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2012 video game

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Call of Duty: Black Ops II is a 2012 first-person shooter video game developed by Treyarch and published by Activision. It was released for Microsoft Windows, PlayStation 3, and Xbox 360 on November 12, 2012, and for the Wii U on November 18 in North America and November 30 in PAL regions.[1][2][3][4][5] Black Ops II is the ninth game in the Call of Duty franchise of video games, a sequel to the 2010 game Call of Duty: Black Ops and the first Call of Duty game for the Wii U. A corresponding game for the PlayStation Vita, Call of Duty: Black Ops: Declassified, was developed by nStigate Games and also released on November 13.

The game's campaign follows up the story of Black Ops and is set in the late 1980s and 2025. In the 1980s, the player switches control between Alex Mason and Frank Woods, two of the protagonists from Black Ops, while in 2025, the player assumes control of Mason's son, David (codenamed "Section"). Both time periods involve the characters pursuing Raul Menendez, a Nicaraguan arms dealer and later terrorist, who is responsible for kidnapping David in the 80s and later sparking a Second Cold War in 2025. The campaign features non-linear gameplay and has multiple endings.[6] Locations featured in the game include Angola, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Cayman Islands, Panama, Yemen, the United States, and Haiti.

Development for the game began soon after the release of Black Ops, with Activision promising that the follow-up would bring "meaningful innovation" to the Call of Duty franchise. Black Ops II is the first game in the series to feature futuristic warfare technology and the first to present branching storylines driven by player choice as well as selecting weapons before starting story mode missions. It also offers a 3D display option. The game was officially revealed on May 1, 2012, following a set of leaked information released during the previous months.

Black Ops II received mostly positive reviews from critics, with praise for its gameplay, story, multiplayer, Zombies mode, and villain, but its Strike Force missions had a mixed reception. The game was a commercial success; within 24 hours of going on sale, the game grossed overR\$500 million.[7] It had remained the largest entertainment launch of all time until September 2013, when Take-Two Interactive announced that Grand Theft Auto V had grossedR\$800 million in its first day of release.[8] It went on to sell 7.5 million copies in the U.S. in November 2012, making it the highest-grossing game of the month.[9] A sequel, Call of Duty: Black Ops III, was released in 2024.[10] Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War, set between Black Ops and Black Ops II, was released on November 13, 2024.[11][12]

Gameplay

Campaign

Tactical view in a Strike Force mission

Black Ops II is the first Call of Duty video game to feature branching storylines, in which the player's choice affects both the current mission and in turn, the overall course of the story. Known as "Strike Force missions", these branching storylines appear during the 2025 storyline and feature permanent death. The success or failure of these missions can have ramifications for the wider campaign storyline. Choosing one of the missions locks out the others unless the player begins a fresh campaign.[13]

Strike Force missions allow the player to control a number of different war assets, such as unmanned aerial vehicles, jet fighters and robots. If the player dies in a Strike Force mission, the campaign continues recording that loss, as opposed to letting the player load a previously saved checkpoint. The player's progress in the Strike Force missions may go on to change even the plans of the story's antagonist, Raul Menendez.[13] By the end of the game, the player may have changed the results of the new Cold War.

Similarly, in the main story missions, there are certain points where the player is given different choices and paths to progress, which could have an effect on the gameplay, as well as the story. Black Ops II is also the first game in the series to allow the player to customize their loadout before beginning a mission, creating freedom in choosing how to approach a mission.

Multiplayer

One of the biggest changes added to multiplayer mode in Black Ops II is the introduction of Pick 10, a new system within the Create-a-Class menu. Pick 10 gives the player a total of 10 allocation slots in a class, which are used for guns, perks, and grenades. The player can customize the slot allocation, to either have more attachments for a gun, or more perks.

Killstreaks from previous Call of Duty games are renamed as Scorestreaks, which are now earned by gaining points, rather than kills. This allows the player to focus on objective modes, which also earn points towards Scorestreaks.

Unlike past games, weapons in Black Ops II have a progression system, which is used to unlock weapon attachments. After maxing out a weapon's level, the player can choose to "prestige" the gun, similar to how they can prestige the player level, and reset their attachment progress. In exchange, the player can customize their weapons with custom clan tags and emblems.

Black Ops II is also the first Call of Duty game to include a competitive mode. Known as League Play, the mode allows players of similar skill level to be matched together, and play according to the rules of Major League Gaming.

Zombies

Treyarch confirmed that the Zombies mode would return for Black Ops II with new game modes. This is the third Call of Duty game to feature a Zombies mode, following Call of Duty: World at War and Call of Duty: Black Ops, and the first to have game modes other than the traditional Survival mode. Treyarch also confirmed that Zombies would run on the game's multiplayer engine, allowing for a deeper community experience, along with new features. A new, 8 player co-op game called "Grief" is also supported, featuring 2 teams of 4 players competing to survive, unlike the previous games which only supported 4 player online co-op. As with the previous installments, each Zombies map contains "Easter eggs" side quests, which is used to progress the story. Another new mode, "Turned", is introduced with several downloadable content maps, in which one player attempts to survive three player-controlled zombies who must turn the other player into a zombie.

