

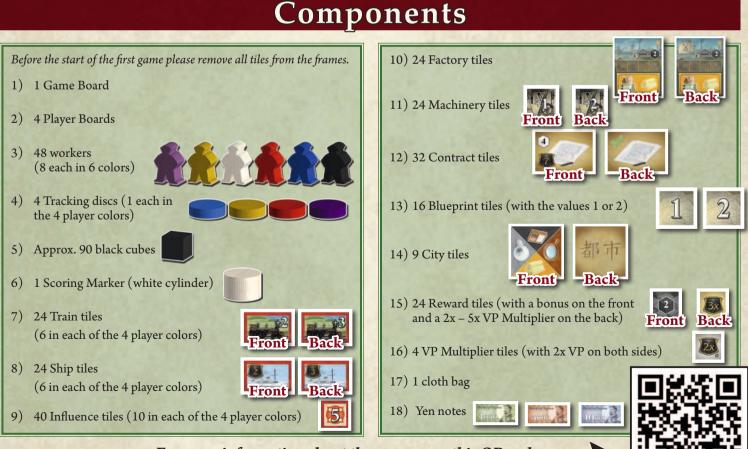
Japan during the Meiji period—a closed, isolated, and feudal country—decides to change into a modern westernized state. The Empire sends emissaries to foreign nations, brings technicians and scholars from the west, builds a network of railroads, and achieves an outstandingly fast industrial revolution.

The nation and Emperor count on the support of the Great Four, the big conglomerates that emerge with great power and massive control over the Japanese economy. They are called Zaibatsu, and their influence on the Meiji Emperor and importance on the fate of Japan is incredibly high.

In Nippon, players control Zaibatsu and try to develop their web of power by investing in new industries, improving their technological knowledge, shipping goods to foreign countries or using them to satisfy local needs, and growing their influence and power as they oversee the era of rapid industrialization of Japan. The foundations of the big Zaibatsu were the traditional silk workshops, but soon the conglomerates diversified their influence and power, building a complex structure of interconnected companies that made them giant players in the world's new industrial era. Each player takes the reins of one of these big corporations and tries to develop it in order to grow and achieve power.

To win the game, players must carefully choose which types of industry to invest in to get the most influence over the Japanese islands. Every action that is taken helps to forge their own path to new opportunities.

Nippon is a fast-paced economic game with challenging decisions, set during an important time in Japanese history, and when a new great nation is born.



For more information about the game, scan this QR code or visit our website www.whatsyourgame.eu/games/nippon

## **INITIAL PREPARATION**

All the rules are explained for a 4-player game. Any rule exceptions for a 2 or 3-player game will appear in blue boxes. If the game has fewer than 4 players, put any unused components in the game box.

## 1. THE GAME BOARD

 Lay the Game Board on the table. The Game Board is divided into several areas (see picture, page 3).

## 2. PLAYER'S SUPPLY

Each Player chooses a color (yellow, red, purple, or blue) and sets the following items in front of himself\*:

◊ 8 Contract tiles (There are 8 different Contracts. The player takes 1 of each kind and places them face up in front of himself.)



- ◊ 1 Blueprint tile valued 1
- 10 Influence tiles of his color (valued 1 to 7)

## **3. VICTORY POINTS TRACK**

 Randomly determine a First Player. The order of play is established in clockwise order around the table, starting with the 1st Player. Each Player places

the disc of his color on the Victory Points (VP) Track: 1<sup>st</sup> Player on the **10**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Player on the **11**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Player on the **12**, and 4<sup>th</sup> Player on the **13**.

During the game, every time a Player earns Victory Points, he advances his disc accordingly. If he loses Victory Points, his disc is moved backwards.



### 4. SCORING MARKER

 Place the Scoring Marker on the leftmost slot of the Scoring track.



