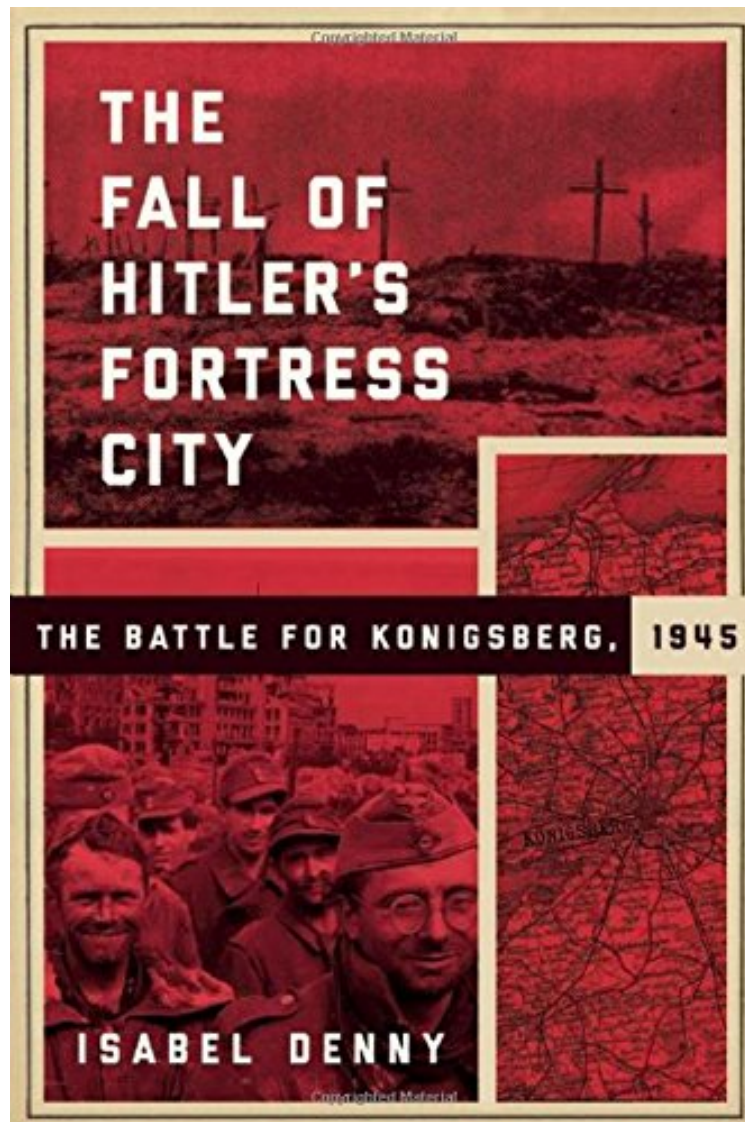


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The Fall of Hitler's Fortress City: The Battle for Königsberg, 1945

Isabel Denny

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Isabel Denny : The Fall of Hitler's Fortress City: The Battle for Königsberg, 1945 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fall of Hitler's Fortress City: The Battle for Königsberg, 1945:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Some useful background, but this is a too general narrative with sketchy detail on the "fortress" and the battle.By lyndonbrechtThis is a disappointment. There's little of the battle in the book. The writing is fairly good, but repetitive. It's more of an overview of the loss of Prussia. There is some useful

background on the origin and history of the city, and how it became annexed to the USSR (and hence, now Russia). The book uses some diaries or journals from several people but could have used more, although what's used gives something of a sense of what life was like. The book mentions over and over again how German savagery motivated Soviet revenge, and how what the Prussians suffered did not compare with the scale of the German outrages--and then it covers the Soviet outrages. Denny says that of 5 million people in East Prussia two million were killed and three million rendered homeless (by being forced out after the war as much as being refugees during it). That is a larger figure for fatalities than I've read elsewhere. The book does cover some of the privations of life before the battle, the sad development of the Volkssturm, the city full of refugees and the overwhelming military superiority of the Soviets (Denny uses "Russians" most of the time, which isn't quite correct). The photos are interesting, although more would have been helpful. I can recommend the early portion as good background, but as for the "fortress city" and the battle itself, this really isn't a very useful book. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Yawn. Read something else on this topic, not this book. By Jay Bazzinotti This reads like a high school term paper. While it gives some good historical background it is nothing more than an overview, devoid of drama, absent any real personality and with absolutely no merit from a militarily historical perspective. In addition, certain passages are repeated over and over as if the author lacks either any imagination or perhaps a thesaurus. While it wasn't worthless, it wasn't all that worthwhile either. I would try just about anything else before reading this. The best you can say for it is that it's easily readable, written at maybe a junior high school level, which is why it reads like a C+ term paper. 24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Where is the battle of Königsberg? By Dimitrios The title is misleading since this book is not about the battle of Königsberg really, but a rather loose and general history of that city during World War II, with a short introduction of its ancient past. Although some readers may find some points interesting, like the attitude of the city's inhabitants toward the Nazi party, or their agony and fears while Operation "Barbarossa" was raging in the East and the tide turned, the battle of Königsberg begins after page 180 and is a kind of epilogue to the book with no significant military details. On the opposite, whole chapters are devoted to well known campaigns like that of Moscow (1941) and Stalingrad (1942-43) which do not add really any new aspects to what we already know. If you are looking for a more decent account of the city's siege and fall you should better read Christopher Duffy's excellent "Red Storm on the Reich".

The harrowing, tragic story of a city and a people ravaged by one of the most brutal battles of World War II. In 1945, in the face of the advancing Red Army, two and a half million people were forced out of Germany's most easterly province, East Prussia, and in particular its capital, Königsberg. Their flight was a direct result of Hitler's ill-fated decision to invade the Soviet Union in 1941. Now that the Germans were in retreat, the horrors of Leningrad and Stalingrad were to be avenged by an army determined not only to invade Germany but to take over its eastern territories. The Russians launched Operation Bagration in June 1944 to coincide with the D-Day landings. As US and British forces pushed west, the Russians liberated Eastern Europe and made their first attacks on German soil in the autumn of 1944. Königsberg itself was badly damaged by two British air raids at the end of August 1944, and the main offensive against the city by the Red Army began in January 1945. The depleted and poorly armed German army could do little to hold it back, and by the end of January, East Prussia was cut off. The Russians exacted a terrible revenge on the civilian population, who were forced to flee across the freezing Baltic coast in an attempt to escape. On April 9, the city surrendered to the Russians after a four-day onslaught. Through firsthand accounts as well as archival material, *The Fall of Hitler's Fortress City* tells the dramatic story of a place and its people that bore the brunt of Russia's vengeance against the Nazi regime. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history--books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

From Booklist The East Prussian city of Königsberg, founded by the Teutonic Knights in the thirteenth century, became, seven centuries later, a key stronghold for the Third Reich. As the Russians approached it in 1945, Hitler declared that the city be held to the last man. Its governor compounded his master's folly by failing to organize any sensible evacuation plan. And so tens of thousands of refugees streamed out of the city to die of frostbite, starvation, Russian attacks, and drowning in the Baltic when they fell through its ice or when their ships sank. The remaining soldiers and civilians who didn't die in the fighting were often enslaved, either to rebuild the city or to labor in the Soviet gulag. The ruined city, renamed Kaliningrad, was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1946, and it is now one of Lithuania's more prosperous municipalities. But it still shows scars of its ghastly ordeal in 1945. Denny fills in a gap in the historiography of World War II's European eastern front. Roland Green Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved World War II Database