The Earth of 2048 is a very different world from the one we know now. After decades of regime turmoil and economic decline, Russia, long trapped in the quagmire of the war in Ukraine, has finally triggered a dramatic change within the country. Domestic discontent built up after Putin's government overemphasised military expansion and domestic repression. Despite his death in 2032, his political heirs still failed to turn things around and the regime faltered. Eventually, things got out of hand in 2045.

**The cause: the re-emergence of the Wagner Group**

The Russo-Ukrainian War lasted for several years, depleting the country's resources and bringing the economy to a standstill. In 2040, the Wagner Group, a private military organisation in Russia, re-emerged from the shadows to the forefront of the country's economy, as the country's population grew weary of the war and social tensions. The successor of Wagner's founder, Prigozhin, an enigmatic and radical military strongman, took advantage of the people's dissatisfaction with the government to launch an unprecedented domestic insurgency.

This armed uprising spread throughout Russia's major cities, and clashes between government forces and Wagner's army quickly escalated into a nationwide civil war. Putin's successors were unable to take control of the situation, the army was demoralised, and some of the generals even began to turn against the Wagner group. Eventually, the Wagnerian forces succeeded in overthrowing the current regime in 2042, establishing a new totalitarian regime, the Committee for the Revival of the Soviet Union (CRCP)

**Characters: Viktorov**

Prigozhin's successor, Ilya Sergeyevich Viktorov, is a military strongman with a very strong background. Born in 1995, he came from a poor family as a young boy but won a government scholarship for his academic excellence and travelled to Beijing University to study political science and international relations. During his studies in China, Viktorov delved into Marxism-Leninism and Stalinism, with a particular understanding of Stalin's power politics and collectivism.

Upon his return to Russia, Viktorov joined the Wagner Group and quickly rose to the centre of leadership. His ideology was heavily influenced by the totalitarianism of the Soviet period, and he firmly believed that it was through iron rule and the centralisation of state power that Russia could regain its former glory. Viktorov led key military operations to overthrow the Russian government during the Wagnerian Rebellion that began in 2040, and quickly became the central leader of the Committee for Soviet Renewal, determined to revive the Soviet Union.

**Military preparations and the emergence of new forces**

Once in power, the Wagner Group's Committee for Soviet Renewal launched a series of actions to rearm the Soviet Union. They realised that, despite the fact that the internal turmoil had subsided for the time being, there was still hostility towards Russia from outside, especially from the European countries and the United States. They feared that without more radical means of restoring international deterrence, Russia would be further isolated.

In order to avoid an all-out nuclear war with the NATO countries, the RCC decided to forgo the large-scale use of nuclear weapons and instead develop a new type of thermobaric weapon - a modified small-scale bomb that complied with international humanitarian treaties. The weapon is based on a high-temperature, high-pressure explosive effect that does not cause widespread nuclear contamination, but is still extremely lethal.

At the same time, the Renaissance Committee has secretly funded a super-soldier programme. Working with an international team of Communist-believing scientists, they succeeded in developing a ‘special barrier technology’ that allowed soldiers to form a bullet barrier-like defence on the battlefield. The technology was an experimental quantum energy field that deflected bullets and blast fragments, creating an invisible but exceptionally strong energy shield.

After the first five-year plan for the restoration of the Soviet Union, the Recovery Committee set its sights on Europe, specifically the United Kingdom - a country that has been gradually leaving the European Union since 2020, with many domestic conflicts and a weakening military.

**The Battle for Europe: Operation Big Thunderstorm**

In late 2047, the Russian military machine was in full swing. First came the intelligence war, with the RCC crippling the communications and defence systems of European countries through cyber-attacks and electronic warfare. Soviet special forces infiltrated the continent and secretly destroyed key NATO military installations. European nations found themselves in a mess of unprecedented proportions, at a time when Russia's new super-soldier units and thermobaric weapons units had been quietly amassing on the borders of Eastern Europe.

In early 2048, Russia launched a swift and brutal European blitzkrieg. With the Super Soldier's bullet barrier technology, the Russian army was almost unstoppable on the battlefield, and the conventional weapons of the European countries were unable to effectively kill them. And Russia's thermobaric weapons played a huge role on specific battlefields - each explosion was enough to destroy large swaths of enemy installations and troops without triggering a chain reaction, avoiding strong international condemnation of weapons of mass destruction. The United States withdrew all military forces and installations in NATO at this time for domestic reasons and in fear of the new Soviet forces.

Although NATO tried to organise a counter-attack, internal conflicts in Europe and Russia's rapid attack made it impossible for them to organise an effective defence. The capitals of Germany, France, and other countries fell, and the entire European continent was plunged under Russia's iron heel. At this point, Britain became the last bastion of Europe.

**The Battle of Britain: Operation Zhukov**

By the spring of 2049, the Russian invasion force was massed across the English Channel. Britain, despite being significantly weakened economically and militarily, became Europe's last resistance due to the unique advantages of its geographical location. The British government began to restart its military development programme as soon as the CRCP came to power and reopened limited conscription.

Russia decided to launch a combined air and sea invasion of Britain called Operation Zhukov in honour of the first hero of the Patriotic War a century earlier. Britain's Royal Navy and the remaining NATO fleet, despite their best efforts to hold them back, were rendered powerless by traditional means of defence against the Soviet First Fleet, which possessed bullet-barrier technology, and the nations' fleets retreated to the United States, which was far away on the other side of the Atlantic. The Soviet army quickly crossed the Channel, landed in southern England, and began the siege of London.

The Soviet high command used new thermobaric weapons to strike military installations around London with precision. Each thermobaric explosion was like a precise storm, destroying London's last line of defence. However, Britain did not sit idly by. The government activated the last of its secretly developed countermeasures, including a pulse bomb capable of briefly jamming the bullet barrier of Russian soldiers. These weapons, while not able to completely turn the tide, managed to slow down the Russian offensive in key battles, buying Britain some time. And the United States began sending troops to Britain after learning that they could counter Soviet forces. Eventually, the war also broke out within the city of London, and the last remaining forces of the NATO countries' forces fought an unprecedented showdown with the Soviet Union in the south of England, with the final outcome of the battle unknown to any of us ......

**Short version**

Russia has been caught up in the long war in Ukraine and the repression of the Ukrainian occupation. Resources were depleted and discontent rose in the country. The Wagner Group rises to power, and his successor, Viktorov, overthrows the Russian government and establishes the ‘Committee for Soviet Renewal’ with the goal of reviving the Soviet Union. He strengthens Russia through military reorganisation and new technologies such as super soldiers and thermobaric weapons.

In 2048, Russia launches a blitzkrieg and quickly takes over the European continent. With the bullet barrier technology of the super soldiers and thermobaric weapons, the defences of the European countries collapsed and NATO was unstoppable. Britain becomes the last bastion of Europe, and Russia launches ‘Operation Zhukov’ to enter Britain, and eventually war breaks out in London, where both sides engage in a brutal duel with an uncertain outcome.