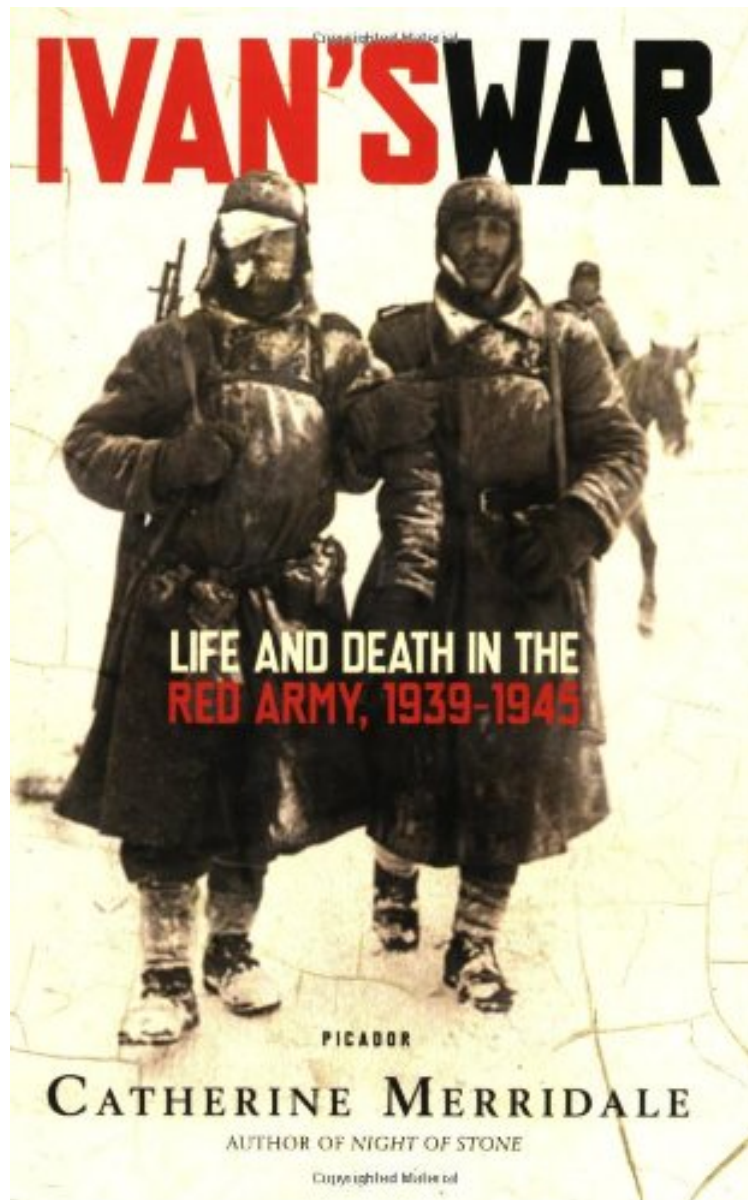


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Catherine Merridale

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#160272 in Books Catherine Merridale 2006-01-23 2007-01-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 .32 x .3 x 6.011, .85 #File Name: 0312426526462 pages Ivan s War Life and Death in the Red Army 1939 1945 | File size: 21.Mb

Catherine Merridale : Ivan's War: Life and Death in the Red Army, 1939-1945 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ivan's War: Life and Death in the Red Army, 1939-1945:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good information from soldier's viewpoint. By M. Ogorzalek A very interesting book about the Russian side of WWII against Germany. Has some interviews with surviving soldiers who present a very different viewpoint from that given by the official government propaganda history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. We must let this happen in the USA By RedHeadEd This is a great work about the mode foot soldiers in the Russian Army and how Stalin betrayed them at the end of the war. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Life in the frozen trenches By Brown, Walt Filled with personal accounts of the horrific suffering during the Great Patriotic War; anecdotally excellent.

