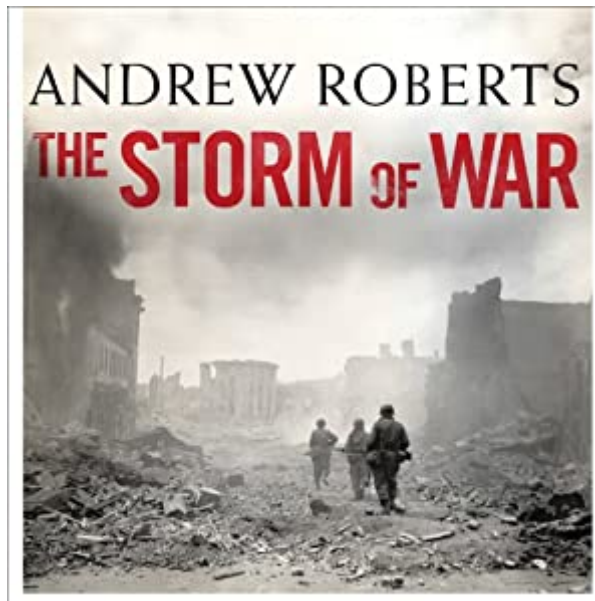




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# The Storm Of War: A New History Of The Second World War



## Synopsis

The Second World War lasted for 2,174 days, cost \$1.5 trillion, and claimed the lives of more than 50 million people. What were the factors that affected the war's outcome? Why did the Axis lose? And could they, with a different strategy, have won? Andrew Roberts' acclaimed new history has been hailed as the finest single-volume account of this epic conflict. From the western front to North Africa, from the Baltic to the Far East, he tells the story of the war - the grand strategy and the individual experience, the cruelty and the heroism - as never before. In researching this magnificently vivid history, Roberts walked many of the key battlefields and wartimes sites in Russia, France, Italy, Germany, and the Far East, and drew on a number of never-before-published documents, such as a letter from Hitler's director of military operations explaining the reasoning behind the Fuhrer's order to halt the Panzers outside Dunkirk - a delay that enabled British forces to evacuate. Roberts illuminates the principal actors on both sides and analyzes how they reached critical decisions. He also presents the tales of many little-known individuals whose experiences form a panoply of the extraordinary courage and self-sacrifice, as well as the terrible depravity and cruelty, of the Second World War. Meticulously researched and masterfully written, *The Storm of War* gives a dramatic account of this momentous event and shows in remarkable detail why the war took the course it did.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Full review coming later - I've only read a few chapters, and I could barely put the book down when I did. Sometimes when you read a huge history book, and you're not ready to tackle it all in one go (as I did with Roberts' *Napoleon*), you can simply pick chapters of interest for that sitting. This book

shares amazing new insights on how Hitler came to power, and how the Allies won. Simply fantastic so far, from perhaps the best historian of our generation. Roberts has a keen way of flowing like a story yet remaining incisive. He covers so much, I cannot image the amount of research it takes to write a book like this. This book is worth the price alone if you only read the first and last chapters (well, the one towards the end on how why the allies won). Highly recommended.

I have read a number of books about World War II throughout the years on various topics. This book looked interesting as a one volume history of that horrific, but interesting conflict. The book is really very good. The narrative move rapidly. It is indeed interesting that paragraphs of history are the subject of multitudes of volumes, but then again this is less than a 1000 pages, so this is a good jumping point for more detailed treatment. However, the pleasure is reading through events which I thought I knew and still having Roberts reveal all manner of facts and figures I hadn't previously known. A pleasure (about a horrific topic).

This book is a great read for folks interested the big picture with bits of the back story. The author does a good job of putting numerical statistics into comparative context so you can appreciate impact and consequence. The book focus is mostly on the European continent with significant Russian front analysis, which I feel was appropriate and informative. The efforts of the US are fairly comprehensive and contrasted well. The Pacific gets far less attention, and is not central. The author spends a lot of time on Hitler and comparing organizational structures of the Allies and the Axis powers which are very interesting and well done. Could almost be a separate book. Some of his conclusions are pressed a bit redundantly by the end. I did think that the book could have used another proof read as I often tripped over sentence structure. The frequent use of commas and dashes in long sentences required re-reads to track the subject. Once you get used to the authors style it's easier. It's non-fiction so don't expect elegant style. It's big and I got through it in less than two weeks so I definitely found it gripping.

Up until I read this book, I would have said that the James Stokesbury's *A Short History of World War II* was my preferred and recommended overview of the Second World War. However, after reading this book, it is now the book that I enthusiastically recommend to anyone who is interested in learning more about World War II. The author has admirably accomplished writing a book on the war that is both extensive and easily understandable to all readers. Roberts mixes his vast historical knowledge of the war as well as his keen analytical mind into this book. He not only provides a very

accessible description of all aspects of the war, but also provides insightful analysis of the issues of the day such as the various strategic decisions that were made by both sides during the war. One bit of warning is Roberts doesn't pull any punches when it comes to describing the great evil that was entered into by various people and groups during this conflict. Some of the descriptions of man's inhumanity to man that occurred incident to all of this do not make for pleasant reading, but it's necessary to understand the full price that mankind pays when it engages in brutal global conflicts like this. I removed one star from the review not because of the content, but because of some pretty egregious formatting issues in the Kindle version of this book. There were numerous times during the course of the book where sentences were chopped off as if something went wrong during the editing or formatting process. It was frequent enough and caused enough of a distraction that I felt it merited the removal of a star from an otherwise excellent book.

Best WWII overall depictions of entire war I have read... and I have read dozens of the best. New facts and revealed analysis by the players. While jam packed with information it is also, due to the writing style, an enjoyable and easy read.

I've read literally 100 different books on WWII from William Shirer's "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" through books from authors as diverse as Ambrose, Hastings, and others. Almost all of the books, in a variety of ways, imply or even outright claim that the Allies beat the Nazis. Roberts new book, however, takes a different tack, explaining that Hitler was the cause of the Germany's defeat. But not in the usual way (hubris, arrogance or stupidity). For example, Roberts makes a compelling case that Hitler, though obsessed with details and controlling his Generals, was an amateur strategist. It's almost as if Hitler got lucky defeating Poland, then France, then almost Britain and Russia. He either fired, killed or otherwise intimidated his generals, so they gave him no strategic expertise whatsoever. One of the more satisfying parts of the book is that it spent a lot of words talking about the Russian Front, something that often gets overlooked by the better histories of WWII. Of course, with a somewhat improved flow of information out of Russia these days, I think historians can provide a more in-depth study of the Eastern Front. It's even more clear to me that Joseph Stalin cared so little about his soldiers, he just sent in wave after wave, while the Germans had limited resources. Great book, one that should be on the reading list of anyone with a real interest in WWII history.

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