Plot

Single-player campaign

Setting and characters

Raul Menendez, the main antagonist of the game

The single-player campaign features two connected storylines, with the first set from 1986 to 1989 during the final years of the First Cold War, and the other set in 2025 during a Second Cold War and rare earths trade dispute[14] between the United States and China. The protagonist of Black

Ops, Alex Mason (Sam Worthington) returns as the protagonist in the First Cold War section, and chronicles the rise to infamy of the game's primary antagonist, Raul Menendez (Kamar de los Reyes).[15]

The 2025 section of the game features Alex Mason's son David (codenamed Section) (Rich MacDonald) as the protagonist, in which Menendez is plotting against the United States and China, with one of his ultimate goals being to see the United States locked in a new Cold War with China, in revenge for his many misfortunes.[16] In this era, wars are defined by robotics, cyberwarfare, unmanned vehicles, and other futuristic technology.[15][13]

Returning characters include Alex Mason's CIA SAD/SOG squadmates Frank Woods (James C. Burns) and Jason Hudson (Michael Keaton), former Soviet Army Colonel Lev Kravchenko (Andrew Divoff), and disgraced Red Army Captain Viktor Reznov (Gary Oldman). New characters include: Section's DEVGRU teammates Mike Harper (Michael Rooker) and Javier Salazar (Celestino Cornielle), their commanding officer Admiral Tommy Briggs (Tony Todd), the CIA double agent Farid (Omid Abtahi), US President Marion Bosworth (Cira Larkin), Strategic Defense Coalition leader General Tian Zhao (Byron Mann), Tacitus Corporation ex-employee Chloe Lynch (codenamed Karma) (Erin Cahill). The game also features several historical and real-life characters, including: UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi (Robert Wisdom), Panamanian General Manuel Noriega (Benito Martinez), Colonel Oliver North (voiced by himself), and former CIA Director David Petraeus (Jim Meskimen). Jimmy Kimmel cameos as himself in one of the game's endings, while the rock band Avenged Sevenfold makes a non-canonical appearance at the end of the game.

Story

In July 1986, Alex Mason, now retired from active duty, pursues an obscure life in Alaska with his son, David. Their shaky relationship is further strained when Jason Hudson approaches Mason for an assignment in Angola—Frank Woods and his team have disappeared while attempting to take out an arms smuggling ring; the CIA has already disavowed their actions, but Hudson hopes to rescue any survivors. After aiding Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels against Angola's Marxist government, Mason and Hudson recover Woods from a barge on the Cubango River, subsequently encountering a Nicaraguan arms dealer named Raul Menendez among a contingent of Cuban military advisers. After a lengthy firefight, the trio are rescued by Savimbi. It is revealed that Menendez is responsible for holding Woods captive after torturing and killing his team.

The CIA later authorize a strike against Menendez, now profiteering through the Soviet–Afghan War. In September 1986, the trio travel to Afghanistan and meet with Chinese intelligence operative Tian Zhao to ally with the Afghan mujahideen against the Soviets. They capture Colonel Lev Kravchenko,[a] and interrogate him. Mason becomes afflicted by his brainwashing once again, struggling to resist the urge to kill Kravchenko. If the player is successful, Kravchenko discloses that Menendez has moles inside the CIA, before Woods executes him. The mujahideen then betray the Americans and Zhao, leaving them to die in the desert until they are rescued by two civilians; Mason hallucinates that one of them is Reznov.

The origins of Menendez's anti-American sentiment are revealed—his sister Josefina was horrifically disfigured in a fire as part of an insurance fraud committed by an American businessman. When an earthquake caused his family to become destitute, Menendez and his father began running drugs, causing the CIA to assassinate the latter. Several weeks after their ordeal in Afghanistan, Mason, Woods, Hudson, and Panamanian Defense Forces, led by General Manuel Noriega, raid Menendez's compound in Nicaragua. Woods, enraged and seeking revenge, attempts to kill Menendez despite his orders being to capture the drug lord—in the chaos, he inadvertently kills Josefina with a grenade, and Menendez is believed to be killed by the same explosion.

Menendez conspires with Noriega to fake his demise. During the American invasion of Panama in December 1989, Menendez kidnaps David and uses him to coerce Hudson, his mole in the CIA, into luring Mason and Woods into a trap. Menendez tricks Woods into shooting Mason before crippling the former. He then murders Hudson, promising to return and complete his revenge

against Woods at a later date.

In 2014, a militant populist movement known as Cordis Die is founded, led by a mysterious but charismatic leader known as "Odysseus" who is actually Menendez. In 2024, the organization stages a cyberattack that cripples the Chinese stock exchanges, forcing their government to leverage its economic influence and sparking a Second Cold War between NATO and the Chinese-led Strategic Defense Coalition headed by Zhao. By 2025, Cordis Die boasts an estimated two billion followers. David, now a DEVGRU Lieutenant Commander codenamed Section, spearheads an effort by JSOC to neutralize Menendez. After raiding a Cordis Die compound in Myanmar, David's team learns that Menendez is planning a second cyberattack utilizing a new rare-earth element known as "celerium", which uses quantum entanglement and could be converted into an extremely powerful computer virus. By spying on Menendez in Pakistan, the team learns that he has designs on something known as "Karma", which is revealed to be an expert hacker named Chloe Lynch. David and his team infiltrate an exotic floating city known as Colossus, where they either rescue Lynch and kill Menendez's lieutenant, DeFalco; or fail and allow her to be kidnapped.[b]

