

The Experiences of Women in the Soviet Union during World War II

Resource List

This list contains books, scholarly articles, films, and digital primary sources.

Selected Books

Alexievich, Svetlana. *The Unwomanly Face of War: An Oral History of Women in World War II*. Random House, 2017.

Biess, Frank and Robert G. Moeller (eds). *Histories of the Aftermath: The Legacies of the Second World War in Europe*. New York, 2010.

Blanton, DeAnne and Lauren M. Cook. *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War*. Baton Rouge, LA, 2002.

Canning, Kathleen. *Gender History in Practice: Historical Perspectives on Bodies, Class, and Citizenship*. Ithaca, NY, 2006.

Clements, Barbara Evans. *Daughters of Revolution: A History of Women in the USSR*. Arlington Heights, IL, 1994.

Edele, Mark. *Soviet Veterans of World War II: A Popular Movement in an Authoritarian Society, 1941–1991*. Oxford, 2009.

Engel, Barbara Alpern and Anastasia Posadskaya-Vanderbeck (eds). *A Revolution of Their Own: Voices of Women in Soviet History*. Boulder, CO, 1998.

Goldman, Wendy Z. and Donald Filtzer. *Fortress Dark and Stern: The Soviet Home Front during World War II*. Oxford University Press, 2021.

Goldman, Nancy Loring (ed.) *Female Soldiers – Combatants or Noncombatants? Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*. Westport, CT, 1982.

Kazarinova, M. A., N. F. Krantsova and A. A. Poliantseva (eds). *V nebe frontovom*. Moscow, 1971.

Kosterina, Nina. *Dnevnik Niny Kosterinoi*. Moscow, 1963.

Krylova, Anna. *Soviet Women in Combat: A History of Violence on the Eastern Front*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Markwick, Roger D. and Euridice Charon Cardona. *Soviet Women on the Frontline in the Second World War*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Mühlhäuser, Regina. *Sex and the Nazi Soldier: Violent, Commercial, and Consensual Encounters during the War in the Soviet Union, 1941-45*. Edinburgh University Press, 2020.

Nakachi, Mie. *Replacing the Dead: The Politics of Reproduction in the Postwar Soviet Union*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Petrova, N. K. (ed.) *Zhenshchiny velikoi otechestvenoi voyny*. Moscow, 2014.

Rakobolskaia, I. V. (ed.) *Poka stuchit serdtse: dnevniki i pisma geroiia Sovetskogo Soiuza Evgenii Rudnevoi*. Moscow, 1995.

Röger, Maren and Ruth Leiserowitz, eds. *Women and Men at War: A Gender Perspective on World War II and its Aftermath in Central and Eastern Europe*. Germany: Fibre, 2012.

Slepyan, Kenneth. *Stalin's Guerrillas: Soviet Partisans in World War II*. Lawrence, KS, 2006.

Thurston, Robert W. and Bern Bonwetsch (eds). *The People's War: Responses to World War II in the Soviet Union*. Chicago, 2000.

Selected Scholarly Articles

Beck, Birgit. "Rape: The Military Trials of Sexual Crimes Committed by Soldiers in the Wehrmacht, 1939-1944." In *Home/Front: The Military, War, and Gender in Twentieth Century Germany*, edited by Karen Hagemann and Stefanie Schüler-Springorum, 255-273. Oxford: Berg, 2002.

Beorn, Waitman Wade. "Bodily Conquest: Sexual Violence in the Nazi East." In *Mass Violence in Nazi-Occupied Europe*, edited by Alex J. Kay and David Stahel, 195-215. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2018.

Bischi, Kerstin. "Telling Stories. Gender Relationships and Masculinity in the Red Army 1941-1945." In *Women and Men at War: A Gender Perspective on World War II and its Aftermath in Central and Eastern Europe*, edited by Maren Röger and Ruth Leiserowitz, 117-133. Germany: fibre Verlag, 2012.

Budnitskii, Oleg. "Muzhchiny i zhenshchiny v krasnoi armii," *Cahiers du Monde Russe*, 52. 2-3 (2011) 405-22.