## 5. PLAYER BOARDS

Each player takes the Player Board with the symbol of his color. This represents his Zaibatsu. He places it in front of him, and places on it (*see picture below*):

♦ 12,000 Yen on the Budget area



◊ 2 black cubes on the Budget area NOTE: Black cubes represent different items according to where they are located. When placed on the Budget area, they represent Coal.



- ◊ 6 Ship tiles of his color next to one another on the Ships area with the "2VP" side face-up
- ◊ 6 Train tiles of his color next to one another on the Train area with the "+2" side face-up
- ◊ 1 black cube on the "2" of the Coal track
- ♦ 1 black cube on the "12" of the Money track
- ♦ 1 black cube on the "1" of the Knowledge track

**NOTE**: Black cubes on the tracks of a Player Board (Coal, Money, or Knowledge) represent Level markers. A marker can never move beyond the topmost slot.



## 6. VP TILES



Put the four 2x VP Multiplier tiles next to the Game Board.

\* From now on, for simplicity, readability, and economy, we will use male pronouns when talking about each player, while it should be clearly understood that in each instance we mean to include our female players as well.

## 7. FACTORY TILES

 Sort the Factory tiles according to the produced Good (indicated in the bottom right corner of the Factory tile).



 Place them with the **Produced Good**.
 Blueprint side face up (icon in the top left corner with value 2, 4, or 6) next to the Game Board.

There are 6 different Goods:



### 8. REWARD TILES

 Sort the Reward tiles according to the VP multiplier on their back (2 to 5), and then according to the bonus on

the front (2 Blueprints, 2 Coal, or 5,000 Yen), forming 12 stacks in total.



 Place the stacks bonus side up on the Reward slots of the

Game Board: the stacks with the 2VP on the back in the leftmost column, then the stacks with the 3VP on the back in the next column, and so on (*see picture below*).

After sorting the Reward tiles according to their VP, but before sorting them by the bonus.

3-player game: randomly remove 1 Reward tile from each stack 2-player game: randomly remove 2 Reward tiles from each stack

## 9. CITY TILES

The map of Japan is divided into 4 Regions. Each Region has 2 City slots.



 Randomly place 1 City tile face up on each City slot of the Game Board. Also, randomize the orientation of the tile (*see picture below*). The remaining tile will not used in this game and is returned to the box.

### **10. WORKERS**

 Place the 48 Workers in the cloth bag.



**NOTE**: The colors of the Workers are not related to the player colors nor to the Factory colors.

3-player game: *remove 1 Worker of each of the 6 colors* 2-player game: *remove 2 Workers of each of the 6 colors* 

## 11. Action slots and Worker rows

- Randomly draw from the bag and place 3 Workers on each Action slot of the Game Board (see picture below).
- Do the same for each Worker row of the Game Board (see picture below).

3-player game: use only 3 Worker rows. Place <u>3 Workers</u> on each of them.

2-player game: use only 2 Worker rows. Place <u>2 Workers</u> on each of them.



## **12. COMMON SUPPLY**

Put the Machinery tiles, the remaining Blueprint tiles, black cubes, and Yen

notes next to the Game Board as a common supply.

When the rules state that a player has to pay, it always means he has to pay Yen, taking the notes from the Budget area of his Player Board and placing them back in the common supply. When a player receives Yen or Coal he takes them from the common supply and places them in his Budget area. When a Player receives or discards a certain number of Blueprints, it always refers to their value and never to the actual number of tiles.

**EXAMPLE**: You receive 2 Blueprints. You may take 2 Blueprint tiles valued 1, or one Blueprint tile valued 2.

The items in the common supply are not limited. In the unlikely event that the supply of a certain item runs out, use another means of tracking them.

# Sequence of Play

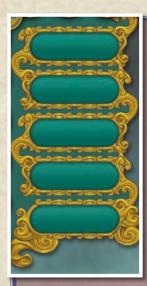
Play proceeds in clockwise order, starting with the First Player, with each player taking a turn. On a player's turn, he must:

- **TAKE 1 WORKER** from the Game Board and perform the corresponding action (see below), **OR**
- ► CONSOLIDATE (see page 11).