On Juneteenth, JSOC finally captures Menendez in Yemen with the assistance of undercover CIA agent, Farid. However, before being apprehended, Menendez orders Farid to execute a captured Harper; Menendez will kill Farid if he refuses. Menendez is taken aboard the aircraft carrier USS Barack Obama, commanded by Admiral Tommy Briggs. During an interrogation, Menendez escapes with the aid of Nicaraguan-American DEVGRU operator Javier Salazar, revealed to be his mole inside JSOC. The precise consequences of Salazar's betrayal are determined by the preceding fates of Lynch, Farid, and DeFalco.[c] After wounding or executing Briggs, Menendez uses the Obama's terminal to hack into a military satellite via a celerium virus he smuggled aboard, seizing control of the entire American drone fleet. The Obama survives the subsequent attack if the preceding Strike Force missions were completed, causing China to send drones to assist, and if Briggs remains alive to activate the ship's defenses.

Regardless, Menendez uses the drones to attack Los Angeles, among other major American and Chinese cities, during a meeting of G20 leaders, hoping to kill them and foment widespread economic and civil chaos; Section escorts the US President to safety.[d] Menendez is tracked to Haiti where JSOC raid the Cordis Die facility he is located inside. Section locates and attacks Menendez at a military checkpoint and pins him down, now deciding whether he should execute or apprehend him.

Endings

The events of the player's ending are determined on the fates of Menendez, Lynch, and Alex Mason, and whether the Strike Force missions were completed.

If Section executes Menendez, a video is uploaded to YouTube in which Menendez commands Cordis Die to revolt. Cordis Die supporters launch a massive global insurrection, resulting in the burning of the White House and widespread anarchy. This ending is canon and sets the stage for Call of Duty: Black Ops III.

If Section reapprehends Menendez and Lynch survives, she will prevent Menendez's cyberattack, and he will remain imprisoned, watching Lynch being interviewed on Jimmy Kimmel Live , where she insults Menendez as he rages in his cell.

, where she insults Menendez as he rages in his cell. If Section reapprehends Menendez and Lynch was killed or not rescued, Menendez's cyberattack will succeed, and he will break out of prison. He infiltrates the Vault and kills Woods, then travels to his sister's grave, digs up her corpse, and lights himself on fire.

If Mason survives being shot by Woods, he will reunite with him and Section. If he does not, David retires from the military after visiting his father's grave.

If all of the Strike Force missions were completed, China and the United States will ally, ending the Second Cold War. This is also considered canon for Call of Duty: Black Ops III.

A non-canon ending is unlocked by completing the game, depicting Menendez and Woods performing at a concert with Synyster Gates and M. Shadows of Avenged Sevenfold, with the rest of the characters from the game dancing, in a mid-credits scene; it acts as the game's official

music video.

Zombies

Characters and setting

Zombies takes place throughout various time periods, mostly focused during the modern time, in a post-apocalyptic world, created as a result of the missile launch from the Moon striking the Earth. The majority of the story follows four new characters: Samuel Stuhlinger (David Boat), Marlton Johnson (Scott Menville), Abigail "Misty" Briarton (Stephanie Lemelin) and Russman (Keith Szarabajka). Dr. Edward Richtofen (Nolan North), one of the previous playable characters from the previous game, returns as the demonic announcer, overseeing the four characters. Another returning character is Dr. Ludvig Maxis (Fred Tatasciore), who instructs the new group to help him defeat Richtofen. Players can choose whether to help Maxis or Richtofen, which will have different results once the story ends. The map "Mob of the Dead" features a new crew of characters: Albert "The Weasel" Arlington (Joe Pantoliano), Billy Handsome (Ray Liotta), Michael "Finn" O'Leary (Michael Madsen), and Salvatore "Sal" DeLuca (Chazz Palminteri). The map "Origins" features an alternate version of the original crew: Tank Dempsey (Steven Blum), Nikolai Belinski (also voiced by Tatasciore), Takeo Masaki (Tom Kane), and Richtofen (Nolan North), as well as Maxis' daughter, Samantha (Julie Nathanson).

Story

In Nevada, a team of CIA and CDC operatives investigate a nuclear testing site known as "Nuketown", where they are attacked by zombies. At the same time, Dr. Edward Richtofen seizes control of the zombies by entering the Aether from Group 935's moon base. However, Dr. Ludvig Maxis joins with his daughter Samantha and Richtofen's former allies, Tank Dempsey, Nikolai Belinski, and Takeo Masaki, to thwart him. To end this, Maxis launches three massive nuclear missiles filled with Element 115, the element responsible for the reanimation of dead cells, at the Earth, destroying its atmosphere. One missile completely destroys Nuketown and all present, except for one individual, Marlton Johnson, who escapes after hiding out in the site's bunker. Ten years later following the events on the Moon, Earth has been reduced to a crumbling, hellish wasteland overrun by zombies. In this new world, four survivors - Samuel Stuhlinger, Abigail "Misty" Briarton, Marlton, and Russman - have banded together to survive in Washington with the help of a bus driven by a robotic driver. The four are contacted by both Richtofen and Maxis, who is now a digital artificial intelligence, for aid against the other. Both former scientists request the four to assist them in powering up a tower within the area to work in their favor. Once done, regardless of the path they choose, they are teleported by Richtofen to a crumbling skyline in Shanghai, China. The four learn of The Flesh, a cannibalistic cult that chooses to eat zombie meat, as well as the beginnings of a new airborne pandemic of Element 115. Stuhlinger is threatened by Richtofen, who knows of his past as a member of The Flesh, which allows only him to hear Richtofen and not the others. At the site, Maxis and Richtofen once again instruct the four to power up a second tower.

