

HEARTS OF IRON IV



ART OF WAR
AN INTRODUCTION TO WORLD WAR 2



THE WORLD WAS TREMBLING

Barely twenty years after the guns of the Great War were silenced, the world again was slipping into chaos. But where the outbreak of the First World War seemed a surprise to many governments, in 1936 the signs of the next war were everywhere.

The global economic crisis of the early 1930s and failure of the League of Nations to rein in the behavior of even those Great Powers that had signed on to the League Covenant combined to make a very unstable world political system. Aggressive nations like Italy and Japan had been able to acquire prestige and power from bullying or provoking weaker neighbors. A new German government used rearmament and promises of a mythic destiny to re-energize a demoralized population. And the Soviet Union remained outside of the political system altogether.

But fear of the cost of another great power war restrained any collective efforts to rehabilitate or cow the new militarism. China could be sacrificed

to Japan. Ethiopia was in Africa and, therefore, considered not important. When even modest condemnations came, the aggressive powers simply ignored them and moved onward. And the great democracies had their own problems.

The United States, the greatest of them all, had willingly cut itself off from the problems of the Old World to focus on another American century. France remained a political nightmare, as the Third Republic was riven by faction. Even the United Kingdom had to deal with an independence movement in the jewel of a fading empire – India.

“The center cannot hold”. A global war is coming, and each nation would prefer to fight that war on the most favorable terms possible. Hearts of Iron IV gives you complete control over any nation’s politics, industry and war planning. It is time to see if you can survive the coming apocalypse.

Off to war.

WAR PLANNING

London, Great Britain



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The United Kingdom

Still technically the center of the world's largest empire, and shielded by its dominions, the United Kingdom could still punch above its weight in the world, especially at sea where the Royal Navy still held sway.

Anxious to avoid another world war that would further weaken its grasp on its colonies, Britain took no steps to stop German aggression until it was too late. Rallied by the Miracle at Dunkirk, the air victory in the Battle of Britain, and triumphs in North Africa, the UK could soldier on as long as the ocean supply convoys held out.

Britain was a beacon of freedom for much of the world, and its Special Relationship with America was born in this conflict. But, shortly after world's end, an exhausted United Kingdom would see its empire drift away.

Winston Churchill:
Controversial politician
who warned about German
aggression, as Prime
Minister, Churchill
became the embodiment of
British resistance.



SPITFIRE - UNITED KINGDOM

The silhouette of this agile fighter is one of the enduring images of the Battle of Britain. This single-seat aircraft was the most successful bomber-killer in this engagement and saw action in every theatre where the RAF was engaged. Designed as an interceptor, its flexible construction led to its use as a multi-purpose plane for much of the war.

CRUSADER - UNITED KINGDOM

For much of the North African campaign, this British tank was the best vehicle the Allies had – which is too bad since it was not really great in desert conditions. On top of being prone to catch fire because of ammunition placement, the sand interfered with cooling systems. It had great speed in its favor, but was replaced with American tanks once they became available.

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WOMEN WORKERS

The United States of America



The United States

Protected by oceans on either side, and humbled by an economic depression that even the world's titan could not avoid, the United States population was skeptical about getting involved in yet another war. President Franklin Roosevelt, however, did everything he could - short of declaring war - to support the nations fighting Germany and Japan. The richest nation on earth got even richer as the world economy spasmed through a World War, and, once the USA did enter the war after a Japanese surprise attack in 1941, its industrial might - safe from enemy bombers - proved to be the decisive element in beating back Germany and Japan.



Franklin Roosevelt: His support of heavy government investment in the economy pulled America out of the Depression. Elected to unprecedented 3rd term in 1940, he supported intervention in the war in Europe.

George Patton: Colorful and controversial, Patton's aggressive attacks and emphasis on mobility were key to victories in Africa, Italy and the breakout from Normandy. Celebrated as a battlefield leader.



THE ESSENTIAL GEOGRAPHY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IOWA - USA

Finally retired by the US Navy in 1992, the Iowa-class battleship was a durable emblem of American power for most of the 20th century. Four were built as fast battleships for carrier escort duty, the boom of their 16-inch cannons often the first warning the Japanese would get that the Marines were about to land.

M4 SHERMAN - USA

Probably the most iconic tank of the Allied war effort, the Sherman's designers emphasized reliability and ease of maintenance on top of a robust armor and cannon design. The Sherman also had a gyroscopic gunsight, making it especially deadly in armor battles. ►



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**A TIGER IN
THE DESERT**
Northern Africa

Germany

- International boundary
- State (Land) boundary
- National capital
- State (Land) capital
- Railroad
- Autobahn
- Other road

0
50
0

GERMANY

The Nazi rise to power in 1933 was fueled by resentment against the Versailles Treaty that ended World War I, and against those many Germans blamed for the humiliating terms - especially Jews and Socialists.

