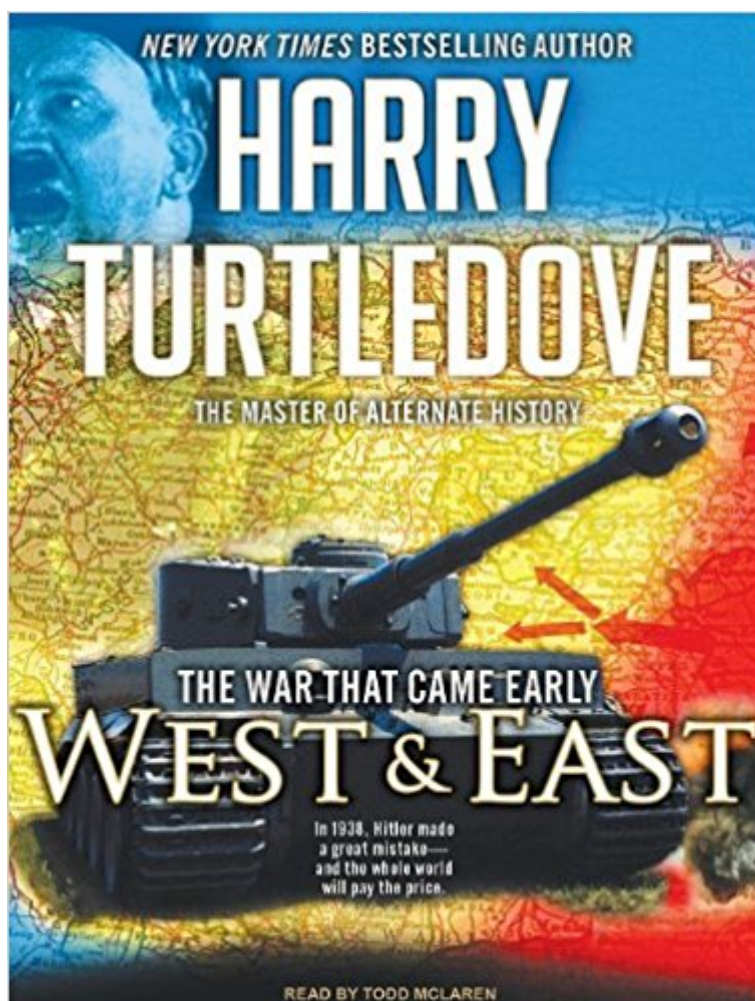


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The War That Came Early: West And East



Synopsis

In 1938, two men held history in their hands. One was Adolf Hitler. The other was British prime minister Neville Chamberlain, who, determined to avoid war at any cost, came to be known as "the great appeaser." But Harry Turtledove, the unrivaled master of alternate history, has launched a gripping saga that springboards from a different fateful act: What if Chamberlain had stood up to Hitler? What would the Nazis' next move have been? And how would the war-which Hitler had always regretted waiting eleven months to start-have unfolded and changed our world? Here, Turtledove takes us across a panorama of conflict fueled by ideology and demagoguery. Nations are pitted against nations, alliances are forged between old enemies, ordinary men and women are hurled into extraordinary life-and-death situations. In Japanese-controlled Singapore, an American marine falls in love with a Russian dance hall hostess, while around him are heard the first explosions of Chinese guerilla resistance. On the frontlines of war-ravaged rural France, a weary soldier perfects the art of using an enormous anti-tank gun as a sniper's tool-while from Germany a killer is sent to hunt him down. And in the icy North Atlantic, a U-boat bearing an experimental device wreaks havoc on British shipping, setting the stage for a Nazi ground invasion of Denmark. From an American woman trapped in Germany who receives safe passage from Hitler himself to a Jewish family steeped in German culture and facing the hatred rising around them, from Japanese soldiers on the remote edge of Siberia to American volunteers in Spain, *The War That Came Early: West and East* is the story of a world held hostage by tyrants-Stalin, Hitler, Sanjuro-each holding on to power through lies and terror even in the face of treacherous plots from within. As armies clash, and as the brave, foolish, and true believers choose sides, new weapons are added to already deadly arsenals and new strategies are plotted to break a growing stalemate. But one question looms over the conflict: What will it take to bring America into this war?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Having laid out the course of "the war that came early" in 2009's *Hitler's War*, Turtledove focuses on turning his characters from stock military figures into specialists. In this version of WWII, the Nazis fail to take Paris. The German war machine, apparently fed by infinite soldiers, turns not only to the western and eastern fronts but also north to Denmark. The novel most fully shines when the characters are allowed to strive for their full potential: Czech sniper Vaclav Jezek adopts an antitank rifle as his favorite weapon; German pilot Hans-Ulrich Rudel ingeniously modifies his aircraft; Soviet soldier Chaim Weinberg becomes a Party propagandist; and the Goldman family tries to achieve a semblance of normal life in Nazi-ruled Münster. The war is always present, though, and there's plenty to satisfy fans of military strategy, tactics, and armaments. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review Continuing on from *Hitler's War* (2009), it is now 1939, and both Germany and Russia are faced with wars on two fronts. Sergeant Fujita fights to cut off Vladivostok, while Russian pilot Sergei Yaroslavsky fights the Germans and their Polish (!) allies outside Warsaw. British Sergeant Alistair Walsh acquires a pet cat and an unreasonable familiarity with Norwegian weather as the German invasion of Scandinavia leaves the peripatetic Peggy Druce marooned in Sweden. Meanwhile, one of the few real-historical characters, Stuka pilot Hans-Ulrich Rudel, earns the Knight's Cross for discovering how to turn the lumbering dive bomber into a lethal tank-buster. In Spain, Chaim Weinberg learns that the dialectic he knows so well can be as effective a weapon as a rifle, and in Shanghai, marine corporal Pete McGill learns that it may be a long, hard road to marrying his beloved, White Russian refugee Vera. And so it whirls on, the suspense building inexorably, thanks to two of Turtledove's gifts, in particular. One is for portraying so much of the action from the viewpoint of the grunts, or even civilians, who know little of what the Great Ones are up to until the consequences are all over them. The other proceeds from the first and is for envisioning WWII unraveling like an endless ball of yarn in the paws of an intelligent kitten. Keep reading or miss something exceedingly fine. --Roland Green --This text refers to an out of print or

