

= Rise of Nations : Thrones and Patriots =

Rise of Nations : Thrones and Patriots is the official expansion pack to the real @-@ time strategy video game Rise of Nations . The game is the second in a series of Rise of Nations games by Big Huge Games . Thrones and Patriots had its premiere release for Microsoft Windows on April 27 , 2004 in North America . It was ported to and released for Mac OS X in November 2004 . Rise of Nations : Extended Edition was released on Steam on June 12 , 2014 and includes both the original game and Thrones and Patriots with updated graphics and Steamworks integration for multiplayer .

Thrones and Patriots expanded on a variety of features in the original game , such as new monuments (called " Wonders ") , nations , governments , and campaigns . Gameplay still remains similar to Rise of Nations , with its wide span of ages and players still manage and expand their nations at the macro and micro levels . However , Thrones and Patriots has campaigns which offer more turn @-@ based strategy features than the original and the ability to make decisions outside of combat . Up to eight players can play in multiplayer matches , with artificial intelligence being able to fill slots at the server host 's choice .

Tim Train , executive producer of Thrones and Patriots , stated that various features were added to the game in an attempt to balance gameplay , including the addition of armed caravans and merchants . IGN claimed that Thrones and Patriots is " a great game [which] gets better , " in reference to its predecessor Rise of Nations and other critical reviews also praised many features of the game , though some noted deficiencies . Thrones and Patriots has received a compilation score of 87 @.@ 86 % and 88 % on Game Rankings and Metacritic respectively .

= = Gameplay = =

Within Rise of Nations : Thrones and Patriots players control various units during battles , including land , sea , and aerial units . Units used during gameplay include slingers , musketeers , tanks , large Persian war elephants , aircraft carriers , and nuclear missiles . Players progress in different ways in Thrones and Patriots by using various means including espionage , political strategy , technology races and population growth . The gameplay takes place from ancient history to modern times . Players are able to lead their nations at the macro and micro levels , and build their nation up and expand it throughout the game .

Thrones and Patriots added six new nations to the original Rise of Nations game . The ' New World ' situation playable in the game was enhanced by the introduction of the European nation ? the Dutch . Three North American nations were added , the Americans , referring to the ex @-@ colonial civilization , and two Native American nations were added , which were the Lakota and the Iroquois . Two Asian nations , the Indians and the Persians , were introduced . The other nation to be added was the Dutch . New Wonders were made available for building , such as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon , the Forbidden City , and the Red Fort .

New features of the game were added to the new nations , for instance the Lakota , which is unable to build farms to generate food , instead receive a constant food supply for each of their citizens , scouts , and cavalry units . They can make buildings in any region that is not possessed by their enemy , can raze buildings quickly , receiving a full refund . Additionally , they receive resources when enemy resources are destroyed .

= = = Campaigns = = =

Rise of Nations : Thrones and Patriots added four new " Conquer the World " campaigns : Alexander the Great , Napoleon , the New World , and the Cold War . The Alexander the Great campaign allows the player to choose whether or not to raze or incorporate conquered territories . A player 's decision to raze may cause the rest of the enemies to either fight harder , or question their casus belli and ally with you . The Napoleon campaign challenges the player to conquer Europe in a limited amount of time , with diplomacy , alliances , conquest , and bribing with land . Players must have intuitive leadership in this campaign because faulty decisions by the player can force

themselves , that is to say , Napoleon , into exile . The New World campaign allows the player to choose either the Americans , a European power , or a Native American tribe . If the player chooses to lead the Americans , they must pay taxes to Great Britain , until they declare independence . The map of a battle incorporates the region 's environment , for example large forests in the Pacific Northwest . The Cold War introduces the ability to fire nuclear missiles in the main map and initiate espionage missions . Armies can also move anywhere in their nation 's territory without using up a turn. Rise of Nations : Thrones and Patriots ' campaigns now offer more turn @-@ based strategy into the game rather than real @-@ time strategy being the only gameplay aspect .

= = = Governments = = =

Once the player builds the Senate building , he or she may choose a government " upgrade " of either a Despotism or a Republic , each giving the player a different permanent gameplay bonus . Each government has a different " Patriot " , effectively a stronger version of the " General " unit with different bonuses , depending on which government is chosen . They are used during combat to assist players in battle . A player can only have one Patriot unit at a time . When a Patriot unit is killed , a new one is automatically created in the Senate afterwards .

After reaching the Gunpowder Age , the player may choose to upgrade to either a Monarchy or a Democracy , each with its own different permanent gameplay bonus , and then after reaching the Industrial Age , the player may upgrade again , to either Capitalism or Socialism . The previous gameplay bonuses remain , allowing players to select the most appropriate combination of benefits as the game evolves .

= = = Multiplayer = = =

Rise of Nations features a highly customizable multiplayer mode . Up to eight players can play in a game with a variety of modes to choose from , with AI filling spots at the server host 's choice . GameSpy Technologies had hosted matchmaking and other servers for multiplayer games played online through their dedicated server until December 2012 . A new feature that was introduced into the game was the ability to use homemade scripts in online play . The scripts are able to be made in the built in script editor , and came with a pre @-@ made script that disallowed missile silos .

