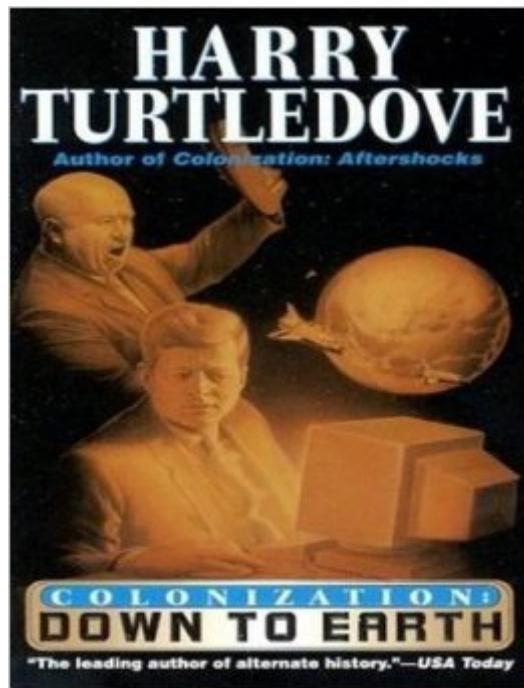


The book was found

Colonization: Down To Earth



Synopsis

In 1942, Hitler led the world's most savage military machine. Stalin ruled Russia while America was just beginning to show its strength in World War II. Then, in Harry Turtledove's brilliantly imagined Worldwar saga, an alien assault changed everything. Nuclear destruction engulfed major cities, and the invaders claimed half the planet before an uneasy peace could be achieved. A spectacular tale of tyranny and freedom, destruction and hope, the Colonization series takes us into the tumultuous 1960s, as the reptilian Race ponders its uneasy future. But now a new, even deadlier war threatens. Though the clamoring tribes of Earth play dangerous games of diplomacy, the ultimate power broker will be the Race itself. For the colonists have one option no human can ignore. With a vast, ancient empire already in place, the Race has the power to annihilate every living being on planet Earth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Well, it's another Turtledove book... which is to say a big cast of interesting, well-realized characters (some with scales and eye-turrets, here), well-developed background, and a dry sense of humor. Check out the alien pets, for instance! And the grazing animals, whose motto is: "We make a desert and call it Home!" A generation after the Lizards land in 1942, expecting to fight the Crusaders, we find out that there's more to American policy than meets the eye; that a sane tyrant like Molotov has some disadvantages compared to a mad one like Stalin; and that some humans can make imperialist invaders from the stars look like good guys. Speaking of which, Turtledove keeps firmly in mind a fact that a writer should never forget -- everyone is the hero in their own story.

His characters have reasons for what they do, reasons that make sense from the character's own p.o.v. They're never cardboard cutouts, manipulated for plot purposes. They breathe, and many of them become like old friends. Buy the book!

I thought I wrote a review of this book...where did go? Anyway, I must join in with the people who just can't stand the constant repetition of really simple ideas. There seemed to be a little bit less of that in this book, but there was a lot of side commentary of really obvious or trivial things by the characters which really didn't do anything for the book. This is called filler. There was way too much filler in this book. This book could be condensed to 1/3 of its page count and not lose anything. I did enjoy the scene between Sam Yeager, Jonathon and Kasquit on the Lizard ship. That was the only entertaining bit of writing in the whole book. At least Turtledove moved the plot forward some in the last sections of the book. I think some of the story lines could be dropped, especially Rance and Penny. I'm hoping the lizards will catch and execute them so I don't have to read any more about them. And what's with these really sleazy sex scenes? There not even sleazy in an interesting way, but more like 'a guy in a raincoat looking through your window while you're undressing' sleazy. Very disturbing. I've given up hope that Turtledove will write the 3rd book of Colonization any better and it sure looks like there will be another trilogy after this one. I don't know how or why, I am hooked on the idea of the series and I probably will get the 3rd book, but I will buy it used or borrow it.

Those reviewers who pine over repetitious content of "Down to Earth" lose sight of what makes Harry Turtledove's alternate history books so appealing. While at the beginning of the WorldWar series I was less than enthusiastic about the author giving the aliens the same emotional traits and reactions as humans, by now, in this seventh book of the saga, The Race has really grown on me. In fact, they seem to be growing more and more emotional and socially unstable with every book, which by the way says a lot about how contagious is the corrupting nature of us Big Uglies. The pure historical research done by Dr. Turtledove remains outstanding, as well as his approach to various languages of Earth. Unlike Ben Bova in "Triumph," Turtledove never messes up names and patronimics of real historical characters. Taking the presence of alien invaders for granted, the only thing that seems unreal to me is how easily multilingual are most of the characters in the book. Considering the differences in facial anatomy between the Lizards and the humans, as well as the phonetic basics of the Home language and those used on Earth, it seems highly unlikely that The Race and the Tosevites would have such a relatively easy time conversing and understanding each other. But perhaps this is a complaint out of context, since the flow of the story depends on

interspecies interactions to a great degree. Overall, the book is an exciting and entertaining read, and I will impatiently await the next installment.

I absolutely love this series. Turtledove sure doesn't skimp on the pages. Dr. Turtledove should write 3 more novels for this series, one each for the 70s, 80s, and 90s with the conclusion happening at the turn of the millenium! I bet the Race won't much like facing stealth fighters and bombers! I am also quite happy that Turtledove kept the revolution in his writing style that he introduced in "Into the Darkness". Before that novel, all of his characters were perfect. Perfect in a sense that they understood completely what was going on around them. In this novel, his characters have the blindspots in their logic that we could expect from individuals of different ethnic backgrounds and species. I applaud Turtledove for being bold and daring in that part with the surprise nuclear missle attack on the Race's orbiting ships from a ballistic missle submarine. He didn't chicken out on that scene and did the politically correct thing to do. I now know with absolute certainty which side perpetrated that atrocity. I only have one complaint with Turtledove. Where are the massive scale battles reminiscent of WW2 and the Korean War. I swear he never depicted battles larger than battalion scale. I want to see hundreds of divisions (from each side) slugging it out. After all, the players are fighting for an entire world. By the way, this series shouldn't end with the defeat of the Race's invasion force. It should end with the conquest of Home!

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