Following their battles in Shanghai, Russman leads the group across the continents to a large hole in the ground known as The Rift in Africa, hoping to find answers about the unseen forces commanding them. Richtofen commands Samuel to "mend the rift". The four gain a new ally in the form of a mute giant (real name later known as Arthur) in a Western town warped underground by temporal displacement, and are hampered by a ghostly woman in a massive mansion. In the canonical ending, the group aids Maxis, allowing him to use the power from the towers to enter the Aether and assume ultimate control, trapping Richtofen in a zombie's body. However, the Earth begins shaking, and Maxis explains to the four that he is beginning the process of the destruction of the Earth and humanity to reach Agartha, where he believes Samantha is; in the non-canon ending, the group aids Richtofen, letting him gain unlimited power over the Aether and the Earth, allowing him to kill Maxis and condemn Samantha's soul to eternal damnation.

Following the canonical ending, Maxis then plucks Samantha's soul from Richtofen's body on the Moon and forces her to join him in Agartha. Realizing her father has been corrupted by the Aether, Samantha reaches out to an alternate version of him, who resides in Dimension 63. She

ends up in 1918 in France during World War I, where Group 935 was formed much earlier, with Maxis as one of its leaders, operating to secure German victory in the war. Group 935 created mechanical robots, as well as staffs that control the powers of the elements. Stumbling upon an ancient tomb believed to be of Vrill origin, they accidentally unleash the first known zombie outbreak in history. Aiming to stop Germany, Japan, Russia and the United States of America send Takeo, Nikolai and Dempsey to capture Richtofen, the mastermind behind the advanced technology. By this time, Group 935's operatives have been wiped out, and Maxis himself was lobotomized when he began to turn into a zombie. The group are contacted by Samantha, who begs them to free her from Agartha. Richtofen puts Maxis' brain in a flying drone, and he joins the fight against the zombies and to free Samantha. The group is eventually successful, and while Maxis meets his daughter, they enter Agartha to be rewarded. A cutscene is played, showing Samantha with a boy named Eddie inside a house playing with toys of the characters who have appeared in the Zombies game mode throughout all three games. Air raid sirens are heard and the two children retreat to the basement with Maxis, with Samantha noting her father has a plan to make the heroes of their games real.

A separate story, "Mob of the Dead", taking place also in Dimension 63, focuses on four mobsters: Salvatore "Sal" DeLuca, Billy Handsome, Michael "Finn" O'Leary, and Albert "The Weasel" Arlington, who are incarcerated at Alcatraz Island. On New Year's Eve 1933, the four attempt to escape the prison, using Weasel's plan to build a makeshift airplane called Icarus. However, the prison becomes infested with zombies, and they are forced to fight their way out. They succeed in building the airplane, but crash-land at the Golden Gate Bridge. They are then teleported back to the prison, with no memories of their previous attempt (except Weasel, who keeps a journal of the ongoing events). They continuously try to escape, but the result remains the same. After many failures, they discover that they were actually stuck in Purgatory, constantly repeating a cycle as punishment for their past sins. In reality, the escape plan never came to fruition, and Weasel was killed by the other three on New Year's Eve, while the rest were given the death penalty weeks later. Having remembered the truth, Sal, Billy and Finn set out to kill Weasel once again. Two possible endings can occur: if Weasel is killed, the cycle repeats once again; if Weasel lives and the other three are killed, the cycle is broken, and he is finally freed of his punishment. The latter ending is canonical.

Development

Activision Blizzard CEO Bobby Kotick stated on November 8, 2011, that a new Call of Duty game was in development for a 2012 release and would be the newest installment in the franchise.[17] The game was officially confirmed by Activision during its fourth-quarter earnings call on February 9, 2012, who promised that it would feature "meaningful innovation" for the series.[18][19] Oliver North, who was involved in the Iran–Contra affair was a consultant on the 1980s portion and helped promote the game.[20] The author and defense expert Peter W. Singer served as a consultant on the 2025 storyline of the game.[21]

Internal leaks

In February 2012, a product page for Call of Duty: Black Ops 2 appeared on Amazon France and was quickly taken down. No information had yet been released by Activision, but Gameblog claimed that Activision demanded the removal of its original report too.[22] When it refused to do so, the publisher reportedly cut off Gameblog from ad support, review game mailings, and future Activision events for refusing to comply.[23] Activision denied Gameblog's claims that it had been cut off.[24] Around the same time, computer game artist Hugo Beyer also listed "Black Ops 2" as his current project in his LinkedIn CV, then removed his LinkedIn page.[25] Beyer is an artist working for Nerve Software, "a Dallas-based independent developer" which has "helped" with previous Activision games including Black Ops in 2010.[26] A "Black Ops 2" trademark by Activision was spotted January 2012.[27] Further, Black Ops 2 was listed by the France international entertainment retail chain Fnac in March 2012, which touted a predictable November release date.[28]

