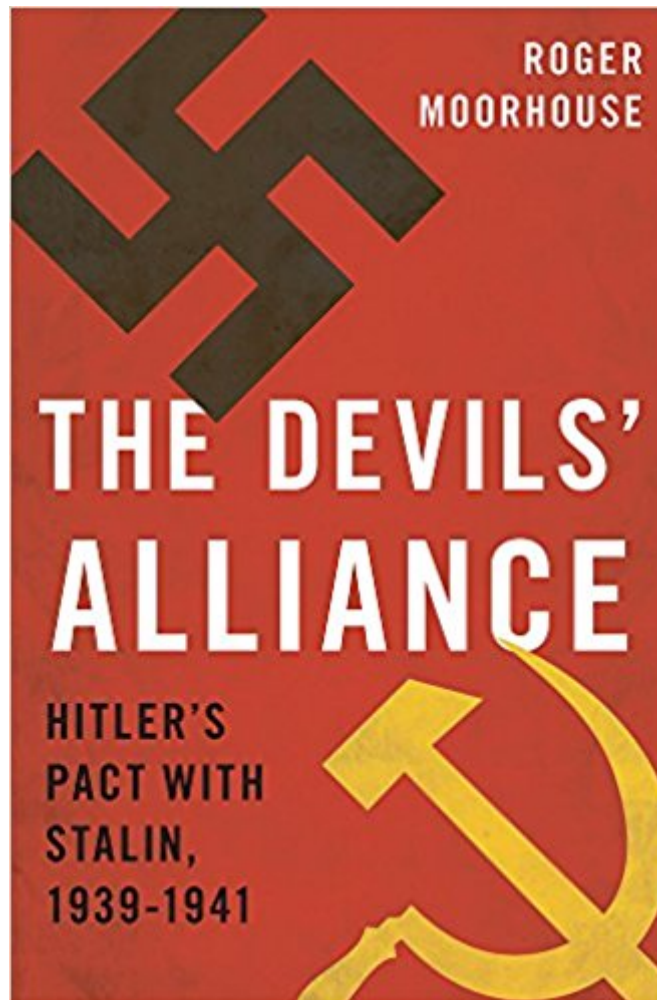




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The Devils' Alliance: Hitler's Pact With Stalin, 1939-1941



Synopsis

History remembers the Soviets and the Nazis as bitter enemies and ideological rivals, the two mammoth and opposing totalitarian regimes of World War II whose conflict would be the defining and deciding clash of the war. Yet for nearly a third of the conflict's entire timespan, Hitler and Stalin stood side by side as partners. The Pact that they agreed had a profound and bloody impact on Europe, and is fundamental to understanding the development and denouement of the war. In *The Devils' Alliance*, acclaimed historian Roger Moorhouse explores the causes and implications of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, an unholy covenant whose creation and dissolution were crucial turning points in World War II. Forged by the German foreign minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop, and his Soviet counterpart, Vyacheslav Molotov, the nonaggression treaty briefly united the two powers in a brutally efficient collaboration. Together, the Germans and Soviets quickly conquered and divided central and eastern Europe; Poland, the Baltic States, Finland, and Bessarabia; and the human cost was staggering: during the two years of the pact hundreds of thousands of people in central and eastern Europe caught between Hitler and Stalin were expropriated, deported, or killed. Fortunately for the Allies, the partnership ultimately soured, resulting in the surprise June 1941 German invasion of the Soviet Union. Ironically, however, the powers' exchange of materiel, blueprints, and technological expertise during the period of the Pact made possible a far more bloody and protracted war than would have otherwise been conceivable. Combining comprehensive research with a gripping narrative, *The Devils' Alliance* is the authoritative history of the Nazi-Soviet Pact; and a portrait of the people whose lives were irrevocably altered by Hitler and Stalin's nefarious collaboration.

Customer Reviews

Adam Zamoyski, author of *Moscow 1812: Napoleon's Fatal March*; In this profoundly researched, briskly argued, and wonderfully readable book; full of dramatic and darkly comic detail; Roger Moorhouse has done history a great service. He has rescued one of the Second World War's dirtiest little secrets from the shadows into which the pro-Soviet bias of post-war historians had swept it, and reveals in all its moral squalor the deal that made it possible for Hitler to go to war. — Andrew Roberts, author of *The Storm of War: A New History of the Second World War*; Superbly researched and academically impeccable, yet written with all the pace of a thriller, *The Devils' Alliance* shines a powerful beam into one of the undeservedly least known aspects of the Second World War. That conflict could not have taken place without the Pact, so anyone wishing to understand how Hitler could have attacked Poland and France, and when and

how he did, must read this book, in which the personalities (and treacheries) are as gigantic as the world events they spawned. – Wall Street Journal; Superb.... The lesson that Mr. Moorhouse's excellent book teaches us is that there should never again be a Russo-German partition of Eastern Europe into 'spheres of influence.' – Foreign Affairs; Moorhouse captures the essence of the wretched deal better than anyone has before. – New York Review of Books

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