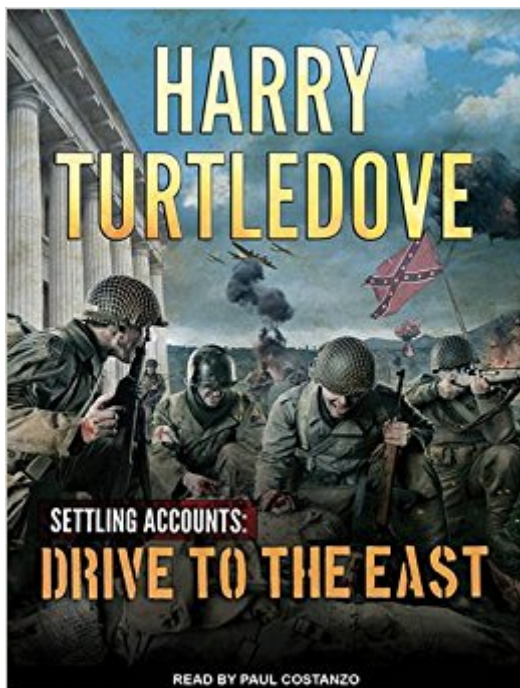


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Drive To The East (Settling Accounts)



Synopsis

In 1914, the First World War ignited a brutal conflict in North America, with the United States finally defeating the Confederate States. In 1917, the Great War ended and an era of simmering hatred began, fueled by the despotism of a few and the sacrifice of many. Now it's 1942. The U.S.A. and C.S.A. are locked in a tangle of jagged, blood-soaked battle lines, modern weaponry, desperate strategies, and the kind of violence that only the damned could conjure up for their enemies and themselves. In Richmond, Confederate president and dictator Jake Featherston is shocked by what his own aircraft have done in Philadelphia-killing U.S. president Al Smith in a barrage of bombs. Featherston presses ahead with a secret plan carried out on the dusty plains of Texas, where a so-called detention camp hides a far more evil purpose.

Book Information

Series: Settling Accounts (Book 2)

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Authors, A-Z > (T) > Turtledove, Harry #1874 in Books > Books on CD > History > Military

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Customer Reviews

In Turtledove's engrossing second book in the alternate history master's Settling Accounts trilogy (after 2004's Return Engagement), Confederate forces, in an undeclared war of revenge that coincides with WWII, have split the United States from the Ohio River to Lake Erie, but this only stiffens Yankee resolve. Insurrection breaks out in occupied Canada and in Mormon Utah, resulting in harsh reprisals by U.S. troops against civilians, while Confederate President Jake Featherstone pushes for more "population reductions" of freed slaves. As in the previous volume, Turtledove comes up with convincing analogues to events during WWII, such as the Confederate army's Stalingrad-like defeat around Pittsburgh. On the other hand, his portrait of the Führer-like

Featherstone is less persuasive. The Southern leader shows more courage and flexibility than his model, making intimations of future behavior a procrustean attempt to force him back into a Hitlerian mold. There's enough back story for the benefit of new readers, while established fans, despite the repetition, will find this latest installment thoroughly satisfying. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Starred Review The second volume of Turtledove's third alternate World War II trilogy, *Settling Accounts*, is in many ways the strongest one in any of them. The Confederacy has given its best shot at cutting the U.S. in two between the Ohio River and the Great Lakes, but U.S. production and tenacity are beginning not only to hold the line but also to regain lost ground. Meanwhile, at sea the primary opponents are the U.S. and Britain, and "deep in the heart of Texas," nobody is singing as Jake Featherston's final solution to the Negro problem picks up speed. There is plenty of action, and, of course, characterization remains one of Turtledove's long suits. But the real strength of the book, and of the whole alternate-history saga of which it is neither least nor last, lies in the juxtaposition of events not usually associated with people who could be readers' parents or grandparents. Firing squad executions in Canada? Suicide bombers in Utah and the Deep South? A U.S. destroyer escort sinking a British Q-ship? The pacing practically compels one to keep reading, but after a certain point, Turtledove's not-just-refutation but massacre of "American exceptionalism" may bring some readers to the point of putting the book away and seeking a soothing, cozy novel by Stephen King. Roland Green Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I agree with many reviewers that the quality of the writing in this installment is an improvement over what Turtledove has done in the past few years. Being addicted to this series, I am very happy to see better plot development and also more depth and personality in the characters, both good and bad guys. However, it is not for the savoring of the written word that I read Turtledove (for a higher level of writing from him, try "Ruled Britannia"). Turtledove simply has created an enthralling melodramatic saga that, although full of flaws, grabs those of us who enjoy alternate history. Readers actually using these reviews to guide their purchases should know by now not to start the series here. The individual books do not really stand up by themselves. However, as I titled a review of an earlier installment, the Sum is Stronger than the Parts. The same can be said for this book. From the Yankee viewpoint, this book is the start of a thrilling triumph of the stuff that made

