



Walk in Hell

Harry Turtledove

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The year is 1915, and the world is convulsing. Though the Confederacy has defeated its northern enemy twice, this time the United States has allied with the Kaiser. In the South, the freed slaves, fueled by Marxist rhetoric and the bitterness of a racist nation, take up the weapons of the Red rebellion. Despite these advantages, the United States remains pinned between Canada and the Confederate States of America, so the bloody conflict continues and grows. Both presidents--Theodore Roosevelt of the Union and staunch Confederate Woodrow Wilson--are stubbornly determined to lead their nations to victory, at any cost. . .

From the Paperback edition.

Walk in Hell Details

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From Reader Review Walk in Hell for online ebook

George Flannary says

Need more about Europe

Still no mention of the Ottomans. There needs to be more about the European eastern and western fronts. Otherwise great book

eric quinn says

Continuing with the How few remain timeline.....great...interesting twists.

Gary Letham says

The second book of the Great War series sees the war bogged down on the American front as it is in Europe. We revisit all the remaining characters from the first book and the story is moved through their eyes. The war is now a mechanised meat grinder, front lines move back and forth along the southern front with the Confederacy and the northern front with Canada. This book also further explores the different natures of occupation, in Kentucky, Washington and French and English speaking Canada. We see the USA taking on the martial brutality of the occupier in Canada and also the effects of long term occupation on current relationships and those brought about by the war. The book also explores those away from the frontlines, left behind to pick up the industry to keep the war going. Turtledove also explores the rise of the proletariat, both north and south. In the north through democratic means socialists hold a significant minority in congress, and elect the first female congresswoman is elected. In the south, the black working class rise up in armed insurrection, a move potentially damaging to the CSA war aims as manpower has to be taken from the frontlines to crush it. The CSA government sees the future is not good if the problem is not addressed and CSA male black population is offered the vote and full citizenship in return for armed service. This naturally does not go down well with the white population.

The book covers the middle years of the war and at the end it would appear the Southern martial supremacy of the previous fifty years is coming to an end. Again another superb book and highly recommended

David says

Second of the Great War trilogy, and third overall of the eleven-book Southern Victory series - I have so many mixed emotions about the series at this point and just am not sure if I have the patience to continue.

There are many things I like here. Harry Turtledove, first of all, knows his history. He also does a great job on so many counts of anticipating how changing one event would change so many others, such as Custer not dying in Little Big Horn because he was too busy doing other things like invading the CSA. He also shows how a South winning the war and fighting globally and against the US creates opportunities for socialism to gain more of a foothold and for the Black Revolution to come with violence and about five decades early.

My problem is with Turtledove's lack of restraint on how he frames his narrative. After failing to keep up with who was who in the previous Great War book, I made a decision to write down a list of characters as I went, and even put them in neat columns of confederate, union, English Canadian, French Canadian, Negro Uprisers, Socialists, etc. It worked for a very short while because, while in chapter 3 of 20 and surpassing the 60th character and he kept adding more and more and more...I gave up on the list, and once again got confused with who was who, only maybe slightly less than the previous book.

Turtledove obviously plans his structure carefully. Each book has 20 chapters. Each scene seems to be within a few sentences of being 2000 words long, all throughout the book. There are about 8 scenes in each chapter. The problem is that this is confining and predictable.

I wish the author would take an approach similar to Jeff Shaara, and choose three or four major characters at most as anchors with long sections and a means of introducing the minor characters, instead of having at least a dozen groups with about three pages of reading before it goes somewhere else.

As concepts, I think these books are incredible. They would be the basis for great essays. But Turtledove's style of long fiction is grating on me. I may end up continuing, but can't dart from one book to another as I'd originally planned.

Nicholas Bobbitt says

Again, this is just meh. I don't know why I thought it would be any better.

Ross says

This is a review of the whole "Great War" Trilogy.

Harry Turtledove, often billed as the "Master of alternate history," delivers a comprehensive and engaging version of WWI in which the Civil War was won by the CSA, and the USA sides with Germany.

His in-the-trenches perspective of the major changes in how wars were fought is dramatic and accurate. From the introduction of chemical warfare, airplanes, tanks, and submarines to the rise of communism, the evolution of espionage, and the dramatic change in strategic thought, he thoroughly captures, in the intertwined narratives, how the face of the world was changed by war in the early twentieth century.

Regrettably, Turtledove has the annoying quirk of overusing descriptive language, by the third book it became clear that every single man in the USA who had gone through puberty was sporting a "Kaiser Bill moustache". There are other examples, but this is the one that frustrated me the most.

Overall though, a good trilogy that I thoroughly enjoyed reading.

