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Goering's War Book One



Synopsis

On November 8 Georg Elser attempted to kill Adolf Hitler with a bomb at Munich's Bürgerbräukeller brewer. The Nazi leader left the Beer Hall thirteen minutes before the bomb exploded. Eight people were killed. This is the story of what may have happened if Hitler had died and Herman Goering taken over control of Germany at the beginning of World War Two. Told through the eyes of normal air men and soldiers it traces the course of a very different war. This third edition has been reedited with, hopefully, many of the mistakes removed. Paragraphs have also been made clearer

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Customer Reviews

A well-thought out account of how the Second World War might have gone if the Allies' greatest general--Adolf Hitler--had been assassinated in 1939 and replaced by his designated successor, Hermann Goering. In this timeline, Operation Sea Lion, the invasion of Great Britain, was a success, although it was not accompanied by a Nazi occupation of the sort depicted in Len Deighton's "SS-GB." More unconventional is that here Germany does not attack the Soviet Union, but is

instead attacked by Stalin's forces in 1942. There are a few quibbles: the author does not use standard abbreviations for various weapon systems (Sturmgeschultzen, or assault guns, are referred to as Stuggs, which may be phonetically correct but is confusing since most of the prospective readers are used to seeing it abbreviated as simply StuG). The Waffen-SS would probably not have seen the same expansion in this timeline without Hitler or Himmler to advocate for it. Its performance in the Polish and French campaigns had had issues, although it was highly successful in both Yugoslavia and Greece, but it wasn't until Russia that this formation showed its true worth. Some of the historical personalities, such as Kurt "Panzer" Meyer and Jochen Peiper, are depicted at ranks in peacetime that they wouldn't achieve until late in the war (Peiper is described as a full colonel, or Standartenfuehrer, a rank that he did not achieve until 1945 despite brilliant leadership in numerous campaigns). I doubt if Ernst Kaltenbrunner would have been allowed anything approaching the power of Himmler or Heydrich as their successor, unless he somehow obtained possession of Heydrich's secret files on the Reich leadership. In our timeline Hitler ordered these to be seized the moment he learned of the attack on Heydrich by Czech paratroopers, and if Goering had been enough on the ball to ensure his succession then he would have undoubtedly ordered these seized as well. This makes the resources expended upon Einsatzgruppen when the Germans counterattack against the Soviet invaders penetrates deep into their territory somewhat inexplicable. Finally, I doubt that the leadership of the Third Reich, even the 2.0 version depicted here, would have been on a first-name basis, something that was rather rare between German colleagues at the time. But the central premise, what would the German conduct of the war have been like if the High Command had not been burdened with Hitler's amateurish demands, is intriguing. I enjoyed this book greatly despite its apparent lack of copy editing. I look forward to book two.

If you like alternate history, and tactical battle descriptions, you'll probably like this one. The idea is that Goering is running Nazi Germany after Hitler dies in a plane crash. The novel portrays the war through the eyes of several soldiers and airmen, all of them front line fighters. And they fight a LOT! This is a good thing in that the author does tank and aircraft combat very well. But it's not so good in that the fights get repetitious. There are dozens of them. Likewise the author focuses on plane and tank types excessively. This emphasis on hardware gets old in a hurry. I would have enjoyed a bit more about Goering, and something to make him stand out as a person. As is, he's just a voice ordering units around. By the way, the U.S. is in the war, but completely off stage. None of the characters are American. So, three stars, and yes, I did buy the second book, hoping for a bit more.

It is hard to find a good alternate storyline, without silly reasons for the way things are done. A good alternate history author does thorough research and puts down a plausible story line; that makes the reader think how close the war could of gone the other way. This author did such a thing even though it was a bit fast pace and abrupt ending; it was still a good exciting read for me. I am looking forward to reading the next book. Hope it does not take to long to come out.

Very interesting and well-developed premise, Goering in charge of World War II Germany; events unfold in a balanced and fair alternate path. I personally think there are too many subsequent divergences and they're taken a little too far, but it's overall plausible. As the book unfolds, it turns out that the linchpin is the Germans developing true allies among both the Eastern Europeans ground down under Stalin, and the reluctant-in-our-timeline Spanish Falange, Vichy France (!), Italy ... True fact, many non-Germans served in the Axis forces - more Frenchmen were in the SS than in the Resistance (which was pretty much an ineffective joke until it was obvious the Germans were losing badly). I note another reviewer found some technical errors - hey, professional historians with thirty years in the field make horrible technical errors! I'm amazed how much this guy gets right, and I really admire the fluid way he presents it all - it's a great exposition of a lot of information that could be dry, banal, wrong, illogical - it's not, it's a very good story. I can't wait for the next book. The guy can write - characters are well-developed, pacing excellent, human interest very good. The writing is excellent, he has a flair for fiction and the technical quality of the prose is very good. Typo's, though ... Mr. Kerr, please! if you're reading this, I would be more than happy to proof this book and the sequel(s). I'm a QA Director and I've done a lot of editing. Please add a contact email on your page and I'll be in touch. It would be an honor to help out. Thanks for a very good book.

A very good, engaging read. The only reason I didn't give it a fifth star is there a slight lack of technical literary proficiency. It has been described well in the a preceding review as to content. The author has woven a good story of what if; it leaps about a bit and there are some logical inconsistencies; but, I liked. As the title suggests it is only Book One; so it stops before resolution. However, I am looking forward to Book Two (and others if necessary) and will certainly purchase it. Put your red pencil down and just enjoy the narrative; it flows and entices.

A very good alternate history read. Could use better editing, but I enjoyed it. Too many people complain about details and ignore the overall book. In general, it was a good read and I am looking

forward to the sequel to see what happens.

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