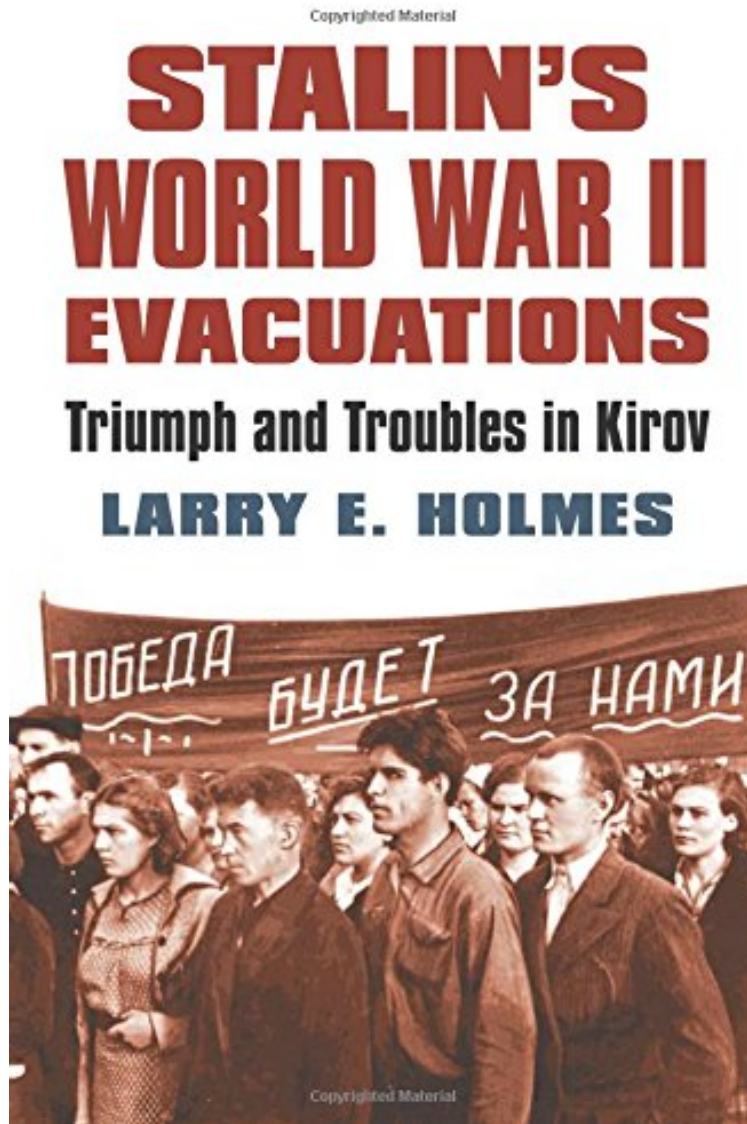


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Stalin's World War II Evacuations: Triumph and Troubles in Kirov (Modern War Studies (Hardcover))

Larry E. Holmes

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Larry E. Holmes : Stalin's World War II Evacuations: Triumph and Troubles in Kirov (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stalin's World War II Evacuations: Triumph and Troubles in Kirov (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Untold Side of the Soviet Evacuations By Albert A. Nofi
A summary of the review on StrategyPage: 'While the massive evacuation of people and industrial plant sparked by the German invasion in June of 1941 is fairly well-known, its effects on the areas of the USSR to which the people and equipment were relocated has received little notice. In his new book, Prof. Holmes (emeritus, South Alabama), author of several works about internal administration in the Soviet Union, takes a look at how the resettlement affected life in Kirov, northeast of Moscow. He reveals serious tensions between prewar inhabitants and wartime evacuees, who threatened to overwhelm local resources. This was worsened by a surprisingly vigorous bureaucratic "resistance" by regional party leaders, managers, local elites, and common citizens to further regional – and even personal – interests over the needs of their evacuee "comrades", revealing the complex nuances of politics and life under the Stalinist regime. Of great value to serious students of the Russo-German war, the Soviet home front, of politics under the Stalinist regime, this is not likely to be of interest to most arm chair students of the war.' For the full review, see StrategyPage