At any time during a player's turn, he can discard 3 Blueprints, and move one of his level markers up 1 step (Money track, Coal track, or Knowledge track). This may be done multiple times, discarding 3 Blueprints each time.

During the game, there will be 3 Scorings (*see Scoring, page 12*). After the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scoring, the game ends, and players calculate their final scores. The player with the most Victory Points wins.





### **EMPTY WORKER ROWS**:

If he cannot refill the Action slot with Workers, because all of the **Worker rows are empty**, the following 3 steps must be performed:

**1. Refill all Action slots** by randomly drawing from the bag and placing 0, 1, 2, or 3 Workers on each Action slot as needed in order to have exactly 3 Workers on each Action slot.



**2. Refill all of the Worker rows** by randomly drawing from the bag and placing 3 Workers on each Worker row of the Game Board, starting from the top row.

**NOTE:** If there are not enough Workers in the bag, place as many as possible. Complete the refill as soon as more Workers are placed back in the bag (see Consolidate – page 11).

#### **REMINDER**:

3-player game: use only 3 Worker rows. Place 3 Workers on each of them.2-player game: use only 2 Worker rows. Place 2 Workers on each of them.

### **3. Move the Scoring Marker** 1 step to the right.



During the game, there are 3 Scorings in which each Region is scored.

When Scoring, VP are assigned to the players based on the Influence they have in the Regions (see page 12).





When the Scoring Marker passes this symbol, perform the 1<sup>st</sup> Scoring.





When the Scoring Marker passes this symbol, perform the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scoring.



When the Scoring Marker reaches the first golden slot, each player has exactly 3 more turns (moving the marker each time all players have taken a turn), then perform the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scoring. **EXAMPLE: Purple, Blue**, and **Red** are playing a 3-player game. **Blue** triggers the refill, which causes the Scoring Marker to move to the first golden slot. **Red**, then **Purple**, then **Blue** take a turn, and then the Scoring Marker is advanced one space. This happens twice more, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scoring taking place after **Blue**'s 3<sup>rd</sup> turn.

After the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scoring, the game ends, and players calculate their final scores.

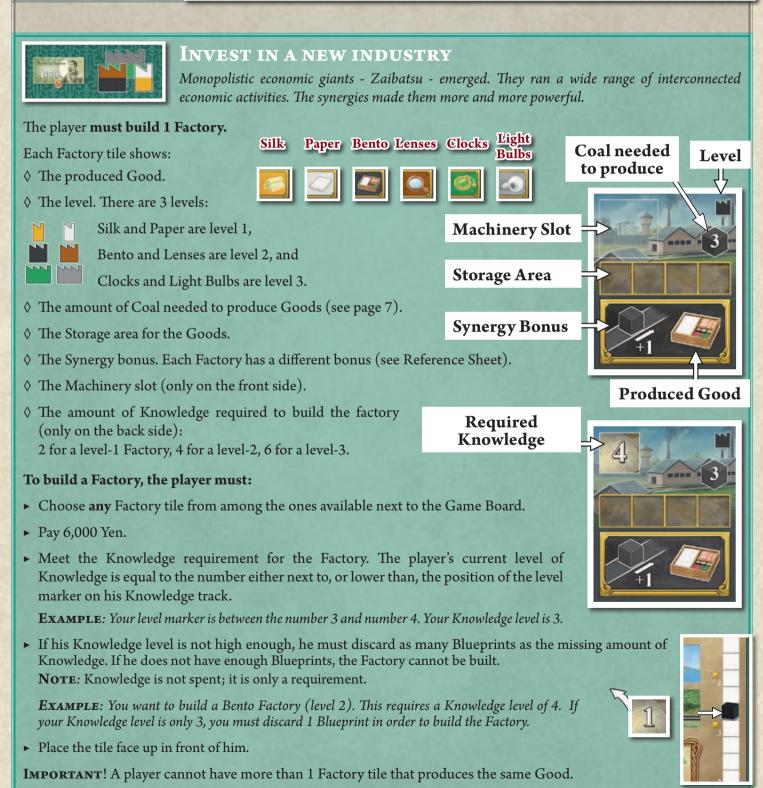
### AVAILABLE ACTIONS

The player must perform 1 action as shown in the Action slot from where he took the Worker.

