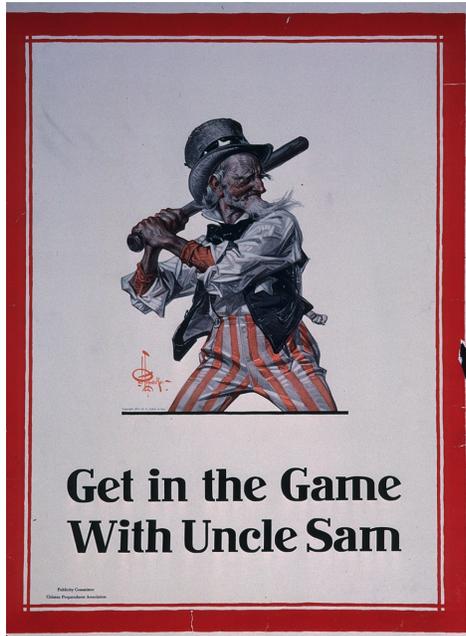


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Wargaming: The Legacy of Newport



1. How did the Naval War College successfully integrate nascent technologies like carrier aviation into game play before they were proven in combat?
2. In a modern era of high-stakes simulation, has the professional military culture maintained this “freedom to fail,” or has the pressure for “successful” outcomes stifled the experimental spirit found at Newport?
3. How did the Naval War College’s focus on the logistical “boring bits”—fueling, base construction, and supply lines—differ from the Japanese approach to naval strategy during the same period?
4. Despite the exhaustive nature of the interwar games, certain elements like Japanese night-fighting proficiency and the impact of the Kamikaze were largely unforeseen. What were the institutional or psychological barriers at the NWC that caused these specific variables to be undervalued or ignored in the simulations?
5. The Naval War College games were credited with creating a generation of officers who could think independently when communication with HQ was severed. Does the modern reliance on real-time data and reach-back capabilities diminish the “sovereign commander” mindset that the interwar wargames worked so hard to cultivate?

STRATEGIKA

Conflicts Of The Past As Lessons For The Present