Burds, Jeffrey. "Sexual Violence in Europe in World War II, 1939-1945." *Politics and Society* 37; 35 (2009): 35-73.

Direnberger, Lucia. "Representations of Armed Women in Soviet and Post-Soviet Tajikistan: Describing and Restricting Women's Agency," *The Journal of Power Institutions in Post-Soviet Societies*, Vo. 17 (2016), <https://journals.openedition.org/pipss/4249>.

Farnsworth, Beatrice. "The Soldatka: Folklore and Court Record," *Slavic Review*, 49.1 (1990) 58–73.

Furst, Juliane. "Heroes, Lovers, Victims-Partisan Girls During the Great Fatherland War: An Analysis of Documents from the *Spetsotdel* of the Former Komsomol Archive." *Minerva: Quarterly Report on Women and the Military* Vol. 18, no. 3-4 (2000): 38-75.

Gleave, Alice. "The Female Soldier in Street Literature and Oral Culture in the German-speaking Lands between 1600 and 1950: A Marker of Changing Gender Relationships?" *Folklore*, 122.2 (2011) 176–95.

Havryshko, Marta. "Illegitimate sexual practices in the OUN underground and UPA in Western Ukraine in the 1940s and 1950s." *The Journal of Power Institutions in Post-Soviet Societies* [Online], Issue 17 (2016), <http://pipss.revues.org/4214> (accessed October 3, 2016).

Havryshko, Marta. "Controlling Women's Sexuality in the Ukrainian Nationalist Underground." *Aspasia*, Vol. 12 (2018): 35-67.

Kay, Alex J. and David Stahel. "Reconceiving Criminality in the German Army on the Eastern Front, 1941-1942." In *Mass Violence in Nazi-Occupied Europe*, edited by Alex J. Kay and David Stahel, 195-215. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2018.

Krylova, Anna. "'Healers of Wounded Souls': The Crisis of Private Life in Soviet Literature, 1944–1946". *The Journal of Modern History*, 73.2 (2001), 307–31.

Krylova, Anna. "Stalinist Identity from the Viewpoint of Gender: Rearing a Generation of Professionally Violent Women-Fighters in 1930s Stalinist Russia." *Gender & History*, Vol. 16, no. 3 (2004): 626-653.

Mühlhäuser, Regina. "Between Extermination and Germanization: Children of German Men in the 'Occupied Eastern Territories,' 1942-1945." In *Children of World War II: The Hidden Enemy Legacy*, ed. Kjersti Ericsson and Eva Simonsen, 167-189. Oxford: BERG, 2005.

Mühlhäuser, Regina. "Between 'Racial Awareness' and Fantasies of Potency: Nazi Sexual Politics in the Occupied Territories of the Soviet Union, 1942-1945." In *Brutality and Desire: War and Sexuality in Europe's Twentieth Century*, ed. Dagmar Herzog, 197-220. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Mühlhäuser, Regina. "The Unquestioned Crime: Sexual Violence by German Soldiers during the War of Annihilation in the Soviet Union, 1941-45." In *Rape in Wartime*, ed. Raphaëlle Branche and Fabrice Virgili, 34-46. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Pennington, Reina. "'Do not Speak of the Services you Rendered': Women Veterans of Aviation in the Soviet Union". *Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, 9.1, (1996) 120–51.

Pennington, Reina. "Offensive Women: Women in Combat in the Red Army in the Second World War."

The Journal of Military History, Vol. 74 (2010): 775-820.

Pennington, Reina. "Stalin's Falcons: the 586th Fighter Aviation Regiment," *Minerva Quarterly*, (2000) 76–108.

Rebrova, Irina. "Soviet Women in Partisan Groups and in Occupied Zones During the Second World War: Experience, Survival and Flight." In *Women's History in Russia: (re)establishing the field*, edited by Marianna Muravyeva and Natalia Novikova. 86-100. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014.

Rowley, Alison. "Ready for Work and Defense: Visual Propaganda and Soviet Women's Military Preparedness in the 1930s." *Minerva: Quarterly Report* (2000) 3–15.

