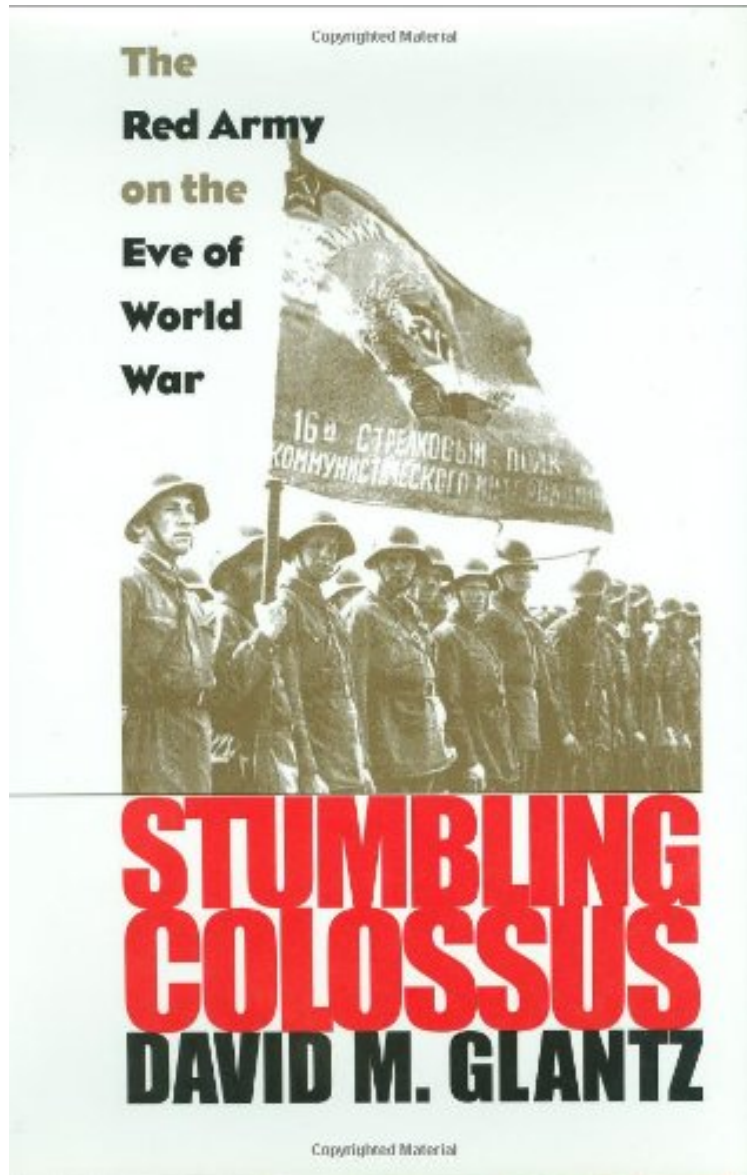


(Free download) Stumbling Colossus: The Red Army on the Eve of World War (Modern War Studies)

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David M. Glantz

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David M. Glantz : Stumbling Colossus: The Red Army on the Eve of World War (Modern War Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stumbling Colossus: The Red Army on the Eve of World War (Modern War Studies):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Incredible Detail By Richard Cundiff The maps of Corps/Armies

