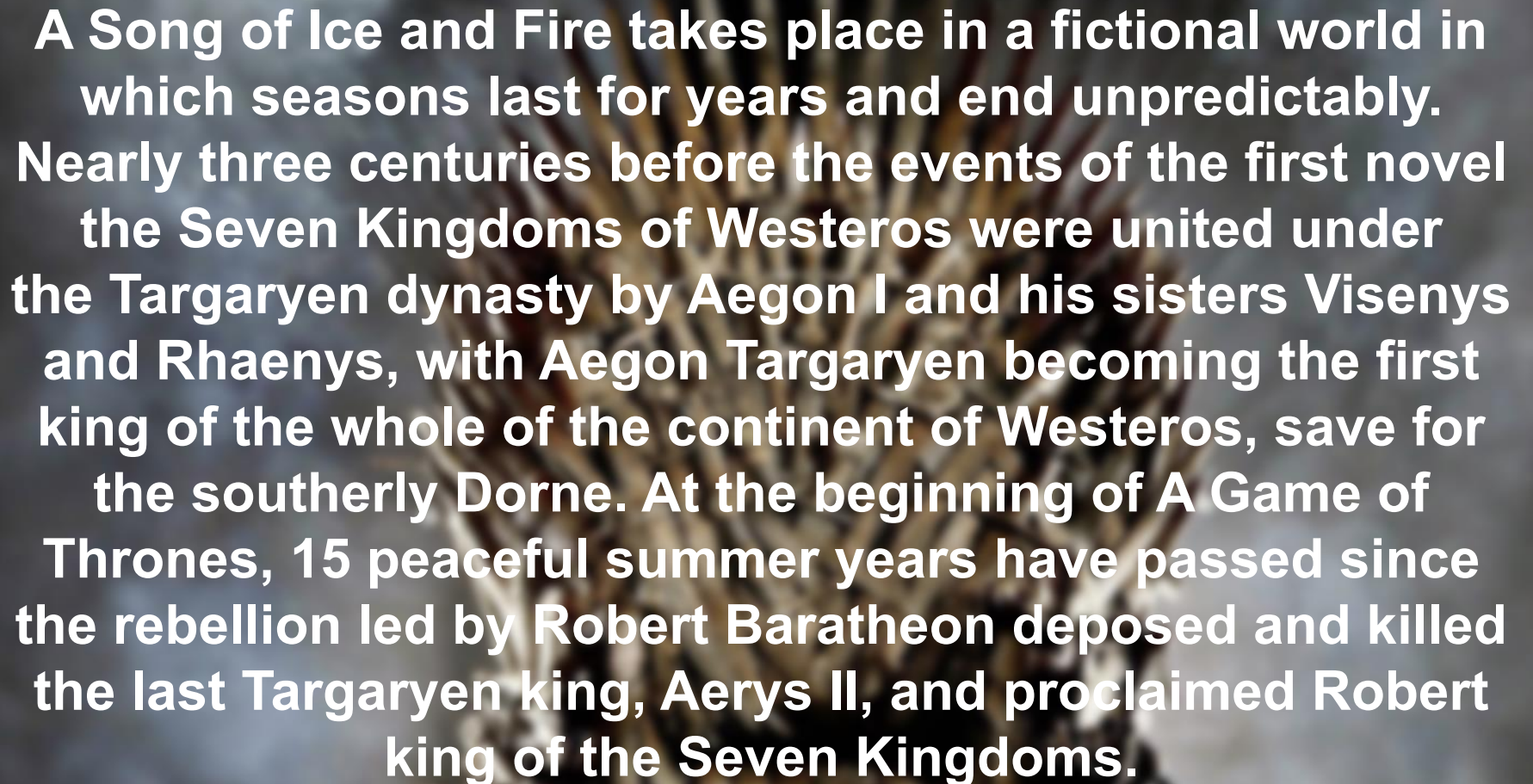


The image is a title card for the TV series "Game of Thrones". It features a dark, ornate banner with intricate scrollwork and a central metallic emblem. The emblem consists of a shield-like shape with a crown on top and a sword hilt on the bottom, both containing glowing orange-red eyes. The banner is set against a background of a bright, golden sun with rays. The title "GAME OF THRONES" is written in a large, serif font across the banner, with the word "OF" in a smaller font between "GAME" and "THRONES".