Schechter, Brandon M. "'Girls' and 'Women.' Love, Sex, Duty and Sexual Harassment in the Ranks of the Red Army 1941-1945." *The Journal of Power Institutions in Post-Soviet Societies* [Online], Issue 17 (2016), <http://pipss.revues.org/4202> (accessed 2 October 2016).

Simpson, Pat. "Parading Myths: Imaging New Soviet Woman on Fizkul'turnik's Day, July 1944." *Russian Review*, 63.2 (2004) 187–211.

Tec, Nechama. "Women in the Forest." *Contemporary Jewry* Vol. 17, no. 1 (1996): 34-47.

Voisin, Vanessa. "The Soviet Punishment of an All-European Crime, 'Horizontal Collaboration.'" In *Traitors, Collaborators and Deserters in Contemporary European Politics of Memory*, edited by Gelinada Grinchenko and Eleonora Narvselius, 241-264. Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.

Films

Beanpole. Directed by Kantemir Balagov. 2019.

Come and See. Directed by Elem Klimov, 1985.

She Defends the Motherland. Directed by Friedrich Ermler. 1943.

The Cranes Are Flying. Directed by Mikhail Kalatozov. 1957.

The Rainbow. Directed by Mark Donskoi. 1944.

Digital Resources

Boris Kudoyarov Photography at the Blavatnik Archive
<https://www.blavatnikarchive.org/collection/kudoyarov>

This link takes you to a collection of 54 photographs taken by Boris Kudoyarov, a Soviet Jewish photojournalist. Kudoyarov's photographs capture everyday life during the siege of Leningrad and the architectural destruction of the city.

<https://www.blavatnikarchive.org/collection/veteran-testimonies>

This link, also from the Blavatnik Archive, takes you to a collection of veteran testimonies, along with photographs.

History of Russia in Photographs

<https://russiainphoto.ru/>

This link takes you to a database of photographs documenting the history of Russia from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. The database is constantly being updated and enlarged as museums, archives, and individuals upload additional resources.

Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation

<https://www.jewishpartisans.org/home>

This link takes you to a website focused on the role of Jewish partisans during World War Two. In addition to general information about the partisans, the website contains resources including videos on specific topics such as the lived experiences of women.

“Lady Death” of the Red Army: Lyudmila Pavlichenko

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/lady-death-red-army-lyudmila-pavlichenko>

This link takes you to an article about Lyudmila Pavlichenko, the most famous Soviet female sniper.

Rowley Soviet Ephemera at the Blavatnik Archive

<https://www.blavatnikarchive.org/collection/rowley?fbclid=IwAR0lBoH4cBPRlewGOOXKXyj74OVE6NPDVOnFwZDAW1nWXT0pxpJOpueDrxI>

This link takes you to a collection of Soviet ephemera, including postcards and posters, that reflect the shifting representations of women and their roles in Soviet society during the interwar period.

Seventeen Moments in Soviet History: An on-line archive of primary sources

<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/>

This link takes you to a database of primary resources related to the history of the Soviet Union. The website also contains subject essays on a variety of events and topics, such as “Women in War Films,” that provide useful information and context.

Windows on War: Soviet Posters, 1943-1945

<http://windowsonwar.nottingham.ac.uk/>

This link takes you to a large collection of Soviet propaganda posters located at the University of Nottingham. Students can explore the various motifs that were depicted in the wartime propaganda, including the role of women in the armed forces and on the home front.

Veteran Testimonies and Ephemera at the Blavatnik Archive

<https://www.blavatnikarchive.org/collection/veteran-testimonies>

This link takes you to a collection of oral interviews with Russian-speaking Jewish men and women who fought in the Soviet armed forces and the partisans during World War Two. Although most of the interviews were conducted in Russian, some clips do contain English subtitles.

Yahad in Unum

<https://www.yahadinunum.org/en>

Yahad in Unum is a French-based NGO whose mission is to document the massacres of Jews and Roma in Eastern Europe during World War Two. This link takes you to their website where an interactive map enables students to learn more about the Holocaust in Eastern Europe and hear the testimonies of witnesses who were interviewed by researchers from Yahad in Unum.