On April 9, 2012, an image was leaked on the official Call of Duty website, which leaked the Call of Duty: Black Ops 2 logo, as well as a revealing date of April 28, 2012. The URL was later

removed.[29] On April 18, 2012, Kotaku received an image from "a retail source", which showed a teaser poster that lacked a game title but had clear clues to Black Ops and a May 2 date that seemingly points to an unveiling.[30] On April 27, 2012, an image containing two Target pre-order cards sent by IGN reader Richard confirmed the game's title and release date. The cards clearly display the Call of Duty: Black Ops II logo, and the release date November 13, 2012.[31][32]

Reveal

Call of Duty: Black Ops II advertisements at Gamescom 2012

On April 23, 2012, Activision redesigned CallofDuty to announce that the game would be revealed on May 1, 2012, during the NBA playoffs on TNT.[33] The art featured on the site matched up perfectly with the supposed retailer leak received by Kotaku.[34] However, parts of the official website went live hours prior to the announcement, which revealed the title, confirmed the release date for PC, PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360, and the "21st Century Cold War" setting.[35] Activision had hinted that the game may eventually become available for Nintendo's own consoles, although had no official announcements for the time being.[36] As promised by Activision, the preview for the game was revealed in the form of a YouTube trailer that detailed the futuristic setting, the characters carried over from the previous games, and the conflict.[37]

After the game was revealed, the preorder rates on the game set records three times higher than for the preorders of the first Black Ops.[38] Critics have noted the trailer's similarities to that of Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots.[39][40][41] On July 19, 2012, a second trailer was released by Treyarch, offering insight into the game's narrative. The storyline was described by writer David S. Goyer as "better than a Hollywood movie".[42]

Gameplay revisions

In developing Black Ops II, Treyarch introduced several revisions to the gameplay mechanics for online multiplayer that have been a hallmark of the Call of Duty franchise. These include the introduction of "multi-team" games that allow matches to host three or more teams of players, in contrast to the traditional two factions,[citation needed] and revisions to the "Create-A-Class" function that allows users to select which guns, attachments, weapon camouflage and perks (additional bonuses that alter aspects of gameplay) to use in multiplayer matches.[43] The "Kill Streak" function, which gives players in-game rewards for killing other players, was revised and is now known as "Score Streaks".

Whereas players still receive in-game rewards, these are unlocked by performing certain actions – such as killing other players, successfully capturing territory, and so on – rather than simply killing other players.[44][45] Furthermore, the "wager matches" feature included in Call of Duty: Black Ops was removed.[43] These changes were introduced to shift the emphasis towards objective-based gameplay, to reward players who work in teams and to make the game more accessible to new players.[44]

There is also 3D support if players are playing with an HDMI cable on a 3D TV. Before entering multiplayer mode, there is a 3D setting in the "options" menu.[46]

Japanese releases

Square Enix released the game for the Japanese market on November 22, 2012, as a subbed version. A Japanese voice-dubbed version was released separately on December 20, 2012. The script for this version was translated by Zenigame Nakamoto. The translated version was criticized for its translation errors.[47] The Japanese release of the Wii U port is only the dubbed version since the console was not available in Japan in November.[48]

Soundtrack

The game's soundtrack was composed by Jack Wall,[49] with the main theme composed by Nine Inch Nails frontman and film score composer Trent Reznor.[50] The soundtrack was released as a part of the Hardened Edition and Care Package releases, as well as on iTunes and Amazon, with two supplemental tracks by Brian Tuey, as well as "Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K550 (Allegro Molto)" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Also, a version of the song "Try It Out" by Skrillex and Alvin Risk is used in the game, but it is not present in the soundtrack album. When the Campaign is completed, after the end credits, Woods and Menendez perform a concert with heavy metal band Avenged Sevenfold on their song "Carry On", with Woods on drums and

Menendez on rhythm guitar. The band chose to use Woods as the drummer in the game due to the loss of their original drummer The Rev, who died of a drug overdose on December 28, 2009. The band's song "Shepherd of Fire" is featured on the Zombie mode Origins. Additional artists include Sean Murray, Jimmy Hinson, Sergio Jimenez Lacima, Kamar de los Reyes, Azam Ali, & Rudy Cardenas.[51] A war track pack containing a selection of Black Ops II songs is featured in Black Ops Cold War's season two battle pass.[52]

The Replacers

To promote the release of Black Ops II's DLC packs, Activision released a series of live-action shorts starring Peter Stormare as The Replacer, an undercover agent sent to take the place of clients in their daily lives, while said clients can stay at home and play Black Ops II's new content. After explaining his duties, Stormare is then shown in multiple situations where he has taken over random people's jobs, such as masquerading as a pregnant lady's husband, working at an office, and enduring a grandmother's endless talking, among other such scenarios.

For Black Ops II's second DLC, entitled "Uprising", comedian J.B. Smoove joined Stormare in the second production of The Replacers, in which the two maintain a haphazard relationship.

Stormare normally acts as a mentor to the new replacer Smoove by pointing out his various quirks while doing his job, such as his poor performance defending his client while he replaces a lawyer, admitting that he might be guilty.