A powerful, groundbreaking narrative of the ordinary Russian soldier's experience of the worst war in history, based on newly revealed sources. Of the thirty million who fought in the eastern front of World War II, eight million died, driven forward in suicidal charges, shattered by German shells and tanks. They were the men and women of the Red Army, a ragtag mass of soldiers who confronted Europe's most lethal fighting force and by 1945 had defeated it. Sixty years have passed since their epic triumph, but the heart and mind of Ivan -- as the ordinary Russian soldier was called -- remain a mystery. We know something about how the soldiers died, but nearly nothing about how they lived, how they saw the world, or why they fought. Drawing on previously closed military and secret police archives, interviews with veterans, and private letters and diaries, Catherine Merridale presents the first comprehensive history of the Soviet Union Army rank and file. She follows the soldiers from the shock of the German invasion to their costly triumph in Stalingrad, where life expectancy was often a mere twenty-four hours. Through the soldiers' eyes, we witness their victorious arrival in Berlin, where their rage and suffering exacted an awful toll, and accompany them as they return home full of hope, only to be denied the new life they had been fighting to secure. A tour de force of original research and a gripping history, *Ivan's War* reveals the singular mixture of courage, patriotism, anger, and fear that made it possible for these underfed, badly led troops to defeat the Nazi army. In the process Merridale restores to history the invisible millions who sacrificed the most to win the war.

From Publishers Weekly Thirty million men and women served in the Red Army during WWII. Over eight million of them died. Living or dead, they have remained anonymous. This is partly due to the Soviet Union's policy of stressing the collective nature of its sacrifice and victory. It also reflects the continuing reluctance of most Soviet veterans to discuss their experiences—in sharp contrast to German survivors of the Eastern Front. Merridale, professor of history at the University of London, combines interviews, letters and diaries with research in previously closed official archives to present the first comprehensive portrait of the Red Army's fighters. She carefully details the soldiers' age and ethnic diversity, and she puts a human face on a fact demonstrated repeatedly by retired U.S. officer and Soviet military expert David Glantz: the Red Army learned from the experience of its near-collapse in 1941, and by 1945 its soldiers were more than a match for their Wehrmacht opponents. Most poignantly, Merridale reveals that frontline soldiers increasingly hoped their sacrifices would bring about postwar reform—"Communism with a human face." What they got instead was a Stalinist crackdown—and a long silence, broken now by this outstanding book. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Doing research in the Soviet archives seems like a trying task, but critics revere the work Catherine Merridale did to prepare *Ivan's War*. The professor from Queen Mary, University of London, conducted over 200 interviews with Soviet veterans and visited major battle sites, but the most enlightening information came from tireless vetting of diaries, transcripts, and officers' reports. That Merridale can plait all this information into "an attempt to fathom war's meaning, effect and legacy" (*Foreign Affairs*) proves her acuity as a social historian, a skill she displayed previously with the admirable *Night of Stone* (2002). Only a curious absence of maps mars an otherwise compelling testament to these tragic, unsung warriors. Copyright © 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From Booklist *Starred* For this impressive book, Merridale has mined a vastness of resources on the Russian experience of World War II only recently opened to Western researchers, including unpublished letters, notebooks, diaries, and other documents of veterans, most of whom are long gone. It isn't altogether surprising that this material was sequestered for so long, for it casts favorable light on neither Stalin's regime nor the Soviet army, despite the heroism of many of the writers. Stalin beheaded the army in purges, then deployed it incorrectly and ignored warning signs. Modern weapons were in desperately short supply at the beginning of the war, and Soviet logistics depended on virtually shutting down the civilian economy and on much help (in the form of trucks, radios, canned food, etc.) from the West. Soviet medicine was a sometime thing, as was help for disabled veterans after the war; and the treatment of returned POWs was disgraceful, which is to say, Stalinist. Yet Ivan put up staunch resistance against one of the more formidable armies in history, inflicted irreparable damage on it, and saved not only his country but possibly a great deal more for which he will never be given proper credit. At least this book makes a valiant effort toward giving him his full due. Roland Green Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved