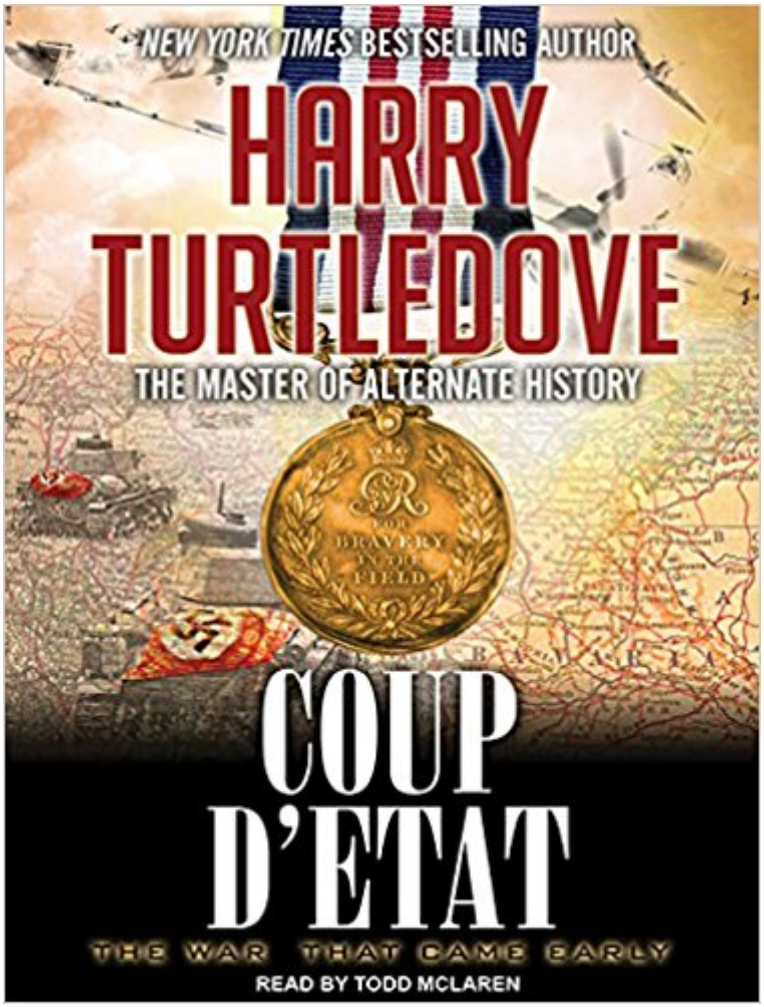
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The War That Came Early: Coup D'Etat



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Synopsis

In Harry Turtledove's mesmerizing alternate history of World War II, the choices of men and fate have changed history. Now it is the winter of 1941. As the Germans, with England and France on their side, slam deep into Russia, Stalin's terrible machine fights for its life. But the agreements of world leaders do not touch the hearts of soldiers. The war between Germany and Russia is rocked by men with the courage to aim their guns in a new direction.Ã Â England is the first to be shaken. Following the suspicious death of Winston Churchill, with his staunch anti-Nazi views, a small cabal begins to imagine the unthinkable in a nation long famous for respecting the rule of law. With civil liberties hanging by a thread, a conspiracy forms against the powers that be. What will this daring plan mean for the European war as a whole?Ã Â Meanwhile, in America, a woman who has met Hitler face-to-face urges her countrymen to wake up to his evil. For the time being, the United States is fighting only JapanÃ¢â ¬â •and the war is not going as well as Washington would like. Can Roosevelt keep his grip on the country's imagination?Ã Â Coup d'Etat captures how war makes for the strangest of bedfellows. A freethinking Frenchman fights side by side with racist Nazis. A Czech finds himself on the dusty front lines of the Spanish Civil War, gunning for Germany's Nationalist allies. A German bomber pilot courts a half-Polish, half-Jewish beauty in Bialystock. And the Jews in Germany, though trapped under Hitler's fist, are as yet protected by his fear of looking bad before the worldÃ¢â ¬â •and by an outspoken Catholic bishop.Ã Â With his spectacular command of character, coincidence, and military and political strategies, Harry Turtledove continues a passionate, unmatched saga of a World War II composed of different enemies, different alliesÃ¢â ¬â •and hurtling toward a horrific moment. For a diabolical new weapon is about to be unleashed, not by the United States, but by Japan, in a tactic that will shock the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“TurtledoveÃ¢â ¬â„¢s masterful presentation of an alternate WWII reaches its fourth volume with its quality undiminished. . . . A tribute to [his] commanding skills.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist (starred review) Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“For lovers of alternative history, and particularly the very popular Turtledove with his appealing weaponry, battle tactics, and setting details, this story will satisfy. It sets out to entertain . . . and that it does.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Historical Novels Review Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“The bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grand scope and TurtledoveÃ¢â ¬â„¢s impressive historical knowledge are admirable.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Reviews --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Harry Turtledove is an award-winning and bestselling author of science fiction, fantasy, and historical fiction. His alternate-history works include How Few Remain (winner of the Sidewise Award for Best Novel), The Man with the Iron Heart, the Worldwar saga, the Colonization books, and the Settling Accounts series.Todd McLaren was involved in radio for more than twenty years in cities on both coasts. He left broadcasting for a full-time career in voice-overs, where he has been heard on more than 5,000 TV and radio commercials, as well as TV promos, narrations for documentaries on such networks as A&E and the History Channel, and films.