deployments are worth their weight in gold. There is great detail on the make up of each Tank Division with level of training for the crews. You can't ask for a better book for status of the Red Army before Barbarossa. 16 of 20 people found the following review helpful. The first 6 months of WarBy Ryan OStumbling Colossus is a examination of the Red Army on the Eve of Operation Barbarossa. The books examines the Red Army and looks at the preparedness for war and the preparations being made for action against the Germans. The book looks at the largest army in the world and takes a penetrating look at the flaws in the system. We see why the Soviets were able to survive the disasters of the beginning of the war and the causes behind some of these disasters. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Meticulously researched and very detailed but it can't overturn Viktor Suvorov's "Icebreaker"...By DimitriosThis book was written by the greatest authority Western World has produced on Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War as the definitive answer of the "politically correct" historians to Viktor Suvorov's groundbreaking book "The Icebreaker" which revealed for the first time to the whole world that Stalin planned a preemptive war against Nazi Germany and only lost the race of the first strike for just two weeks. Mr Glantz speaks Russian fluently and has studied Red Army and the Great Patriotic War for many years, having produced some of the most authoritative books ever written on the subject. Although he has dug deeper than anyone in the prewar Red Army archives and presents a wealth of material never before seen in the West, I felt that he couldn't erase the suspicion that Stalin wanted to smash the Nazis and "liberate" Europe when the Western Powers would be weakened by years of brutal war. I really enjoyed though the endless facts and figures that Mr Glantz provides in this book. The most interesting part is the chapter about the readiness status of the 20 Soviet Mechanized Corps - only two of them (1st and 6th) had a full complement of 1.000 tanks each or more on the eve of the German invasion, and most of the rest didn't possess even half that strength. The chaotic conditions of the initial phase of the war caused horrendous losses to the Soviets - in August 1941 most of the Mechanized Corps were left with just 50 tanks or fewer. The parlous state of the Red Air Force is also clearly depicted, as is the lack of training and the multitude of other problems that plagued the Red Army in 1941. In view of the devastating defeats that the Soviets suffered in the first months of Operation Barbarossa, one can hardly dispute the facts that Mr Glantz presents. The Red Army could not attack properly and efficiently even in the spring of 1942 when it suffered terrible losses at Kharkov. The books tries to prove that Soviet military operations in Finland and in Mongolia were also badly handled, caused heavy losses and revealed the crucial defects that the Great Purge caused to the Red Army high command. This book is perhaps the best source you could find on prewar Red Army, full of statistics and with excellent maps showing Red Army's order of battle, but view the facts with a heavy dose of skepticism after reading also Suvorov's book. The Red Army was obviously not ready in the summer of 1941 to wage war against the most experienced army of the era, but it couldn't afford to wait either for another year before striking first. For Stalin that was not going to be a war of choice anymore, since the Wehrmacht knocked out France and cornered Britain far faster than anyone could have imagined. Thus Stalin HAD to attack Germany in 1941 or suffer an attack himself. Mr Glantz is definitely right that the Red Army had many problems in 1941 but this fact doesn't prove that a Soviet preemptive strike against the Nazis was out of thinking. It was a strategic necessity for the Red Army, and Stalin simply was running out of time in the summer of 1941.

Synopsis Germany's surprise attack on June 22, 1941, shocked a Soviet Union woefully unprepared to defend itself. The day before the attack, the Red Army still comprised the world's largest fighting force. But by the end of the year, 4,500,000 of its soldiers lay dead. This study based on formerly classified Soviet archival material and neglected German sources, reveals the truth behind this national catastrophe. David Glantz claims that in 1941 the Red Army was poorly trained, inadequately equipped, ineptly organized, and consequently incapable of engaging in large-scale military campaigns - and that both Hitler and Stalin knew it. He provides reasons for why the Soviets almost lost the war that summer, dispelling many of the myths about the Red Army that have persisted since the war and refuting Viktor Suvonov's controversial thesis that Stalin was planning a pre-emptive strike against Germany. "Stumbling Colossus" describes the Red Army's command leadership, mobilization and war planning, intelligence activities, and active and reserve combat formations. It includes a complete Order of Battle of Soviet forces on the eve of the German attack, documents the strength of Soviet armoured forces during the war's initial period, and reproduces texts of actual Soviet war plans. It also provides biographical sketches of Soviet officers and explains how Stalin's purges of the late 1930s left the Red Army almost decimated.

An excellent book as usual from Glantz. Objective, scientific, without the influence of political biased points of views. This book is a real reference about the soviet army at the period. --By K. KadiFrom the Back Cover" This book represents the most thorough and intensive examination of the state of the Red Army in 1941 yet to appear. It investigates every aspect of the Soviet military establishment, command, deployment, mobilization, reserves, the Soviet soldier himself, and above all, combat readiness, using Soviet and German archives. Glantz's evidence is unchallengeable, his sources unimpeachable, his conclusion incontestable." --John Erickson, author of The Road to Stalingrad "Effectively refutes the charge--recently rehabilitated by Viktor Suvorov in Icebreaker--that Stalin was secretly planning an offensive war against Hitler during 1941. With his previous book When Titans Clashed and this

latest contribution, David Glantz has established firmly his reputation as the preeminent historian of the Soviet Army."--Mark von Hagen, author of *Soldiers in the Proletarian Dictatorship* "An outstanding contribution and a must for any student of the history of the Red Army and the Soviet Union's role in the Second World War."--Malcolm Mackintosh, author of *Juggernaut: A History of Soviet Armed Forces*About the AuthorAn excellent book as usual from Glantz. Objective, scientific, without the influence of political biased points of views. This book is a real reference about the soviet army at the period.