



The Road to Berlin

John Erickson

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Road to Berlin

John Erickson

The Road to Berlin John Erickson

The follow-up to the acclaimed *The Road to Stalingrad* tells the compelling story of the Red Army's epic struggle to drive the Germans out of Russia and back to Berlin. Using Soviet, German, and Eastern European primary sources, John Erickson describes fighting and hardship on an almost unimaginable scale. The detailed narrative covers battles on all the fronts. The inside information on the Soviet system of war reveals how, under maximum stress, the Russian army achieved near-impossible feats in the field and the factories. All the diplomatic moves and counter-moves, including the all-important conferences at Tehran and Yalta, also come vividly alive.

The Road to Berlin Details

Date : Published April 1st 2007 by Cassell (first published 1983)

ISBN : 9780304365401

Author : John Erickson

Format : Paperback 896 pages

Genre : History, Military, Military History, War, World War II, Nonfiction, Cultural, Germany

 [Download The Road to Berlin ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Road to Berlin ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Road to Berlin John Erickson

From Reader Review The Road to Berlin for online ebook

Craig says

As with Road To Stalingrad, this is incredibly detailed. It may not be everyone's cup of tea, with many references, and such like, that could make it seem tedious. However, being the geek I can be at times, I loved it. A very, very good read.

Chris Watson says

What an account. Everyone should know this part of history.

James says

Like the first book in this series it is packed full of plenty of raw information regarding units and locations which could prove dry for somebody just after a general overview of the Eastern Front. But for the serious student this book, along with its predecessor, is required reading.

The maps included in this addition are very broad and not all that detailed which is a bit disappointing for me as I do like detailed maps to complement my reading. Also there is confusion in regards to particular units, for example the author refers to the SS Grossdeutschland Division and SS Herman Goering Division. These formations belonged to the army and air force respectively. Despite these and a few other minor gripes on my part I did really enjoy this book, particularly the commentary on Operation Bagration and the Yalta Conference. It did get heavy at times but the subject matter is not something that can be glossed over and I strongly recommend.

Hans says

Second volume by Erickson covering the German-Russo war, and another interesting read.

Showing this enormous conflict from the Soviet perspective gives one an insight into the enormous effort to halt and next overrun Nazi-Germany. How did commanders like Zhukov and Koniev deal with Stalin? How did he handle his generals?

The enormous effort and planning that went into the offensives, especially the end run to Berlin, makes for an interesting read. And that the Germans were a foe to watch out for is shown by the many counterattacks, against all odds, that often surprised the Soviets. Men and machines were thrown at the front to get the job done.

Highlight is the coverage of the race to Berlin and the bloodshed inside the city, with the Budapest battle a close second.

This book got maps, contrary to the first volume, but they are still a bit basic. After reading the book itself you will be confronted by close to 200 pages of source material listings. Maybe a bit outdated now, but still

worth to read.

Overall, really pleased after reading both volumes. Great coverage of an enormous conflict.

Badger says

Not light reading but at least it has maps this time, his 'Road to Stalingrad' didn't!

All the same, essential reading for the specialist.

Jonathan says

Overview of Stalingrad to Berlin. Mostly operations.

Mike says

A fitting finale to Professor Erickson's magnum opus. The same detailed day-by-day, mile-by-mile description of the war in Russia.

Mick Maye says

Masterful coverage of the Russian offensive operations after Stalingrad. Excellent

Sergio says

If you are an agnostic, read this book. Afterwards you will either be fully convinced that there is a god or there is not.

Rick says

Like the first book in the series, this is an extremely detailed account from the Soviet point of view on "The Great Patriotic War". I would recommend being familiar with the conflict prior to reading this since the writing is matter of fact and often tedious. Like the first book, there are no maps. Otherwise a great read for an avid student of the war.

Mikey B. says

Colossal conflict...