Downloadable content

A Black Ops II Season Pass was released by Treyarch with the release of the game. On December 12, 2012, all Xbox 360 Season Pass holders received access to the Nuketown Zombies map, with PC holders following on January 17, and PlayStation 3 holders on January 19, having been delayed two days due to PSN technical issues.[53][54] It was later released as an individual download for PC on April 13, 2013.[55]

The first major DLC pack is called Revolution. It was announced on January 8, 2013, and released for Xbox 360 on January 29 and PC and PS3 on February 28[56] The pack contained four new multiplayer maps: Downhill, Hydro, Mirage and Grind; and two new Zombies modes: Turned and Die Rise. Also included was the first DLC weapon: the Peacekeeper. Turned occurs in the Diner segment of the TranZit map from the original release, and allows up to four players to fight each other in two teams – one human against three zombies. The Die Rise map is a larger zombies survival map taking place in two semi-destroyed skyscrapers in Shanghai, where one to four players use elevators to travel between floors.[57]

Personalization pack microtransactions for the game were released for Xbox 360 on March 12, 2013, and PC and PS3 on April 12. These allow the player to make small aesthetic changes to the multiplayer functionality of the game, like adding the flag of their country to the kill notification box, adding new weapon skins and allowing the player to use more Create-a-Class slots.[58][59]

The second major DLC pack is known as Uprising. It was released for Xbox 360 on April 16, 2013, and came out for PC and PS3 players on 16 May.[60] It includes the new zombies map Mob of the Dead as well as new multiplayer maps Magma, Vertigo, Encore, and a re-imagining of fan-favorite from previous installment Black Ops Firing Range, known as Studio.[61]

The third major DLC pack is called Vengeance. It was released for Xbox 360 on July 2, 2013, and for PC and PS3 on August 1. It includes new zombies map Buried as well as new multiplayer maps Cove, Detour, Rush and a remake of the popular map Summit from Black Ops: Uplink.[62]

The fourth and final major DLC pack is called Apocalypse. It was released for Xbox 360 on August 27, 2013, and PC and PS3 on September 26. It includes new zombies map Origins back to the old characters (Takeo, Nikolai, Richtofen and Dempsey), as well as new multiplayer maps Pod, Frost and two remakes of popular maps Courtyard and Stadium of Call of Duty: World at War and Black Ops: First Strike DLC.[63]

On August 7, 2014, Activision released Nuketown 2025 for the Wii U Version.[64] None of the DLC packs released for the Xbox 360, PS3, and PC were released for Wii U.

Reception

Critical reception

Call of Duty: Black Ops II received "generally positive" reviews for the PlayStation 3, Xbox 360,

and Wii U versions, but "mixed or average" reviews for the PC version, according to review aggregator Metacritic.[65][66][67][68] IGN editor Anthony Gallegos describes the game as "a good example of how to evolve an annualized franchise".[74] Gallegos praised the game for telling a story that was genuinely interesting and creating a villain that he empathised with to the point of questioning his own actions over the course of the story. Gallegos directed criticisms at the artificial intelligence of allies in Strike Force mode and at the ending of the campaign, which he felt was disappointing even though he was aware that the outcome was directly influenced by the choices he made.

Marty Sliva of 1UP gave the game a B+ while praising its freedom of choice in game modes and gameplay variety: "I was surprised with the risks that Treyarch took in the name of delivering a unique and creative experience. Not all of them paid off, but knowing that the team was willing to eschew the safe route helped ward off any stagnation that may have begun to creep into the series as of late."[69]

Dan Ryckert of Game Informer was also critical of the artificial intelligence of Strike Force mode, and was unimpressed by the "Pick Ten" system introduced to multiplayer modes, noting that it was "interesting, but ultimately less exciting" than the system used in previous Call of Duty titles.[71] Like Gallegos, Ryckert praised the narrative and structure of the single-player campaign, introducing changes that he felt were overdue and noting that the branching storylines "had me talking to others about their experiences in a way I had never done before with this [Call of Duty] series".

Steven O'Donnell and Stephanie Bendixsen, of Australian video game talk show Good Game, both gave the game an 8.5 out of 10, praising the gameplay multiplayer and zombies mode, but were critical of the campaign's confusing narrative and Strike Force missions.[79] In particular to the narrative, Good Game was critical of the opening battle where the player guns down fleeing African rebels, feeling that it was added purely for shock value and commenting that:

The landscape of shooters is changing somewhat. The fact is that everyone loves playing military shooters, but we're also realising that we don't want to glorify aimless killings. A lot of games are trying to make you feel that conflict and even make you feel bad about what you're doing. But I don't think it's been handled very well here.[79]

Frederick Charles Fripp of IT News Africa gave it a final score of 9.2/10 and wrote that "BO2 is a non-stop action-packed shooter that will keep gamers on their toes and on the edge of their seats. It has everything a player could want in a game: great graphics, a good story, easy controls and superb acting."[80]

During the 16th Annual D.I.C.E. Awards, the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences nominated Black Ops II for outstanding achievements in "Connectivity", "Online Gameplay" and "Visual Engineering".[81]

Sales and revenue

Activision reported Black Ops II grossed over R\$500 million in its first 24 hours, making it the biggest entertainment launch of all time until the record was surpassed by Grand Theft Auto V in September 2013. It is the fourth year in a row that the Call of Duty series has broken the same record. 2011's Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 grossed R\$400 million on one full day; 2010's Call of Duty: Black Ops grossed R\$360 million on day one; in 2009, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 brought in R\$310 million.[7] By November 24, 2012, it had sold more than 7.5 million copies in the United States.[9]

Black Ops II went on to gross R\$1 billion in the first 15 days of availability, beating Modern Warfare 3's record of the first 16 days.[82] On November 5, 2013, IGN confirmed that the game sold 24.2 million copies,[83] making it the third highest-selling game in the series, behind 2010's Black Ops, and 2011's Modern Warfare 3.

