

Throwback Thursday: Fallout 3 Review

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This week, my throw didn't fly back enough to hit the 1990s. But it did land in 2008, on Bethesda's Fallout 3 for XBOX 360, PS3 and PC.

Following the release of the fourth Elder Scrolls game (which itself has mixed reviews), what could Bethesda do next? It managed to reinvent Fallout for the seventh generation system.

You play a late-generation survivor of a nuclear war between an America that never grew out of the 1950s and a China that replaced the USSR as a Cold War enemy. On escape (or exile) from the bunker you've known all your life, you discover the truth about yourself and your father while fighting who-knows-what in the radioactive ruins of Washington, D.C. and the surrounding area.

To this day, Fallout 3, and it's 2010 sorta-sequel Fallout: New Vegas, hold a bright, flaming torch to some of the greatest games ever produced, like Skyrim, the fifth Elder Scrolls. From the innovative VATS system to the highly customizable character and the monsters and enemies, this game continues to bring something new, even for someone who has played it dozens of times.

Many games until FO3 dealt with player choice. But few had you asking yourself of the actual implication of your choice. Do you kill the Ghouls, let them fight the rich people, or force coexistence? Do you kill the enemy commander or try to bring him to your side? Do you fight solo or join the Brotherhood of Steel? Each of these, no matter the size of choice, can hinder you at the end of the game.

And did I mention the easter eggs? Whether your personal flavor of reference is Aliens, the American Civil War, or Calvin and Hobbes, you're bound to run into something like it in the Capital Wasteland. You want nuclear Coke? Drink one for me. You want to find the Oblivion Gates? Center of the map. You a horror fan? Take a stroll over to the Dunwich Building for a quest.

Despite the somewhat linear path of the game, because it offers many choices, has hundreds of different characters, and its quality is comparable to games which came out 6 years later, I'm giving Fallout 3 the full 5 Hats.

Rock on, Capital Wasteland!