The Red Army and the Second World War

In a definitive new account of the Soviet Union at war, Alexander Hill charts the development, successes and failures of the Red Army from the industrialisation of the Soviet Union in the late 1920s through to the end of the Great Patriotic War in May 1945. Setting military strategy and operations within a broader context that includes national mobilisation on a staggering scale, the book presents a comprehensive account of the origins and course of the war from the perspective of this key Allied power. Drawing on the latest archival research and a wealth of eyewitness testimony, Hill portrays the Red Army at war from the perspective of senior leaders and men and women at the front line to reveal how the Red Army triumphed over the forces of Nazi Germany and her allies on the Eastern Front, and why it did so at such great cost.

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Armies of the Second World War

This is a major new series of histories of the armies of the key combatants in the Second World War. The books are written by leading military historians and consider key aspects of military activity for each of the major powers, including planning, intelligence, strategy and operations. As with the parallel Armies of the Great War series, military and strategic history is considered within the broader context of foreign policy aims and allied strategic relations, national mobilisation and the war’s domestic social, political and economic effects.

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The Red Army and the Second World War

Alexander Hill
University of Calgary
To my wife Jody, and children Tamsin and Alistair
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## Military Ranks

Approximate comparative Red Army officer-grade ranks over time used in the text with their Wehrmacht equivalents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Political command equivalent</th>
<th>Soviet navy</th>
<th>Wehrmacht</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marshal of the</strong> Soviet Union</td>
<td><strong>General</strong> (of Branch)</td>
<td><strong>Marshal of the Soviet Union</strong></td>
<td><strong>Generalfeldmarschall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Principal Marshal (of Branch)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Komandarny</strong></td>
<td><strong>Army commissar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Flagman of the Fleet</strong></td>
<td><strong>Generalleutnant</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st rank/General (of the Army)</td>
<td>1st rank</td>
<td>1st Rank/Admiral of the Fleet</td>
<td>General (of Branch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Komandarny</strong></td>
<td><strong>Army commissar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Flagman of the Fleet</strong></td>
<td><strong>Generalleutnant</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd rank/General-Colonel</td>
<td>2nd rank</td>
<td>2nd rank/Admiral</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Komkor/General-Lieutenant</strong></td>
<td><strong>Corps commissar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Flagman 1st rank/Flagman 2nd rank</strong></td>
<td><strong>Generalleutnant</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kombrig/Komdiv</strong>/General-Major</td>
<td><strong>Brigade commissar/Divisional commissar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Flagman 1st rank/Flagman 2nd rank</strong></td>
<td><strong>Generalmajor</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Regimental commissar</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Kombat/Politiy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Senior battalion commissar</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Podpolitiy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Battalion commissar</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Kombat/Major</strong></td>
<td><strong>Senior (of Branch) politruk</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Captain</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lieutenant</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Junior lieutenant</strong></td>
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