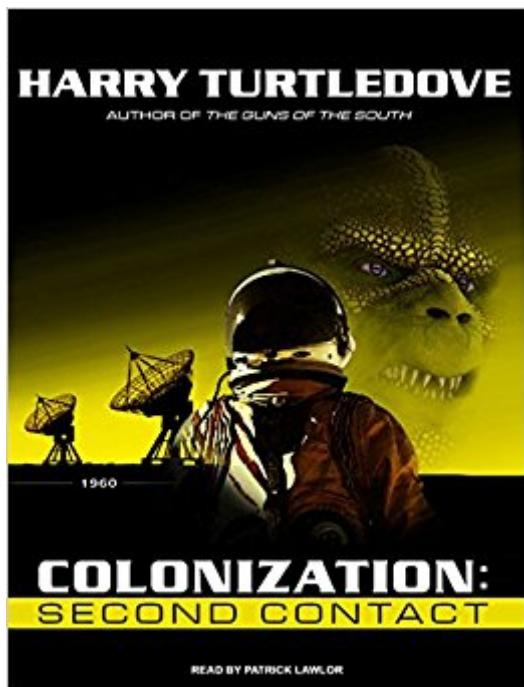


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Colonization: Second Contact



Synopsis

In the extraordinary Worldwar tetralogy, set against the backdrop of World War II, Harry Turtledove, whom Publishers Weekly has called the "Hugo-winning master of alternate SF," wove an explosive saga of world powers locked in conflict against an enemy from the stars. Now he expands his magnificent epic into the volatile 1960s, when the space race is in its infancy and humanity must face its greatest challenge: alien colonization of planet Earth. Yet even in the shadow of this inexorable foe, the United States, the Soviet Union, and Nazi Germany are unable to relinquish their hostilities and unite against a massive new wave of extraterrestrials. For all the countries of the world, this is the greatest threat of all. This time, the terrible price of defeat will be the conquest of our world and perhaps the extinction of the human race itself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Harry Turtledove pays tribute to pulp science fiction, combining a favorite plot--invasion by technologically superior aliens--with an alternate history of WWII and its aftermath. His Worldwar Series began the story when a fleet of lizard-like aliens arrived to conquer Earth in May 1942. It ended in 1945 with a negotiated peace between the Race, the nuclear powers (the Reich, the USSR, and the USA), and the much-weakened Britain and Japan. Colonization: Second Contact continues the saga, but you need not read the previous series to enjoy it. When the colonists arrive in 1962, they're unprepared for a half-conquered world. After several of their ships are destroyed by a nuclear missile of mysterious origin, they accuse the conquest forces of incompetence. Muslims in

the conquered Middle East are staging an Intifada, the Chinese Communists continue guerrilla warfare against the invaders, and everyone's smuggling ginger, which is powerfully addictive among the Race and has unanticipated effects on the female colonists. Turtledove's cast of characters includes sharply drawn alien soldiers and civilians as well as a mix of convincing historical and fictional humans from all over the world. He covers all the sixties issues: generational conflict, the drug culture, racial inequality, the threat of atomic apocalypse, and the frustration of soldiers in an unwinnable war. If you enjoy alternate history and old B movies, this book's for you. --Nona Vero
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In high fashion, the master of alternative SF launches a sequel series to his acclaimed *Worldwar* tetralogy (Striking the Balance, etc.). It is 1963, and Earth is divided among five independent powers (the U.S., the Soviet Union, the Third Reich, Britain, Japan) and the invading alien Lizards. Human adaptations of Lizard technology (including space flight) and the Lizard leaders' painful experience of fighting humans have led to an armed truce among all the parties. Now, however, the Lizard colony fleet, with 40 million sleep-frozen colonists, arrives to settle what they expect to be a completely subdued world. That the Tosevites (humans) are still holding out is only the first of several surprises to greet them. The nastiest is probably that ginger, merely addictive to Lizard males, brings Lizard females violently into heat?arousing an irresistible mating urge in the males. The Third Reich, meanwhile, under the leadership of Himmler, continues its odious ways; Jews maintain an uneasy peace with the Lizards, who saved them from the Holocaust; the Soviet Union (under Molotov) survives; and the U.S. is building a huge space station. Characters who have become old friends to readers of the earlier tetralogy abound, and new ones both human and Lizard appear by the double handful. Turtledove handles sexual themes with good taste and appropriate humor. With his fertile imagination running on overdrive, he develops an exciting, often surprising, story that will not only delight his fans but will probably send newcomers back to the *Worldwar* saga to fill in the backstory. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It is 15 years after the end of an alternative *WORLDWAR II*, with the Axis and Allies having combined forces to help force a stalemate against an invading conquering fleet consisting of male reptilian aliens with advanced technology but limited resources; and with a 2nd wave of aliens arriving as part of a colonization fleet of 80-100 million males and females, who expected to find a subdued planet, but end up finding it is anything else but. Most of the characters who lived thru the

