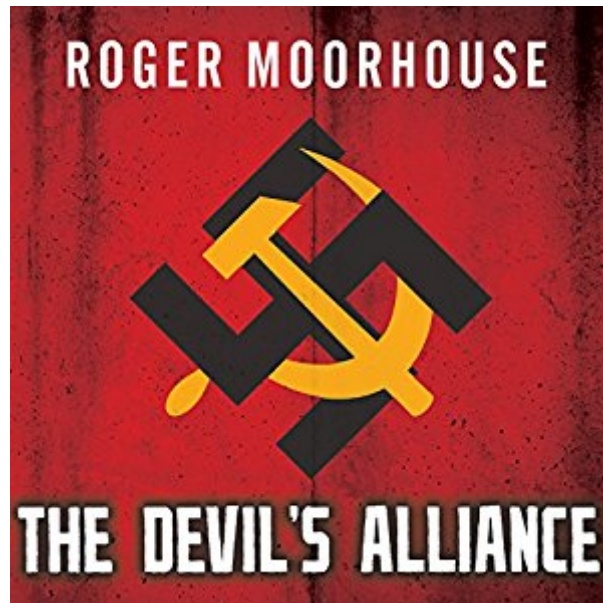




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The Devils' Alliance: Hitler's Pact With Stalin, 1939-1941



Synopsis

History remembers the Soviets and the Nazis as bitter enemies and ideological rivals - the two opposing totalitarian regimes of World War II whose conflict would be the defining and deciding clash of the war. Yet for nearly a third of the conflict's entire timespan, Hitler and Stalin stood side by side as partners. The pact that they agreed on had a profound and bloody impact on Europe and is fundamental to understanding the development and denouement of the war. The Devils' Alliance explores the causes and implications of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, the creation and dissolution of which were crucial turning points in World War II. Forged by Joachim von Ribbentrop and his Soviet counterpart, Vyacheslav Molotov, the nonaggression treaty briefly united the two powers in a brutally efficient collaboration. The Germans and Soviets quickly conquered and divided Central and Eastern Europe. Hundreds of thousands of people caught between Hitler and Stalin were expropriated, deported, or killed. Fortunately for the Allies, the partnership ultimately soured. Ironically, however, the powers' exchange of material, blueprints, and technological expertise during the period of the pact made possible for a far more bloody and protracted war than would have otherwise been conceivable. Combining comprehensive research with a gripping narrative, The Devils' Alliance is the authoritative history of the Nazi-Soviet Pact.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Revisionists are fond of pointing out that, without the Red Army, the western allies would never have

defeated Germany in 1945. The theory overlooks an equally sobering fact: without the Red Army, it's likely that Germany would never have gone to war in the first place, thus sparing the world some 60 million early deaths and thrice that number wounded, raped, and exiled. In *The Devil's Alliance*, the British scholar and journalist Roger Moorhouse examines the August 1939 pact between Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin that essentially divided Europe between them. One month later, their armies had invaded and occupied Poland, and within a year (aided by Italy) they'd moved into every continental nation except Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, and Spain--and those were thoroughly cowed, if not active collaborators with Nazi Germany. Would any of this been possible without the Hitler-Stalin pact? It's very unlikely. The two dictators feared and mistrusted one another. Neither would have invaded Poland without the other's explicit approval, and Hitler wouldn't have moved west against France without a guarantee that Moscow wouldn't make common cause with Paris and London, as it had done in the First World War. Similarly, without clearance from Berlin, would Stalin have moved north against Finland or south against Bulgaria? That too seems unlikely. Nor was that the limit of their cooperation. Russian oil helped lubricate the German panzers as they crashed through the Ardennes Forest and routed the British and French defenders (though Mr. Moorhouse argues that food, not oil and raw materials, were Germany's major benefit from the pact).

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