Chen-song Qin says

This is the second book in Harry Turtledove's Great War series, following "American Front", telling the

story of an alternate World War I, where in North America the United States is entangled in total war against the Confederate States and Canada.

The book follows the same characters from the previous one, but now as the war has dragged on longer than expected, with far more brutality and destruction than originally imagined, many of them are experiencing increasingly greater hardship, and some characters die.

The face of the war has changed with the use of new weapons such as the airplane and the barrel (the original ridiculous British name of "tank" never becomes popular in North America). The new weapons are used only imperfectly at this point in the war, but there are plenty of hints that they will be significant in the future. This is especially true of barrels, as the normally hide-bound General Custer has taken a liking to them and wishes to use them aggressively, against existing US doctrine.

The Confederacy is reeling under continued US pressure and at the same time facing a Marxist uprising by oppressed black labourers, which started at the end of the previous book. Large sections of Canada are occupied by US troops, although their advance has been stopped by trench warfare. In general, the second book is a sort of turning point, where the Entente powers are slowly getting ground down, and the US is more and more likely to be victorious.

Both the strengths and weaknesses of the previous book continue in this one. The typical Turtledove attention to detail brings the myriad of characters, technologies, and politics to life. At the same time, too slavish a devotion to real history creates many situations that are implausible in North America - e.g. the population density of Manitoba (in 1915!) is not going to support trench warfare of the sort that happened in real WWI Europe.

This book is a strong continuation of a good series, but at the same time, I can't help but think a great opportunity has been missed.

Dave says

scattered plot line and hard to keep track of story. did not read entire series however.

Jonathan Lee says

Another great addition to Turtledove's Southern Victory Series, "Walk in Hell" built upon lore established in "How Few Remain", had an exciting continuation of characters from the previous book, and introduced a few new characters as well. There are several surprises in this novel, which makes the reader contemplate the wide-reaching consequences of a character's actions. The historical accuracy of how things MIGHT have been is a neat way to learn about a history that never happened. An exciting page-turner, I am looking forward to the conclusion of the Great War trilogy!

Carol Storm says

Absolute dreck! Not one likable character, not one interesting situation, and some of the "alternate" history

of racism in the Deep South is downright offensive. I keep wondering why Harry Turtledove's books keep turning up in the junk pile outside the library where I work -- and I keep finding out!

Holden Attradies says

The best yet in the series. So much happens in this book that ties in with the book before it and the book after it that at times it's hard to remember it happened IN this book.

The writing is amazing, Turtledove is unrecognizable when compared to the first book in this "series". Character development is really amazing and having the joy of hindsight (I've read most of the series before) I can see how much is being set up for events to come. Especially in the Confederate states. And characters that till about half way through this book seemed to be people that would have no impact on the world beyond their little daily lives start building up the momentum that will lead to them having effects on a much bigger scale. It's an amazing read and it makes me want to pick up the next book in the series and start right away!

Wise_owl says

There seem to be a thousand and one books of the 'Confederacy wins the Civil War' types within the alternate history genre. It, along with WWII are the two 'go to' events in the genre, at least in the English speaking world. Harry Turtledove himself has touched on this ground a couple of times; most notably in 'Gun of the South' which treated the subject with a bit more Sci-fi elements that is typical.

The Great War series is something I wish was done more; it's a 'what then?'. The confederacy wins the War and than what? It posits a future-past set in the 1910's, seeing a great war in which the alliance of Britain, France, the Confederacy and Russia(with Japan entering late) against the Austral-Hungarian Empire, Germany and the United States of America.

In this time line America is more xenophobic, having been routed in two wars by the 'betrayal' of Britain and France. It and Germany have a much greater synergy that was common in our time-line(and it must be remembered that German was very prominent in terms of politics and society within the united state sin the period to begin with.)

This second foray in the world continues the excellent initial volume. What makes it so engaging is it's multiple points of view and it's touching on so many facets of the war. From the uprising of southern blacks in a 'socialist' revolution, to the Submarine Captain who gets captured twice, the struggles of a sailor to deal with avoiding infidelity to his distant wife, each showcase the war, 'human nature' and the aspect of alt history he is dealing with in interested ways.

Bryce says

The next in the USA/CSA time line. The concept is fascinating, but the story gets bogged down by endless descriptions of battles. Many times, I get confused as to who is who. I'll stick with the series, though.

David says

This is the third book in Harry Turtledove's TIMELINE-191 series and it was just as enjoyable as the first two. A "Walk in Hell" is placed in the middle years of the TIMELINE-191 World War and continues to follow a number of interesting characters. I'm looking forward to starting the next book in this series.

Derek says

as a sequel this book was just as good if not better than American Front i love Captin Moss and SGT. Mcsweeny