The intro says "In Harry Turtledove’s mesmerizing alternate history of World War II" After plowing through this, mesmerizing is not the word I would use to describe it?Stupefying is closer to a one word description. I have read just about all his works and this one is not up to the standards of the othersHarry Turtledove has a grasp of history that few others can equal. that knowledge is evident in this series but this particular book bogs down and I have to lay the blame at his style. By flipping between multiple story lines one finds it is difficult to follow them all and keep things straight. The story lines (to me) offer various levels of interest and the views they give you miss the overall story at a strategic levelI like understanding what small pockets of individuals are doing and the effect the grand strategy has on them, however the book does not give you the context (grand strategy) you need to tie it all together. The alternative history he has developed is very interesting and many of the characters are fascinating but the story line comes across as a jumbled set of events held

together by a fictional World War II scenario.I refuse to take notes reading fiction for pleasure and since we are early in the war here I can see him milking this for a long time (he apparently has another in the series set for 2013)

I've been a big Turtledove fan for years and I've found myself devouring entire sets of his books in a matter of days in the past. Not this time. This set is bloated with what I considered to be meaningless activities and dialogue involving uninteresting characters and precious little action. I kept getting the feeling this was a two-volume book expanded to five (?) volumes to enhance sales revenue. Not sure I'll be buying Book 5 or anything else from Turtledove without reading several reader reviews beforehand.

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 off 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 ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ 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.

The War goes on.The war continues. Sides change. New battlegrounds are added. Now we add the desert and the Pacific. Germ warfare is employed in China.Some reviewers have called this series

bloated and repetitious. I think it reflects the reality of what a war that started earlier, one in which a few changes in the way things happened would have worked out.

This series about World War 2 getting off to an early start showed a lot of promise at the start. Now, well, all I will do is wring my hands and sigh. Harry Turtledove has written several outstanding books. This one isn't one of them. The novel opens with Germany, France and Britain fighting together deep inside Russia. Things are looking bleak for Stalin. Well, in England the military establishment is upset by the recent assassination of Winston Churchill, who did not endear himself to the present regime since he was vocal in his opposition to the treaty with Germany. America does not enter the war in Europe as Germany has left them alone.This book is named Coup d'Etat because one does take place in the United Kingdom. However, it is really just glossed over. The reader does not get to experience it. One moment the British are allies with Germany, the next moment they are not. Why name the book for a coup that really is important to the story line and not let the reader experience it directly? That would have made the book. There hasn't been a coup in England since Cromwell. As it is it is just presented as a done deal, with military bureaucrats mincing around, hoping the citizens don't get too upset by the removal of civil authority.Instead of an awesome book we have here a book that doesn't go anywhere remarkable. A sad reflection on a truly great writer...

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