



The guys here at Grognard have long appreciated the fun, innovative and top-quality products brought to the wargaming world by VentoNuovo Games. The firm has been a dependable and appreciated supporter of Grognard.com, so we were pleased to have the opportunity for a short interview with Dr. Emanuele Santandrea, in which he caught us up with recent developments at VentoNuovo.

*-Grognard: What new or upcoming projects are underway with VentoNuovo?*

We are now working hard to complete Blitz in the East and the Scorched Earth expansion, which will be released soon. I'm liking the game more and more, and with the new mechanics we've developed we're getting exceptional results in terms of playability, replayability, realism and historical relevance. The graphics were already good, but we have further improved them, bringing them to stellar levels: I would say never seen before for a historical game about the Russian campaign. Regarding the style of play, we remain faithful to our standards, therefore simple rules but with great application and strategic depth to guarantee fun, historical immersion and replayability.

*-Grognard: How are things with the company these days?*

We are all experiencing difficult times and great changes. The pandemic first, and the recent wars in Ukraine and the Middle East after, together with the resurgence of racism have changed our lifestyles, the perception of others and caused the costs of raw materials to skyrocket. Obviously for a small company like ours that dedicates its blood and soul to its customers, the impact has been very strong. As our production lane is in Italy, it is European Market compliant, and we do not use low quality materials or untraceable sources located in unreliable countries, we have felt it both in terms of increased production, management and shipping costs, and in terms of decreased sales. New technologies have been impacted as well, as in recent months we have witnessed the spread of violence

on the internet, sometimes direct, sometimes camouflaged: haters, hackers, scammers, fake users, or simply trolls are the expression and the results of the climate of difficulties we are living in. This affects everyone, and we as a small ethical and innovative firm have had to deal with it. We continue to support the hobby community, but we are taking a step back from those arenas unable to grant equality, tied to expired values or managed by old systems of vassalage.

*-Grogard: Do you have any message for folks who have been your customers over the years?*

Stay young. Protect yourself, but don't be afraid of the future and changes. Nothing remains unchanged, we can only improve ourselves by preparing for new everyday challenges. We will provide you with new recreational tools to spend your free time peacefully and, if you want, new games to try your hand at to train your analysis and problem-solving skills. The game, after all, is the first system that the child uses to deal with the world and we too, as adults, resort to it to try to train ourselves to solve every black swan that may appear on the shore of the pond.

-Thanks Emanuele!