Adorn in 40.

KEY TO MAPS

The maps are based on Karen Fonstad's *The Atlas of Middle-earth* (first edition).

Map I

- Khazad-dûm, end I a.
- land annexed in 40 y. II a. and given up to Elves in 175 y. II a.
- land annexed before 100 y. II a.
- land lost after 1700 y. II a.
- borders of Khazad-dûm in 2891 y. III a.

Map II

- Khazad-dûm, end I a.
- land annexed to Belegost in 260 y. and lost after 600 y. I a.
- Forodor, end I a.
- Lithgoroth

Map III

- Erebor in year 250 I a.
- land annexed before 300 y.
- land annexed before 350 y.
- land annexed before 400 y.
- land annexed before 450 y.
- land annexed before 600 y. I a.

Map IV

- borders of Erebor at first II a.
- land lost in 40 y.
- land lost in years 60 - 100
- land lost in years 60 - 100 and regained in 1000 y. II a.
- land lost in 1200 y.
- land lost in 1200 y. and regained in 1600 y.

Map V

- borders of Harbelegost in 8 y. II a.
- land annexed in 12 y.
- land annexed in 50 y.

Map VI

- borders of Forbelegost in 10 y. II a.
- land annexed in 12 y.
- land lost in 1698 y.
- land regained in 1702 y.
- land lost after 2320 y.
- land lost after 1558 y. III a.

Map VII

- borders of Erebor in 2100 y. III a.
- land given up by the King of Dale in 2600 y.
- land annexed before 2683 y.
- Grey Mountains Province in 2950 y.
- land annexed to Province and Erebor before 2980 y.
- border between Province and Erebor
- land taken by the Easterlings during the March War (3019 y.)
- land annexed after the March War

Map VIII

- borders of Forgroth in 2211 y. III a.
- land annexed before 2500 y.
- land annexed in 2610 y.
- land annexed before 2683 y.
- land lost after 2775 y.
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- land taken by the Easterlings during the March War
- land annexed in 3029 y.

Map IX

- borders of Adundor in 2801 y. III a.
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Map X

- Aglarond in 2 y. IV a.
- borders in 20 y.
- borders in 40 y.
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Map VII
Map VIII