

Stratego®



Stratego was created by Dutchman Jacques Johan Mogendorff before 1942, when the name was officially registered by a Dutch company. Stratego has been licensed to different manufacturers and distributors over the years, the most recent being PlayMonster for the U.S. and Canada.

Before the early 1960s, Stratego pieces were made of cardboard and then wood. Interestingly, the wood pieces had no bases, so they often fell over, which would be detrimental to game play by revealing what pieces were to the opponent! When pieces began being made from plastic, the design also changed to feature a base, which made pieces much sturdier. Later, American editions had even sturdier bases and included colorful stickers for the ranks instead of images imprinted on the plastic, playing up the eye-catching artwork.

In the 1960s and 1970s, European versions of Stratego gave the Marshal the highest rank, while American versions give the Marshal the lowest rank. Today versions of the game in the U.S. have now adopted the European ranking system, which caused an uproar among American players who grew up with the different ranking system. The nostalgic factor is high with Stratego and all of its versions!

There have been many versions of the game, and even some licensed versions over the years. As of today, there are five versions currently being manufactured in the U.S: Original; Classic; Battle Cards, which is a card game version; Waterloo, which is a more difficult version that recreates a specific historical battle; and Conquest, which is the only version that is not restricted to two players, but instead allows for two to four players.