For example, to perform a Local Market action, you must take a Worker from the rightmost Action slot.

**NOTE:** If there are two actions shown in the Action slot, the player must choose one.







### MACHINERY

Modernization was an all-or-nothing matter. Either every aspect of the country had to be modernized to some extent, or no single aspect could be modernized successfully.

### The player must perform 1 to 3 Factory Improvements.

For each Improvement, he must pay 5,000 Yen, and then either:

- ► Install a new Machine: He takes a Machinery tile from the common supply, and places it "+1" side up on an empty Machinery slot of one of his Factory tiles of his choice, OR
- ► **Upgrade an existing Machine:** He flips a Machinery tile already placed on any one of his Factory tiles to the "+2" side. A "+2" Machinery tile cannot be upgraded further.

**NOTE**: Once a Machinery tile is placed on a factory, it cannot be moved nor removed.

**EXAMPLE**: You pay 10,000 Yen, install a new Machinery tile on your Silk Factory, and then immediately upgrade it.

Where possible, the player must install / upgrade the Machines in his existing Factories, if any. If he cannot, he may still take 1 Machinery tile for each 5,000 Yen spent, and place them "+1" side up in front of him in his supply.

**NOTE**: If a player has any Machinery tiles in his supply, then the next time he builds a Factory, he must immediately install one of those Machinery tiles onto it. If possible, the machine must immediately be upgraded (discarding another "+1" tile from his supply and flipping the newly-installed Machinery tile to the "+2" side).

**EXAMPLE**: You have 1 Factory with a "+1" Machinery tile on it. You pay 15,000 Yen. You must upgrade the existing Machinery tile to "+2", and then take two new "+1" Machinery tiles into your supply. The next time you build a Factory, place one of these two Machinery tiles on the Factory, "+2" side up, and discard the other.



## **Produce Goods**

Grow the rice to feed the weaver. Weave the cloth to clothe the worker. Employ the worker to make the goods. Sell the goods to buy the rice fields.

The player **must run 1 to 3 of his Factories** to produce the corresponding Goods.

**NOTE**: When a Factory produces Goods, black cubes are placed on the Storage Area of the Factory tile. These cubes represent the corresponding Good (Silk, Paper, Lenses, etc.).

For each Factory he wants to run, the player must:

- Discard the required number of Coal from his Budget area as shown on the Factory tile.
   NOTE: If a player does not have enough Coal, the Factory may not be run.
- ► Take 1 cube from the common supply and place it on an empty slot of the Factory's Storage Area.

**NOTE**: If there are no empty slots, the Factory cannot be run.

► Take an additional number of cubes from the common supply, according to any Machinery tile on the Factory (+1 or +2), and place them in that Factory's Storage area, if possible.

**NOTE:** If there are not enough empty slots on a Factory's Storage for the additional cubes, the player places as many cubes as he can.

**NOTE:** A player may not run the same Factory more than once per turn.

**EXAMPLE**: You decide to run your Silk Factory, which already has two Goods in Storage. You must discard 2 Coal cubes from the Budget area of your Player Board in order to do so.You can take 3 black cubes from the common supply (1 for the basic production, +2 due to the Machinery), but there is only space for 2, so only 2 are taken and are then placed on the Storage slots.





Coal needed to produce







### KNOWLEDGE

'Knowledge shall be sought throughout the world so as to

strengthen the foundations of Imperial rule.'

