

Shownotes:

This week, Matt and Cameron continue on with the set-up to the siege of Stalingrad, following more of Viktor Shtrum as well as Commissar Nikolai Krymov in their respective adventures in Moscow and on the Eastern Front. We'll be getting into the nitty-gritty on the idea of Grossman as a "soviet Tolstoy" so grab your finest wartime moonshine and tune in to hear our incendiary hot takes!

Major themes: Soviet Tolstoy(?), Genuflecting Grossmans, What Makes the Soviet Union?

Books on the War

- [War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War by John W. Dower](#)
 - A history about the war between Japan and the United States, drawing on "American and Japanese songs, slogans, cartoons, propaganda films, secret reports, and a wealth of other documents of the time."
- [Day without End by Van Van Praag](#)
 - Also known as "Combat," this book portrays the endless days of combat of normandy with a sense of overwhelming authenticity
- [Catch-22 by Joseph Heller](#)
 - A satirical novel that chronicles the eccentricities of the war and the US Military
- [A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in the Conquered City: A Diary](#) by Anonymous
- [Survival in Auschwitz](#) by Primo Levi
- ["The Good War:" An Oral History of World War II](#) by Studs Terkel
- [Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-Day's Black Heroes, at Home and At War](#) by Linda Hervieux
 - Caveat: I haven't read this book myself, but did buy it as a gift after listening to a WNYC interview with the author
- [Quartered Safe out Here: A Recollection of the War in Burma](#) by George MacDonald Fraser
- [Between Tears and Laughter](#) by Lin Yutang
 - One of my favorite books. It was written contemporaneously with World War 2 and contains various meditations on the war, the west, the future of China, and Lin's (completely justified) revulsion with Winston Churchill.
- [Europe Central](#) by William T. Vollman
 - Although this is an entirely fictional work about people in the antebellum and war years, Vollman is a master writer and brings a life to a broad cast of characters of this period.
- [The Unwomanly Face of War](#) by Svetlana Alexievich
 - [Check out our episode on this book!](#)
- [The Last Witnesses](#) by Svetlana Alexievich

31:32 - [Vasily Grossman: A Writer at War](#), ed.s Antony Beevor and Luba Vinogradova

31:43 - [The Road](#), ed. Robert Chandler

The music used in this episode was “soviet march,” by Toasted Tomatoes. You can find more of their work on [Bandcamp](#) and [Youtube](#).

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