SOFTWARE & TECH

# Pillars Of Eternity Guidebook Volume One

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## Introduction: The Ultimate Companion for Eora's Adventurers

When **Obsidian Entertainment** released Pillars of Eternity in 2015, it immediately revived the golden age of isometric role-playing games. Players were dropped into the richly detailed world of Eora, a land brimming with ancient lore, complex moral dilemmas, and deep tactical combat. For many, the experience was exhilarating — and overwhelming. The game's sheer depth of systems, factions, and hidden secrets meant that even seasoned RPG veterans could feel lost. This is precisely where the **Pillars of Eternity Guidebook Volume One** steps in. This official companion is far more than a simple instruction manual; it is a beautifully crafted artifact that serves as both a lore compendium and a practical strategy resource. In this comprehensive article, we will delve into everything this guidebook offers, why it remains essential for both newcomers and veterans, and how it enriches your journey through the Dyrwood.

## What Makes the Pillars of Eternity Guidebook Volume One Essential?

The first thing to understand about the **Pillars of Eternity Guidebook Volume One** is that it was created with the same passion and attention to detail as the game itself. Produced in collaboration with Obsidian Entertainment and published by Dark Horse Books, this volume is a hardcover treasure that spans over 200 pages. It is not merely a collection of stat tables and maps. Instead, it reads like an in-world document created by a scholar of Eora, blending gameplay guidance with narrative flavor. Whether you are struggling with the game's intricate **character creation system**or searching for every hidden side quest, this guidebook provides the clarity you need without spoiling the joy of discovery.

### A Perfect Blend of Lore and Strategy

One of the standout features of this volume is its ability to balance **lore exposition**with actionable strategy. Each section begins with an in-character narrative that sets the tone for the world, making you feel as though you are reading a chronicle written by an inhabitant of the Dyrwood. This is followed by clear, well-organized breakdowns of game mechanics. For example, the chapter on classes does not just list abilities and progression tables; it also explains the philosophical and cultural origins of each class within the world of Eora. This approach ensures that you do not just learn how to optimize a character — you understand why that character exists in the world.

- Class Breakdowns: Detailed analyses of all eleven classes, including subclass options and multiclass synergies.
- Race and Culture Guide: Comprehensive coverage of all playable races and cultures, complete with lore backgrounds and mechanical advantages.
- Attribute System: Clear explanations of Might, Constitution, Dexterity, Perception, Intellect, and Resolve,

with practical tips for assigning points.

- Skill System: Insights into how to effectively use skills like Mechanics, Stealth, and Athletics in both combat and exploration.

## Deep Dive into Character Creation

Character creation in *Pillars of Eternity* is one of the most intricate systems in any RPG. With eleven classes, multiple races, cultures, and backgrounds, and a complex attribute system, the number of possible combinations is staggering. The **Pillars of Eternity Guidebook Volume One** dedicates a substantial portion of its content to this very process, ensuring that you can build a protagonist that is both mechanically effective and narratively satisfying.

### Understanding the Core Attributes

The game uses six primary attributes, but unlike many RPGs, they are not straightforward. For instance, **Might** does not just affect physical damage; it also influences healing and spells. **Intellect** governs the duration of all effects, whether magical or martial. The guidebook provides clear examples and recommended ranges for each class, helping you avoid common pitfalls. It also explains how attributes interact with the game's **engagement system** and **action speed**, which are crucial for tactical positioning. By consulting this volume, you can create a character that feels truly tailored to your playstyle, whether you prefer a frontline tank, a stealthy backstabber, or a versatile spellcaster.

### Classes, Subclasses, and Multiclassing

The guidebook offers exhaustive breakdowns of each class, including the **Paladin** orders, **Priest** deities, and the unique **Chanter** phrase system. It also covers the **White March** expansion classes (Barbarian, Monk, Rogue, and more) with equal depth. For those interested in the **multiclassing** system introduced in the *Pillars of Eternity* expansions, the guidebook provides recommended combinations and explains how different class abilities synergize. For example, a **Ranger/Rogue** multiclass can deliver devastating opening strikes, while a **Wizard/Chanter** can control the battlefield with a mix of spells and phrases.

1. Cipher: Details on building a high-damage Soul Whip build.
2. Fighter: Strategies for maximizing durability and engagement.
3. Druid: Guidance on balancing shapeshifting and spellcasting.
4. Priest: Overview of deity-specific spells and roleplaying opportunities.