Under Hitler, Germany quickly rearmed itself through the decade, building one of the greatest war machines in human history, and finally pushing Europe into a general war by attacking Poland in September 1939.

Germany was the first country to put into practice the combined arms doctrines that many theorists had advanced between the wars. Eventually, strategic error and bureaucratic incompetence halted German progress and the country ended the war occupied and divided.

★ Berlin

★ Prague

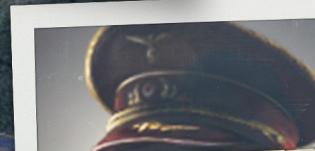
BISMARCK - GERMANY

The class name of two German battleships, the name is most closely associated with the first in her class. The Bismarck broke into the North Atlantic in 1941, sunk the British battleship Hood and became the most wanted ship in the Axis fleet. Cornered off the southwest coast of Ireland, it took heavy damage and was scuttled by its crew.



PANZER IV - GERMANY

The most widely produced German tank of the war, the Panzer IV was the centerpiece of the Wehrmacht's great tank battles on the Eastern Front. In fact, a November 1941 upgrade to the tank - ordered just before Operation Barbarossa - forced the Soviets to refit their own main battle tank, the T-34. Constantly refitted to meet new needs, the Panzer IV was effective until the end of the war.



Heading: Erwin Rommel

INCOMING

His daring campaigns in North Africa made him a legend. Brought back to Europe to defend Germany in the west, Rommel was forced to commit suicide after a failed coup.



SUBMARINE
BY NIGHT
Atlantic Ocean

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ITALIA

adieciis iis, in quas usque ad Augusti
tempus Italiae nomen propagatum
est, regionibus,
Sicilia, Sardinia, Corsica,

Before the war, Fascist Italy seemed like a second rate great power with first rate ambitions. The dictator Benito Mussolini envisioned a new Roman Empire, and, after crushing opposition at home, moved on to invade Ethiopia in 1937 – the same Ethiopia that had embarrassed Italian invaders decades earlier. This time, Italy won easily, provoking an international crisis that effectively ended the League of Nations. Growing tension with the democracies of the world convinced Mussolini that his best chances lay with a German alliance. The Allied invasion of Italy in 1943 saw some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and an exhausted Italy overthrew their leader and switched sides.

Giovanni Messe: Messe was one of the most effective and well-traveled Italian generals, serving both pro- and anti-Fascist armies in the war.



AUSTRIA
SWITZERLAND
HUNGARY
YUGOSLAVIA



L3 - ITALY

The L3 is adorable. Now considered a “tankette” more than a tank, this tiny 2-man armored vehicle was the backbone of Italy's wars, as well as seeing action in the Spanish Civil War and China. Its performance was... not great. Anti-tank rifles could easily knock them out, and they were outclassed from the very beginning of the war.

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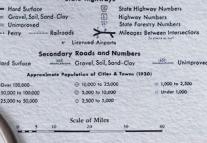


PACIFIC PLANES

Pacific Ocean

JAPAN

Legend



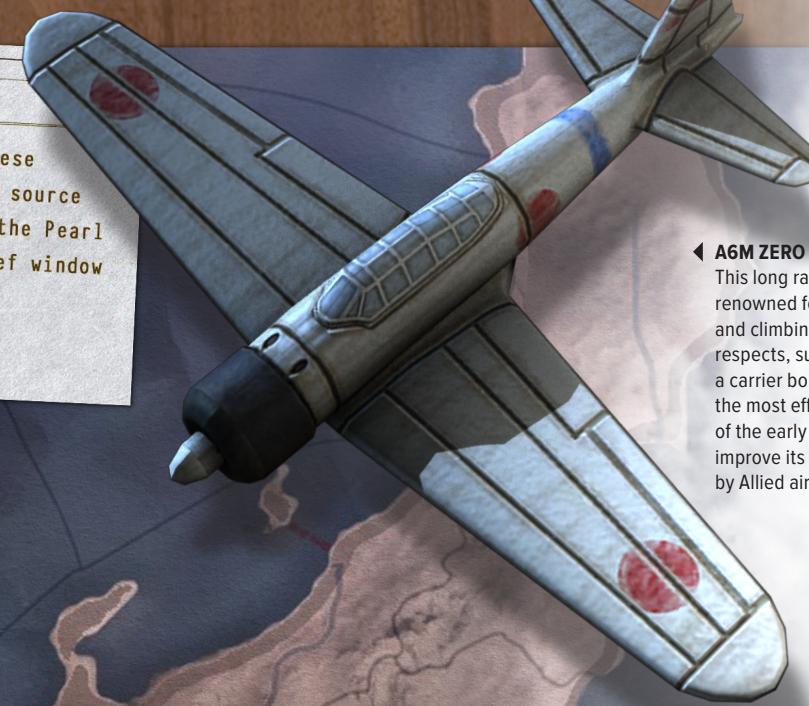
Isoroku Yamamoto: The great Japanese commander who saw the navy as the source of national strength. He planned the Pearl Harbor attack, giving Japan a brief window to expand across the Pacific.