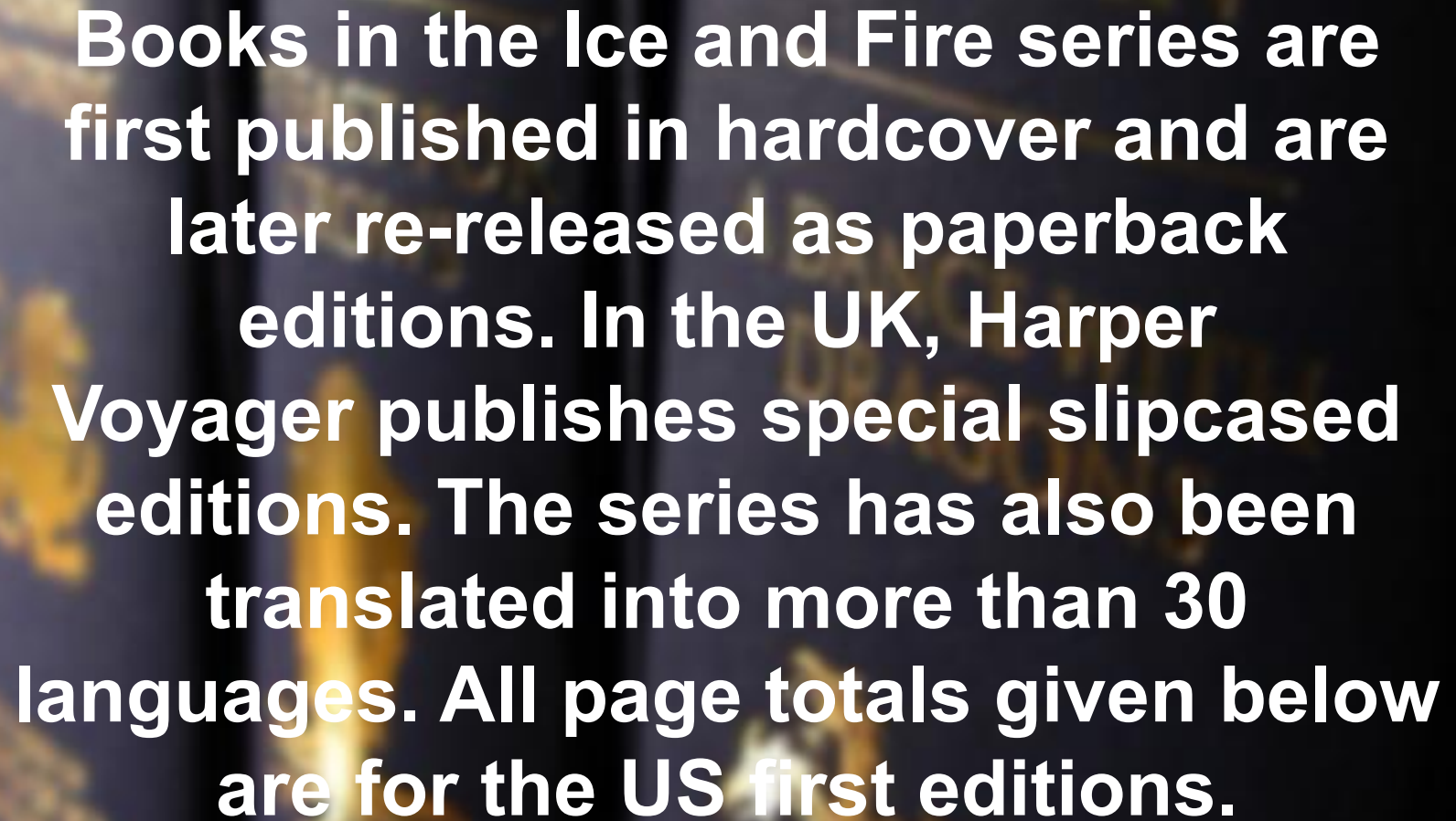
GAME OF THRONES

A Song of Ice and Fire is a series of epic fantasy novels by the American novelist and screenwriter George R. R. Martin. The first volume of the series, A Game of Thrones, was begun in 1991 and first published in 1996. Martin, who initially envisioned the series as a trilogy, has published five out of a planned seven volumes. The fifth and most recent volume of the series published in 2011, A Dance with Dragons, took Martin five years to write. The sixth novel, The Winds of Winter, is still being written




A Song of Ice and Fire takes place in a fictional world in which seasons last for years and end unpredictably. Nearly three centuries before the events of the first novel the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros were united under the Targaryen dynasty by Aegon I and his sisters Visenys and Rhaenys, with Aegon Targaryen becoming the first king of the whole of the continent of Westeros, save for the southerly Dorne. At the beginning of A Game of Thrones, 15 peaceful summer years have passed since the rebellion led by Robert Baratheon deposed and killed the last Targaryen king, Aerys II, and proclaimed Robert king of the Seven Kingdoms.

The principal story chronicles the power struggle for the Iron Throne between the great Houses of Westeros following the death of King Robert in A Game of Thrones.

The background of the image shows several book spines from the 'A Song of Ice and Fire' series by George R.R. Martin. The spines are dark with gold lettering and designs. The name 'GEORGE R.R. MARTIN' is visible on the spines. The text is centered over the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Books in the Ice and Fire series are first published in hardcover and are later re-released as paperback editions. In the UK, Harper Voyager publishes special slipcased editions. The series has also been translated into more than 30 languages. All page totals given below are for the US first editions.

An aerial, slightly blurred view of a medieval city. A large stone castle with a central tower is visible in the upper left. A river or canal flows through the city, with a bridge crossing it. The buildings are made of stone and have a warm, golden-brown color palette. The overall scene is set in a dark, possibly night or dusk, environment.

With the popularity of the series growing, HBO optioned *A Song of Ice and Fire* for a television adaptation in 2007. A pilot episode was produced in late 2009, and a series commitment for nine further episodes was made in March 2010.

A Song of Ice and Fire spawned an industry of spin-off products. Fantasy Flight Games released a collectible card game, a board game, and two collections of artwork inspired by the *Ice and Fire* series.