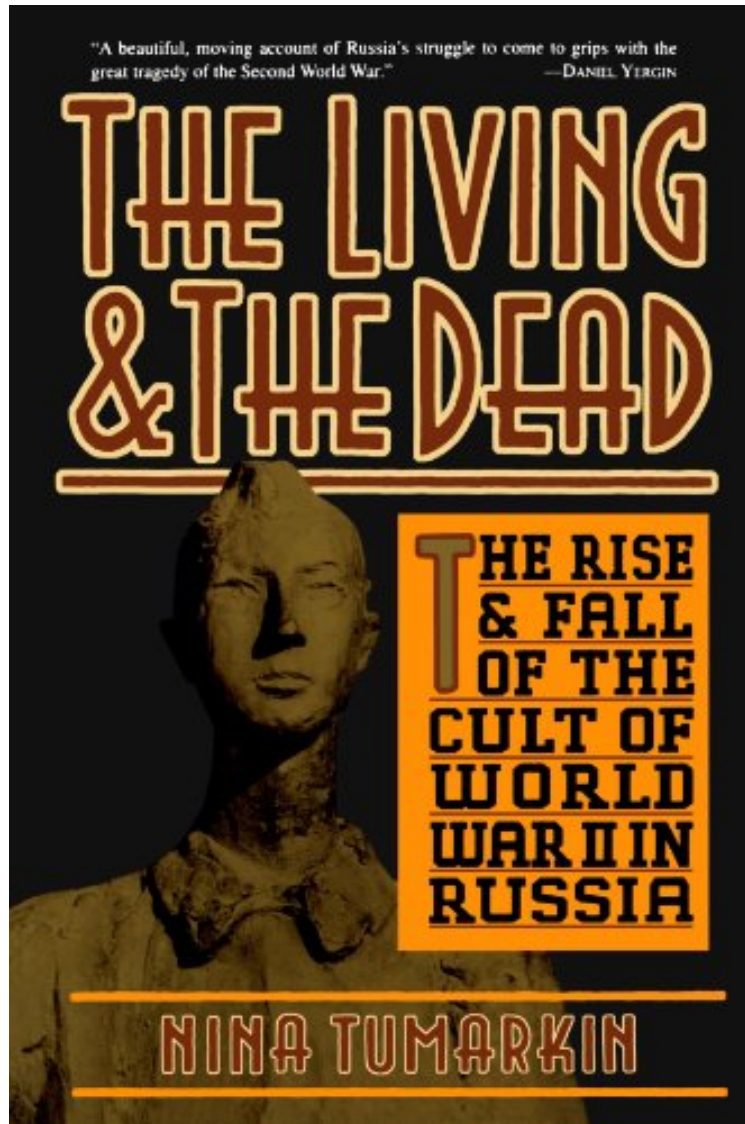


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## The Living And The Dead: The Rise And Fall Of The Cult Of World War II In Russia

*Nina Tumarkin*

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**Nina Tumarkin : The Living And The Dead: The Rise And Fall Of The Cult Of World War II In Russia** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Living And The Dead: The Rise And Fall Of The Cult Of World War II In Russia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A book scattered in thought By Willam J. Overman I have a good background in history regarding the second world war however this book strangely lacks, as it points too much to the