## Exploring the World of Eora: Regions, Factions, and Quests

The **Pillars of Eternity Guidebook Volume One** is also an invaluable resource for understanding the world of Eora. The game is dense with **lore**, from the history of the Engwithans to the political tensions between the Dyrwood and the Readceras Empire. The guidebook organizes this information in a way that is accessible without overwhelming the reader.

### A Guided Tour of the Dyrwood

Each major location in the game is covered in detail. For instance, the section on **Defiance Bay** includes a street-by-street breakdown of its districts, including Ondra's Gift, Brackenbury, and the Copperlane. You will find marked maps showing key vendors, quest givers, and hidden treasures. The guidebook also offers **quest flowcharts** for complex chains, such as the **Heritage Hill** quest line and the infamous **Blood Legacy** quest. These flowcharts help you understand how different choices lead to distinct outcomes, allowing you to make informed decisions without reading explicit spoilers unless you choose to.

### Factions and Reputation

The game features several major factions that influence the story and your character's reputation. The guidebook provides detailed descriptions of the factions, including the **Defiant**, the **Knights of the Crucible**, and the **House of Doemenel**. It explains how to gain (or lose) reputation with each group, the rewards for high standing, and the consequences of enmity. This is especially helpful for players who want to align with a specific faction for roleplaying purposes or for access to unique items and stronghold upgrades.

- Stronghold Management: Tips for upgrading Caed Nua, hiring adventurers, and curating your collection of taxidermy.
- Bounties and Monster Hunting: A bestiary section with monster weaknesses and recommended tactics.
- Hidden Treasures: Locations of unique weapons, armor, and soulbound items.

## Mastering Combat and Party Strategy

Combat in *Pillars of Eternity* is tactical and real-time with pause. Success requires understanding **engagement**, **attack resolution**, and the complex interplay of **defenses** (Deflection, Fortitude, Reflex, and Will). The **Pillars of Eternity Guidebook Volume One** excels at breaking down these systems into digestible concepts.

### The Engagement System Explained

One of the most important mechanics in the game is the engagement system, which governs how enemies lock onto your party members. The guidebook explains how to use **tanks** to engage multiple foes, how to use **disengagement attacks** effectively, and how to position your ranged characters to avoid being targeted. It also covers the various **status effects** like Flanked, Prone, and Stunned, and how they interact with defenses. By understanding these mechanics, you can significantly reduce the difficulty of even the hardest encounters.

### Party Composition and Synergy

Building a balanced party is essential for success. The guidebook offers several **party composition templates**, including a balanced four-man group, a magic-heavy team, and a stealth-focused party. It explains how each role (tank, damage dealer, crowd control, support) should be built and equipped. For example, a **Wizard** with high Intellect can use **Chill Fog** and **Slicken** to control enemy movement, while a **Priest** of Eothas can provide healing and buffs. The guidebook also suggests gear upgrades and spell selections for each stage of the game.

### Boss Fights and Difficult Encounters

For the truly challenging fights, such as the **Adra Dragon**, the **Master Below** encounter, and the battles in the **White March** expansions, the guidebook provides dedicated strategy sections. These include recommended party levels, pre-buff strategies, and positioning tips. Importantly, the guidebook offers multiple approaches — a brute force method, a stealth-based approach, and a diplomatic option where applicable — so you can choose the strategy that feels right for your character.

## A Collector's Item: Physical Quality and Art

Beyond its practical utility, the **Pillars of Eternity Guidebook Volume One** is a stunning physical object. The hardcover binding features embossed gold lettering and the game's iconic artwork. The interior pages are printed on high-quality, glossy paper that brings the concept art, maps, and in-game screenshots to life. The book is filled with original illustrations created by the game's artists, showcasing character designs, monsters, environmental landscapes, and key story moments. For collectors and fans of the game, this guidebook is a beautiful companion that sits proudly on any shelf.

### Limited Edition Appeal

This volume is part of a limited print run, which adds to its desirability among collectors. The first edition includes a ribbon bookmark and a high-quality dust jacket that replicates an ancient tome. Many fans consider it a **must-have item** for any RPG collector. The price has remained stable on the secondary market, indicating that it is a worthwhile investment for those who appreciate video game art and literature.

Why Seek Out the Pillars of Eternity Guidebook Volume One?

With the game's sequel, *Pillars of Eternity II: Deadfire*, having been released, one might wonder if this guidebook is still relevant. The answer is an emphatic yes. The **Pillars of Eternity Guidebook Volume One** remains a vital resource for anyone

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