Road to Stalingrad

The last 2 chapters of this book are by far the best (they constitute over 120 pages). Prior, I feel, the author has a hard time distinguishing the trees from the forest and the forest from the trees. These chapters are filled with endless sentences like "*...the 4th Airborne corps to use his 7th and 8th Brigades..*", "*...the escape eastwards for 3rd, 10th and now 13th Army was..*" and on and on. This approach makes for a very dry dissertation of the largest military conflict in recent history.

Nevertheless Erickson does not glorify nor glamourize the Red Army. Stalin's Russia was not only unprepared for this colossal conflict with the German armies, it was incompetently led. Stalin had killed off his officer corps by the end of the 1930's and was self-quarantined in the Kremlin listening only to advisors who told him what he wanted to hear. Erickson is correct when he describes Stalin as the 'top' leader in the Soviet Union. Erickson's description of Stalin and the decision-making process is interesting if concise.

It is only in the last 2 chapters that the battle scenarios are well painted by Erickson, and one feels the horror of Dante's inferno that existed in Stalingrad. Why the German armies became entrapped in this cauldron of total destructiveness is unknowable, but it led to their first major defeat in the Second World War (aside from their aborted invasion of Britain).

Do not read this book for a glimpse of civilian life in either the German or Soviet zone. There is no mention of the Einsatzgruppen killing squads who butchered entire villages, or of Jewish life throughout German-occupied Soviet territory.

This is "military history," but when it does step out of that zone, it is interesting; and Erickson offers insights into both protagonists.

Some maps would have been helpful (there were none in my edition). This book does not have the 'Soviet patriotism' of Alexander Werth's *Russia at War: 1941-1945* and is better for it.

The Road to Berlin:

The Road to Berlin is much like the first volume (The Road to Stalingrad), but the events, if possible, even over-shadow those of the first book; such as the battle of Kursk, the annexation of Eastern Europe under the Soviet yoke, and the fall of Berlin. Orchestrating all of this is the figure of Stalin.

But much like the first volume there is a blur of details, i.e. military groupings and geographical minutiae. Is it necessary to list all the Guard units, divisions, battalions, etc. that took part in the assault on the Baltic States? Words like "hammer," "break through," etc. abound.

Yet there are many rewards. Erickson writes entirely from the Soviet perspective with no glorification of their overall role in the defeat of Nazi Germany. There are gems of dialogue between Stalin and his generals vividly illustrating the brutality of the regime. Once it became apparent that the Nazis were to be expunged from the Soviet Union the next step was to occupy as much land as possible in Eastern Europe. With production in full swing by 1944 and an army numbering some 5 million entering Eastern Europe (never mind the agreements at Yalta promising free elections in Poland or democratic self-determination for the countries liberated from Nazi domination); Erickson discusses this country-by-country. He also brings up the

notorious Soviet stand-still in front Warsaw while the Nazis methodically routed and slaughtered Polish partisans. The Soviet army may have had to re-group, but they never told this to the Polish partisans.

Do not read this book for details of the liberation of the concentration and death camps - it merits only a few sentences and there is even less on the treatment of Soviet citizens in areas occupied by Germany. Also very little is said on the barbaric treatment meted out by Soviet troops once they entered "liberated zones."

Scott says

Not quite as riveting (to me) as the first book -- The Road to Stalingrad -- this story picks up where the first one ended, covering the ground from roughly February 1943 to May of 1945 and the final assault on Berlin. Still, this is an essential read for anyone interested in the eastern front in World War 2.

Leonardo says

Recomendado como crónica pro-soviética en Europa en Guerra.

Devowasright says

probably more in depth than some may find necessary, but extremely well written and, despite the length, concise. while this book, unlike the road to stalingrad, contains maps, i'd recommend having a separate book of maps handy if you really want to grasp the movements of the vast and fluid battles being described. an excellent read, if you are able to put the time into it.

Brad says

Pretty good read, essential for those interested in WWII Eastern Front.
