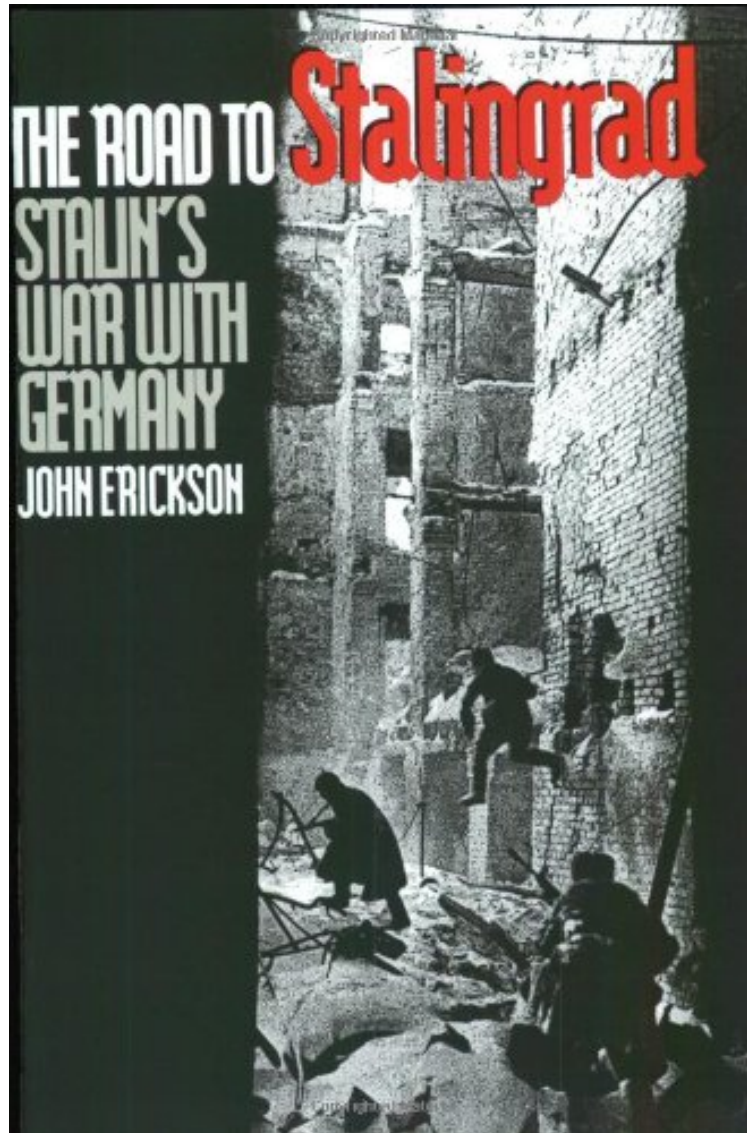


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## The Road to Stalingrad: Stalin`s War with Germany, Volume One

*John Erickson*

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**John Erickson : The Road to Stalingrad: Stalin`s War with Germany, Volume One** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Road to Stalingrad: Stalin`s War with Germany, Volume One:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars inspite . . .By Helga Fiedler-BoehmeIt seems to me - a relative novice to the subject - that every shred of available material concerning this period of the conflict has been assembled in this one hefty tome. The information presented appears exhaustive and reliable.But potential readers

beware: This is not a study, a discussion or an interpretation of history. It is an exhaustive, and -- at the same time -- well-structured compilation of facts: It is a textbook suited to students of military warfare and of the machinations of the politics which brought about this confrontation. There is, however, one drawback: The insufficient number of schematic situational maps. It is impossible -- for this reader at least -- to visualise the geography, the spatial relationships and the dynamics between the various military units involved in the respective operations without resorting to adjunct visual material: physical geographic and schematic situational maps. Because the text offers such an unexpectedly complete, factual account of the events it merits -- to my mind at least -- a five-star rating nevertheless. Helga Fiedler-Boehme of 0 people found the following review helpful. Both are full of information not easily found elsewhere. By Rudy I had read the companion volume "The Road to Berlin" and wanted this as well. Both are full of information not easily found elsewhere. I should mention my two uncles fighting against the Soviets while my brother fought against the Japanese at Okinawa. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Political overview By Paul H. This book is more of a study of Stalin and his fight to survive the immense crisis that resulted from Germany's invasion and lasted 4 long years. This book details who was in charge of what armies, their political fate and affiliations and how long they remained in charge until scapegoated. This book does provide great insight into the 1930's purges of the Soviet military and wonderfully details the rush to production that the Soviet Union had to undergo to survive. But it does not provide a sense of size in regards to the fighting nor does it provide many details except when certain areas were lost or retaken, who was in command, and maybe how many tanks, guns, and men were available at the beginning of the fight. No battle casualties are provided, so if division has 800 men at the end of the fight, was it full strength at the beginning? By the end of this book, you'll tire of seeing unit designations, since they are virtually meaningless in the context of the text. Overall, a wonder study of the way Stalin managed and fought the war from the Kremlin. Committees, organizations and offices springing from nowhere only to vanish again as Stalin maintained his grasp on the Soviet Union. This is not a great book in regards to the maturation of the Red Army strategies, equipment or tactics as it seems to only deal with these topics in a precursory way.

In this first volume of John Erickson's monumental history of the grueling Soviet-German war of 1941-1945, the author takes us from the pre-invasion Soviet Union, with its inept command structures and strategic delusions, to the humiliating retreats of Soviet armies before the Barbarossa onslaught, to the climactic, grinding battle for Stalingrad that left the Red Army poised for its majestic counteroffensive. "Erickson. . . has written the outstanding history of the Soviet-German war in English, or, for that matter, any language. The research alone is breathtaking. Erickson has mastered all the Russian sources and compared them with the German records. . . . He has shed light on many heretofore murky matters."—Reid Beddow, *Washington Post Book World* "Masterly. . . . A vividly detailed yet comprehensive account of the decisive Eastern-front battleground."—Christopher Hudson, *London Evening Standard* "The outstanding book on the Soviet war in any language."—A. J. P. Taylor, *Observer* "This authoritative book by a first-class military historian is easily read."—Philip Warner, *Daily Telegraph*

From *Library Journal* Erickson's two-volume series appeared individually in 1975 and 1983, respectively. The first volume traces the roots of Russia's war with Germany as Hitler's crack ground troops pushed their way into Stalin's territory. The second installation continues the story as the Red Army struggles to force the invading enemy from its borders. A top-shelf military history. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.