first set of 4 books return in sometimes surprisingly different roles. This book takes on a more "cold war" flavor, with spying, insurgencies, drug-trading, and other underhanded tactics taking the place of the all-out war described in the previous books. I noticed the three COLONIZATION SERIES books are slightly larger than the four WORLDWAR SERIES books - about 600 paperback pages vs. 580. However, the same format is followed, with 20 chapters, containing about 6 passages each... it is this consistent format that allows Mr. Turtledove to tirelessly crank out the text to fill these series. It is a true gift that allows him to do this, and still keep things different and interesting enough to keep our attention through this marathon series.

I had this series years ago. Paperbacks, but I read them so many times that they fell apart. I kept checking for them as soon as I had a Kindle, they ate fan-tab-ulous.

Great story. Should start with the very first book World War In The Balance. Love the characters.

Excellent series, and excellent book!

2nd Contact continues to be fascinating reading. Characters are round and well-developed. The plot is intriguing, and you are eager to get to the next page to find out what next happens. This is not simply a repeat of the previous subseries. There is much new here, with the arrival of the colonists and there seeing things anew. Now there is a cultural divide between colonists and conquerors; those who have just gotten to Earth, and those who have adapted over 20 years to a very alien culture (from the Lizard perspective). It puts me in mind of much the same experience that a 3rd Culture Kid, one who grows up in a foreign country, experiences as they try to determine who and what they are. This is accentuated with the introduction of Kassquit, a human child raised on the orbiting Lizard ship. And just for fun, there are a number of new creatures introduced as well, as Lizard plants, livestock, and pets begin to wreck havoc with the indigenous environment of Earth. Yet there are many things missing here. The Muslims become a force to be reckoned with, as they stage protests with the Ayotollah. But now that there is more use of 2/3rds world people than just the Chinese, Turtledove seems to launch into stereotypes, with the Muslims only as violent attackers. Yes, they probably would attack if Allah was insulted in the ways that the Lizards do. But there is more to their culture than just attacking. There is a huge opportunity to comment on the similarity between cubic Lizard places of worship and that of the Ka'ba- but the opportunity is not used. And though Muslims and Jews are prominently discussed, and their reactions to religious

persecution by the Lizards, there is little to no discussion of the Christian responses. What happened to the Christians? Although the Pope was previously killed in the bombing of Rome, the Catholic church has long had mechanisms set up to replace Popes. But there is no mention of him, or the Catholic church. Further, a good 40% of Christendom is not Catholic, and in the 60's, about 45% of Christendom lived in the 2/3rds world, under the control of the Lizards. Yet, as is typical of science fiction, religion is rarely discussed, and if it is, Christianity is usually forgotten. A couple things make it more difficult to read this work, because of the plot choices that Turtledove made. It is sad, and unfortunate, the choices Penny and Rance evidently have made, considering their beautiful relationship at the end of the last book. But it is also gritty reality, on the bitterness that develops in people over time. It is also uncomfortable to see rising anti-Semitism in Britain with a unified Reich next door. On this point, I question how accurate Turtledove's presentation is, and if Britain would truly become progressively more anti-Jewish given these circumstances.

Very entertaining and many funny scenes! If you like WW2, sci-fi, the 40s to 60s time period this is great. From the technical side it's very interesting as well as the different personalities portrayed in humans and the lizards alike! Fun reading that provides great distraction each time you pick it up

I've become something of an alternative history addict in recent years, thanks in no small measure to Harry Turtledove. This series has been around a while and I'm just getting around to it but I'm already psyched. Even though his approach to storytelling is sometimes maddeningly confusing (a fault rendered more significant thanks to crappy formatting on the Kindle app), and though there isn't even a pretense of drawing any story line to a real conclusion, the vignettes are so compelling and the characters so well drawn that it is easy to look past the shortcomings. It feels to me like the author writes the whole series as one manuscript and then arbitrarily whacks it into books. No real rhyme or reason. Still, I will certainly read the remaining books in this series and be every bit as compelled to their inconclusions as ever. Like I said: addict.

I've just finished this book and enjoyed it a great deal. It starts out a tad slow as he works in some background on what's happened on Earth since the end of the previous series, but being in uncharted waters this is pretty much unavoidable. As usual, Turtledove does a fine job of weaving together multiple storylines and never dwells too long on any one of them. He is equally adept at presenting the radically different worldviews of the many conflicting human factions and of the increasingly harried alien Race--who are certainly anything but stupid! You'll definitely benefit if

you're familiar the first series (and you should read it anyway--it's a classic), but it is not required.

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