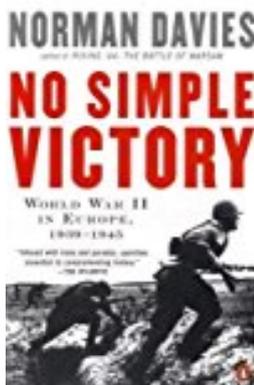


[PDF] No Simple Victory: World War II In Europe, 1939-1945

Norman Davies - pdf download free book



Books Details:

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly The typical Western view of WWII's European Theater—as a struggle between freedom and fascism that climaxed with the Normandy landings—is harshly critiqued in this scathing reappraisal. Historian Davies (*Rising '44: The Battle of Warsaw*) argues that British and American campaigns were a sideshow to the titanic conflict between the Wehrmacht and the Red Army on the Eastern Front, where most of the fighting and decisive battles occurred. The war was therefore not a simple victory of good over evil, he contends, but the defeat of one totalitarian state,

Nazi Germany, by another, the Soviet Union, whose crimes were just as vast, if less diabolical. Davies's topical approach judiciously surveys the military, economic and political aspects of the war, often from an Eastern European perspective. He observes, for example, that the region that suffered the most civilian deaths was Ukraine, and that the Soviet Union was initially as much an aggressor—against Poland, Finland and the Baltic states—as Germany. (Poland's travails, Davies's professional specialty, are somewhat overemphasized.) Davies cuts against the grain of popular war histories like Stephen Ambrose's accounts of D-Day and the Bulge, but his interpretations rest on solid scholarly work. Photos. (*Sept. 10*)

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From It may startle many to learn that no definitive history yet exists of World War II. Yet such is the argument by historian John Keegan in *The Battle for History* (1996), reiterated here with evidentiary force by historian Davies. A specialist on the European war's German-Soviet component (*Rising '44: The Battle for Warsaw*, 2004), Davies perceives several faults in both professional presentations and popular understandings of the war. Americans and Britons tend to overrate their countries' contribution to victory, remembering Dunkirk and D-Day and forgetting that most combat occurred in the east. More seriously, in Davies' estimation, Western historians and their audience do not sufficiently understand the war aims and murderous record of the Soviet Communist regime. It was as expansionist and unmercifully inhumane as the Nazi tyranny over which it was the principal victor: most know of Auschwitz or the (German) invasion of Poland; far fewer are aware of Vorkuta or the (Soviet) invasion of Poland. A trenchant critique, Davies' book ought to provoke readers and writers of WWII history. Taylor, Gilbert --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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