horrors the Jewish people had to go through. This could be attributed with the acts of horror in Russia and in Germany. Strangely entire passages of history are wiped away such as the terrible actions that happened in Poland during the soviet offensive. This book does not feel like a historical analysis so much as a story of stories. The reason this book gets a 3/5 is for just that reason as it presents an idealized format of World War II which does not fit with that of reality. The suffering of the Jewish people do not account for all the horrors in World War II. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worth it. By NekuHad to get this book for a class at college. It's not a bad read and flows nicely. It is neither very long or complex, but interesting enough. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. In Russia WWII was just yesterday. By Ms Barbara I actually didn't like this book much. Frankly I thought it was quite scattered and too many flowery phrases... 'so and so, a 22 year old brilliant journalist... bla bla'. Perhaps I read it 15 years too long after it was published. Don't get me wrong, there are definitely pages here and there that directly deal with the Russian Cult of WWII. I just don't think I gained much understanding of it the way it was presented. I had wanted (in this book) more of a clear and concise explanation of this Cult of WWII and it just felt like the book rambled and led me through a history of the War instead. I lived in Russia in 92-93 and I would look at the Russians themselves more closely as they WANTED to perpetuate this 'we are the greatest' attitude it seems to me. They say a country deserves the government it has and to this day that can be said about Russians. (And now I fear about the US too.) Very sad and what Communism does to a whole population seems to leave a scar that will never truly heal. It does something to people and they are NOT the better for it. I remember teaching some Russian 'English' teachers. When I told them that West Germany (former) was so much better off than the former East Germany, they refused to believe me BECAUSE how could that possibly be true??? Russia won the war! They would not budge. This kind of thinking goes on in Russia today and there are still huge amounts of people who refuse to believe much bad about Stalin. Perhaps I am always skeptical of an author who can't seem to get through such a large undertaking without taking a swipe at President George H. Bush for NOT seeing the Coup in Russia coming. That seems so frivolous to me as I would say, 'did literally ANYONE but Ms. Tumarkin???' Certainly not our CIA or the heads of England, West Germany etc etc. So to slap at Pres. Bush seems agenda driven to me. The people in Russia were led into the abyss by their own leaders and they chose to follow them for many reasons. That Ms Tumarkin wonders how Russians could start blaming Jews again after the fall of Russia seems so bizarre to me and points to a naive 'that is pretty grand.' I just wanted a more concise analysis of this Cult that still lives to some degree in Russia today.

This eye-opening book shows how Communist state and party authorities stage-managed the Soviets' memory of World War II, transforming a national trauma into a heroic exploit that glorified the party while systematically concealing the disastrous mistakes and criminal cruelties committed by the Stalinist tyranny.

From Publishers Weekly Wellesley history professor Tumarkin ( Lenin Lives! ) here explains how Stalin and his successors glorified the Soviet war against Nazi Germany by orchestrating a sanitized myth of heroic triumph intended to foster support for the Communist Party and an ailing economic system. The cult of the Great Patriotic War, she demonstrates, concealed the U.S.S.R.'s disastrous unpreparedness for the 1941 German invasion, which cost 30 million Soviet lives. Stalin's murder of tens of thousands of Soviet military commanders in a purge on the eve of the war, his use of the war as a pretext to crush dissent and nationalist separatisms and his scorched-earth policy are also omitted from the official cult. Based on the author's travels in Russia between 1978 and 1992, this illuminating and poignant study contrasts the managed myth of WW II with the unvarnished memoirs of writers, filmmakers and ordinary citizens. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Tumarkin (The Lenin Cult in Soviet Russia, 1983) has successfully used personal sorrows to paint an accurate portrayal of the manipulation, by Stalin, of the Great Patriotic War (World War II). She shows in detail how history was distorted, contrived, and deliberately falsified to persuade the Soviet people to do heroic deeds. This falsified history covered up the tragedy of the Russian front, Stalin's purges, and the murder of millions of Stalin's enemies. Ironically, this falsification carries a threat for us. To quote David Remnick (Lenin's Tomb, LJ 6/15/93), musing on the accumulated effect of living with distorted or obliterated past: "In making a secret of history, the Kremlin made its subjects just a little more insane, a little more desperate." The cult of war continued through successive chairmen and party first secretaries until Gorbachev's glasnost. An excellent addition to academic and public libraries. Harry Willems, Kansas Lib. System, Iola Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover This moving account of a suffering people's struggle with a brutal history shows how state and party authorities stage-managed a national trauma into a heroic exploit that glorified the Communist party.