unavailable edition of this title.

I have just finished Harry Turtledove's six volume set "The War that Came Early". Being a Harry Turtledove fan I of course enjoyed it. Some very thoughtful switches that made for a good and interesting story. However, I do have a few knock-offs on this series. First, I think it went a book too long. Well two books too long actually. I felt there was a lot of filler that didn't really enhance the story, and an abundance of redundancy in recounting stuff about the characters that were just covered a chapter or two previously and in the previous book(s). I mean how many times does he have to tell me that X character was a possessor of ancient history and now worked in a labor gang. He told me that in the first book and I got it then "but he kept telling me again and again through to the final book. He did this for other characters too. The language in this was far raunchier than his previous books I've read of his. Not a prude, but something that unless it truly adds to a story I can do without. One real nit, is a parachute jump action. He describes how when they were over the enemy territory, each trooper stepped into the door and when the light went to green from red for each trooper they jumped. Trust me the light went from red to green once and when it did all the troopers pushed out the door as quickly as they could. This helped insure they would be less scattered upon landing. Doing it the way he described they'd been spread for miles. Maybe there is a 7th book coming???? If not it seemed to end rather abruptly and with quite a bit hanging. So, I am expecting another in the series. Bottom line if you enjoy alternate history I recommend it. I did enjoy it and am truly hoping for a 7th volume. Still think it could have been done in fewer books though.

If you have ever read a Harry Turtledove novel, and enjoyed it, then you will probably enjoy this just as much. For those familiar with Turtledove, I am saying that this book's greatest flaws are the same flaws that plague most of his works. There are a lot of characters, most of them are cardboard cutouts of what a history book would say a person from this time period in this situation is like, there are long sequences where the same thing keeps happening over and over again, he constantly interrupts the story to recap what's been happening (almost every time he returns to a character), and he has that annoying habit of explaining his own lines (and she knew what a Jew could expect to get from a store. She would get nothing-yeah, Turtledove, I got that last part from the initial sentence, you didn't need to reiterate). If you aren't familiar with Turtledove, and the above has you concerned, then I feel the need to explain that he normally writes setting-based narratives. That is, as opposed to a lot of stories, the place and time is more important to the book than the characters and events (at least, the small-scale events). If you enjoy reading about the cultural value of the

Japanese soldiers storming Siberia and the morale effects within Germany of not being able to successfully take France, if you enjoy the subtle touches of various nations using weapons that normally were fielded in smaller quantities or tactics being made different by the Polish fighting the Soviet Union alongside German soldiers, then you will probably like this book. If such things bore you, or they are not enough to hear soldiers from multiple fronts of multiple countries whining about how there's nothing they can do about anything over and over and over again, then this book is not for you.

Standard Harry Turtledove. I am a little disappointed that he hasn't put in more character development. For instance what did Luc Harcourt do before the war, the same for Willi Dernen and Awful Arno? Other than that another good what if from Mister Turtledove.

It seems Harry Turtledove expects his readers to know a little of the actual history that pertains to the things he writes about. At least it helps to understand what's going on here. Past that, he uses pretty much the same formula in all his alternate histories: spend a few pages of text to tell what happens to one character, then another and then another, and thereby tell the larger tale. That can be fun, but it also can be a bit tedious, especially if it seems the tale is going nowhere. Given a basic knowledge of what happened during the real World War II, one recognizes this as a bridge from the beginning to the end, i.e., he didn't intend to end the story here. He has a lot more to say, and it will take at least another book to say it. Indeed, he may have two or three more books in the pipeline. That suits me. I'll read the next one when it comes out.

This series seems to be an effort to milk as much mileage as possible from yet-another World War II alternate history. Unfortunately the author has become very formulaic in his approach, and most of the fictional characters are pretty shallow and one dimensional; only Julius Lemp and Hans Ulrich Rudel (real life characters) seem to have anything to really contribute to progress of the background storyline. As has become the pattern of Turtledove's works recently, the tale proceeds at a glacial pace and ensures several more sequels. I share the sentiment of several other reviewers dislike of the almost continual references to Navy Cuts, Gitanes, and other cancer sticks. As a true fan of the genre, I regret giving this work only 2 generous stars; it could have been much more entertaining!

always entertaining by mr turtledove

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