In the face of the German onslaught in World War II, the Soviets succeeded, as Molotov later recalled, "in relocating to the rear virtually an entire industrial country." It was an official declared "one of the greatest feats of the war." Focusing on the Kirov region, this book offers a different and considerably more nuanced picture of the evacuations than the typical triumphal narrative found in Soviet history. In its depiction of the complexities of the displacement and relocation of populations, Stalin's World War II Evacuations also has remarkable relevance in our time of mass migrations of refugees from war-torn nations. The citizens and government of Kirov, some 500 miles northeast of Moscow, provided food, clothing, and shelter to the people and institutions that descended on the region in numbers far exceeding prewar plans or anyone's imagination. But as they continued to share their already strained resources—with adult evacuees, Leningrad's children, wounded and ill soldiers, factories, and commissariats—the people of Kirov became increasingly resentful, especially as it grew clear that the war would be prolonged, and that their guests demanded privileged treatment. Larry E. Holmes reveals how, without directly challenging the Stalinist system, they vigorously advanced their own private and regional interests. He shows that, as Kirov and Moscow pursued their respective agendas, sometimes in concert but increasingly at cross-purposes, they exposed preexisting and highly dysfunctional dimensions of Soviet governance at both the center and the periphery. The dictatorial center and the periphery literally came face-to-face in the evacuation to Kirov, allowing for a new, informed understanding of the tensions inherent in the Stalinist system, and of the power politics of the wartime Soviet Union.

"Further distinguishes Holmes as not only the preeminent English-language historian of the Kirov region during the Soviet period but also as a gifted institutional historian. . . . A welcome contribution to the scholarship on wartime evacuation."—Russian "Holmes provides a much-needed (and still relevant) analysis of the problems engendered by the mass migrations of peoples and the tensions that inevitably arise between hosts and refugees (or, in this case, evacuees), as well as a nuanced explication of the political conflicts between the "center" and the periphery that does much to reveal the nature of the Soviet regime in both war and peace. Highly recommended."—Choice "Holmes tells a riveting story of the evacuation of 1,500 factories and hundreds of thousands of citizens into the Soviet rear following the German attack in summer 1941. The narrative is easy to follow?an extraordinary story of courage and survival side-by-side with tragic suffering that Soviet civilians endured during the war years. There have been in recent years a handful of books purporting to tell the story of the evacuations, but this book is by far the very best because of Holmes' astounding research base: years of work in central and regional archives, libraries and other local collections supplemented by interviews. It will attract a wide readership."?Jeffrey Burds, professor of history, Northeastern University "An extraordinarily valuable study. It's a great compliment to Manley and Stronski's work on the wartime evacuations to Central Asia; a fine-grained analysis with a clear eye for the power politics involved in evacuation. Its focus on different types of institutions such as factories, offices, schools and orphanages creates a remarkable holistic picture of the evacuation and war years in Kirov with its refugees, hunger, epidemics, deprivation, and incredible grittiness. In addition, Holmes' work is so well researched and so capacious in its subjects, that it easily should go down as one of our finer regional studies. It gives a whole new depth to the tired cliché of "home front" and an insight to just what the Soviet civilians far from the front endured."?Matthew J. Payne, author of Stalin's Railroad: Turksib and the Building of Socialism "Larry Holmes tells a gripping tale of the rescue, evacuation, and resettlement of Soviet industry and people during World War II from the frontline territories soon to be overrun by the Nazis. He takes us to the northern industrial town of Kirov, to reveal in heartbreaking detail the difficulties of life on the home front for both evacuees and the local population. Holmes describes not only how tens of thousands of evacuees were welcomed, housed, and fed, but also the more painful side of resettlement: struggles over food, space, and control. His book contains valuable lessons for a contemporary world once again facing a vast refugee crisis amid the horrors of war and mass displacement."?Wendy Z. Goldman, Paul Mellon Distinguished Professor of History, Carnegie Mellon University About the Author Larry E. Holmes is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of South Alabama. He is the author of many books, including Grand Theater: Regional Governance in Stalin's Russia, 1931–1941 and War,

Evacuation, and the Exercise of Power: The Center, Periphery, and Kirov's Pedagogical Institute, 1941–1952.