= = Development = =

Microsoft Game Studios and Big Huge Games announced the development of the expansion pack for Rise of Nations , Rise of Nations : Thrones and Patriots , on November 21 , 2003 . By December 16 of that year , the game 's development was about 70 % complete . A website was launched for the game on February 13 , 2004 , which contained information , screenshots , and other details about the expansion pack .

Big Huge Games added multiple new features to the game during its development , in an attempt to fix issues with the original version . In an interview with GameSpot , executive producer Tim Train explained the development of the expansion pack . He stated how some nations were previously either too weak or too strong , and so features were added to balance gameplay . One way they did this is armed caravans and merchants were added to the Dutch nation , in order to weaken raids initiated by other players who rush their opponent . He said Big Huge Games brought in professional players in order to get suggestions on how to improve the game .

The expansion pack Thrones and Patriots was released for Microsoft Windows in North America on April 27 , 2004 , and subsequently in Europe on May 21 , 2004 . NPD sales figures for May , the first full month of Thrones and Patriots release in the United States , showed it as fourth in PC sales for the month , with its predecessor needed for the expansion pack going from twelfth in sales in April to fifth in sales in May . By October 27 , 2004 , combined sales of Thrones and Patriots and the base game Rise of Nations had passed one million copies worldwide . On October 28 , 2004 , Rise of Nations : Gold Edition was released for Microsoft Windows . The new product included both the

original Rise of Nations and Thrones and Patriots . In November 2004 , a port of Rise of Nations : Gold Edition was released for Mac OS X. It was published by MacSoft Games and developed by both Big Huge Games and Westlake Interactive .

In December 2012 , official servers for Thrones and Patriots were shut down by GameSpy Technologies , which made it difficult for multiplayer matches to be played officially online . Programs like GameRanger could be used to continue playing multiplayer games online without the usage of official game servers .

The rights to the assets and intellectual property of Rise of Nations , Thrones and Patriots , and Rise of Legends and the Big Huge Games trademark were sold in the bankruptcy auction of 38 Studios to Microsoft Studios on December 11 , 2013 . Gross proceeds of the auction totaled \$ 320 @, @ 000 .

Rise of Nations : Extended Edition is a re @-@ release of the main game and the expansion on Steam that was released on June 12 , 2014 . Graphical changes to the game include updated textures , lighting and water . Other changes to the game include Steamworks integration which will add cloud saves , Steam Trading Cards , achievements , Twitch integration and multiplayer with Elo ranked matches to the game . Extended Edition is developed by SkyBox Labs .

= = = Modding = = =

Rise of Nations : Thrones and Patriots retains the support of a loyal fanbase as of June 2012 , which continues to produce a variety of mods for the game . The game can be modified in many aspects by enthusiasts , including the addition of new units , nations , buildings , scenarios , conquer the world campaigns and scripts . The modding community has been supported by the release of various packs by Big Huge Games , including the 3dsmax5 exporter plugin , and a detailed guide on the scenario editor and creating scripts . Modifications released so far by the community have encompassed themes such as the Second World War , Vietnam War , a hypothetical Third World War , Medieval combat and Roman era warfare . While a variety of modding communities came into existence after the game 's release , most sources assert that the most popular remains Rise of Nations Heaven .

= = Reception = =

Rise of Nations : Thrones and Patriots has received a compilation score of 88 % on both Game Rankings and Metacritic . In its review , IGN claimed that Thrones and Patriots is " a great game [which] gets better , " in reference to its predecessor Rise of Nations . 1UP.com stated that the game is what expansion packs should try to mimic . Game Informer declared that Rise of Nations : Thrones and Patriots is " one of the essential pieces of any strategy gamer ? s collection . " GameSpot commented that the game is a terrific experience and it not only provides exceptional content , but that it also improves an already good game .

In the expansion pack , many insignificant changes were introduced to complement the existing game structure , rather than radically alter it , and critics considered the continuing of the original game format to be good . GameSpy claimed that , even with all of Thrones and Patriots ' additions , the framework of the game still feels excellent . However , IGN declared that the developers only added many features into the game " in the hopes that it would seem coherent , " rather than actually giving the game a " central theme . "

Both IGN and GameSpot claimed the game 's government mechanics were similar to those of the game series Civilization . However , GameSpy stated the game 's artificial intelligence for " managing the individual movements of units and citizens ... [was] strategically brain dead . " Their review explained that the wide range of upgrades , units , and technology research in different buildings requires micromanagement and the use of hotkeys , especially during online play . The review stated that the game had biased gameplay times in single @-@ player with different nations , such as Lakota having very limited use , and Americans having a massive amount of playtime .

GameSpot stated that the multiplayer functionality of Rise of Nations : Thrones and Patriots had

some lag , even when on a local network . 1UP.com reported problems with crashes in both the single and multiplayer modes of Thrones and Patriots .

In awarding Rise of Nations : Thrones and Patriots " Best Expansion Pack " of 2004 , IGN acclaimed the additions of more playable nations and new government mechanics that Rise of Nations didn 't have , and the new " Conquer the World " campaigns .