

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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University of Calgary



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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

Red Army (1935–1945)	Political command equivalent	Soviet navy	Wehrmacht
Marshal of the Soviet Union			<i>Generalfeldmarschall</i>
Principal Marshal (of Branch)			
Marshal (of Branch)			
<i>Komandarm</i> 1st rank/General (of the Army)	Army commissar 1st rank	<i>Flagman</i> of the Fleet 1st Rank/Admiral of the Fleet	<i>Generaloberst</i>
<i>Komandarm</i> 2nd rank/General- Colonel	Army commissar 2nd rank	<i>Flagman</i> of the Fleet 2nd rank/Admiral	<i>General (of Branch)</i>
<i>Komkor</i> /General- Lieutenant	Corps commissar	<i>Flagman</i> 1st rank/ Vice-Admiral	<i>Generalleutnant</i>
<i>Kombrig</i> / <i>Komdiv</i> / General-Major	Brigade commissar/ Divisional commissar	<i>Flagman</i> 2nd rank/ <i>Kontr</i> -Admiral	<i>Generalmajor</i>
<i>Kompolk</i> / <i>Kombrig</i> / Colonel [<i>polkovnik</i>]	Brigade commissar/ Regimental commissar		<i>Oberst</i>
<i>Kombat</i> / <i>Podpolkovnik</i>	Senior battalion commissar		<i>Oberstleutnant</i>
<i>Kombat</i> /Major Captain	Battalion commissar (Senior) <i>politruk</i>		<i>Major</i> <i>Hauptman</i>
Senior lieutenant	<i>Politruk</i>		<i>Oberleutnant</i>
Lieutenant	(Junior) <i>politruk</i>		<i>Leutnant</i>
Junior lieutenant			

Sources: Postanovlenie TsIK i SNK SSSR ot 22 sentiabria 1935 g., *O vvedenii personalnikh voennikh zvanii nachal'stvuiushchego sostava RKKA...* (Moscow: Otdel izdatel'stva NKO SSSR, 1935), p.8; M.M. Kir'ian (editor-in-chief), *Sovetskaiia voennaia entsiklopediia*, 3 (Moscow: Voenizdat, 1977), pp.434–5; Earl F. Ziemke, *Stalingrad to Berlin: The German Defeat in the East* (Washington, D.C: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1987), p.505; <http://army.armor.kiev.ua/titul/> [Accessed 10 September 2015].