# The player must move his Knowledge level marker up between 1 and 3 steps:

- ♦ Moving 1 step costs 1,000 Yen.
- ♦ Moving 2 steps costs 3,000 Yen.
- ♦ Moving 3 steps costs 6,000 Yen.

The marker cannot move beyond the topmost slot.





### TRAINS

The first railroad line constructed in the Country

was only 17 miles long. By 1913, the railroad network had expanded exponentially to an outstanding 7,000 miles!

### The player must **build 1 to 3 Trains.** Each Train costs 5,000 Yen. He must:

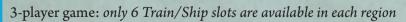
 Take the built Train tile(s) from his Player Board, from left to right.



 Place each of them on an empty Train/Ship slot on the Game Board. There are 8 Train/Ship slots in each Region. If more than 1 Train tile is placed with the same action, they must be placed in different Regions.



**NOTE:** Trains give the player additional Influence Points during the Scorings (see page 12).



2-player game: only 4 Train/Ship slots are available in each region



If this symbol is completely revealed when a Train or a Ship tile is taken from a Player Board, the player immediately moves his marker up 1 step on the Money track, if possible. The marker cannot move beyond the topmost slot.



## MINES

Japan largely skipped water power and moved straight to

steam. With industrialization came the demand for coal, and a dramatic rise in production.

# The player **must move his Coal level marker up between 1 and 3 steps**.

- ♦ Moving 1 step costs 1,000 Yen.
- ♦ Moving 2 steps costs 3,000 Yen.
- ♦ Moving 3 steps costs 6,000 Yen.

The marker cannot move beyond the topmost slot.





Ships

In this period, the four leading Zaibatsu directly controlled

one half of Japan's shipbuilding and maritime shipping.

The player must **build 1 to 3 Ships.** Each Ship costs 5,000 Yen. He must:

► Take the built Ship tile(s) from his Player Board, from left to right.



 Place each of them on an empty Train/Ship slot on the Game Board. There are 8 Train/Ship slots in each Region. If more than 1 Ship tile is placed with the same action, they must be placed in different Regions.



**NOTE**: Ships could give the player additional VP during the Scorings (see page 12).



### EXPORT

The Japanese economic structure became very mercantilistic, importing raw materials and exporting finished products.

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2 1

The player **must fulfill 1 to 3 Contracts.** Each player has 8 different Contracts available to him at the start of the game.

To fulfill a Contract, he must:

- ► Select one of his face-up Contract tiles.
- Discard the required amount of Goods from the Storage area of his Factories as indicated by the white cubes depicted on the Contract tile:
  - ♦ The amount of cubes indicates how many different types of Goods the player must spend.
  - ◊ The number depicted on each cube indicates how many Goods of the same type the player must spend.

NOTE: A contract must be fulfilled all at once.

**EXAMPLE**: The contract shown to the right requires 2 cubes from one Factory and 1 cube from a different Factory.

The player then:

- Receives the bonus indicated on the bottom left corner of the Contract tile (Yen or VP).
- Moves his marker up 1, 2, or 3 steps on the Money track (as indicated in the bottom right corner, if any). The marker cannot advance beyond the topmost slot.
- ► Flips the Contract tile face down.



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## CITIES AND DEMAND FOR GOODS

During the Meiji period, the Zaibatsu started to sell the products of Japan's industrial revolution to an increasingly urbanized population, and they were so successful that eventually they drove out their foreign competitors.

This is an explanation of the City and Influence slots which is needed for a better understanding of the Local Market action (see page 10).

There are 2 Cities in each Region. The City tile indicates the demand for Goods in that city.

There are 4 Influence slots around each City on the Game Board, one next to each side of the City tile.

**EXAMPLE**: In this City there is a demand for Lenses, Paper, Silk, and Light Bulbs.

When performing the Local Market action, a player supplies one of the depicted Goods, and places one of his Influence tiles on the Influence slot corresponding to the Good he supplied to the City.

**NOTE:** The numbers depicted on the Influence slots represent the current level of Influence that the Overseas Companies have in the Region.