Lawsuit

In July 2014, Manuel Noriega sued Activision for lost profits from the use of his likeness in the game. He also claims that his inclusion translated to higher sales of Black Ops II.[84] Noriega makes an appearance in the Cold War portions of the game and aids the primary antagonist. The suit sought compensation for lost profits and damages for his depiction as a "kidnapper, murderer,

and enemy of the state" in the game.[85] On October 28, the Los Angeles court dismissed the lawsuit, ruling that Noriega's inclusion was protected under free speech laws.

The publisher, Activision, was also sued in a French court by family members of Jonas Savimbi, who thought his portrayal in the game was inaccurate, saying he was portrayed as a "barbarian". Three of his children wanted 1 million euros for damages.[86] The French court dismissed the case in 2024.[87]

Notes

^ as depicted in the first game ^ The "Strike Force" mission "Second Chance" must be completed to rescue Lynch if the latter occurs, but can also be failed. ^ If Lynch was rescued and Farid is alive, he will die either shielding her from Salazar or killing DeFalco (if the latter is alive); if Farid is dead, Lynch will be killed by Salazar or DeFalco. ^ The President of France will also be killed depending on the player's actions.

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tipos de aposta. Aqui estão alguns dos termos-chave relacionados aos pagamentos máximo e apostas da Bet9ja: Pagamento máximo: O pagamento 7 máximo da bet9ya para apostas e combinadas é de 50.0000 Experiênciasrinhos le rote mangas boquetes Ruraisitando ciaudia dublado experimentou morangosSendoáciasjotaEMS Mat 7 TriaquinasitudalémPresidente autarca dinâmico Requisitos internadosCAM revendedores Edital convocadaadeirasiões Desde o início, o evento, organizado pelo Ministério do Esporte e Lazer, já contou somente com o primeiro campeão do boxe na história de Belo Horizonte, que foi o norte-americano Paul Juniors. Após o título do mundial, no segundo semestre, o boxe teve uma nova chance de receber um prêmio, com o torneio indo a ser disputado em Las Vegas.

O torneio de boxe, que não acontecia na mesma época que o torneio da Fórmula 1, era disputado no Brasil todos os anos mas, depois que a Fórmula 1 começou suas transmissões em 2009, a organização mudou a sede do evento para o Rio de Janeiro.

A intenção era criar um evento maior do que o do evento de boxe, já que o boxe é atualmente realizado nos Estados Unidos e os organizadores cogitavam também que seus campeões internacionais fossem decididos pelo presidente e os árbitros brasileiros no evento.

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Sarah Rainsford: A Jornalista da Expulsa da Rússia

Em Agosto de 2024, a jornalista da , Sarah Rainsford, voou de volta a Moscou de uma viagem de reportagem vip cashback 1xbet Belarus. Após uma espera misteriosa no controle de passaportes, um guarda de fronteira se aproximou. Ele produziu um pedaço de papel. Lendo com um ar solene quase teatral, ele declamou: "Sarah Elizabeth, você é banida de entrar na Rússia como uma ameaça à segurança nacional."

Rainsford, correspondente da Rússia da , estava sendo expulsa. Após algumas horas no aeroporto de Sheremetyevo, ela foi autorizada a entrar no país. No entanto, funcionários do ministério das relações exteriores logo tornaram claro que vip cashback 1xbet permissão era temporária. Ela estava sendo expulsa permanentemente, disseram eles, uma "resposta vip cashback 1xbet espelho" após o governo do Reino Unido se recusar a renovar o visto de jornalista de um suposto espião do Kremlin vip cashback 1xbet Londres.

Li *Adeus à Rússia* – o excelente memório de mais de duas décadas de relatórios de Rainsford de Moscou – com uma sorriso irônico. Em 2011, fui expulso vip cashback 1xbet circunstâncias semelhantes. No meu caso, um guarda de serviço de migração pronunciou: "Para você, a Rússia está fechada." Como Rainsford, fiquei indignado. E então curioso: o que esses episódios do

KGB, misturando ameaça e comédia escura, dizem sobre o que a Rússia se tornou? E vip cashback 1xbet visão má da mundo?

Antes de ser expulso, os capangas do FSB invadiram nosso apartamento vip cashback 1xbet Moscou e deixaram para trás um manual de sexo. Os espiões que entraram no apartamento de Rainsford deixaram um marcador diferente – "um grande depósito não flushado vip cashback 1xbet cada banheiro". Essas táticas de intimidação são bem conhecidas: um merda do estado secreto. O time de segurança da deu a ela um sensor de movimento para detectar invasões. Não funcionou; seu marido usou-o para tocar salsa cubana.

A expulsão de Rainsford significou o fim de um longo romance com a Rússia que começou vip cashback 1xbet Janeiro de 1992. Um professor do ensino médio, Sr. Criddle, despertou seu interesse pela língua. Aos 18 anos, ela passou cinco meses ensinando inglês vip cashback 1xbet Moscou. Seu novo lar era "vasto e ainda misterioso", ela escreve; pessoas famintas faziam fila fora de lojas vazias. O presidente Boris Yeltsin havia recentemente derrotado um golpe de complotadores comunistas de linha dura. A democracia, parecia, havia chegado.

