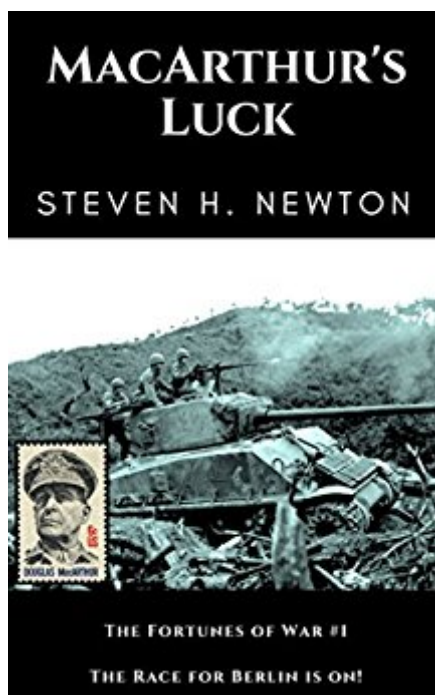


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MacArthur's Luck: The Race For Berlin Is On! (The Fortunes Of War)



Synopsis

January 1945: As Hitler's Germany and Tojo's Japan collapse, General George Marshall dies unexpectedly days before the critical Yalta Conference. His successor as US Army Chief of Staff, General Douglas MacArthur, flies halfway around the world to butt heads with Josef Stalin and change history. When MacArthur relieves General Dwight D. Eisenhower from command in Europe, the Anglo-Allied advance devolves into a free-for-all as competing armies race for Berlin, and the changes echo across the globe. Here are just a few of the highlights from MacArthur's Luck: Captain Jackie Robinson leads an armored task force across the Rhine. ...Major Barry Goldwater fire-bombs Tokyo. ...Commander Robert Heinlein struggles to save his wounded ship from kamikazes off Okinawa. ...Field Marshals Georgi Zhukov and Ivan Konev clash on the road to Berlin. ...SS-Obergruppenfuehrer Karl Wolff dares everything to negotiate a separate surrender to the Americans. ...Populated by a cast of realistic characters who will take you inside the American, German, Soviet, and Japanese military machines, and meticulously researched by a well-known military historian, MacArthur's Luck opens The Fortunes of War series, exploring a world both tantalizingly like our own, but also dramatically different. Half the fun is figuring out what's real, and what's not.

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Customer Reviews

I'm still trying to figure out the relationship of many of the characters to the story. for example, a couple fled the Nazis in the 1930's to the USA and set up a prosperous business without conclusion to their story; in another instance, the wife of an army officer (who volunteered for combat duty) went back to work and found herself working in a clandestine intelligence situation, again, without conclusion. Perhaps they were left over from another story and the author thought no one would notice a few extraneous persons with interesting stories inserted hither thither and yon; but, not related to MacArthur even in this fictitious account of alternate history. While MacArthur takes over for the deceased George Marshall and Eisenhower is sent to the Pacific Theater--What happens under Ike in the Pacific??? Are Truman's plans carried out?? Did the A-bomb get dropped? Did Japan surrender, or did they fight to the last man? In Europe did MacArthur finally assume command of the war strategy and planning? Did he order his armies to engage Stalin? The author leaves us with a small impression that maybe there is more to come, but is it a conclusion or more "fog of war."

First of all this has very little to do with MacArthur, he barely appears. In this version George Marshall dies of a heart attack and MacArthur takes over as Chief of Staff and Supreme Commander Allied forces Europe. MacArthur then sends Ike to the Pacific as an "observer" and decides to race the Russians to Berlin in order to secure an advantageous post-hostilities position. The bulk of the narrative involves all the other folks executing this decision. This is all setup for the next book that will see Patton face off against the Red Army. It is reasonably well written and will be enjoyed by those familiar with the details of the war in Europe. Others may be a bit lost.

I thought the core story line sounded intriguing if not improbable but certainly worth a read. Unfortunately while the first 20% of the book dealt with MacArthur's potential impact, then he essentially disappeared. What came next was a Turtledove like wide array of characters involved in numerous backstory events that did not impact the ultimate story he wanted to tell...I skipped dozens of pages at a time hoping for some story development. Spoilers ahead...Also some core ideas seemed beyond unlikely. The idea that Ike goes to the Pacific and is unheard of again, Monty in the Brits fine with being pushed aside, Hitler allowing the generals to blatantly disobey orders

without any repercussions, and perhaps most mystifying the idea that Stalin would remove Konev's entire front and send it to the Pacific before Berlin falls was the most improbable storyline of all, simply an impossibility. I will say the author writes well at points, excellent range of historical details from describing combat sequences to individual historical characters. I just would have enjoyed more of MacArthur and less of tv storyline, colored troops integration, and car too many minor characters. Perhaps the next installment will clean this up and learn that Turtledove lost his stories when he doubled down on useless and a myriad of uninteresting characters.

I got turned on to alternative history watching "The Man in the High Castle" on Prime. This book takes you into the action of World War II, and is written very engagingly. I liked coming across characters with which I was familiar, like Barry Goldwater. I enjoy not knowing what would happen as I might have with straight history, yet knowing that I was learning a great deal of factual history at the same time, with the feeling that you're actually there in that time and place.

I really enjoyed this novel despite the occasional dropped articles and general need for better editing. The inclusion of many known historical figures is done well and I like the inclusion of snippets from characters memoirs, news outlets, etc. I look forward to the next installment.

Good story and I can't wait the next book to see how the fighting in Japan will turn out. I must agree the parts about TV is a little different but figure it must play a role in upcoming books.

i like the author's style. The characters are believable and alive. The situations featured are also well written. Some other short sections or stories in the book didnt seem to belong to the book but did not do any harm. overall a very good "what if" read.

Very interesting description of WW 2, good tell of a alternate what might have happen. Especially if the west realized Stalin was evil

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