JAPAN

For Asia, the World War started in 1937, when Japan used the pretext of a missing soldier to bully China. Already secure in Manchuria and Korea, Japan had plenty of staging ground for a full scale invasion of its larger but much less industrialized neighbor. Japanese victory in China was never complete - China's large size prevented that - and the need for resources led to conflicts with European empires in the region.

In the name of a "Co-Prosperity Sphere" for Asians, Japan allied with Germany and moved into Indochina and Indonesia. American embargos forced the dramatic decision to attack the US fleet at Pearl Harbor in 1941, giving the Rising Sun a very narrow window to secure its gains.

By 1944, the war was effectively lost for Japan, but it would not surrender until it was hit by the only two atomic weapons ever used in war.



◀ AGM ZERO - JAPAN

This long range Japanese fighter was renowned for its maneuverability and climbing speed. It was, in many respects, superior to the Spitfire. Mostly a carrier borne fighter, the Zero was the most effective dogfighting plane of the early war, until Japan's failure to improve its engines left it outmatched by Allied aircraft.



▲ YAMATO - JAPAN

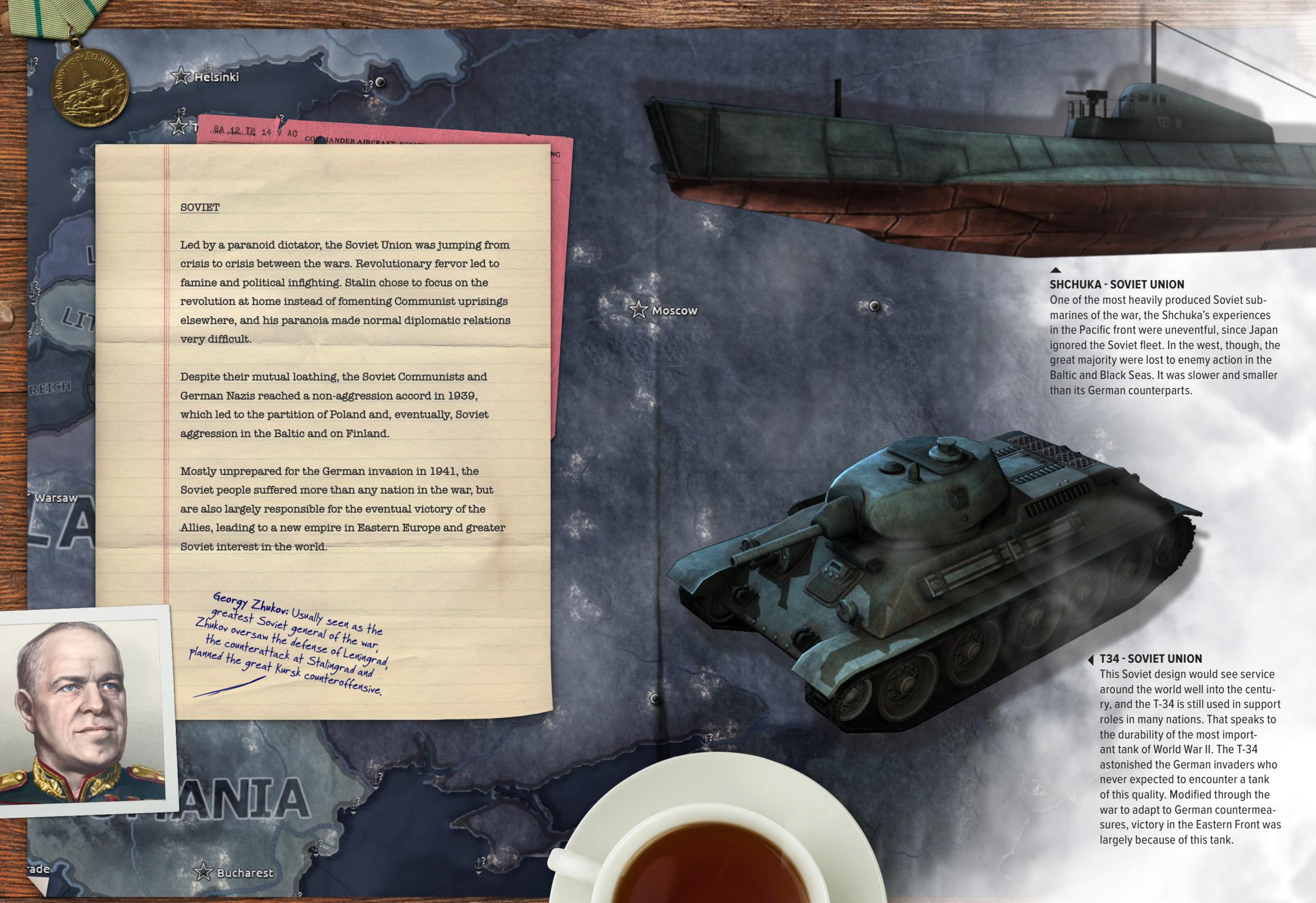
The Yamato class battleship was one of most powerful vessels to ever sail the seas. Three of these ships were built (though one was converted to a carrier), and they had the largest artillery ever mounted on a warship - nine 18-inch cannons. The original Yamato was the flagship for the Japanese fleet at Midway. All three ships were sunk by the end of the war.

