

A Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-1940 (English Edition)

Von William Trotter

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Von William Trotter : A Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-1940 (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-1940 (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. BreathtakingVon Ein KundeThis history book is probably the most breathtaking I've ever had the pleasure to

read. Being from Scandinavia myself, I was pleased to see how unbiased this book is. Mr Trotter has great sympathy for the Finnish struggle and the hopeless odds against them, but also shows us the tragical fate of the ordinary Soviet soldier: Cold, exposed, sent out to die for Stalin, which almost 300,000 of them eventually did. Other readers have already explained the thrilling contents of this book and its eye for detail, so I would like to underline here Mr Trotter's impressive ability to tell even such a dramatic story with a brilliant touch of irony. Just take a look at these two examples: 1. "At 9:20 a.m., November 30, 1939, the first Russian planes appeared over Helsinki.... () .. On their way out, the planes took time to strafe a complex of working-class housing units and to drop their last few high-explosive bombs on the inner city, some of which severely damaged the front of the Soviet Legation building" 2. "To head the new puppet regime, Stalin dragged out O. W. Kuusinen and set him up as "president". Kuusinen was the most influential of all the old-guard Reds who had fled Finland in 1918...(). Broadcasts were soon made in the name of this new government, telling the captive proletariat of "plutocratic Finland" about all the wonderful reforms that would be promulgated after the Red Army had finished liberating them. (Kuusinen) promised the workers an eight-hour day. The workers were not impressed. The eight-hour day had been legislated in Finland twenty five years earlier... Kuusinen had certainly kept up with things". Admittedly, I, being a non-native English speaker, for obvious reasons will perceive written English in another way than would a native speaker. But I certainly like Mr Trotter's style. Thanks to the author for a magnificent account of this dramatic piece of Scandinavian history.

2 von 9 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Why wasn't I warned? Von Ein Kunde When I received this book, my excitement turned quickly to disappointment as the author explained in chapter 1 why he thought the war happened. Trotter actually paints Stalin as a victim in the situation, forced by the Finns to invade their country! He explains the conflict from a Marxist point of view and we are told that Finland "...had opted for a thoroughly bourgeois system of government, [and] had violently suppressed its own workers...". The author continues: "Subsequent events made Stalin look so much the villain in this unfolding scenario of intimidation that it is hard to shift one's point of view to his side of the issue... [Stalin's] demands on Finland were both moderate and made in transparent good faith.... his dismay at the Finn's hardheaded rejection was probably sincere." In essence, had the Finn's only been "reasonable", all would have been well for them! This not only disregards everything we know about Stalin, it also ignores the fact that Stalin and Hitler had between the two of them very recently made similar demands of six other states, and without exception every state that tried to be "reasonable" had immediately been liquidated. The author's assertion that the Finns, in not accepting the fate of Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Austria were being "hardheaded" can only be explained by an astonishing ignorance of the historical situation, or by a blind ideological devotion to Stalin. Unfortunately, the author continues in the same tone throughout the book. Items which would paint Stalin in an unfavorable light are conspicuously absent, while the Finns are at times ridiculed or portrayed as barbarians. The intense focus of ideology over actual history is probably what accounts for the book itself being such dry reading. "Political Correctness" seldom makes for compelling story telling, and this book is no exception. Instead of this book, I would recommend the outstanding book on the same subject by Engle Paananen titled "The Winter War". Engle Paananen save their sympathy for the Finnish and Russian soldiers forced to bear the brutality of this horrific war, instead of for the infamous tyrant who started it. I sent "A Frozen Hell" back for a refund. There is no more room in my library for a sympathetic account of Stalin's aggression towards Finland than there is for a Nazi version of Hitler's attack on Poland and Czechoslovakia, or of the Warsaw Uprising. Returning books is a hassle, and I have come to rely on the comments by previous readers to avoid buying books such as this one. This is the first time I have been let down!

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Very good...captivating Von Trevin H. Sandlin This was a fun read. I didn't know much about this conflict apart from Souomussalmi, and precious little about that either. Trotter does an excellent job portraying the Finns struggle against overwhelming odds, and is careful not to over-romanticize characters such as Mannerheim. Only a few nitpicks keep this from being a five-star recommendation. It would have been nice if there were more maps--I found myself often looking to the maps for where Trotter was talking about, only to find the places weren't on the maps at all. A map of Finland after the war (and during the Continuation War) would have also been helpful. Also, I felt the Soviet perspective often was neglected in favor of the Finnish one--more accounts of the decisions made by Red Army officers and politicians would have been helpful in understanding some of the battles better. Moreover, I felt that more first-hand accounts would also have helped. Otherwise, however, this is a fantastic book, and I recommend it to anyone interested in one of the more fascinating campaigns of early-WW2.

Kurzbeschreibung In 1939, tiny Finland waged war-the kind of war that spawns legends-against the mighty Soviet Union, and yet their epic struggle has been largely ignored. Guerrillas on skis, heroic single-handed attacks on tanks, unfathomable endurance, and the charismatic leadership of one of this century's true military geniuses-these are the elements of both the Finnish victory and a gripping tale of war. Kurzbeschreibung In 1939, tiny Finland waged war-the kind of war that spawns legends-against the mighty Soviet Union, and yet their epic struggle has been largely ignored.

Guerrillas on skis, heroic single-handed attacks on tanks, unfathomable endurance, and the charismatic leadership of one of this century's true military geniuses-these are the elements of both the Finnish victory and a gripping tale of war.Synopsis Provides historical information on the march into Finland in November of 1940 to proclaim Finnish independence.