These numbers are not relevant while performing the Local Market action, but are important during the Scorings if not covered by an Influence tile (see page 12).

**EXAMPLE**: You supply Silk to this City. You place one of your Influence tiles next to the Silk section of the City.







### LOCAL MARKET

It was not a matter of rational choice. Zaibatsu had to fill out the lacuna of the market.

The player **must place 1 to 3 Influence tiles** in 1 Region of the Game Board.

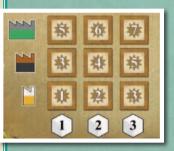
For **each** Influence tile he places, he must:

- Discard 1, 2, or 3 cubes of the good he wants to supply (to be taken from the Storage Area of the corresponding Factory).
- Place 1 Influence tile of the appropriate value on an available Influence slot next to a City section that depicts the Good he is supplying.
- Immediately receive the Region bonus (as shown in the Bonus slot of the region where he placed the Influence tile): 5,000 Yen, 2 Coal, 2 Blueprints, or 2 VP.



**Region Bonus** 

**NOTE!** If more than 1 Influence tile is placed with the same action, they must be placed in the <u>same</u> Region.



### INFLUENCE TILE VALUE

The value of the Influence tile the player may place varies according to the supplied Good and the number of discarded cubes (*see table on the Game Board*). A player is always allowed to place a tile of a lower value.

### **Examples**:

Discarding 3 cubes from a Paper Factory (white), allows placement of a value-3 Influence tile.
Discarding 2 cubes from a Clock Factory (green), allows placement of a value-6 Influence tile.

**NOTE!** The player can always decide to split the cubes among different Influence tiles.

**EXAMPLE**: You can discard 3 cubes from a Clock Factory (green), use 1 of them to place a value-5 Influence tile, and the other 2 to place a value-6 Influence tile.

### Available Influence slot

An Influence slot is considered available if either:

- $\diamond\,$  No Influence tile has been placed on it, OR,
- ◊ An Influence tile of a value lower than the one that the player is about to place is already on the slot (this tile may belong to any player, including the active player). In this case, the existing Influence tile is returned to its owner.

**EXAMPLE:** In a previous turn, **Purple** spent 1 cube from her Clock Factory placing a value-5 Influence tile. Now **Blue** spends 3 cubes from his Clock Factory and replaces the **Purple** Influence tile because his tile is value-7.

2-player game: no more than 2 Influence tiles can be placed around each city.

3-player game: no more than 3 Influence tiles can be placed around each city.

In addition to the rules for a 4-player game, the following rules apply: If there are already the maximum allowed number of Influence tiles placed around a City, the player can place his Influence tile in an empty Influence slot if it has a higher value than at least one of the existing Influence tiles (of any player) currently placed in the other slots.

*In this case, the lowest-valued Influence tile is removed and returned to its owner. If there is more than one tile with the same lowest value, the active player decides which one to remove.* 

**EXAMPLE**: 2-player game. There are already 2 occupied Influence slots. **Blue** places a value-5 Influence tile. He decides to remove **Red**'s value-3 tile. He could not have placed a tile equal to or lower than value-3.

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## CONSOLIDATE

On a player's turn, if he cannot or does not want to take a Worker, he must Consolidate.

He performs the following steps one at a time in this order:

## 1. Budget (money and coal)



The player **must**:

- Discard all of the Yen and Coal cubes currently placed in the Budget area of his Player Board, placing them back in the Common supply.
- **Take the following** from the Common supply and place them in the Budget area of his Player Board:
- Yen notes according to the position of his level marker on the Money Track.
- **Coal** cubes according to the position of his **level marker on the Coal Track** (the number to the right of the track, on, or lower than, the position of the marker.)

**EXAMPLE**: You consolidate on your turn. You discard all of your current Coal and Yen, and then take 5 Coal and 16,000 Yen.