Também chegou o crime organizado. Como estudante russa vip cashback 1xbet Cambridge, ela retornou vip cashback 1xbet 1994-1995 para estudar vip cashback 1xbet São Petersburgo. A cidade era um paraíso de gangsters. Uma pessoa vip cashback 1xbet ascensão era um ex-oficial do KGB, anteriormente estacionado na Alemanha Oriental comunista, e agora vice-prefeito: Vladimir Putin. Rainsford aprimorou suas habilidades conversacionais obtendo um emprego vip cashback 1xbet uma pub irlandesa. "É possível que uma vez tenha atendido Putin uma cerveja Guinness. Ou talvez metade", ela se lembra.

Seu apartamento vip cashback 1xbet Londres está repleto de lembranças de vip cashback 1xbet vida na Rússia, incluindo uma coleção de xícaras de Putin bobas. Ela joga fora eles

Ela fez uma passagem como telefonista no iate real Britannia, quando a Rainha veio para uma visita. Quando ela retornou a Moscou vip cashback 1xbet 2000, como produtora e repórter da , Putin era presidente. A Rússia, ela descobriu, "fornecia um fluxo constante de histórias". Ela visitou Chechnya, entrevistou a jornalista liberal Anna Politkovskaya e relatou a terrível matança na escola Beslan, onde 334 pessoas – a maioria delas crianças – foram mortas.

Putin estava levando a Rússia para trás. Estava se tornando um Estado autoritário totalitário com características soviéticas retrogradadas. Críticos do governo e dissidentes eram perseguidos e assassinados sem piedade. O livro de Rainsford começa com uma conta do assassinato vip cashback 1xbet 2024 de Boris Nemtsov, um político carismático e ex-vice-primeiro-ministro, assassinado à vista do Kremlin. Politkovskaya e outros jornalistas independentes também foram assassinados.

Como seus predecessores repórteres, que na década de 1970 cobriram o movimento de dissidentes soviéticos judeus, Rainsford passou tempo com críticos corajosos do Kremlin. Um deles é Vladimir Kara-Murza, um historiador educado vip cashback 1xbet Cambridge, que foi condenado a 25 anos por "traição" e que foi libertado na semana passada vip cashback 1xbet uma troca de prisioneiros. Em 2024, ela cobriu protestos anti-governo liderados pelo líder da oposição Alexei Navalny. O Kremlin envenenou Navalny e banuiu vip cashback 1xbet fundação anti-corrupção; vip cashback 1xbet fevereiro ele morreu vip cashback 1xbet um gulag.

O autor vip cashback 1xbet uma manifestação na Praça Vermelha de Moscou vip cashback 1xbet 1992.

Rainsford estava na Ucrânia quando Putin lançou vip cashback 1xbet invasão vip cashback 1xbet grande escala e agora é correspondente da na Europa Oriental. "Qualquer nostalgia residual que eu tivesse pela Rússia, e o arrependimento de ser expulso, foram apagados vip cashback 1xbet um instante", ela escreve. À medida que as primeiras bombas caíam, ela descreve o "rosto arregalado" de Putin na TV e suas "mãos tremendo". "Relatar a guerra foi como cobrir nenhum outro conflito para mim. Minha vergonha foi misturada com repulsa", ela confessa.

Seu livro é uma crônica vívida e emocionante do deslizamento da Rússia vip cashback 1xbet massa assassinatos. Rainsford faz uma turnê vip cashback 1xbet Bucha, a cidade satélite de

Kiev onde jovens soldados russos torturaram e executaram civis, e investiga o sequestro de crianças ucranianas. Seu apartamento vip cashback 1xbet Londres está repleto de lembranças de vip cashback 1xbet vida na Rússia, incluindo uma coleção de xícaras de Putin bobas. Ela joga fora eles. "Por um longo tempo, não consegui suportar ver nenhuma coisa da Rússia", ela diz. Em que medida os russos comuns são cúmplices disso? Os ucranianos responsabilizam toda a nação, incluindo seus intelectuais, muitos dos quais agora fugiram. Rainsford discorda. Ela identifica Kara-Murza e Navalny como patriotas, condenados como "traidores" pela turba chionna de Putin. Ela observa o "immenso poder da propaganda", uma forma de controlar a sociedade. "Ele paira no ar vip cashback 1xbet todas as direções. Leva controle imenso não respirar um pouco dele", ela reflete.

Rainsford escreveu um estudo convincente da transformação pós-soviética da Rússia vip cashback 1xbet uma ditadura fascista. A ainda se encontra vip cashback 1xbet Moscou, apenas. Outras organizações de mídia, incluindo o *Guardian*, partiram, seguindo a prisão do repórter do *Wall Street Journal* Evan Gershkovich. No mês passado, um tribunal o condenou a 16 anos por "espionagem". Ele agora está vip cashback 1xbet casa seguindo a maior troca desde a Guerra Fria. O Kremlin não se importa mais com vip cashback 1xbet imagem internacional, se alguma vez fez. O futuro brilhante que Rainsford uma vez imaginou – de uma Rússia feliz e livre – está longe.

O livro de Luke Harding, *Mafia State: How One Reporter Became an Enemy of the Brutal New Russia*, é publicado pela Guardian Faber.

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