the United States in our universe great. At this point, virtually all White Confederates are debased and corrupted and I imagine many Southerners are offended and disgusted. The battle scenes are relatively brief and offer a mixture of heroism and horror. Greater details of the strategic situation both in North America and the rest of the world along with maps would be extremely welcome, but I doubt that Turtledove has any more hard information for us at this time. The most striking part of the book is the Negro holocaust in the making. While it is hard to accept that it could possibly happen here, this plot line is depressing (in the best sense), painful, and gripping. On a lighter note, I enjoy the brief cameos of historical figures whose path in our universe is not even a dream. Being well versed in baseball history, I especially enjoyed seeing the names of two "running backs," Foxx and Greenberg, being used as a soldiers' password (Turtledove even picked the correct physical types). I am sure that there are many others I missed. One complaint I do have is Turtledove's dismissal of baseball as a minor sport seldom worthy of comment. The quality of cigarettes from the U.S.A. and the Confederacy seem to be a running joke among my fellow reviewers. Spoiler Warning! I especially enjoyed the scene near the end where the Confederates trapped in the Pittsburg pocket are reduced to smoking U.S. cigarettes. There are many problems such following too close to the WWII Eastern front template, repetitive dialogue, and scenes stolen from Turtledove's own Days of Infamy. However at the end of the day, most loyal Turtledove fans will feel that they got their money's worth!

Turtledove's magnus alternate history continues to grab one's attention. The story line he has developed has grown well and he meshes actual history to this world he had created. Like others have noted, if you are a student of history, there are few surprises thus far. The South in a surprise attack (note the name of the operation!) starts the WW2 in the US while Europe erupts again too. You see familiar faces trying to deal with a changing world and a brutal war complete with a black holocaust. The US is desperately trying to stem the Confederate advance while an exuberant South prays for a quick victory. A few technical glitches pop up that military historians would arch an eyebrow over (automatic small arms turning the tide of so many battles for instance, the German society Turtledove models the South on, had few automatic rifles) but over all it's a good fast read. I read it in less than 3 days...He is not developing characters as well as he did in earlier books. As they are killed/die off, few are coming forward to replace them. I do hope he will return to improving the characters the books evolve around. Looking forward to the next books in the series!

In Harry Turtledove's latest installment of the Great War saga, the "Master of Alternate History"

continues his tale of a vastly different World War II... a struggle between the United States of America and its long-time enemy, the Confederacy, not to mention the Mormons of the State of Deseret, the Empire of Japan, rebels in Occupied Canada, etc. Turtledove's novel (as in all of his former ones) describes the war from the perspectives of its characters... Jake Featherston and his Confederate bunker in Richmond, Jefferson Pinkard and Camp Determination, Irving Morrel, Cincinnatus Driver, Flora Blackford, and all the rest. This story picks up where the last chapter ended and will leave fans of the genre clamoring for more. In this installment, some familiar characters are killed off, while others are reunited with loved ones. Featherston's final solution is well underway, and both nations are racing to finish their experiments on a devastating new weapon. All in all, a good read.

As several of the reviews have pointed out, this book deepens the moral hole that the Confeds are digging for themselves. People, like Jeff Pinkard, Hipolito Rodriguiz, etc willingly, happily participate in the holocaust of the blacks, despite the presence of children, women, the old, etc. It's even worse than the real holocaust because nobody seems to care or even want to secretly question the whole idea of racial destruction. However, as is true with most societies, there are dissenters like John Dover. The only part of the book I didn't not enjoy as much were the battles and campaign. Yes they make up a large amount of the book, but there are too many to describe in any detail, the drive to Lubbock, the Confederate drive to the east, the offensive in Ohio, plus if the US is supposed to be feeling the pinch, where are they getting all of these barrels and men? And what about the Canadian revolts? There is no mention of them. Overall, this book is an excellent and engrossing addition to the Wars between the states, and without a doubt leaves me craving for the next book, supposedly there will be four, which makes sense, it's a big series

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