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V-2 ROCKET

Occupied France



SOVIET

Led by a paranoid dictator, the Soviet Union was jumping from crisis to crisis between the wars. Revolutionary fervor led to famine and political infighting. Stalin chose to focus on the revolution at home instead of fomenting Communist uprisings elsewhere, and his paranoia made normal diplomatic relations very difficult.

Despite their mutual loathing, the Soviet Communists and German Nazis reached a non-aggression accord in 1939, which led to the partition of Poland and, eventually, Soviet aggression in the Baltic and on Finland.

Mostly unprepared for the German invasion in 1941, the Soviet people suffered more than any nation in the war, but are also largely responsible for the eventual victory of the Allies, leading to a new empire in Eastern Europe and greater Soviet interest in the world.

Georgy Zhukov: Usually seen as the greatest Soviet general of the war, Zhukov oversaw the defense of Leningrad, the counterattack at Stalingrad and the great Kursk counteroffensive.

SHCHUKA - SOVIET UNION

One of the most heavily produced Soviet submarines of the war, the Shchuka's experiences in the Pacific front were uneventful, since Japan ignored the Soviet fleet. In the west, though, the great majority were lost to enemy action in the Baltic and Black Seas. It was slower and smaller than its German counterparts.

T34 - SOVIET UNION

This Soviet design would see service around the world well into the century, and the T-34 is still used in support roles in many nations. That speaks to the durability of the most important tank of World War II. The T-34 astonished the German invaders who never expected to encounter a tank of this quality. Modified through the war to adapt to German countermeasures, victory in the Eastern Front was largely because of this tank.



WINTER TANKS

Soviet Union

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FRANCE

Though victorious in World War I, the physical cost of that conflict made France unenthusiastic for another fight. The political paralysis of the Third Republic didn't help matters, with governments rising and falling regularly. France invested heavily in a network of forts along its German border, but failed to react to German aggression through the 30s. It did keep its commitment to Poland, but still did not emerge from its protective shell - the Maginot Line. A German blitz around the forts through the Low Countries led to a quick surrender, and France was split into an occupied region and a collaborationist regime in south. French resistance never died, however, and the second front against Nazism was opened in Normandy in 1944.



Jean de Lattre de Tassigny:
Veteran French commander
who defected from the Vichy
regime in 1943 to serve with the
Free French. He took part in the
liberation of Southern France and
the march to the Rhine.

FCM 36 - FRANCE

A light 2-man tank produced in the late 1930s, the FCM 36 was designed with sloped armor that could still counter most anti-tank weapons of its day. It was, however, easily outgunned by invading German Panzers in 1940.

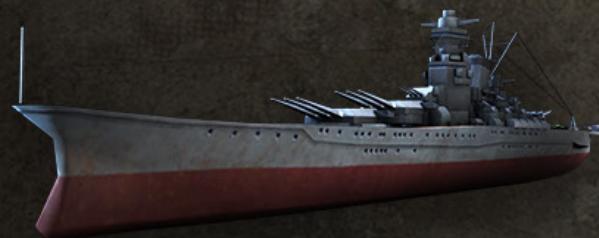


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OMAHA BEACH

Normandy, France



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French Localization - S&H Entertainment Localization
German Localization - S&H Entertainment Localization
Brazilian Portuguese Localization - S&H Entertainment Localization
Polish Localization - QLOC
Russian Localization - The Most Games

PICTURE CREDIT

Russian propaganda poster images by Istudios Visuals, Istudios.se

President Truman announces Japan's surrender, at the White House.
Washington DC, August 14, 1945.
Courtesy National Archives, photo no. 79-AR-508Q

Hitler accepts the ovation of the Reichstag after announcing the 'peaceful' acquisition of Austria. It set the stage to annex the Czechoslovakian Sudetenland, largely inhabited by a German-speaking population.
Berlin, March 1938.

Courtesy National Archives, photo no. 208-N-39843

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FORZA DJURGÅR'N!

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