## 2. Emperor's Reward

If there are at least 3 Workers currently placed on his Player Board, he:

 Must take from the Game Board 1 Reward tile of his choice of the same level or lower as shown above the rightmost occupied Worker slot (2 to 5).

If there are only Reward tiles of a higher level on the game board, the player skips the Emperor's Reward step.



If there are no more Reward tiles (of any level) on the Game Board, the player takes one of the 2x VP Multiplier tiles instead. If the Multiplier tiles also run out, the player skips the Emperor's Reward step.

- Immediately receives the bonus indicated on the front of the taken Reward tile:
  - ♦ 5,000 Yen
  - ♦ 2 Blueprints
  - ♦ 2 Coal cubes
- The Reward / Multiplier tile taken must immediately be placed (VP side up) on an empty Achievement space of his Player Board, if any. Only 1 Reward / Multiplier tile can occupy each space. If all Achievement spaces are already occupied, the tile is discarded.

**NOTE!** Once placed, Reward / Multiplier tiles cannot be moved, removed, nor swapped for the remainder of the game.

At the end of the game, each Achievement space scores VP according to the depicted image and any VP multiplier (*see Reference Sheet*).

**REMEMBER:** The Reward tiles placed on the higher-numbered columns have higher VP multipliers on the back.

## 3. WORKFORCE

The player **must pay for the Workers** currently on his Player Board. **The payment is 3,000 Yen for each different color.** If he cannot pay, he loses 2 VP for each color he cannot pay for.

He then removes all Workers from his Player Board and places them back in the bag.

Complete the refill of the Worker rows, if needed (see page 5).



**EXAMPLE**: You must pay 9,000 Yen as you have 3 different colors.











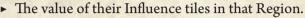
# Scorings



**Reminder:** During the game, there are 3 Scorings in which each Region is scored.

Scorings are triggered by the movement of the Scoring Marker (see page 5).

During each Scoring, players calculate their level of Influence in each Region and then determine who has the most, secondmost, and thirdmost Influence in the Region, by summing together:





 Plus, if, and only if, the player has at least 1 Influence tile in the Region, he adds the value of his Trains placed in that Region.

**IMPORTANT!** The Overseas Companies count as an additional player for determining this majority. To calculate their level of Influence in a region sum the numbers depicted on the empty Influence slots of that Region.



Score each region individually: VP are scored by the players with the most, secondmost, and thirdmost Influence in the Region (*see the table on the Game Board*).

In case of a tie, add the VP of the respective positions and divide them evenly (rounded down) between the tied players. **EXAMPLE**:  $1^{st}$  Scoring: **Purple** and **Red** have 6 Influence Points each, and **Blue** has 4. **Purple** and **Red** tie for the most Influence (so each scores (10+7)/2 = 8VP), **Blue** is considered to have the thirdmost Influence, so he scores 5 VP.



**NOTE!** The player(s) with the most Influence and the player(s) with the secondmost Influence also score the VP indicated on their Ships.

#### Example:

The Influence of the Overseas Companies (sum of the numbers depicted on the empty Influence slots of that Region) is 7(3+3+1)

**Purple** has a total Influence of 6, so has the secondmost Influence.

**Blue** has a total Influence of 5 (1 from the Influence tile, 4 from the Trains), so has the thirdmost Influence.

**Red** has a total Influence of 0 (her Trains do not count as she has no Influence tiles in the Region).

It is the 2<sup>nd</sup>Scoring, so

Purple scores 11 VP + 2 VP for her Ships, Blue scores 8 VP.

#### Example:

**Purple**, **Blue**, and **Red** have a total Influence of 8. The Overseas Companies have an Influence of 2.

The VP for first, second and third are added and divided evenly between the 3 players. All of them score VP for any Ships they have.



After the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scoring the game ends, and players calculate their final scores (see Reference Sheet).

The player with the most Victory Points wins. In case of a tie, the tied player who played the last turn, or is closest (counterclockwise) to the player who played the last turn, wins.

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