






## *Spain blows up.*

*Gathering Storm* is intended to be a game that is fun and sometimes funny, but one game started by reminding us that while it's fine for the Axis *player* to hope for a German victory, everyone should be glad that in the real war the Germans lost.

Spain started slowly, and by Spring 1939 still had only three civil war events. A Greek civil war had already come and gone, and a Yugoslavian civil war had broken out in Spring 1939. Had some random events gone missing?

No, because in Summer 1939:

Economic Trend -1	
	German "machinery for wheat and oil" barter arrangement concluded with Rumania. Rumania: 1 German national income: +1
	Hitler pledges Condor Legion in support of Franco insurrection. Spain: 2
	Mussolini honors Pope at official dinner. Italian support level: +1
	Britain releases surplus arms to Spanish government. Spain: 1
	French arms sent to Spanish government. Spain: 1
	Russian military aid to Spanish Republicans. Spain: 2

Did Mussolini and the Pope talk about the Spanish civil at dinner? If so, they shouldn't have been surprised at what happened in the very next turn:

Fall 1939:

Economic Trend -2	
	Violence flares in Basque region. Spain: 0 EAI: +1